

Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فہرمان رسوول
بج کریمہ تہذیبیہ فرمایا کر عمل کا اور دعا اور نیت پر ہے اور ہر شخص کو ہدیہ ملتا ہے جس کی وہ نیت کرے اس لیے جس کی جنت اللہ اور اس کے رسول کی دعا حاصل کرنے کے لیے ہو اسے اللہ اور اس کے رسول کی دعا حاصل ہوگی لیکن جس کی جنت یا دعا حاصل کرنے کی نیت سے یا کسی نکتہ سے شادی کرنے کے ارادے ہو اس کی جنت سے اس لیے جس کے لیے اس نے جنت کی۔
(پیشانی صحت نمبر 5070)
Barkat Rice Mills (Pvt) Limited



'Some elements' aim to undermine Pakistan in name of nationalism: Balochistan CM

Commenting on recent terrorist attacks across Balochistan that claimed over 50 lives, including those of civilians and security personnel, Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti said on Sunday that 'some elements' were bent on undermining Pakistan in the name of nationalism.



Ruet body to meet for Rabi-ul-Awwal moon sighting on Wednesday

Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Chairman, Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khair Azad will preside over a meeting to sight the moon of Rabi-ul-Awwal 1446 AH at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on Wednesday. Director General Syed Mushahid Hussain Khalid, will be responsible for coordination while technical assistance will be provided by Zain-ul-Abideen from the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Safar 27, Monday, September 2, 2024

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Daily Spokesman Vol: 18, Issue: 140 Price Rs. 25.00 Pages 8

Fatiha

MURIDKE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif offers Fatiha for Late Rana Afzal Hussain, brother of Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister on Sunday.



Photo: PID

President pays tribute to Syed Ali Shah Geelani on his 3rd death anniversary

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday paid tribute to heroic struggle of iconic Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani for the rights of the oppressed people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) on his third death anniversary.

In a message, the president pointed out that Syed Ali Geelani was a beacon of hope and resistance, inspiring countless Kashmiris to stand firm in their quest for self-determination. "His tireless efforts and sacrifices for



the just cause of the Kashmiri people will forever be etched in

our hearts and minds."

He said Syed Ali Shah Geelani was a great leader and his commitment to the right to self-determination for the people of Jammu and Kashmir was unyielding.

Despite being subjected to house arrests and incarcerations by the Indian Occupation Forces, the president said that he continued to raise his voice for the people of IIOJK. "His personal hardships, including years of confinement, could not break his spirit or deter him from his mission."

President Zardari added that

"Geelani Sahib remained focused on the ultimate goal, and never allowed the attention of the Kashmiri people to be diverted from the pursuit of their fundamental right to self-determination. The legacy of Syed Ali Shah Geelani is a powerful driving force that continues to inspire the people of IIOJK. His leadership and unwavering stance against oppression have left a lasting impression on the people of IIOJK."

"Today, we reaffirm the resolve to not let the sacrifices of Syed Ali Shah Geelani and countless others go in vain. We will continue to advocate for the real-

ization of the people of IIOJK's right to self-determination as enshrined in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. I assure my Kashmiri brothers and sisters that Pakistan will continue to provide moral, diplomatic, and political support for their just cause," the president added.

"As we remember Syed Ali Shah Geelani, we must learn from his exemplary courage and unwavering commitment to freedom and justice. May Allah Almighty shower His blessings on Syed Ali Shah Geelani. Ameen!" he added.

Power Division denies reports that investigation committee summoned IPPs owners

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Power Division stated on Sunday that reports circulating on various TV channels about the investigation committee summoning the owners of independent power producers (IPPs) "are untrue."

In a statement, the Power Division clarified that no such summons was issued for the IPP owners for the following day.

This clarification comes amid ongoing discussions regarding the operations and financial transparency of IPPs in the country.

Sections of media reported that nearly six owners from IPPs companies have been summoned to Islamabad on Monday (tomorrow) for what officials were calling "courteous questioning."

Earlier this month, it was reported that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led government was planning to adopt a similar approach as the previous Imran Khan administration in dealing with IPPs.

Initially, influential teams visited various power plants to collect records and data. Following that, senior executives from IPPs were questioned in different cities and they were being called to Islamabad for further discussions.

They were being urged to agree to new contract terms as the government highlighted substantial profits received by such companies, both legally and otherwise.

Floods wreak havoc in Balochistan, 33 dead

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Balochistan continues to grapple with the devastating effects of heavy rains, causing widespread damage to infrastructure, displacing hundreds, and claiming the lives of three more people, bringing the total death toll to 33.

The impact of Cyclone 'Asna' is being felt across the province, with low-lying areas in districts including Ziarat, Qila Saifullah, Khuzdar, Loralai, Jhal Magsi, Sibi, Jaffarabad, Naserabad, Lasbela, and Bolan inundated after torrential downpours.

The provincial government has declared Jhal Magsi a disaster-affected area, adding to the list that already includes Qalat, Ziarat, Sobatpur, Lasbela, Awaran, Jaffarabad, Osta Muhammad, Loralai, and Chagai.

The heavy rains have disrupted mobile phone, internet, and electricity services across many districts. Authorities are using the Levies wireless system to maintain communication in the higher regions.

In Chaman, Qila Abdullah, Qila Saifullah, and Ziarat, floods have damaged orchards and crops. Several kilometers of

roads, bridges, and numerous houses have been washed away in these districts.

According to the government control room, hundreds of people in Qila Abdullah and Qila Saifullah are stranded in the open. The recent rains have also claimed the lives of three more individuals.

The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) reports that since July 1, 33 people, including 13 children, have perished due to the rains. An additional 15 individuals have been injured, including 11 children.

The rains have completely destroyed 558 homes and partially damaged 13,986 others, affecting a total of 109,903 people.

Agricultural losses are significant, with 58,799 acres of crops destroyed by the heavy rains. Floodwaters have also claimed the lives of 373 livestock. Seven bridges on the national highway have also sustained damage.



PML-N 'divided' over talks with opposition

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is 'divided' over talks with the opposition parties in the National Assembly, ARY News reported on Sunday, citing well-informed sources.

It has been learnt that PML-N leaders are not 'happy' over the statements of federal ministers and senior party leaders, Ahsan Iqbal and Khawaja Asif, as they feel putting conditions for talks, will create further 'problems'.

We have to move for unconditional talks, the sources said, citing PML-N huddle.

PML-N president Nawaz Sharif is also in favour of unconditional talks with the opposition parties, the sources said and added Ahsan Iqbal and Khawaja Asif's statements were supported by a key govt personality.

Earlier, Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal said that the PML-N wouldn't have any problem if the PTI and the military hold talks.

Replying a question in an interview to the Voice of America, Ahsan Iqbal said, the armed forces won't have the thinking to interfere in the politics again.

PM expresses satisfaction over inflation rate drop; economic stability

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed his satisfaction over the nosediving of inflation rate in the country and the indicators of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, showing a decline in the inflation rate.

The prime minister said that 'Consumer Price Index' fell to record low in July 2024, bringing inflation to 11 percent and welcomed the economists' forecast of further decline in inflation in the current month of September.

"After Fitch, the global rating agency, Moody's recently upgraded Pakistan's credit rating, which is an acknowledgement of country's positive economic indicators by the international financial institutions," PM Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying.

The prime minister further said that the government was pursuing a policy of economic reforms and the implemen-

tion work was rapidly in progress over the right-sizing policy of the government which he himself was monitoring.

He expressed the confidence that its positive impact on the economy would be visible soon.

The prime minister also acknowledged that the federal and Punjab governments had provided a big relief to the electricity consumers in respect of monthly bills, adding the prices of petroleum products were further reduced from today.

The prime minister said that the government believed in passing on all the benefits of such policies to the common man.

The economy was moving towards stability owing to the hard work of the government's economic and financial team, he added.

He said the government was cognizant of the issues of the people and was striving day and night to resolve them.

Pakistan rejects India's unilateral claims on Jammu and Kashmir, calls for meaningful dialogue



City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday categorically rejected India's claims on Jammu and Kashmir, terming them "misleading" and "dangerously delusional".

In response to media queries regarding the recent statement made on Jammu and Kashmir by India's Minister for External Affairs, the Foreign Office Spokesperson emphasized that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is an internationally recognized issue that must be resolved through United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

The Spokesperson reiterated Pakistan's commitment to diplomacy and dialogue but warned that any hostile actions would be met with "unyielding resolve". The statement urged India to abandon its "provocative rhetoric" about IIOJK, and to instead engage in a meaningful dialogue for a just and lasting resolution to the dispute.

"India's unilateral actions in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) cannot and will not change this reality," the statement added.

Pakistan stressed that true peace and stability in South Asia can only be achieved through a settlement in accordance with UNSC resolutions and the inalienable rights of the Kashmiri people.

even proposed a Charter of Economy to address the country's challenges.

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had consistently emphasized the importance of dialogue for the restoration of politics, he added.

When asked about recent talks with the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) chief and the ongoing reconciliation efforts, Khawaja said that reconciliation has always been an important part of PML-N's politics.

He acknowledged that Maulana Fazal Ur Rehman, being a seasoned politician, can play a pivotal role in the legislative process.

Dialogue possible after PTI apologizes for May 9: Asif

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Defense, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, said on Monday that for any meaningful dialogue to take place, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) must seek an unconditional apology for orchestrating the events of May 9.

Talking to a private news channel, he pointing towards Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, and stated that it was impossible to negotiate with a party engaged in activities that undermine the political process.

He said that the Prime Minister had repeatedly called for discussions and

JICA in the project of Supplying Modern Machinery to Wasa Multan: Khalid Raza Khan

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Khalid Raza Khan Managing Director Wasa Multan Said The phase of successful organization of a week-long training program for the employees of WASA Multan by the experts who came to train the modern machinery of Japan International Cooperation Agency has been completed.

He said that decay of sewerage and water supply system in Multan city and it is very important to replace the old lines to deal with these challenges. He said that more than twelve hundred kilometers of sewerage network. And due to the decay of more than 1 thousand kilometers of water supply lines, many incidents of crown failure and water supply mixing are taking place in different areas of the city every day.

There is an urgent need for projects, while he said that the friends of the country are very grateful for the cooperation of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)



in the project of supplying modern machinery to Wasa Multan.

The project of supplying machinery is a milestone for Wasa Multan. Due to modern machinery, there will be further improvement in the delivery of public services and the role of the

Japanese agency JICA in solving the problems of Wasa Multan is also unforgettable.

During a function organized by the visiting expert Yen regarding a week-long training program for the employees of Wasa Multan, teams

from Shin Mioh and Merobini Protex imparted advanced technical and practical training to Wasa staff.

The objective of the training program was to further enhance the skills of WASA employees and align them with modern methods. At the end of the training course, MD WASA Multan Khalid Raza Khan participated in a group photo session with the training experts and WASA employees.

He thanked the training teams and described the training of WASA employees as important for the development of the organization. Reiterated that such trainings will lead to further improvement for the institution in the future.

Deputy Director Planning and Design Wasa and Focal Person JICA Muhammad Nadeem and others were also present on the occasion during which the JICA delegation was informed about the arrangements for monsoon rains. A detailed briefing was also given.

Mepco Circle Engineer says workers, laborers of WAPDA are our asset



Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Superintendent Engineer Mepco Multan Circle Engineer Amjad Nawaz Bhatti has said that the workers and laborers of Mepco and WAPDA are our asset and all their demands will be fulfilled soon. Latif is a kind hearted and labor loving person who fights day and night for the rights of the workers. The union and the officers together will take WAPDA out of danger and end the electricity theft. Electricity thieves are the enemies of the country. He led the leadership of Hydro Union's incumbent Zonal Chairman Rana Mazhar Latif, Secretary Muhammad Ilyas Sindhu, Vice Chairman Malik Usman Liaquat Ran, Joint Secretary Rao Aslam and Group Leader Rauf Ahmad Nadeem, who came to the circle office yesterday.

On this occasion, Zonal Vice Chairman Malik Usman Liaquat Ran, Zonal Secretary Chaudhry Ilyas Sindhu, Zonal Joint Secretary Rao Aslam, Divisional Chairman Musa Pak Rao Aamir Jameel, Divisional Chairman Shah Rukan Alam Rana Khizr, Divisional Chairman Shujaabad Rao Qamar Abbas, Divisional Chairman Mumtaz. Abad Irshad Sangera Rauf Ahmed Nadeem, Mehr Altaf, Asif Rashid, Imran Bashir, Imran Shah, Muhammad Mujahid, Usman Ghani, Jam Asif, Saeed Syal, Muhammad Rashid, Rana Tayyab, Rana Irfan, Qazi Aftab, Tariq Manzoor, Saleem Shah, Aziz ur Rehman, Khalid Naeem, Muhammad Shahzad Ali, Asif Baloch Chaudhry Sarmat, Akram Ghuri and Anser Arabi were present.

Inner Wheel (DGK) to plant thousands of trees to make Pakistan greener



Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Mrs. Saleha Pasha, President of Inner Wheel (DGK) Club has said that to make Pakistan green, women have to play their role and tell their children about the benefits of planting trees to reduce environmental pollution. To stop every person must plant at least one tree and the government should also ban cutting of trees and make strict rules and implement it. Students should be given a special lecture about planting and protecting them, only then we will be able to make Pakistan greener and greener, he said while launching the planting campaign at Mix Institute yesterday. On this occasion, Secretary Mrs. Sidra Aslam, Bulletin Editor Mrs. Shehla Mustafa Pasha, Dr. Tasawar Sherain, Mrs. Iram Mujahid, Mrs. Asmaa Nadeem and District Chairman Rizwana Malik were with them. They also planted dozens of saplings in the lawn of the institute on this occasion. Inner wheel District 340 Chairman Rizwana Malik said that all our clubs will actively participate in the plantation drive and make Multan greener and greener.

Below the poverty

LAHORE: A man searches valuable items from the garbage pile outside the Lohari Gate of the provincial capital.



Photo: Online

Jati Taluka of Sujawal district without Electricity for one week

Kamran Khamiso Khawaja

SUJAWAL: The power suspension across Jati Taluka in district Sujawal has further exacerbated the hardships faced by the local population, who are still reeling from the effects of heavy rainfall. Business activities in Jati town and its adjoining areas have come to a grinding halt, causing huge financial losses for traders

and small businessmen.

Local residents revealed that X-Ray and other facilities have been lying defunct at Taluka Hospital Jati for the past week due to the severe power outage. Moreover, the condition of patients arriving for treatment has been further aggravating.

When contacted, HESCO officials attributed the power suspension to intermittent rainfall

and gusty winds, which led to the collapse of around 13 electric supply poles. They are facing challenges in mending the fault and restoring power supply in the coastline area of the district due to water accumulation in several areas.

Jati town, Begna, Rahriya, Sim stop, Hussainabad, Tarr Khawaja, Ghul Muhammad Baran, and other areas of district Sujawal have been facing power suspension for

the past week. Businessmen, including Haji Ismaili Memon, Nazir Hussain, Shahezad Khoja, Ghulam Nabi Memon, and Amin Thaheem, disclosed that they have suffered huge economic losses. Additionally, routine consumer services at local banks have also been affected.

They urged elected representatives to intervene and resolve the issue.

Two killed, five injured in two road accidents

Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Two persons were killed while five others injured in two different road accidents in Jand and Hassanabdal police station limits on Sunday.

In the first incident, one person on board a car was killed while six others injured, two of them critical as a recklessly driven car fell into roadside ditch on Jand-Kohat road near Kushalgarh bridge near Bhinder village in the limits of Jand Police station. As a result, Muhammad Mudassar died on the spot while Muhammad Bilal, Talha, Hamza and Shoukat and Usman were injured.

The injured and dead were shifted to tehsil headquarters hospital Jand where condition of two of

them are stated to be critical. The police spokesman quoting the victims has said that all the six friends from Sargodha were going to attend a ceremony in Kohat.

Separately, a man was killed and his son was injured as a Suzuki rammed into a motorcycle coming from opposite direction while overtaking a truck on Hazara road near Mohra Chowk in the limits of Hassanabdal Police station.

As a result Muhammad Ayaz died on the spot while his son Hammad Khan was injured critically.

The injured and dead were shifted to tehsil headquarters hospital Hassanabdal. The victims belonged to Havilian. Respective Police registered two separate cases and launched further investigation.

Priorities and Vision of Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Multan

Sardar Mavarhan (PSP)

“When I asked the newly appointed Chief Traffic Officer of Multan Mr. SARDAR MAVARHAN about his priorities and the facilities being provided to the citizens, he sent me a detailed response within moments. That response is presented here, exactly as it was written, for the readers.” (Zain Khan)

As the Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) of Multan, my primary focus is on improving traffic management and ensuring the safety and efficiency of our city's roads. Multan, a city steeped in history and recognized as a major agricultural hub in South Punjab, faces unique challenges in traffic regulation due to its rapid urban growth and the lack of modern traffic control infrastructure. My role is to address these challenges head-on, with a strategic approach tailored to the specific needs of our city.

Modernization of Traffic Management

One of my top priorities is the modernization of traffic management in Multan. Currently, our city operates without electric traffic signals, relying entirely on manual traffic regulation. This system, while functional, is not sustainable given the increasing volume of vehicles on our roads. My objective is to introduce modern traffic control systems, including the installation of elec-

tric traffic signals at key intersections. By transitioning to an automated system, we can improve traffic flow, reduce congestion, and enhance overall road safety.

Enhancing Traffic Law Enforcement

Effective traffic management requires rigorous enforcement of traffic laws. As CTO, I am committed to strengthening our enforcement efforts to ensure compliance with traffic regulations. This includes increasing the visibility of traffic officers at critical points in the city, implementing stricter penalties for violations such as speeding and illegal parking, and leveraging technology, such as surveillance cameras, to monitor and enforce traffic rules more efficiently. By adopting a zero-tolerance approach to traffic violations, we can significantly reduce the incidence of accidents and improve road safety for all citizens.

Traffic Education and Public Awareness

Educating the public about traffic rules and the importance of road safety is a crucial component of my strategy. Many traffic issues stem from a lack of awareness among drivers and pedestrians. I plan to launch comprehensive public awareness campaigns to educate the community about the consequences of traffic violations and the benefits of adhering to traffic laws. These campaigns will target schools, colleges, and local communities, emphasizing the role of every citizen in ensuring safer roads. Additionally, regular workshops and training sessions for drivers will be organized to

promote safe driving practices.

Addressing Traffic Congestion

Multan's roads are increasingly congested due to the growing number of vehicles and limited road infrastructure. Reducing congestion is a key priority. I intend to implement a series of measures, including the optimization of traffic routes, introduction



of one-way systems where applicable, and the development of designated parking areas to prevent illegal parking on busy streets. Moreover, the use of traffic management software can help in real-time monitoring and decision-making to ease congestion during peak hours.

Collaborating with Local Authorities

Collaborating with other local authorities and stakeholders is essential for the successful implementation of traffic management initiatives. I will work closely with city planners, law enforcement agencies, and municipal authorities to ensure that our

traffic management strategies are aligned with the broader urban development goals of Multan. This collaborative approach will facilitate the integration of new traffic infrastructure projects and ensure that all stakeholders are on the same page in terms of enforcement and public safety.

Promoting Sustainable Transportation

Given Multan's growing urban population, promoting sustainable transportation options is becoming increasingly important. Encouraging the use of public transportation, cycling, and walking as alternatives to private vehicle use is a priority. My office will work on improving the infrastructure for these modes of transportation, such as developing safer pedestrian pathways and cycling lanes, as well as enhancing the efficiency and accessibility of public transport systems. By reducing the dependency on private vehicles, we can alleviate congestion and reduce the environmental impact of traffic in Multan.

Data-Driven Decision Making

The use of data is critical in formulating effective traffic management strategies. I plan to implement data-driven decision-making processes to identify traffic patterns, accident hotspots, and areas with frequent violations. This will involve the collection and analysis of traffic data through advanced software systems, enabling us to deploy resources more effectively and make informed decisions on infrastructure improvements and enforcement tactics.

SITUATION VACANT

1. A Government Organization is looking for qualified and experienced staff (Male) to be appointed on contract basis having following qualification and experience:-

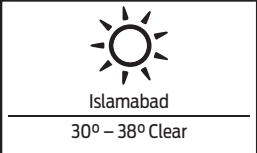
Posts	Experience	No of Post	Qualification	Upto Age (Max)
Clerical Staff	Experience of Office Work Army/ Civil	1	Graduate	40 Years

2. Applications alongwith the attested copies of academic degrees/ certificates, domicile, CNIC and 2x Passport Size and 2x Thumb Size Photographs should reach under mentioned address upto 17 Sep 2024.

3. Only short listed candidates will be called for test and interview.

4. No TA/DA will be paid.

Post Box No - 95
GPO Rawalpindi



SERVICES
Namaz Timings

Fajr	4:15 am
Zohr	12:08 pm
Asr	4:43 pm
Maghrib	6:33 pm
Isha	7:59 pm

EMERGENCY

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

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

AIOU Commences Spring 2024 Exams



City Desk

Final exams for Matric, FA, and ICom programs offered in the Spring 2024 semester by Allama Iqbal Open University are set to begin today (Monday, September 2) across the country. Roll number slips have been uploaded to the students' CMS portals, and the date sheet is available on the university's website at www.aiou.edu.pk. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Nasir Mahmood, has instructed to ensure the provision of basic facilities for students at the examination centers. On the special instructions of the Vice-Chancellor, the roll number slips for Matric and Intermediate exams have also been uploaded to the AIOU Mobile Application, which is available on the Google Play Store.

Exhibition held at PAC on the occasion of Syed Ali Gilani's third death anniversary

Spokesman Report

RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council organized a photographic exhibition on the occasion of Syed Ali Gilani's third death anniversary. Chairperson Peace & Cultural Organization & Wife of Hurriyat Leader Yasin Malik, Mushal Hussain Malik was the Chief Guest of the inaugural ceremony. While addressing the participants of the exhibition Mushal Hussain Malik said that "We are Pakistan, and Pakistan belongs to us."

This slogan by Syed Ali Gilani will continue to resonate until the occupied Kashmir is freed from illegal occupation. Syed Ali Gilani was a symbol of revolution and victory; he spent his entire life under the captivity, house arrest, and curfews imposed by the occupying Indian forces.

He exposed the so-called democracy of the Indian Hindutva regime to the world. The Indian occupying forces brutally tortured the women of Syed Ali Gilani's household and forcefully imposed a curfew at night to conduct the burial of this great leader of occupied Kashmir.



Mushal Malik further said that Syed Ali Gilani is not just the name of a person but represents a thought and revolution. He dedicated his entire life to the cause of freedom. His name will be written in golden letters in history, and the sacrifice of the martyrs will bear fruit. Lastly, I am especially grateful to the people of Pakistan, particularly the Punjab Arts Council, for paying a wonderful tribute to Syed Ali Gilani.

Member Punjab Assembly shazia Rizwan mentioned that Syed Ali Gilani was a strong advocate against India's illegal occupation and a staunch supporter of the accession of occupied Kashmir to Pakistan.

He raised his voice throughout his life against the atrocities of the occupying Indian forces, human rights violations, and the freedom movement. He authored 21 books, including Rudad-e-Qafas, Nawa-e-Hurriyat, and Bharat Ke Istemari Harbe, as well as being the author of Sada-e-Dard, Millat Mazloom, Muqadma Haq, and Payam Akhreen. In recognition of his invaluable services to the freedom movement, the Government of Pakistan honored Syed Ali Gilani with the highest civilian award, Nishan-e-Pakistan.

The exhibition witnessed the participation of a large number of people from surrounding cities.

Exhibition

ISLAMABAD: Citizens purchasing fruits and vegetables at G-10 Sasta Bazaar in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

SSDO stresses need for timely local government elections in Punjab

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Sustainable Social Development Organization (SSDO) conducted a district seminar today focusing on the pressing demand for local government elections in Punjab. The event, held at a local hotel in Rawalpindi, brought together current and former lawmakers, political figures, and civil society representatives to discuss the importance of local governance.

The seminar provided a platform for in-depth discussions on the significance of local government elections and their potential impact on grassroots democracy in Punjab. Speakers emphasized the need for timely elections to ensure effective local governance and community development.

Syed Kausar Abbas, Executive



Director of SSDO, stated, "Local government elections are the backbone of a thriving democracy. They ensure that citizens have a direct say in the decisions that affect their daily lives. We urge the provincial government to prioritize these elections to strengthen democratic processes at the grass-

roots level. The local development is not possible without taking local communities and local government for inclusive development in the province.

Malik Iftikhar Ahmed, Member Punjab Assembly "Grassroots democracy is the foundation upon which we can build a more inclusive and

responsive political system. Tahira Mushtaq, Member Punjab Assembly "As a representative of the people, I believe in the power of local governance to address the needs of the community.

Malik Mansoor Afsar Member Punjab Assembly stated "Ensuring the regularity of local government elections is not just about upholding democratic norms but also about delivering effective governance.

The seminar concluded with a call to action for all stakeholders, including government bodies, civil society, and the media, to work collaboratively in promoting the integrity of local government elections. By doing so, they can help strengthen democratic institutions, empower communities, and foster a more inclusive and participatory political culture.

Acid attack on 27-year-old woman in Faisalabad



Abdul majid

FAISALABAD: The case of acid attack on a 27-year-old woman in front of People's Colony Police Station Tariqabad, on the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, Chairperson Punjab Women Protection Authority Hina Parwez Butt reached Faisalabad. And met her husband where SP Madina Division Saad Arshad and ASP Mohsin informed the Chairperson about the case of the victim girl. He assured justice to the victim's family and while talking to the media said that according to the vision of the Chief Minister, measures are being taken to prevent incidents like acid attacks and to protect women and in Faisalabad. All possible measures will be taken to provide justice to the victim girl and the accused in this case will be arrested and punished.

Outstanding accolades solidify TCL's position at the forefront of innovative display technology



Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TCL Pakistan's No 1 LED TV brand and top one 98-inch TV brand, today announces exceptional honors obtained at the EISA Awards. Renowned as Europe's premier authority on audio-visual innovation, the Expert Imaging and Sound Association (EISA) has bestowed three prestigious awards on TCL, underscoring the brand's relentless commitment to pushing the boundaries of display technology.

These award-winning models are expected to be available soon across Pakistan. Stay tuned for upcoming innovations from TCL that continue to set new benchmarks in the industry.

Punjab MPAs Unite to Protect Girls' Rights and Prevent Child Marriages

City Desk

LAHORE: On Thursday, the PODA team held a series of strategic meetings with women Members of the Provincial Assembly (MPAs of PML-N) in Punjab, advocating for a crucial legal amendment to the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2015. The team emphasized the need to raise the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years, ensuring a safer and more empowering future for young girls in the province. Through these meetings, PODA aimed to amplify the voices of marginalized communities and garner support for this vital legislative change.

The PODA team presented the case of child marriages, highlighting its social, economic,

health, and mental implications on a girl child, in order to amplify voices in favor of a legal amendment to raise the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years in the province.

In a significant meeting with MPA Sarah Ahmad, Chairperson of the Child Protection & Welfare Bureau Punjab, the PODA team received a reassuring commitment to take all necessary measures to ensure a legal amendment protecting adolescent girls. The Chairperson emphasized that safeguarding the right to education is pivotal to fulfilling all child rights, and she pledged to champion this cause, paving the way for the protection of girls' fundamental rights.

MPA Sarah Ahmad is leading efforts to table a bill increasing the minimum age of marriage for

girls to 18 years. She submitted a resolution on April 3 this year in the Punjab Assembly, seeking to raise the minimum marriage age to 18 years, emphasizing that child marriages have far-reaching negative impacts.

In a meeting with the PODA team, MPA Advocate Kanwal Liaquat provided an update, stating that as a member of Committee 1 of the assembly, she is pleased to share that the committee has thoroughly reviewed the legal amendment to raise the minimum age of marriage for girls to 18 years.

In a meeting with MPA Advocate Rushda Lodhi, Parliamentary Secretary for Health and Member of the Punjab Bar Council, she commended PODA's efforts in reducing early marriages in the province

through a series of educational and awareness-raising activities engaging all stakeholders. She suggested holding joint awareness-raising sessions for a larger number of MPAs on issues crucial to the lives and survival of girl children, to amplify their voices. She also assured that, as Parliamentary Secretary of Health, she will prioritize the "health of girl children" and make every effort to ensure that healthcare is recognized and protected as their fundamental right, essential for their well-being.

The PODA team also met with MPA - (PML-N), Sumbal Maalik Hussain, at her office located in Delhi Gate, Lahore. She appreciated PODA's effort in visiting her and taking the time to understand the real situation



on the ground, rather than just holding activities in hotels. She suggested that we should focus on identifying and addressing

the underlying reasons why parents opt to marry off their young, underage daughters, in order to effectively tackle these

issues and safeguard communities, thereby enhancing the impact of the proposed legislation.

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Xinjiang, Balochistan and FATA

In Pakistan, we often adhere to the belief that force is the primary solution for dealing with terrorists, extremists, separatists, insurgents, and even civil unrest, whether it involves political, religious parties, students, or civil society. The prevailing notion is that if force doesn't achieve the desired outcome, more force should be applied. In contrast, China's approach in Xinjiang, where separatism, Pan-Islamism, and Pan-Turkism were significant issues since 1949, has been to respond with development. When challenges arise, China has chosen to accelerate development further. These two philosophies—force versus development—are starkly opposed and have yielded opposite results.

The insurgencies in Xinjiang, Balochistan, and Pakistan's erstwhile Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) have distinct historical, ethnic, and geopolitical contexts, yet they share similarities in grievances but differ markedly in the governmental responses. The narratives of the insurgencies in Xinjiang, Balochistan, and FATA share more similarities than differences. In Xinjiang, the Uyghur insurgency is driven by claims of cultural and religious repression, economic disenfranchisement, and ethnic discrimination. The insurgents frame their struggle as a fight for cultural survival and autonomy, often invoking the idea of an independent "East Turkestan." When comparing the narratives of these three ethnic groups, the Uyghur and Taliban in FATA share more similarities, particularly in their use of religious connotations to justify their struggles for autonomy or independence. In contrast, the Baloch narrative is distinctive due to its focus on economic and political grievances, without a religious dimension. Consequently, the Baloch narrative may be easier to address or counter compared to the more deeply rooted and ideologically

driven narratives of the TTP and Uyghurs. To counter the Baloch insurgency and integrate the Baloch people into the national mainstream, the government only had to adopt a holistic approach to address the root causes of the conflict, including economic marginalization, political exclusion, and cultural grievances by investing in local development, ensuring fair resource distribution, and enhancing political representation while granting greater administrative autonomy to Balochistan.

On the contrary, the government response to deal with insurgency in Balochistan is normally perceived exactly the opposite. The propaganda war has incited the impression albeit without any conclusive evidence that the response of Pakistan's government included military operations, targeted killings, enforced disappearances. The media is rife with reports that tens of thousands of people, including insurgents, civilians, and security personnel, have been killed in the ongoing conflict making this conflict as one of Pakistan's deadliest.

Similarly the response of the Government to erstwhile FATA is perceived primarily kinetic. Reportedly, the Pakistani government has conducted numerous military operations (e.g., Operation Zarb-e-Azb) to dismantle militant networks. The insurgency and counter-insurgency operations have led to tens of thousands of deaths, including militants, security forces, and civilians. Displacement and destruction of infrastructure have also been significant.

Contrastingly, in Xinjiang, the Chinese government primarily pursued the policy of development which worked like magic. The region has purposefully made a

lynchpin of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). During the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016-2020), China invested over \$100 billion in Xinjiang's development. The substantial investment has also been made in infrastructure, industry, IT, and modern agriculture, as part of its broader strategy to integrate the region more closely with the rest of the country and to address the underlying economic disparities that contribute to unrest.

Xinjiang now boasts a state of art modern transportation network, including railways, highways, and airports connecting it to major cities in China and neighboring countries. Notable projects include the Urumqi-Hami section of the Lanzhou-Xinjiang high-speed railway, which links Xinjiang to the eastern provinces. The total investment in these transportation projects over the years runs into tens of billions of dollars.

Cities like Urumqi, Kashgar have been developed on ultramodern lines including the construction of modern residential areas, commercial centers, and public facilities and development of "new towns" to accommodate the growing population and improve living standards.

Xinjiang has become a hub for energy production, particularly in coal, oil, and natural gas. The region is also a significant producer of cotton and textiles, beside adorning industrial parks and zones for petrochemicals and mining, and Kashgar Economic Development Zone and the Urumqi Economic and Technological Development Zone. In addition, IT parks, advanced surveillance technologies, data centers, technology parks, 5G networks, cloud computing, and big data technologies have been developed to attract domestic and foreign investment.

In the agriculture sector China has intro-

duced modern water management, crop genetics, and mechanization to substantially enhance the yield of cotton, grapes, and melons production, besides setting up of large-scale farms, processing plants, and distribution networks.

These investments are part of China's broader strategy to stabilize the region, boost economic growth, and integrate Xinjiang more closely with the rest of the country and the global economy, particularly through the Belt and Road Initiative.

Contrarily the investments in FATA and Balochistan pale in comparison to the scale of investment made by China in Xinjiang. While China's investments in Xinjiang have transformed the region's infrastructure and economy, Pakistan's investments in FATA and Balochistan are insignificant and are plagued by issues like governance challenges, security concerns, and underutilization of funds no matter how meager.

China's investments in Xinjiang are part of a strategic focus on integrating the region into the national economy and the Belt and Road Initiative. In contrast, Pakistan's investments in FATA and Balochistan have often been reactive, addressing immediate security concerns rather than being part of a long-term strategic vision for regional development.

If we genuinely aim to reintegrate FATA and Balochistan into the national mainstream, we must adopt the Chinese philosophy of development and more development. Without this focus on economic and social progress, the cycle of violence from both the government and insurgents will persist, leaving the regions mired in conflict and instability. Development offers the only sustainable path to peace and inclusion.

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



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

US, UN call for action to end enforced disappearances

The United States and the United Nations marked the 'International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances', with a call to the perpetrators of enforced disappearances to cease this practice and return victims to their families.

"Enforced disappearance is an egregious human rights violation that inflicts the trauma of indeterminate detention or disappearance on its victims, whom all too often are targeted for their dissent or advocacy for human rights and democracy," US Secretary of State Tony Blinken said in a statement as the day was observed.

In New York, a statement made on behalf of the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, "Hundreds of thousands of people have vanished during conflicts or periods of repression in at least 85 countries around the world."

"Once largely the product of military dictatorships, enforced disappearances can nowadays be perpetrated in complex situations of internal conflict, especially as a means of political repression against opponents," the UN chief's Spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric told reporters at the regular noon briefing.

"The families whose people have disappeared have a right to know what's happened to their loved ones. Have a right to have their loved ones released or, at least, have information about their whereabouts. And we encourage all Member States to act in that fashion."

In his remarks, Secretary Blinken also said, "Families of those forcibly disappeared also suffer immensely, not knowing where their loved ones are, or whether they are alive or dead. The agony that enforced disappearance inflicts on the victims and their families is unimaginable..."

The United States urges governments everywhere to put an end to this practice, hold perpetrators accountable, and respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all."

In Geneva, UN and regional human rights experts issued a joint statement urging all actors to join forces immediately to support victims of enforced disappearance and ensure that their rights and obligations as codified in regional and international treaties and other legal instruments, become a reality for all:

The statement said, "Victims of enforced disappearance include any individual who has suffered harm as a direct result. They still face unbearable challenges, and impunity prevails. We renew our solidarity with victims of enforced disappearance, as well as organisations, human rights defenders and lawyers that support them.

"The World Congress will allow us to identify and adopt concrete actions to address these concerns and pledge to implement them under our respective mandates. We encourage all actors involved in the fight against enforced disappearances to make the most of this event and to commit to concrete action.

"On this International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances, we reiterate our shared commitment to assisting victims worldwide and our call for collective action to end this scourge, once and for all."

"Why is Maulana Fazlur Rehman the center of attention for political leaders?"

Last week, President Asif Ali Zardari, accompanied by Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, met with Maulana Fazlur Rehman at his residence. Following this, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also visited him on Friday. A few days ago, the top leadership of PTI had also met with him.

The President and Prime Minister met with the JUI chief at a time when, on one hand, PTI is preparing to hold a rally in Islamabad on August 8, and on the other hand, sessions of the National Assembly and Senate are about to take place, where it is speculated that the government alliance may introduce constitutional amendments related to judicial reforms. If this happens, the government will need the support of JUI in legislation, as the government's two-thirds majority has ended after the Supreme Court's decision on specific seats in the National Assembly.

The sudden contacts between government leaders and the head of the opposition party, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, have raised several questions. Local media says that the meetings of government leaders with Maulana Fazlur Rehman are aimed at gaining political support, while PTI wants JUI to join hands with it. In Pakistan, many politicians consider themselves experts in patching things up, and they enjoy playing on both sides of the wicket. Perhaps the inner reality is opposite, i.e., they are being played more than they are playing. In Pakistan, after a few meetings, a war that seemed fake has now taken the form of a real war. One party

is not willing to lose the war at any cost. The war being fought will use parliament, where some laws are expected to be passed to bring certain matters in line. For this legislation, a series of behind-the-scenes meetings was underway, and now some public meetings have started. The central point of these negotiations is the head of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, who has met with PTI leaders and President Asif Ali Zardari, and a final round of meeting with Nawaz Sharif may take place at any time. After the meetings, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam may decide to join the opposition or the ruling alliance openly. The first meeting was between a PTI delegation led by Barrister Gohar Ali Khan and Maulana Fazlur Rehman, in which they agreed to move forward. The second meeting was between President Asif Ali Zardari and Maulana Fazlur Rehman, in which the president sought support for possible legislation. The actual purpose of these two meetings is to gain support for legislation or amendments. However, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam has not yet disclosed anything. According to the party's senior leader and central spokesperson, Aslam Ghori, they are tired of alliance politics. The government and opposition parties are coming to us; whoever comes with us will go with us, we will not go with them. On the other hand, PTI is hopeful of bringing Maulana Fazlur Rehman to their side. According to PTI's negotiating team member, Akhunzada Hussain Yousafzai, talks with Maulana Fazlur Rehman are moving forward in a positive manner.

President Asif Ali Zardari met with

Maulana Fazlur Rehman, but he did not look happy. However, an important meeting is about to take place, which will decide the final fate of the country's stability. Maulana Fazlur Rehman is naturally an ally of the PML-N, which makes the party's workers happy. However, when he gets close to PTI, the workers start expressing disappointment.

This meeting may be secret under a strategy for new amendments or legislation. If the negotiations are successful, both leaders can announce it through a press conference. Currently, the most important thing for political stability in the country is to address the grievances of parliamentary parties regarding the judiciary through legislation. For this legislation, especially constitutional amendments, JUI's votes are crucial in the National Assembly, Senate, or joint sessions. This is why the series of meetings has intensified. If Maulana supports the government alliance, stability may come to the country. If Maulana decides to join hands with PTI to give the government a tough time in parliament or on the streets, PTI will have more options to deal with the government. Maulana does not want to see his party in a situation where they have to compete for their home seat in South Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In this context, it can be said that the meeting in the next few hours may bring a good message for the government alliance, as Maulana will be willing to vote but will currently refuse to become an ally. This announcement will indicate an increase in PTI's difficulties, after which many PTI members may vote in favor of the amendment. In this case, Maulana can play a positive role by assuring PTI to prevent the expected severe difficulties in the near future, as they expect to get a big share, but it depends on their decision.



Analysis

Tariq Khan Yousafzai



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Ashfaq Al-Awcat)



"68 People Lost Their Lives Due To Heavy Monsoon Rains In KPK"

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the recent devastating incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by heavy monsoon rains, which caused 68 deaths, as stated by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). This tragic and alarming situation highlights the critical needs for proper management and proactive measures in the region.

Numerous lives have been lost due to this natural disaster. The NDMA report stated that the majority of the fatalities are children with 32 recorded deaths, while the rest include women and men. Also 117 have been injured due to ongoing heavy rains. In spite of the efforts of various agencies, the action of such a tragic disaster lacks sufficient support. The government must invest in building strong infrastructure and upgrade warning systems to reduce the effects of disasters. Furthermore, Public awareness programs should be organized in communities about flood safety.

According to NDMA, KP has faced over 200 such incidents in the past decade, causing significant loss of life and property. By investing in awareness programs and enhancing local resilience, we can prevent future calamities and protect the lives and property of KP.

I urge the government and officials to take immediate action on this matter and keep our communities safe.

Sincerely,

Ayesha Ejaz, Rawalpindi
 nonikhan950@gmail.com

Inflated promises, deflated hopes

Dear Sir,
 I am writing this letter to bring a significant concern into evaluation which revolves around Pakistan; this country has a long history of ambitious pledges followed by widespread disillusionment. Every election we are promised a better Pakistan, the promises of economic revival, social justice and political stability however once the dust of elections is wiped off the promises often evaporate leaving the people disappointed. For decades we have been seeing these selfish people asking for votes by gaining people's trust, only to fall short when faced with the reality of governing.

The rise in electricity bills, gas bills, shortage of water in some places and hike in basic necessities people should own are unbearable. A person with a salary of 35 to 40k cannot pay such extreme bills along with other expenses of home. Pakistan had only 2.4% of GDP growth this year.

Do we deserve to have basic necessities, having 3 meals a day on the table or a fan on, in this scorching heat, or is this too much to ask for as a citizen? Just leave behind the other expenses and only focus on the right to live, when if we don't have the right to live in our own independent country what's the cause of other favors. According to the document of the bureau of immigration and overseas employment, over 700,000 people left Pakistan in 2024 in the search of a better future.

What are we waiting for in an empty state where everyone wants to struggle and go abroad? This is why our ancestors sacrifice their lives. Is this ignorance not putting a question on or independence?

This is really a threatening situation where every individual is struggling to live in this country. I hope there comes a day when every single article or a letter will be without any concern and only about the achievement and success of Pakistan as a country. May Allah bless the country with his countless blessings.

Yours sincerely,

Taseer Fatima, Dera Ismail Khan
 taseerfatima36@gmail.com

Gilani fought for Kashmir's right to self-determination: President AJK

Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry has said that Syed Ali Gilani was the strong voice of Pakistan in Occupied Kashmir who remained stick to his ideology till the last breath of his life. In his special message released on the occasion of the 3rd anniversary of the renowned Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Gilani, the President said, "Gilani Sahib was a man of principle who devoted his entire life for the noble cause of freedom." The president said that Mr. Gilani was made to suffer



because of his political ideology. He said that at a time when he needed intensive care, the brutal Indian army forcibly detained him and kept him under house detention for several years. Terming Gilani as a symbol of courage and perseverance, Barrister Chaudhry said that Gilani spent his entire life advocating Kashmiris' right to self-determination. "The Indian authorities' policy of oppression and suppression could not weaken his ideological allegiance with Pakistan", he said. The government of Azad Kashmir, he said, would utilize all its resources to achieve and accomplish the martyrs' mission.

AJK PM eulogizing late Syed Ali Gilani on his 3rd martyrdom anniversary



Abdul Majeed Tahir

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir, Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has paid eulogizing tributes to renowned liberation leader and former Hurriyat chairman Syed Ali Gilani on his 3rd martyrdom anniversary. In a statement issued here today the PM, while highlighting the deceased leader's significant role in the Kashmiris' ongoing liberation struggle, said that Gilani was an epoch making personality and an icon of resistance against Indian occupation. The deceased leader's lifelong struggle, he said, would continue to inspire Kashmiris' incoming generations. He said that the Baba e Hurriyat's slogan "We are Pakistanis, Pakistan is ours" was still the most popular slogan in Occupied Kashmir. Terming Syed Ali Gilani as a fearless advocate of Kashmiris' right to self-determination, he said that Gilani dedicated his entire life for the noble cause. "Syed Ali Gilani was imprisoned and detained for most of his life, but he remained stick to his ground and never compromised on his ideals", he added. Denouncing the continued bloodshed and violence in Indian Occupied Kashmir, the PM urged the United Nations and other human rights organizations to take effective notice of the matter and hold the India's human rights abusing regime accountable for the crimes its forces have been committing against the Kashmiri people. The PM said that it was high time that the global community should come forward in a big way to help Kashmiris achieve their birthright, the right to self-determination.

Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan pays tribute to Syed Ali Geelani on his anniversary

Abdul Majeed Tahir

MUZZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan said that Syed Ali Geelani was a bold and courageous leader of Kashmir Movement who dedicated his whole life for the right of self-determination of Kashmiris. On the anniversary of Syed Ali Geelani regarding the annual anniversary Addressing the event held on the occasion, he said that the people of Occupied Kashmir have kept the freedom movement alive by making historic sacrifices. India's oppression and violence has failed to break the hold of Kashmiris. Even today, thousands of people are in jails and thou-

sands have gone missing, but India remains in fear despite creating a graveyard-like silence in Kashmir. Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has paid tribute to the tireless struggle of Syed Ali Geelani and said that the great leader is still alive in the hearts of Kashmiri people, this slogan of Syed Ali Geelani "We are Pakistanis and Pakistan is ours" still resonates in the silence of Kashmir, their sacrifices are a beacon for us, they dedicated their entire lives to the freedom struggle. Despite the oppression by the occupying Indian authorities, the problem He stuck to his principled position on Kashmir and never compromised on his principled position. Syed Ali Geelani was a figure of courage and perseverance, he worked tirelessly for



the rights of Kashmiris. Their sacrifices and unwavering determination will always inspire us all. Today we pay tribute to the sacrifices of the brave Kashmiri people and express our full solidarity with them. We must reflect

on the ongoing atrocities and violations against the Kashmiri population and condemn the illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir in clear terms. Therefore, we call upon the international community to play its role in resolving the long-standing Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions. It is imperative that the Kashmiri people be given their fundamental right of self-determination. Syed Ali Geelani's inspirational words, "We are Pakistanis, Pakistan is ours" will always echo in our hearts and minds. We reaffirm our pledge that we will tirelessly work alongside our Kashmiri brothers and sisters to advocate for their legitimate aspirations and use every legitimate means he added.

Sambal Akhtar paid tribute to Syed Ali Gilani on his 3rd death anniversary



Bureau Chief

KARACHI/MUZZAFFARABAD: The Secretary General of National Media Foundation of Pakistan and prominent social leader Ms. Sambal Akhtar paid tribute to Syed Ali Gilani on the occasion of the annual anniversary of the prominent Kashmiri Khurait leader Syed Ali Gilani and said that Syed Ali Gilani The Tehreek-e-Pakistan and freedom of Kashmir have made great sacrifices and fought tirelessly for Pakistan, but despite all the coercive violence of the Indian government, there was no decrease in their independence. Said that Syed Ali Geelani pays homage to the services rendered for the freedom movement. He worked tirelessly for the rights of Kashmiris, his sacrifices and unwavering determination will always inspire us all. He expressed this while talking to the representative spokesperson on the occasion of the third anniversary of the great Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Geelani. He paid tribute to the leader of Hurriyat Syed Ali Geelani for enduring the hardships of imprisonment and imprisonment for the continuous struggle and freedom movement.

Freedom fighter

MUZZAFFARABAD: A protest being held against Indian atrocities under the auspices of Pasban e Hurriyat on the occasion of the anniversary of Syed Ali Shah Geelani.



Photo: Online

Third death anniversary of Syed Ali Gilani observed

The third death anniversary of veteran Hurriyat leader and the icon of Kashmir resistance movement Syed Ali Gilani was observed today. Syed Ali Gilani passed away on September 1, 2021, while under house arrest at his Hyderpora residence. The APHC has appealed to the Kashmiri Diaspora to hold peaceful demonstrations worldwide to highlight Indian brutalities in the territory. Incarcerated APHC Chairman Masarat Aalam Butt, in his message from New Delhi's Tihar Jail, said India will never succeed in extinguishing the Kashmiri people's desire for freedom. Posters have again appeared across various areas of IIOJK, calling people to honour Syed Ali Gilani's memory and reinforcing that the sacrifices of Kashmiri martyrs will not be forgotten.

Saghar hails Geelani's life long struggle for Kashmiris' right to self determination

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Acting chairman Jammu Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party Mehmood Ahmed Saghar, while paying eulogizing tributes to veteran liberation leader and former chairman of all parties Hurriyat conference

Syed Ali Shah Geelani, has said that the deceased leader was an epoch-making personality who spearheaded the freedom movement against India with utmost courage and perseverance. In his statement issued here today, the DFP leader said that the political void created by the demise of the iconic

leader could not be filled. "Geelani was the symbol of resistance against oppression", Saghar said, adding that the proud legacy left behind by him would serve as a beacon light for future generations. "Years' long trials and tribulations could not deter him (Geelani)

from pursuing the collective cause of freedom", he said, adding that the deceased leader bravely faced every challenge that came in his way and stood as a rock in the face of Indian oppression. "He devoted his whole life for the freedom movement of Kashmir and

the rights of Kashmiris and remained stuck to his ideology till the last breath of his life", the DFP leader said, adding that the former APHC chairman was imprisoned and detained for most of his life, but these trials and tribulations could not dampen his undying spirit and passion for the freedom of

Kashmir. Reiterating his resolve to uphold the mission of Syed Ali Geelani, Saghar said that the struggle for right to self determination would continue till the people of Kashmir achieve their cherished goal of freedom from the Indian occupation.

Reflections on the third anniversary of Syed Ali Geelani

Spokesman Report

DALLAS, TEXAS: "First, the most essential facet of any revolutionary, anticolonial struggle requires clarity of vision. Syed Ali Geelani presented Kashmir not as a separatist movement but as a legitimate struggle for self-determination. Second, the nature of resistance necessitates fearlessness in the face of eventual death. At present, Kashmir suffers from military occupation and the unbearable presence of nearly a million soldiers/paramilitaries. In front of this, Syed Ali Geelani, more than anyone else, has displayed exemplary courage. In the heart of New Delhi, he has called out Indian atrocities regardless of death threats," this was stated by Dr. Farhan Chak,

Canadian-Kashmir scholar who was speaking on the subject of Kashmir during the 61st Annual Convention of Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) at Dallas, Texas. Other speakers included Imam Nur Abdullah of Sudan, former President of ISNA and Sardar Israr Ayub of Azad Kashmir. The moderator was a distinguished American scholar of Kashmiri Origin, Professor Faizan Haq of Buffalo State University, New York Dr. Chak added that no one has continuously impacted the entirety of the Kashmiri freedom movement as Geelani. Among the ebbs and flows of resistance, and the push and pull of all kinds of traitors, he alone has stood as an immovable rock. His unshakeable principles, unrelenting will and uncom-



promising commitment to his people's well-being is acknowledged by friend and foe. Dr. Ghulam N. Mir, President, World Kashmir Awareness Forum and Chairman, Kashmir Diaspora Coalition said that Geelani Saheb, a larger than life political and spiritual leader, revered by Kashmiris, young and

old as the BUB (father) of Kashmiri nation. No political leader in the last 50 years matched, let alone surpassed him in political stature, personal integrity and strength of character as Sayed Ali Geelani. Indian leaders used all types of temptation, torture and their characteristic diabolical techniques to dissuade him

from following his path of resistance to occupation and settler colonialism over Jammu and Kashmir. Their massive military and administrative machine did not deter Geelani Saheb from facing them off. Dr. Imtiaz Khan, Kashmiri-American scholar said that today the September 1, 2024, marks the third death anniversary of Syed Ali Shah Geelani, illustrious and undisputed leader of Kashmiri people. As the saying goes "some people are born great, some achieve greatness by dint of their ability and hard work, while some have greatness thrust on them". Dr. Khan added that while the Indian establishment left no stone unturned to paint him as fundamentalist and hate monger, the saner elements

within the country construed it as a sinister attempt of character assassination. The strength of his virtuous values can be gauged from the fact that during 2010 political turmoil in Kashmir when several Kashmiri Muslim truck drivers were lynched by Hindu mobs in Jammu, Geelani Sahib issued a strong appeal to provide food, shelter and safety to Hindu pilgrims visiting Amarnath cave in the valley. "On September 1 2021, after protracted illness, isolation and denial of advanced medical care Geelani Sahib embarked on a journey to meet his creator. Against all the basic norms, his family was not allowed to perform religious rites. The body was confiscated by the occupation forces, and he was buried at

a place chosen by Indian authorities. The hours after his death were announced, large contingents of police and paramilitary troopers in riot gear were deployed outside his home and the whole valley was put under strict curfew. The residence was turned into a fortress, and family and relatives remained confined inside the house. Although the Indian establishment has deprived Kashmiris the opportunity to visit his grave and offer Fateh prayers, his words and teaching will remain inscribed on the minds and hearts of his people. As per wishes of Geelani Sahib, the thirst for freedom will stay unquenched till the dream is realized. May Allah place the soul of Geelani Sahib in Jannatul Firdous! Ameen! Dr. Khan concluded.

Bull & Bears
PSX 100-Share Index Fluctuation

Pakistan: PSX 100-Share Index	
Current	Prev. Close
78,488.21	78,349.66
Day's High	Day's Low
78,914.27	78,439.61
Index Value	Change
9,038,344,948	+138.55
Percentage	Time
+0.18%	30 Aug, 2024 5:00 pm

Europe: FTSE 100 Index	
Index Value	Change
8,376.63	-3.01
Percentage	Time
-0.036%	30 Aug, 4:35 pm GMT+1

USA: Dow Jones Industrial Average	
Index Value	Change
41,251.32	-83.73
Percentage	Time
+0.98%	29 Aug, 1:11 pm GMT-4

Asia Pacific: Nikkei Stocks Average	
Index Value	Change
38,647.75	+285.22
Percentage	Time
+0.74%	30 Aug, 3:15 pm GMT+9

Open Market Forex Rates		
Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	186.5	189.18
Bahrain Dinar	732.60	740.60
Canadian Dollar	202.65	205

APBF for raising country's tax base to strengthen tax-to-GDP ratio

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Raising grave concern over the poor performance of the exports the All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) advocated the need for raising the country's tax base so that tax-to-GDP ratio improves from current poor level. He urged the trade officers to explore opportunities to diversify exports of goods and services in their respective areas, asking them to meet the challenges faced by Pakistan in European markets.

The APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood said that country's major export markets did not see any significant growth in importing goods from Pakistan in the financial year ended on June 30 this year. He also suggested the ministry to devise strategies for promotion of Pakistani products, calling upon trade officers to take advantage of opportunities offered by China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The APBF President, quoting the latest figures, stated that the exports to the US largely remain dissatisfied while those to China registered a slight decline. Exports to the UK posted marginal growth during the fiscal under review, according to the country-wise export data released by the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan.

PBDN advances disability inclusion agenda

Commerce Desk

KARACHI: The Pakistan Business & Disability Network (PBDN), hosted by the Employers' Federation of Pakistan (EFP) with support from Sightsavers, GIZ, and the ILO, held its 3rd meeting in Karachi. The meeting gathered prominent business leaders, disability inclusion advocates, and representatives from various organizations to discuss PBDN's progress and future initiatives aimed at promoting disability inclusion in the workplace.

Former President and Director of EFP, Majid Aziz, opened the meeting by commending the impactful work being done by PBDN. He stressed the importance of establishing a comprehensive database of organizations working for Persons with Disabilities and called for greater visibility of the network's efforts, as many businesses are still unaware of the strides being made in disability inclusion in Pakistan.

Munnaza Gillani, Saquiba Aziz from GIZ, Mobeem Chughtai from Soorty Enterprises Pvt Ltd, Sohobia Taqdees from GIZ, Fareed Siddiqui from the Employment Exchange Govt of Sindh and Secretary General Nazir Ali also speak on the occasion.

The meeting concluded with a commitment from all participants to continue working towards creating a more inclusive environment for Persons with Disabilities and to actively contribute to PBDN's initiatives, ensuring that Persons with Disabilities are integrated into all levels of the workforce.



Commerce Report

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Atif Ikram Sheikh has said that the failure to achieve the tax targets is a reflection of the FBR's incompetence, even after imposing a tax burden of 1800 billion rupees on

Failure to achieve tax targets reflects FBR's incompetence, says Atif Ikram Sheikh

the people, the FBR could not achieve the target. Preparations are now being made to further increase the tax rate to achieve the IMF program, which is not a correct move in any case.

Federation President Atif Ikram Sheikh said that the FBR faced a tax shortfall of 98 billion rupees in two months, which means that there was no benefit in imposing addi-

tional taxes on the part of the government. And the burden of taxes on the salaried class and the export sector has been affected. Instead of increasing the tax rate in Pakistan, it is necessary to broaden the tax base.

Chairman Capital Office Karim Aziz Malik said that the inflation has come down to twelve percent, the interest rate of nineteen and a half percent is too high, it should

be reduced to fifteen percent. People will continue to get huge profits by keeping their capital in banks. So the money will not be able to come to the market.

Chairman Coordination Malik Sohai Hussain said that the energy prices in Pakistan are the highest among the countries in the region. Heavy electricity bills are worrying and all kinds of businesses are getting affected.

Out of range value of vegetable

ISLAMABAD: Citizens purchasing fruits and vegetables at G-10 Sasta Bazaar in the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

TECNO and Arshad Nadeem driving tech Education at Hope Uplift Foundation

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: TECNO, Pakistan's leading smartphone brand, has proudly joined hands with Hope Uplift Foundation in an inspiring initiative aimed at promoting education in technological advancement.

The initiative was officially launched at a charity event on September 1st in Lahore, with Arshad Nadeem, Pakistan's first Olympian to win gold in track and field at the Paris 2024 Olympics, as the chief guest. His presence added a remarkable touch to the occasion, symbolizing the determination and passion that have recently captivated the world.

TECNO has taken a major step in empowering technology by establishing a fully equipped computer lab and donating 20 computers to the NGO. But this is just the beginning. The smartphone brand has promised to make further impact through its CSR activities, which include providing technological training and professional



courses for the students. By equipping them with the skills needed to thrive in a rapidly advancing digital world, TECNO will pave new avenues for employment and self-sufficiency for the rising generation.

Arshad Nadeem, the chief guest, remarked, "I am deeply honored and happy to be part of this remarkable initiative.

We are dedicated to continuing such impactful work and making a positive difference in the years to come," says Adeel Tahir, Sales Director TECNO Pakistan.

Lubna Shakoh, the Founder & President of the Hope Uplift Foundation, expressed, "We are incredibly grateful to TECNO Pakistan for their generous support.

Empowering Future Leaders: ICCI President Announces Zafar Bakhtawari Scholarships

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Alkhidmat Foundation is making a profound impact on humanity by selflessly prioritizing the well-being of others, without expectation of worldly rewards; it embodies the true spirit of philanthropy, inspiring us all to strive for a more empathetic, harmonious and compassionate global community.

This has been stated by Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry while addressing a mega welfare event of the Foundation here at S. M. Muneer Auditorium where sewing machines, wheel chairs were distributed among the deserving individuals as well as the cash awards to top position holder students.

Furthermore, he announced



Scholarship Awards in the name of his father, renowned philanthropist and business leader Zafar Bakhtawari. These scholarships will cover the expenses of two university students recommended by Alkhidmat Foundation. Congratulating the position holder students, Bakhtawari encouraged them to work hard, contribute to the country's development and strive to make

Pakistan a great nation, emphasizing that they are the future of the country.

President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajraan, Kashif Chaudhry praised Alkhidmat Foundation for commendable fulfilling the responsibilities that actually fall in the purview of the State.

Former MNA Mian Mohammad Aslam empha-

sized the importance of seeking guidance from the holy book in all aspects of life. He stressed that this is essential to create a sustainable and peaceful world for everyone, where individuals can thrive and coexist harmoniously.

President Alkhidmat Foundation Islamabad, Hamid Ather Malik, reaffirmed the organization's commitment to serving all members of society in need without discrimination, empowering them to live with dignity and respect.

Secretary General Altaf Sher highlighted Alkhidmat Foundation's existing welfare projects, as well as its future initiatives aimed at serving humanity.

The ceremony was also attended by Chairman Social Welfare Committee ICCI Intiaz Abbasi and ICCI member Nasir Mehmood Chaudhry.

Pakistan races towards 60% energy generation from clean sources by 2030

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: As Pakistan races towards its goal of generating 60% of its energy from clean and renewable sources by 2030, the landscape of the country's energy sector is undergoing significant changes.

Solar energy has become an increasingly popular choice across Pakistan, with solar panels becoming a common sight on rooftops. However, a lesser-known aspect is the importance of panel size in achieving optimal energy output.

Clean energy experts say that 210mm wafers, which have seen a visible rise in production, have been a game changer in the global solar market. According to research firm Trendforce, the production capacity for these wafers has reached 457GW, accounting for nearly 40% of global production.

In Pakistan, among several stakeholders, Trinasolar leads the market with an impressive 120GW of module shipments, highlighting the growing adoption of these larger-sized wafers.

The researchers have found that the modules, based on the 210mm technology platform, offer numerous bene-

fits over the smaller 182mm cells. These benefits include higher efficiency, better logistics, and increased value across a range of applications, from utility-scale power plants to residential installations. The slight increase in size allows for more surface area, translating into higher power outputs per panel. In practical terms, Trinasolar's 210mm modules can deliver up to 625W of power with an efficiency rate of over 23%, significantly outperforming the older models.

According to experts, the shift towards 210mm modules is not just a trend but a significant leap in solar technology. In Pakistan, this shift is already yielding impressive results. For instance, at SAK Steel, Trinasolar's Vertex 665W modules are being used to run an electric steel furnace on solar power. The use of bifacial ground-mounted modules, raised slightly from the ground, has led to a notable increase in production. Similarly, Shalimar Filter Industries has been able to power its entire factory using solar energy, resulting in estimated annual savings of \$24,000 on electricity costs and a return on investment within 14 to 16 months.

RCCI organizes Hum Se Hai Pakistan-Celebrating the invaluable contributions of women across various sectors



Commerce Desk

RAWALPINDI: In a spirit of national pride and recognition of the vital role of women in Pakistan's development and progress, the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has organized the event titled, "Hum Se Hai Pakistan-Celebrating Independence 2024" at chamber house. The event marked the month of independence and celebrated the invaluable contributions of women across various sectors. The core focus of the event was women empowerment. Success stories of women who have made significant strides in their respective fields were shared, serving as inspiration for all attendees. The event also featured the distribution of shields and certificates to recognize and honor these women's achievements and contributions.

Ms. Beenish Fatima, Chief Traffic Officer of City Traffic Police, was the chief guest on the occasion. The event was also honored by the presence of several distinguished personalities, including Ms. Kanwal Cheema, Founder and CEO of My Impact Meter, Ms. Abida Malik, President of Behbud Association and Awas Manzoor Tarar, Additional Director General of RDA. These notable figures, along with other esteemed guests, were welcomed by RCCI President Saqib Rafiq and Group Leader Sohai Altaf.

The event witnessed a strong presence from RCCI leadership, including Senior Vice President Mr. Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Mr. Faisal Shahzad, and Executive Member Ms. Sadia Zia, who warmly welcomed the Chief Guest in her opening remarks. Ms. Gull Zeba, in her closing remarks, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the participants for their active involvement. A large number of women members also actively participated in the event.

Bangladesh rally from 26-2 to post 262 to concede 12 runs lead

Sports Desk

RAWALPINDI: Ton-up Litton Das overshadowed Khurram Shahzad's six-fer as Bangladesh left Pakistan shell-shocked with one of the greatest fightbacks to leave the second cricket Test delicately poised at the draw stumps on the third day's play at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

Pakistan fully exploited early moisture in the surface to reduce Bangladesh to 26 for six inside nine overs of the day, before Litton Das and Mehidy Hasan Miraz put on 165 runs for the seventh wicket to take the score to 191. Bangladesh's tail continued to wag following Mehidy's departure as the last three wickets added another 71 runs in just over 26 overs, before the innings folded 32 minutes before close at 262 in reply to Pakistan's 274.

Bangladesh had earlier started the day at 10 for no wicket in two overs. When play ended, Pakistan were in a spot of bother at

nine for two with Hasan Mahmud sending Abdullah Shafique (three) and night-watchman Khurram Shahzad (zero) back in the hut. Pakistan are 21 runs ahead with eight second innings wickets in hand.

Litton overcame cramps and was the ninth batter out after scoring a gallant 138, falling to Salman Ali Agha who, two balls later, accounted for last-man Nahid Rana to finish with figures of 3.4-0-13-2. Abrar Ahmed, who was the only specialist spinner in the side and bowled his first over with Bangladesh reeling at 43 for six in 15 overs, returned with figures of 31-5-83-0.

Apart from adding 165 runs for the seventh wicket with Mehidy, who gave Khurram Shahzad his maiden five-wicket haul in third Test, Litton also put on 69 runs for the ninth wicket with No.10 batter Hasan Mahmud, who finished as the third most successful Bangladesh batter with 13 not out after occupying the crease for nearly two hours.

Litton reached his fourth Test century from 171 balls with 11 fours and two sixes, before being caught at long-on after a 228-ball knock that contained 13 fours and four sixes. In contrast, Mehidy, followed his five-fer with a 124-ball 78 with 12 fours and a six.

Trailing 0-1 in the two-Test series and scoring 274 in the first innings, Khurram had provided a dream start to Pakistan by knocking off Zakir Hasan (1), Shadman Islam (10), Najmul Hossain Shanto (4) and Shakib Al Hasan (2). Mir Hamza lent excellent support to Khurram from the other end, accounting for Mominul Haque (1) and Mushfiqur Rahim (3) to leave Bangladesh wobbling at 26 for six.

However, Pakistan had to wait for another 199 minutes before securing their seventh success, which produced another wicket of Taskin Ahmed shortly before tea. Khurram masterminded both the wickets to finish the day with impressive figures of 21-3-90-6,

including first spell of 7-0-15-4. Khurram could have potentially added another wicket to his cap, had Shan Masood held on to a straightforward catch at short-cover of Hasan Mahmud.

Nonetheless, Khurram's six for 90 made him the first Pakistan fast bowler to take a six-fer in a home series since 2010 when Tanvir Ahmed recorded figures of six for 120 against South Africa in Abu Dhabi.

Mir Hamza also bowled his heart out, finishing with figures of 16-1-50-2.

Scores in brief (day 3 of 5). Pakistan 274 all-out, 85.1 overs (Saim Ayub 58, Shan Masood 57, Salman Ali Agha 54, Babar Azam 31, Mohammad Rizwan 29; Mehidy Hasan Miraz 5-61, Taskin Ahmed 3-57) and 9-2

Bangladesh 262 all-out, 78.4 overs (Litton Das 138, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 78, Hasan Mahmud 13 not out; Khurram Shahzad 6-90, Salman Ali Agha 2-13, Mir Hamza 2-50)

Pakistan -Bangladesh match pictorial view



Former Pakistan captain reveals reasons behind Babar Azam's recent struggle

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: Former Pakistan captain Salman Butt has identified the two key reasons behind the ongoing struggles of star batter Babar Azam.

Babar has been going through a rough patch, having scored 53 runs across three innings in the ongoing Test series against Bangladesh.

Salman Butt, during an interview with a local sports channel, pointed out the reasons behind the criticism of Babar.

"There are two reasons (why Babar is facing so much heat). No doubt, he is currently Pakistan's best batter and, I think, the most consistent player of the decade," said Salman.

"But the problem is that when a player struggled earlier, they were more out of form than Babar.

"There were 4-5 other players who used



to win matches, so everyone's respect used to be saved and it was covered.

"Now the problem is that Babar has scored so much, then he is the only one who scores most of the runs for Pakistan. There is no one with him who can match him."

Salman Butt further stressed the importance of Babar Azam as the most important player on the team, stating that the whole batting lineup comes under pressure when he fails.

"You can see, the day he doesn't run, you know that the Pakistan team will not win the match," he added.

He also highlighted the management's flaw in not developing technically sound batters and focusing more on the power-hitting ability of the batters.

"So, this is the problem of Pakistan that you did not develop the players. You tried to develop everyone on the basis of power-hitting, the basis of playing openly. And now you don't have players with the right techniques," he concluded.

Joe Root opens up on prospect of breaking Sachin Tendulkar's record

A Sports

England star batter Joe Root recently opened up on the prospect of surpassing legendary Indian batter Sachin Tendulkar as the highest run-scorer in Test cricket.

Root, who is enjoying a purple patch with the bat in red-ball cricket, scored another hundred in the ongoing second home Test against Sri Lanka on Saturday, taking his centuries tally to 34.

With his 34th century, Joe Root came level with legends of the game including Pakistan's Younis Khan, India's Sunil Gavaskar, Sri Lanka's Mahela Jayawardene,

and West Indies' Brian Lara.

Root, who recently amassed 12,000 runs in Test cricket to become the seventh-highest run-scorer of all time, has second-placed Ponting and Tendulkar's overall record within sight.

The English batter has scored 12377 runs, meanwhile, Sachin Tendulkar is leading the list with 15921 runs.

With Root being 33 years old and 3544 runs away from Tendulkar's record, it's been discussed among cricket circles that he has a realistic chance of surpassing the Indian legend as the highest run-scorer in Test cricket.



He was asked if he is keeping an eye on breaking Tendulkar's record after scoring his 34th Test hundred, however, the right-hander stated that he prefers to keep team

goals over his personal milestones.

"I just want to play, and try, and do my bit for the team and score the runs as many as I can and see where we get to," said Joe Root.

"It's obviously amazing when, you score 100, you'd be lying if you said it wasn't, a big part of why you start playing the game and what you love about it.

"But there's no better feeling than winning a Test match. So the more, it can affect games and the more you can, add to the team, the greater it is. So, that will be the main focus. And hopefully more days like this will come with that mentality."

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Seeded players dominate at Khawar Hyat Memorial Tennis Tournament

Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The seeded players showcased their dominance on the courts as they comfortably secured their spots in the next round of the Khawar Hyat Khan Memorial National Ranking Tennis Tournament at the PTF-SDA Tennis Complex, Islamabad on Sunday.

In the men's singles matches, Aqeel Khan trounced Kamran Maqbool 6-3, 6-3, while Muhammad Huzafa Khan defeated M. Haziq Aasim with a scoreline of 6-3, 6-1, while Asad Zaman overpowered Gibran ul Haq 6-4, 6-1. Ahmad Nael Qureshi delivered a flawless performance against Uzair Khan, winning 6-0, 6-0. Muzammil Murtaza eased past Murtaza Hussain with a 6-1, 6-2 victory, and Shahzad Khan beat Syed Nofil Kaleem 6-1, 6-1.

In a closely contested



match, Abdullah Adnan came from behind to defeat M. Talha Khan 4-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Barkatullah overcame Sami Zeb Khan 6-2, 7-5, while Mudassir Murtaza triumphed over Huzaima Abdul Rehman with a 6-1, 6-1 win.

In the Boys 18 & Under Singles first round, Haider Ali Rizwan dispatched Haziq Areejo 6-0, 6-2. The Boys 14 & Under Singles first round saw Anis Khan dominate Salar Khan 4-0, 4-0, M. Shayan Afridi beat Muhammad Faizan 4-1, 4-1, and Muhammad Aayan defeated Ahmed Ayan ul Haq 4-0, 4-1.

The tournament continues on Monday, with matches scheduled to begin at 9:00 am.

PID (I) 1551-D/24

High Security Arrangements

ISLAMABAD: Containers being placed on Jinnah Avenue at Shaheed Millat, D-Chowk also blocked with heavy containers to secure red zone of the Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

Chairman Senate lauds Tine International for its role in promoting health and wellness

Kiran Asim

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani while addressing a health awareness seminar organized by Tine International in Islamabad said that health is a fundamental right, and ensuring access to knowledge and resources necessary for leading a healthy life. It is our collective responsibility to create. He credits Tine International with his outstanding achievements

and congratulated them for their unwavering commitment to health and wellness and said that the seminar was a testament to Tine International's ongoing efforts to promote health awareness and wellness.

Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that Tine International's dedication to



promoting traditional Chinese medicine and healing methods has significantly impacted the lives of countless people and its focus on addressing health-related issues is commendable.

are perfectly aligned with national health objectives.

Chairman Senate further said that promotion of healthy environment will help in the economic development and prosperity of our nation. Education is an important sector for public development. Where Tyne International excels. Tine International is playing an important role in improving the social status of youth through capacity building training programmes.

Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani in his address said that it is important to equip the future generations with skills and knowledge to face the challenges of the world. Let us remember the sacrifices of our forefathers and renew our resolve to build a stronger, more united Pakistan.

He added that all stakeholders government, private sector, and civil society should collaborate in promoting health awareness and entrepreneurship. Together, we can create an environment where health education is a priority, and Where every citizen has access to the resources needed to live a healthy life.

Chairman Senate said that I am committed to work together to build a healthier, more prosperous Pakistan. Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani said that Pakistan is a nuclear power and Allah Ta'ala

Later, Chairman Senate also visited the fitness center established in Liaquat Gymnasium. The block was inaugurated by Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani as the Prime Minister Of Pakistan

Former senator Mushtaq Ahmed determined to protest for Gaza

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Former Senator of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan, Mushtaq Ahmed Khan, has announced his intention to protest in support of the people of Gaza, stating that any obstacles will not deter him.

During a press conference with his wife and founder of the Save Gaza Campaign, Humaira Tayyaba, Mushtaq Ahmed Khan condemned the criminalisation of raising voices against Israel in Pakistan. He revealed that two of their colleagues were killed, and no FIR was registered.

The former senator criticised the oppression faced by those protesting against Israel in Pakistan. He mentioned that an agreement was made with the Additional Deputy Commissioner and SP that they would not block roads and would conduct a peaceful protest. However, they were subjected to police brutality despite their peaceful intentions.

Mushtaq Ahmed Khan asserted their right to protest in Islamabad regarding the situation in Gaza. He warned that if the people of Gaza fail, the existence of Al-Aqsa Mosque would be at risk. He emphasized that observing



the conditions in Palestine, for Muslims, urging Muslim leaders to abandon their

cowardly policies and take action.

Humaira Tayyaba, the founder of the Save Gaza Campaign, stated that the campaign represents the voice of all Pakistanis. She highlighted efforts to raise awareness among students but lamented the police's violent response to their peaceful protests.

She condemned the police's actions, asserting that peaceful protest is their fundamental right. She declared that their protests were not previously conditional on obtaining an NOC, nor would they be in the future.

FBR collects Rs. 1,588 billion in Gross Revenue in first two months of 2024-25

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has collected gross revenues of Rs 1,588 billion for the months of July & August 2024. Against a target of Rs. 1,554 billion, FBR has collected Rs.1,456 billion in net revenue and refunds of Rs. 132 billion (44% more than last year) were issued to the exporters to resolve their liquidity problems.

The FBR collected Rs. 593 billion under the head of domestic income tax as compared to Rs. 437 billion in July & August 2023, thereby showing a growth of 36%. A healthy year-on-year growth of 40% was achieved in the domestic sales tax with collec-



tion of almost Rs.314 billion. Around Rs.86 billion were collected as Federal Excise Duty (FED) showing a year-on-year increase of 13%. As a result a cumulative growth of almost 35% has been achieved in the collection of domestic taxes. However, on the import

side the same momentum could not be maintained due to continued compression in imports. In US\$ terms, imports in the country have declined by 2.2% in August 2024 as compared to August 2023. Similarly, the imports during August 2024 in PKR

value also showed a decline of 7% as compared to August last year. Moreover, the import of high duty items such as vehicles, home appliances, as well as miscellaneous consumer goods such as garments, fabrics, footwear etc have reduced significantly, changing the import mix. This trend has impacted collection of Customs duties as well as other taxes collected at import stage. Despite a modest increase of 4% in collection of Customs duties, FBR's overall growth in net collection registered a 21% increase on collection of previous year.

FBR is likely to achieve the revenue targets of the first quarter as both the economic activity and imports are expected to show a healthy

turnaround in the month of September due to lower policy rate and other interventions being made by the Government in recent months.

The growth is also likely to show a significant increase as a result of digitisation and other FBR's reforms which are currently being very keenly supervised by the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister.

These reforms include end to end monitoring of supply chains, automated production monitoring, POS, AI based data integration, import scanning and strict integrity management of FBR workforce. FBR is also doing a revamp of its business processes to facilitate business growth and ease.

PM reaffirms Pakistan's moral, diplomatic, political support to Kashmiri people

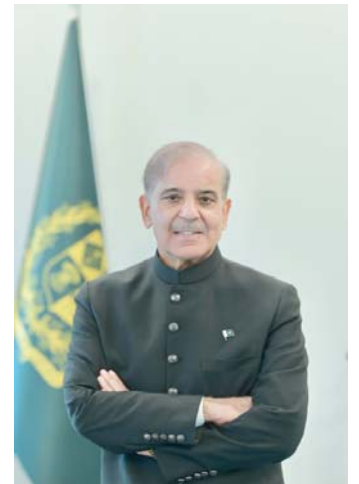
Bureau Report

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday while paying tribute to late iconic Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Geelani, reiterated Pakistan's continuing moral, diplomatic and political support to Kashmiri people of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

In a message on the third death anniversary of late veteran Kashmiri leader, the prime minister said that his name would always be remembered and respected in the movement for freedom of IIOJK.

Geelani had been a great Kashmiri leader who had a firm faith in the Kashmiris' people in their right to self-determination. Late Geelani had devoted his entire life for the achievement of the same objective, PM Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying.

The prime minister further said that Syed Ali Shah Geelani's contributions for the freedom of Kashmiri



people and in the struggle for the right to self-determination, would always be remembered, adding sufferings in imprisonment could not deter Geelani's strong resolve.

Geelani's sacrifices would not go in vain, the prime minister said, adding that the struggle for the right to self-determination would continue.

Surveillance & e-Challans be ensured: Abdul Aleem Khan

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: In a joint meeting of NHA & FWO it has been decided to ensure "axle load restriction" on all highways/ GT Roads for heavy vehicles like motorways. In this regard, across the country National Highway Authority and Frontier Works Organization will make joint efforts through integrated policies. Federal Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan chaired the departmental briefing of NHA and FWO. He directed that weigh stations should also be set up like Motorways so that no truck or trawler exceeds the prescribed weight to avoid damage to these national properties.

Director General FWO Maj. General Abdul Sami and Chairman NHA Shehryar Sultan in their



departmental briefing informed about the current situation on various under-construction projects of Motorways and GT Roads. Federal Secretary Communications Ali Sher Mehsud also participated in the meeting. It was decided that a joint departmental meeting of National Highway Authority and Frontier Works Organization will be convened next week in which different matters will be finalized for further action.

Karachi University syndicate cancels degree of high court judge: report



Monitoring Desk

KARACHI: The syndicate of Karachi University announced on Saturday the cancellation of a degree and enrollment of a candidate believed to be a high court judge, following recommendations from its Unfair Means (UFM) Committee, Dawn reported.

This decision came shortly after the police detained Dr Riaz Ahmed, an academic and syndicate member, in what appeared to be an effort to prevent his attendance at the crucial meeting.

Dr Ahmed, an associate professor in the university's applied chemistry department, was released later that evening, coinciding with the syndicate's decision to revoke the degree.

After his release, the KU associate professor spoke with rights activists and media representatives, claiming that the degree in question belonged to Islamabad High Court judge Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri. But it could not be independently verified by the news outlet due to the unavailability of university officials for comment.

The decision was made during a syndicate meeting held on Saturday afternoon, after Dr Ahmed, an associate professor and syndicate

member, raised objections regarding the agenda item related to the judge's degree, which had been under scrutiny for 40 years. He claimed he was detained by police on Tipu Sultan Road around 1pm while en route to the meeting.

Despite his absence, the syndicate proceeded with its agenda, approving the cancellation of the law degree based on recommendations from the UFM Committee. A KU press release stated that the committee had found the candidate involved in "unethical and immoral acts," though it did not specify the individual's name.

The issue gained traction over two months ago when a letter allegedly from KU's controller of examinations circulated on social media, raising questions about Justice Jahangiri's law degree. The letter indicated that a candidate named Tariq Mehmood received his LLB degree in 1991, associated with enrolment number 5968.

However, "discrepancies" have emerged, as another individual, Imtiaz Ahmed, was enrolled in 1987 under the same enrolment number. The transcript for LLB Part I was issued in the name of Jahangiri. The letter clarified that the IHC judge actually enrolled for LLB Part I under a different enrolment number, 7124.