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Senate passes motion to elect finance committee



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
The Upper House passed a motion on Wednesday to elect the Senate Finance Committee comprising members as per the proposed list. The motion, initiated by Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Azam Nazeer Tarar, also granted authority to the Senate chairman to adjust the committee's composition as necessary. The minister clarified that the committee's makeup had been determined by the chairman in consultation with the leader of the opposition in the Senate.

Cipher case hearing adjourned till May 23



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
During the hearing of the Cipher case, Chief Justice Amir Farooq asked the state counsels whether they had consulted with the accused or not. The state counsel responded that the founder of PTI took only two minutes with him but did not consult or engage with him. Justice Mian Gul Hasan Aurangzeb asked, "How are you?" and then inquired, "Is this also a meeting? Has the client been consulted?" He asked if both counsels could provide affidavits on the refusal of legal consultation by the PTI founder Imran Khan and central leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi. The court directed the two state counsels appointed in the cipher case to submit their affidavits. The

Security forces neutralise 29 terrorists in one month: ISPR



Soon Times Correspondent RAWALPINDI
There has been a surge in terrorism-related incidents in Pakistan through Afghan soil and security forces have neutralised 29 terrorists during operation in Zhob district of Balochistan in one month. According to the Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR), media wing of army, security forces conducted operation due to infiltration of terrorists in Pakistan from Afghanistan border. The operation was launched in Sambaza in Zhob district of Balochistan on April 21 last. As a result, 29 terrorists were killed during a month in security forces operation. Maj Babar Khan embraced martyrdom while fighting terrorists with bravery on May 14. The ISPR stated that Pakistan security forces were determined to protect borders, ensure citizens' safety and end menace of terrorism. The ISPR said Pakistan had urged the interim Afghan government to form effective border management system and it was expected that they would act with responsibility.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif calls for comprehensive plan for jail reforms

Directs to build jails outside cities, and make foolproof cyber security of prisons



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE
Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has called for a comprehensive plan on jail reforms in the province. The chief minister chaired a special session attended by key provincial officials, including Senior Provincial Minister Marriyuum Aurangzeb and Provincial Information Minister Azma Bukhari. MPA Saniya Ashiq, Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman, Home Secretary Noorul Ameen Mengal, and IG jail Farooq Nazeer. Among the key decisions made during the session, final approval was granted for the construction of women's jails in Faisalabad and Rawalpindi. CM Maryam instructed the development of new jails outside urban areas, aiming to alleviate overcrowding and enhance security measures. Another notable development was the approval of the judicial lockup and prison revamp project. Concerns regarding criminals maintaining contacts outside the jail prompted directives to fortify foolproof cyber security measures.

Bruised PTI demands judicial probe into attack on Raouf Hasan



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has demanded formation of a judicial commission to investigate the attack on party's Information Secretary Raouf Hasan. The PTI information secretary was attacked on Tuesday afternoon by unidentified transgender persons with a blade in Islamabad's G-7 area. He

suffered a cut in the face. Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, Leader of the Opposition in National Assembly Omar Ayub said an attempt was made to kill party's spokesperson. "We reject the FIR launched by the Islamabad police. Why the sections of terrorism are not included in the FIR," questioned Ayub. He added that the PTI would launch a strong protest all over the country if such tragic incidents happened again. Addressing the press conference, Raouf Hasan said that it was an assassination attempt as the assailants wanted to cut my throat. "They were not transgender persons. They were well-trained in such acts," he added. My wounds and cuts would be healed up sooner or later but the injustice done to this country would never end, he said.

Gilani, Bilawal discuss political situation



Soon Times Correspondent KARACHI
Acting president and Senate Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani called on PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at the Bilawal House on Wednesday. Both the leaders deliberated on the matters of mutual interests and overall situation of the country. Earlier, Gilani visited tomb of Quaid-e-Azam and offered fataha. The acting president laid a floral wreath and offered fataha. He also recorded his impressions in the visitors' book placed at the mausoleum. Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah was also present on the occasion. Speaking to the media, the acting president said Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a true and genuine leader of the Sub-Continent and our youth should be aware of the fact that he (Quaid) was the true leader and he had created Pakistan therefore we should not be running after a 'black cat in a dark room'.

PM for early completion of Islamabad's IT Park

Besides, another IT Park being developed by South Korea's support near the Jinnah International Airport of Karachi would be completed by 2027.



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday instructed for the early completion of IT Park being developed in Islamabad and carrying out the third party performance evaluation of software technology parks. The prime minister, chairing a meeting to discuss the matters related to the IT parks, lauded the establishment of such parks in the country to promote information technology, IT exports and to facilitate the startups. Briefing the prime minister about the IT Parks, the officers of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunications said that the Islamabad's IT Park being established through South Korean cooperation, would be completed by next year. The facility would feature startups, incubation centers, banks, restaurants and other facilities. Besides, another IT Park being developed by South Korea's support near the Jinnah International Airport of Karachi would be completed by 2027. Moreover, 43 software technology parks had been established in 20 cities. By 2025, around 100 new E-Rozgar centers and 10 new software technology parks would be developed. Federal ministers Ahad Khan Cheema and Muhammad Aurangzeb, State Minister Shaza Fatima Khawaja, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Jahanzub Khan, PM's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

Lt Gen Nigar Johar receives 3rd Bint-e-Hawa Achievement Award



Soon Times Correspondent PESHAWAR
Lt. General Nigar Johar on Wednesday received the 3rd Bint-e-Hawa Achievement Award 2024. The Bint-e-Hawa Forum (BHF) hosted the 3rd Bint-e-Hawa Achievement Awards 2024 at the Monal Marquee Cant. The event was a grand celebration recognizing the outstanding achievements of talented women. A total of 35 awards were distributed across 10 categories,

highlighting the diverse contributions of these remarkable individuals. In the Healthcare and Social Work category, honorees included Dr. Tahira Nishitar, Dr. Nazli, Hasina Zahoor, and Ms. Malvesh Ali Khan. The Women Empowerment and Entrepreneurship category recognized Qurat-ul-Ain, Faragis Azim, Sidra Feroqi, and Saima Melboob for their efforts. The Sports category celebrated the accomplishments of Salma Marwat, Mahnoor Ali, Hadi Kamal, and Husna. The prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Shubina Ayaz, Tabassum Adnan, and Lieutenant General Nigar Johar. In the Journalism and Freelancing category, Meena Shams, Nadia Saboohi, Muskan Safi, Wagana Feroz, and Khalida Niaz were honored. Awards for Extraordinary Talent went to Huda Sethi, Mehreen Ishfaq, Spogmay Mahsood, and Madiha Salman.

ISLAMABAD - SARGODHA - KARACHI

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Global Bridges

The Centre for Strategic Perspectives (CSP) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized an in-house meeting with a delegation from 'Global Bridges', Germany. The 17-member delegation – including decision-makers from politics, business, academia and media – exchanged views with the ISSI side that included Director General Ambassador Sohail Mahmood, Chairman BoG Ambassador Khalid Mahmood, Director China Pakistan Study Centre (CSPC) Dr. Talat Shabbir, Director CSP Dr. Neelum Nigar, and other members of CSP and

CPSC. Dr. Talat Shabbir presented an overview of the broad range of ISSI's research work and outreach. Dr. Christian Altenhofen made remarks about Global Bridges' mission and initiatives as well as the purpose of its study tour to Pakistan. In his remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood shared global perspective on the evolving global geopolitical landscape, noting the key economic, security and power dynamics influencing international relations. He highlighted the broad spectrum of traditional and non-traditional security threats and challenges at the global

level, underlined the transformation visible in the global order, and stressed the importance of addressing global issues through a collaborative rather than combative approach. He also highlighted how Pakistan was navigating this complex web of geopolitics and was focused on accentuating its pivot to geo-economics. Dr. Talat Shabbir spoke on the salience of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and aspects of Pakistan's ties with regional countries. Dr. Neelum Nigar touched on Pakistan's National Security Policy and the importance of international cooperation in

tackling climate change and other non-traditional security challenges. Representatives from the delegation, including Ambassador Wolfgang Ischinger and Dr. Hans Albrecht, highlighted Global Bridges' emphasis on dialogue and mutual understanding; stressed the importance of addressing the key drivers behind global changes; and underscored the need for pursuing approaches that help foster peace regionally and globally. This was followed by an absorbing interactive session. Ambassador Khalid Mahmood presented memento to the visiting delegation.

PERSONAL GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS



Yaar Sami Luhrani

Having goals and aspirations is an essential part of personal growth and fulfillment. They give us direction, motivation, and a sense of purpose. Here are some key points to consider: **SETTING MEANINGFUL GOALS:** It's important to set goals that align with your values and passions. Reflect on what truly matters to you and what you want to achieve in various aspects of your life, such as career, relationships, health, and personal development. **CREATING A VISION:** Visualize your ideal

future and create a vision board or write down your aspirations. This helps you stay focused and reminds you of what you're working towards. **BREAKING DOWN GOALS:** Break your goals into smaller, achievable steps. This makes them more manageable and allows you to track your progress along the way. Celebrate each milestone you reach! **EMBRACING GROWTH MINDSET:** Adopt a growth mindset, believing that your abilities and skills can be developed through dedication and effort. Embrace challenges, learn from failures, and see setbacks as opportunities for growth. **TAKING ACTION:** Goals are just dreams unless you take action. Create a plan, prioritize tasks, and commit to taking consistent steps towards your goals. Stay motivated by surrounding yourself with supportive people and seeking inspiration from others who

have achieved similar aspirations. **ADAPTING AND ADJUSTING:** As you progress towards your goals, be open to adjusting your plans. Life is full of unexpected twists and turns, and flexibility is key. Embrace new opportunities and be willing to change course if necessary. **CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS:** Celebrate your achievements along the way, no matter how small. Recognize your hard work and the progress you've made. This boosts your confidence and keeps you motivated to continue pursuing your aspirations. Remember, personal goals and aspirations are unique to each individual. What matters most is that they resonate with you and bring you a sense of fulfillment. Stay focused, stay motivated, and believe in yourself. You have the power to turn your dreams into reality.

Gulf States as Mediators in the India-Pakistan Conflict



Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer

In recent years, Pakistan has made concerted efforts to strengthen its ties with Iran although hindered by American sanctions on Iran and concerns regarding cross-border militancy. The prospect of being drawn into Saudi-Iranian proxy conflicts has further complicated Pakistan's diplomatic stance, notably demonstrated by its 2015 parliamentary decision against joining the Saudi-led coalition aimed at combating the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen and reinstating Yemen's internationally recognized government. This neutrality in Yemen's conflict was a difficult choice for Pakistan, given its historically strong relationship with Saudi Arabia which has provided crucial diplomatic and financial support, particularly during times of international isolation following Pakistan's nuclearization in response to India's tests in 1998. Former Prime Minister Imran Khan's efforts to foster alliances with Muslim-majority countries such as Qatar, Turkey and Malaysia have strained Pakistan's ties with traditional Gulf allies, particularly Saudi Arabia and the UAE. These tensions have inadvertently allowed India to enhance its trade and security relations with the Gulf States. While India's engagement with the Gulf historically revolved around energy imports and labor exports, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has sought to deepen bilateral ties, both economically and strategically, with countries like Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Iran. Pakistan, recognizing the shifting dynamics, has attempted to mitigate strains with its traditional Gulf partners. For instance, former Army chief Gen. Raheel Sharif assumed leadership of the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition, comprising 42 nations, in 2017. However, Prime Minister Khan's decision to forgo participation in the alternative Muslim Summit in Malaysia in 2019, seen as a challenge to Saudi leadership,

failed to fully assuage tensions. Meanwhile, India's growing clout in the region was underscored by the UAE's decision to confer its highest civil honor on Prime Minister Modi, even amidst controversy over India's Citizenship Amendment Act, which discriminates against Muslim refugees. Despite Pakistan's pleas, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have refrained from openly opposing India's actions, including the revocation of Kashmir's special status in 2019. However, the fluidity of bilateral relations in the region suggests that these dynamics are subject to change. The interplay between major Middle Eastern powers and South Asian states, particularly India and Pakistan, is increasingly influenced by broader strategic considerations amidst the emerging great power competition between China and the United States. As such, the geopolitical landscape in the Middle East and South Asia remains in flux, with implications for regional stability and global power dynamics.

The intensifying rivalry between China and the United States in the Middle East and South Asia has significantly heightened regional insecurities while simultaneously presenting unforeseen opportunities for reconciliation. As China seeks to challenge American dominance in the Middle East, India, too, endeavors to expand its influence to counterbalance China's growing presence in the region. India's collaboration with Iran, exemplified by its investment in the Chabahar seaport, has emerged as a direct challenge to China's investment in Gwadar via the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. Conversely, China's substantial investment plans in Iran signal its ambition to deepen ties in the region, further solidifying its status as Iran's largest trade partner and facilitating Iran's integration into influential regional blocs. Despite Pakistan's aspirations to mediate between Iran and Saudi Arabia, China achieved a significant breakthrough by brokering the restoration of diplomatic ties between the two Middle Eastern rivals. Amid escalating regional tensions triggered by conflicts such as the Gaza war, Saudi Arabia and the

UAE demonstrate a willingness to de-escalate tensions with Iran rather than exploit them for strategic advantage. Recent efforts to repair ties between Iran and Pakistan, following tensions sparked by missile exchanges, reflect a renewed commitment to enhancing bilateral relations and fostering security cooperation. While the US appears open to increased Saudi and UAE investments in Pakistan, it is concerned about Islamabad's growing reliance on Beijing. With the US bolstering military cooperation with India to counter China, its neutrality in potential Indo-Pakistani crises is increasingly questioned. Consequently, the US may encourage regional actors with influence over both India and Pakistan to establish crisis management mechanisms to prevent cross-border escalation. Secret talks facilitated by the UAE between Indian and Pakistani intelligence officials, along with Saudi statements advocating dialogue on the Kashmir dispute, suggest a regional push for conflict resolution. While Indian media views such statements as endorsing its stance against third-party involvement in Kashmir, Pakistan interprets them as a show of solidarity against India's reluctance to engage in Kashmir talks. Despite diplomatic overtures, challenges persist, including India's upcoming elections and the delicate security situation in Kashmir. Despite the potential benefits of reconciliation for India and Pakistan, the current political climate may not favor immediate rapprochement. India's domestic politics and security concerns, coupled with ongoing tensions in Kashmir, present obstacles to meaningful dialogue. However, incremental confidence-building measures and continued international encouragement, particularly from Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and the US, could pave the way for constructive engagement between India and Pakistan, reducing Pakistan's dependence on China and fostering regional stability and cooperation of the Middle East and South Asia.

Foreign exchange reserves can be increased by exporting more than 4,000 duty-free goods to the United States. Kafael

KARACHI (Staff Reporter)

US Pakistan Business Council (UPBC) Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry organized an event in honor of Pakistani and American businessmen in which the Board of Directors of Joe Gwinnett County Government. President of Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce and Commissioner Planning of Gwinnett BODs Inam Niaz attended as Chief Guest. While UPBC Chairman Sheikh Intiaz Hussain, Saqib Fayyaz Mago, SVFPCCI and Senior Vice Chairman Syed Nasir Wajahat, Jabran Sarfaraz, Mian Zahid and other members were also present on this occasion. President KHA Business and International



Relations. CEO Kafael Hussain group and renowned architect Kafael Hussain also participated in the meeting. On this occasion, Kafael Hussain said that they are trying to stabilize Pakistan's economy in cooperation with the United States. There is a great

demand for Pakistani goods in the US market. Kafael Hussain said that by improving trade, cultural, economic and diplomatic relations between the two countries, not only the economy can be developed, but also new investment opportunities will be available. He said that foreign investors should invest in Pakistan. Kafael Hussain said that there are deep trade relations between America and Pakistan, which not only Pakistan but also America. He said that development in every sector is necessary for the improvement of the country's economy so that the name of Pakistan can be included in the list of developed countries of the world.

Rana Sanaullah gets another key ministry

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD:

Adviser to Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs Rana Sanaullah has been given the additional charge of the Ministry for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC).

A notification was also issued in this connection. Earlier, Federal Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal was serving as IPC minister.

Rana Sanaullah has also been given the status of a federal minister. Last month, President Asif Ali Zardari had approved the appointment of Rana Sanaullah as the Adviser on Political and Public Affairs on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's advice. Recently, Sanaullah was made the head of committee for social media legislation. Addressing a presser in Islamabad,

Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar announced the constitution of the committee and said that many countries have already enacted legislation to govern social media. The newly formed committee included federal ministers, including Azam Nazeer, Attaullah Tarar, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Shiza Fatima.



Commissioner bids to make all closed water filter plants functional

Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: Under the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the Aab-e-Pak Authority (APA) has initiated a vast survey to take control of all water filtration plants operated by various departments in the Sargodha Division. The APA has put a plan to conduct a comprehensive audit of these plants and ensure the repair and reconstruction of non-functional units. This will be followed by outsourcing these plants and forming local committees responsible for their maintenance and continuous operations. The APA will be limited to testing the water quality and displaying the results outside the plant. This information was revealed in a meeting chaired by Commissioner Sargodha Division Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti on Wednesday. The meeting was attended via video link by CEO of APA Punjab Zahid Aziz and his team, as well as all the four Deputy Commissioners of Sargodha Division, the Director Development, the Director Local Government and municipal officers. The meeting was informed that an initial survey indicated 85 out of 125 plants across the division are non-functional. The APA is already operating 69 functional plants in all the four districts. The Commissioner ensured that the divisional as well as district administration will collaborate with the APA to take all necessary steps to restore filtration plants.

Morgah: All Staff Morgah Sub Division congratulates Zulfiqar Ahmed Siddiqui (Chairman), Sheikh Asim Jameel (Vice Chairman), Muhammad Shah (General Secretary), Malik Zubair (Joint Secretary) on their unopposed selection in the 2024 election of IESCO Sub Division Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Central Labor Union

Condolence meeting held in Cultural Center of Islamic Republic of Iran Karachi on martyrdom of Raisi



Soon Times Correspondent Karachi: A condolence meeting was held in the Cultural Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran Karachi on the occasion of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Syed Ibrahim Raisi and his companions. On the occasion of the tragic martyrdom of Iranian President Ayatollah Dr. Syed Ibrahim Raisi, Imam of Friday prayer in Tabriz Ayatollah Muhammad Ali Al-Hashemi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahyan, Governor of East Azerbaijan Dr. Malik Rahmati, the security in-charge of the Iranian President General Mehdi Mousavi and their other companions in a helicopter crash, a condolence meeting was organized by the Cultural Center of the Islamic Republic of Iran Karachi. Dr. Miraj ul Huda Siddiqui, one of the senior leaders of Jamat-e-Islami Pakistan, famous Shia scholar Allama Syed Razi Jafar Naqvi, secretary general of Shia Ulama Council Allama Shabbir Maitani, General Secretary of High Court Bar Association Sarfaraz Ali Methu, president of Zakree e Imamia Pakistan Allama Nisar Ahmad Qalandari and others participated in this condolence gathering to pay tribute to Syed Ibrahim Raisi and his martyred companions. During the condolence gathering, the Urdu translation of the special message of Supreme Leader Hazrat Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei regarding the martyrdom of Ayatollah Syed Ibrahim Raisi and his companions was also read out. Dr. Merajul Huda Siddiqui, said in his address that the entire Islamic world is in mourning over the martyrdom of Ayatollah Dr. Syed Ibrahim Raisi and his companions, because the martyrdom of the President of Iran and his companions is a great loss and a big tragedy for the Islamic world. Dr. Merajul Huda Siddiqui said that Ayatollah Syed Ibrahim Raisi spoke fearlessly and bravely against the world tyrannical powers on the occasion of his visit to Pakistan, in Karachi. Dr. Merajul Huda Siddiqui said, we will all see the dream of Dr. Syed Ibrahim Raisi come true that Al-Aqsa and Palestine will be free and Zionism will be destroyed along with illegal Israeli regime. Dr. Merajul Huda Siddiqui said that since 1979, Iran has been the real leader of the Islamic world. The Muslim Ummah has been truly guided and led, by Iran since the success of the Islamic revolution. He said that only Iran stood against what happened in Gaza after October 7. Allama Razi Jafar Naqvi, head of Jafaria Alliance Pakistan, said that Ayatollah Syed Ibrahim Raisi was a great disciple of Imam Khomeini's school. During his visit to Pakistan, Ayatollah Syed Ibrahim Raisi delivered courageous speeches fearless of satanic powers. The strongest voice against the Israeli aggression on Palestine was raised by the Islamic Republic of Iran. The guests who participated in the condolence meeting also recorded their impressions on the tragic tragedy in the condolence book kept in Khamna Farhang.

Inspection team of Federal Ombudsman visited Housing Authority



Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: An inspection team consisting of officers of the Federal Ombudsman headed by the Senior Advisor visited the Housing Authority on 22 May 2024. On this occasion, the Director General of the Housing Authority, Zafar Iqbal, and other officers welcomed the Director General of the Housing Authority, Zafar Iqbal. The Federal Ombudsman briefed the team on various projects including G14-F, 14-F, 12-Green Enclave, I-Green Enclave II (Sky Garden) and other apartments projects. The Federal Ombudsman inspection team visited various wings of the Housing Authority and appreciated the efforts of the Director General, Admitting Section and the arrangements for public services of Facilitation Centre of Housing Authority.

The deniers of Khatam-e-Nabuwat were declared non-Muslims by NA in 1974: Shah Abdul Haq

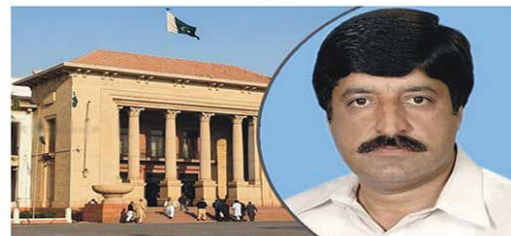


Soon Times Correspondent Karachi: While holding a press conference with Haji Hanif Tayyab and Farhan Iqbal Naqshbandi at the Karachi Press Club, Allama Syed Shah Abdul Haq Qadri, head of Khatman Nabuwat Forum Karachi, said that how the scholars of the Khatam-e-Nabuwat 1974 movement continued their struggle. The deniers of the Khatam-e-Nabuwat were unanimously declared non-Muslims by the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan. This achievement of Islamic scholars

and members of the National Assembly will complete 50 years in September 2024. In this regard, Khatam-e-Nabuwat Forum Karachi announced to celebrate this year as "Protection of the Faith of Khatam-e-Nabuwat Golden Jubilee Year 2024" for 3 months in Karachi. Throughout the course, Tafseel Aqeedah Khatam-e-Nabuwat courses, Quran and Hadith lessons have been organized. While the main convention will be held on August 31. A joint meeting of the National Assembly and the Senate should be held on September 7, in which

the scholars and the great Sheikhs who accomplished this great feat, Hazrat Allama Shah Ahmed Noorani Siddiqui and others will pay tribute to Syed Muhammad Ali Rizvi, Hazrat Allama Muhammad Zakir Sialvi, Hazrat Allama Sattar Khan Niazi and Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. They demanded in conference that the commemorative stamps should be issued with the names of Ulemas and Mashaihs who played an important role in the execution of this great work. Commemorative coins should be issued from the State Bank of Pakistan on the Golden Jubilee of Protection of Khatam-e-Nabuwat. They also demanded that a complete ban should be imposed on the preaching of Qadianis in Pakistan. Allama Mufti Furqan Shami, Qazi Noor Salam Shams Allama Faisal Rashid Qadri, Hazrat Allama Aslam Amjadi and others were also present in the press conference.

JAP urges Punjab governor to return defamation bill unapproved



LAHORE The Judicial Activism Panel has penned a letter to Punjab Governor Sardar Salim Haider Khan, vehemently urging him not to approve the controversial Punjab Defamation Bill 2024 recently passed by the Punjab Assembly. The letter, authored by the Judicial Activism Panel, highlighted grave concerns over the Defamation Bill, asserting that its passage by the Punjab Assembly contradicts the principles outlined in Article 19 of the constitution. According to the panel, the enforcement of this bill poses a significant threat to the freedom of speech, a fundamental right guaranteed to every citizen. The panel argued that the implementation of the Defamation Bill would severely restrict the public's access to vital information, serving as a formidable obstacle to the citizens' right to information. They emphasized that the bill, if enacted, would curtail the freedom of speech, thereby violating the fundamental right of the citizens. Expressing apprehension, the letter said the law could potentially be exploited to serve political interests, further undermining the democratic principles upon which the nation is built. In their fervent plea to Governor Sardar Salim Haider Khan, the Judicial Activism Panel demanded that he refrain from approving the bill and instead return it to the Punjab Assembly without his endorsement.

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i.	Baggage Wrapping Services in Domestic Departure (Briefing Area), JIAP Karachi	Rs. 242,150/-	One (01) year or till outsourcing of the Airport, whichever is earlier	During Working Hours on Working Days Office of Officer In-Charge, Commercial, CAA (Room No.3016-17) at Level-VI, Jinnah Terminal, JIAP Karachi Contact: 021-99071309/ 99071022	04/06/2024	Rs. 5,000/- (Five Thousand Only)	05-06-2024 at 11:00 hrs Main Conference Room (Room No.6035) at Level-VI, Jinnah Terminal, JIAP Karachi	05-06-2024 at 11:30 hrs Main Conference Room (Room No.6035) at Level-VI, Jinnah Terminal, JIAP Karachi
ii.	Baggage Wrapping Services in International Departure (Briefing Area), JIAP Karachi	Rs. 996,500/-			05/06/2024		06-06-2024 at 11:00 hrs Main Conference Room (Room No.6035) at Level-VI, Jinnah Terminal, JIAP Karachi	06-06-2024 at 11:30 hrs Main Conference Room (Room No.6035) at Level-VI, Jinnah Terminal, JIAP Karachi

2. For a detailed Tender Notice kindly visit: www.caapakistan.com.pk & www.ppra.org.pk

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Palestinian state is recognized by several European countries



NEW YORK
Norway, Ireland and Spain have recognized a Palestinian state in a historic move. Irish Prime Minister Simon Harris said on Wednesday it was coordinated with Spain and Norway, "an historic and important day for ... Palestine."

Several other European countries have in the past weeks indicated that they plan to recognize a Palestinian state, arguing a two-state solution is essential for lasting peace in the region. European countries are recognizing a Palestinian state. While dozens of countries have recognized a Palestinian state, none of the major Western powers has done so. The decisions from Norway, Ireland and Spain may generate momentum. The recognitions mark a significant accomplishment for the Palestinians, who believe it confers international legitimacy on their struggle, especially amid international outrage over the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

British lawmaker who lost hands and feet to sepsis returns to parliament



LONDON
A British lawmaker returned to parliament on Wednesday, five months after losing his hands and feet to sepsis, receiving loud applause from colleagues and praise from the prime minister. Craig Mackinlay, 57, said he wanted to be known as the first "bionic MP" as he returned to the House of Commons with prosthetic legs and hands following the life-threatening episode last year. "This is an emotional day for me," he said, joking about how his new limbs meant he was breaking parliament's dress code by wearing trainers and no formal jacket.



Thousands attend funeral prayers of President Ebrahim Raisi, others

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei performs prayer for victims of helicopter crash in Tehran

TEHRAN
The funeral prayer of late Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and other senior officials was led by the Islamic Republic's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in Tehran today. Iranian media said that Hamas' Qatar-based leader Ismail Haniyeh also attended the funeral prayer. Haniyeh conveyed condolences to Iran's leadership over the death of President Raisi and others on behalf of the Palestinian resistance groups. The funeral prayer was held three days after the president's helicopter crashed while crossing a mountain terrain amid heavy fog in the Varzaghban region of Iran's East Azerbaijan province on Sunday after they were returning from an inauguration ceremony of a dam near the country's border with Azerbaijan. "Bodies of president Raisi and his companions were transferred to Tehran's Mehrabad Airport on Tuesday after a funeral in northwestern city of Tabriz," according to Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA). Those accompanying the Iranian president included Supreme Leader's representative Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rashti, East Azerbaijan Governor Malek Rahmati, two bodyguards, two pilots and one crew member. All passengers, including Raisi, were declared dead when charred wreckage of the Bell 212 helicopter was found early on Monday after an overnight search in blizzard conditions. A day earlier, Iran launched an investigation into the helicopter crash with Iranian Armed Forces Chief of Staff Major General Mohammad Bagheri constituting a probe committee headed by Brigadier Ali Abdoollahi.

Japan complains about Chinese ambassador's comment on Taiwan

TOKYO
Japan has lodged a protest against the Chinese ambassador's "extremely inappropriate" comments about Taiwan, chief cabinet secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi said on Wednesday. Wu Jiahua, the Chinese ambassador in Tokyo, said on Monday Japanese people would be dragged into the fire if they took part in forces plotting to support Taiwan's independence and "split China", according to Japanese media reports. "We consider it to be extremely inappropriate for an ambassador stationed in Tokyo to make such a comment, and we have immediately lodged a severe protest against it," Hayashi, the top government spokesperson, told reporters at a regular news conference.



Hayashi also reiterated Japan's position that Tokyo expects issues surrounding Taiwan, an island Beijing views as a breakaway province, to be resolved peacefully through dialogue. Taiwan's foreign ministry expressed its support for Japan's reaction to the Chinese ambassador's remarks. "The foreign ministry welcomes the international community's attention to the situation in the Taiwan Strait and any actions that will help maintain regional peace," it said in a statement.

Kim's portrait is publicly displayed in North Korea. Here's a look at



SEOUL, South Korea
The portrait of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was publicly displayed along with those of his father and grandfather for the first time, sparking speculation about the message it sends. Portraits of leaders are at the core of North Korea's state-sponsored cult of personality that has buttressed the Kim family's rule since the country's foundation in 1948. Almost all homes and public offices in North Korea must have portraits of Kim's father Kim Jong Il and grandfather Kim Il Sung, but featuring that of the younger Kim hadn't yet been a requirement until recently. Here's a look at what it means and why now: **WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED?** On Wednesday, North Korea's state media released a photo showing Kim Jong Un's large portrait hung on the wall of a building alongside those of Kim Jong Il and Kim Il Sung. During his recent visit to the Central Cadres Training School of the ruling Workers' Party. Another state media photo showed the smaller portraits of the three Kim placed side by side at a classroom, where Kim Jong Un, seated in a chair, talked to officials who took notes of his remarks. Longtime North Korea watchers say it's the first time for North Korea to publicize images showing the portrait of Kim Jong Un installed together with those of the two late North Korean rulers since the younger Kim took power in late 2011. **IS KIM BROADCASTING HIS PERSONALITY CULT?** Placing his portrait next to those of his father and grandfather would suggest he wants to elevate his status to a level similar to that of the past two leaders, who are the subject of a strong and loyal following and regarded like gods. By doing so, Kim Jong Un wants to announce the start of his own era, according to Kwak Gil Sup, head of One Korea Center, a website specializing in North Korea affairs.

Sports & Showbiz

Pakistan set to take on England in ICC Women's Championship matches



(Web Desk)
Pakistan women will take on England women in a three-match ODI series, commencing tomorrow at the County Ground in Derby. The second ODI will be played in Taunton on 26 May, followed by the third ODI in Chelmsford on 29 May. The series, which is part of the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25, will be Pakistan's eighth and final series in the cycle. Pakistan are currently positioned on fifth spot with 16 points in the 10-team Women's Championship. The top five teams from this championship, along with hosts India, will directly qualify for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025. Earlier on the tour, both sides had featured in three T20is, which were won by the hosts 3-0. Opening batter Sidra Amin (948 runs at an average of 52.66 in the ICC Championship 2022-25), said: "Despite the recent T20i series not going our way, we are fully focused and eager to put on a good performance in the upcoming ODIs against England. "We believe in our capabilities and are focused on executing our plans well in the upcoming ODI series. The team spirit is high, and we are determined to end the ICC Women's Championship matches on a positive note."

(Web Desk)
Following the virality of a video featuring Bollywood celebrities Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal strolling through London's streets, speculation has taken over the internet. Fans have speculated that Katrina is expecting her first child with Vicky based on her loose-fitting clothing in the video. The internet was soon flooded with comments and conjecture on Katrina's purported pregnancy. As stated by a source cited by Zoom, Katrina's pregnancy rumors are true, and if everything goes according to plan, she will give birth to their first child in the UK.



Olympic torch ascends Cannes red carpet

CANNES
French athletes carried the Olympic torch up the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival on Tuesday, as it makes its way to the capital for the Summer Olympics. The torch landed in the southern port city of Marseille earlier this month on board a 19th-century ship that had sailed it all the way from Greece. It is now on a meandering route across France – and its overseas territories – building up to the Paris Games, which run from July 26 to August 11. On the red carpet, French basketball player Iliana Rupert was among those to hold the torch to the sound of tunes from sporty film soundtracks – including "Chariots of Fire," among runners training for the 1924 Paris Olympics. Retired sprinter and three-time Olympic gold medalist Marie-Jo Preece had her turn, as did the chief organizer of the Games, Tony Estanguet. The Olympic flame is set to travel through 400 towns and dozens of tourist attractions during its 12,000-kilometre (7,500-mile) journey through mainland France, as well as visiting overseas French territories in the Caribbean, Indian Ocean and Pacific.

Speculations about Katrina Kaif's pregnancy doing the rounds



(Web Desk)
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Djokovic eager to regain form ahead of French Open defence

Sports Desk
World number one Novak Djokovic is hoping to get a few matches under his belt at this week's Geneva Open ahead of his title defence at Roland Garros, after recovering from a freak injury he suffered this month. Djokovic has struggled this season and has yet to win a tournament in 2024. The 24-times Grand Slam champion's preparations for the French Open have been far from ideal, beginning with a loss to Casper Ruud in the Monte Carlo semi-finals. He then opted to skip the Madrid Open before losing in the third round of the Italian Open, two days after he was hit on the head by a fan's water bottle while signing autographs. The Serbian, who said he felt out of sorts during his 6-2 6-3 loss to Alejandro Tabilo, told reporters on Tuesday: "The head is good. All is well. I've trained for over a week and I'm feeling fine. "I've dedicated quite a bit of time with my new fitness coach to build the endurance, to build physical strength and capabilities that I need in order to play a best-of-five Grand Slam on the physically most demanding surface, which is clay."



"So, hopefully, I'm going to get more than one match here in Geneva, that's the goal and then let's see what happens in Paris." In his first match in Geneva on Wednesday, Djokovic will face German Yannick Hanfmann, who beat three-times Grand Slam champion Andy Murray earlier in the tournament. "The reason why I chose to come and play is because I feel like, at this moment, there is no better practice for me than match play," Djokovic said. "I feel like I need more matches, even if it's one match, two matches, three, four hopefully. It's good for me, because that's the way for me to try to find that kind of form that I need for Roland Garros."

Wasim Akram named Cricket Australia's Multicultural Ambassador

(Web Desk)
Legendary Pakistan cricketer Wasim Akram has been named Cricket Australia's Multicultural Ambassador for two years. The Cricket Australia has named 54 persons in the list of ambassadors, who belong to Indian, Sri Lankan, Pakistani, indigenous Australian, Bangladeshi, Nepali, and Afghani communities. The move aims at advocating inclusivity and drive positive change within the sport and wider community. Usman Khawaja, Mel Jones, Ravi Shastri, Lisa Shalekar, Kishwar Chowdhury, Alana King, Peter Varghese, Swati Dave and Fawad Ahmed have also been named in the list, which features several former and current players.