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Govt taking steps to eliminate non filers category: FinMin Aurangzeb

He says government's actions have reduced inflation, increased tax collection



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

Reiterating the government's seriousness to increase the tax-to-GDP ratio, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb remarked on Sunday that efforts would be made to completely eliminate the non-filers economy.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, he said a lot of action has taken place to achieve macro stability which would, in turn, help the country's economy come out of the woods.

Aurangzeb also stressed the need to maintain macroeconomic stability, stating that while micro-adjustments can be made, a lack of macroeconomic stability would pose significant challenges.

He outlined three key objectives for the budget: increasing the tax-to-GDP ratio to

13% within the next three years, implementing reforms in the LNG, power, and petroleum sectors, and eliminating leakages in the system, which he estimated at Rs10 trillion.

He added that the World Bank has approved one billion dollar for the Dasu project which would make the economy stable as the International Finance Corporation has also approved 400 million dollars for the revamping in PTCL.

Counting on the government's achievements, he said foreign exchange reserves now stood at nine billion dollars while inflation has also reduced from 38 percent to 12 percent.

He also lauded former finance minister Miftah Ismail's idea to put taxes on retailers while mentioning that 42,000 retailers have been registered.

Iranian envoy condemns US Congress resolution on Pakistan's elections



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

Iranian Ambassador Reza Amiri Moghadam on Saturday condemned the United States (US) Congress for passing a resolution concerning Pakistan's elections. In a statement, he criticised the US, saying, "Among the wonders of modern ignorance is that a country prevents ceasefire resolutions by veto and supports the genocide of the people of Gaza by providing all kinds of lethal weapons to the Zionist regime."

US official affirms ties with Pakistan stable despite 'occasional friction'



Soon Times Correspondent (Web Desk)

A senior US official has reassured Islamabad that despite occasional friction, the United States and Pakistan maintain a stable and excellent relationship.

The assurance from US Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Elizabeth Horst comes after a recent resolution passed by a significant majority in the US Congress, expressing concerns about democracy and human rights

Maryam Nawaz says a robust parliament essential for safeguarding human rights

Punjab CM pays tribute to MPs, MNAs on International Day of Parliamentarism

Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has stated that parliament serves as the cornerstone of democracy, safeguarding the principles of justice and equality within society.

In her message marking the International Day of Parliamentarism, the chief minister paid tribute to the members of the national and provincial assemblies, underscoring the significance of renewing their commitment to uphold democratic principles.

The CM highlighted that the parliamentary system ensured transparency, accountability and effective representation of the people in governance.

She stressed the importance of every individual and organisation playing their part in



strengthening parliamentary institutions.

Maryam commended parliamentarians who strive to uphold democratic values and justice, emphasising that a robust parliament was essential for safeguarding human rights.

The chief minister underscored that the strength of democracy lied in the vitality of parliamentary institutions.

Maryam also announced the establishment of a parliamentary development unit in the Punjab Assembly, aimed at supporting assembly members in accordance with democratic principles.

Two TTP facilitators arrested in Karachi



Soon Times Correspondent KARACHI

Two facilitators of the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were arrested in Sohrab Goth area of Karachi.

According to a spokesperson for the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), the arrested suspects, identified as Hasan Gul Mehsud and Bashir Ahmed, had been listed in the fourth schedule by the Sindh government for aiding terrorists.

A significant amount of money intended for supporting terrorist activities was recovered from the suspects. Two 9mm pistols were also seized during the operation.

The CTD spokesperson said that the suspects were operating an illegal truck stand in Giltzar Hijra area, adding that profits from this operation were used by the TTP to financially support its operatives within Pakistan.

Cases related to terror funding and possession of illegal arms had been filed against the suspects at the CTD police station.

Justice Minallah asks ECP if it gave level playing field to PTI

In a four-page note, he asked the ECP to satisfy the court that the PTI was excluded legitimately



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

Justice Athar Minallah on Saturday observed that the case of reserved seats for the Sunni Itehad Council (SIC) is not only about the seats but also about the basic constitutional rights of the real stakeholders i.e. the people of Pakistan.

Justice Minallah, who is a member of the full court bench hearing SIC's appeal for reserved seats women and minorities, in his additional note asked the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to satisfy the Supreme

Court that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was excluded from the electoral process legitimately, thereby forfeiting its claim to reserved seats.

The justice directed the ECP to satisfy the apex court that a level playing field was provided to all political parties, including the PTI, before, during, and after the February 8 general elections.

The SC will resume hearing the appeal on Monday.

In a four-page note, Justice Minallah observed that petitions pending before the court raising questions about the integrity of the

Feb 8 polls should be heard alongside the SIC petitions. He directed the ECP to place on record the nature of complaints received before, during, and after the elections and satisfy the apex court that each political party was treated in accordance with the Constitution.

Justice Minallah observed that the question of reserved seats could not be decided in isolation or based on technicalities and pleadings. "The larger issue involves the fundamental democratic and constitutional right of the real stakeholders—the voters.

"As they are not before the bench and as the highest court vested with

jurisdictions under articles 184(3) and 187 of the Constitution, the approach ought to be inquisitorial."

The judge wrote that the Supreme Court was the custodian of the rights of the people and the right to vote was one of the most important fundamental rights.

"All other rights become illusory and the Constitution is gravely violated when voters are disenfranchised, if the ECP fails in its duty to conduct the elections in accordance with the mandate of the Constitution," observed Justice Minallah.

The Constitution has vested the

Tahir Ashrafi blasts US House of Representatives, PTI over resolution saga



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE

Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) chief Tahir Ashrafi on Sunday extended his full support to Operation Azm-i-Istehkam, calling for going ahead with the plan to root out extremism and terrorism from Pakistan.

and consensus to fight the scourge of terrorism and implementing the National Action Plan (NAP) in its letter and spirit, as condemned the extremism-related incident in Swat, Jaranvala and Sargodha.

Expressing his views at a press conference, Ashrafi said the US House of Representatives had

insulted the Pakistani people's mandate by passing the resolution—a move through which a probe into the February elections was demanded.

Neither the United States nor any other country had a right to interfere in Pakistan's internal affairs, he said and questioned why those in Washington were unable to see the atrocities committed against the Palestinians.

Ashrafi also blasted the Sunni Itehad Council (SIC)—the party now representing the PTI members elected to the assemblies after contesting elections as independents—over opposing the resolution passed by National Assembly against the U S H O U S e of Representatives.

Recalling the slogan of "absolutely not" repeated by the

PTI, he questioned how and why they opted to tear the document on the floor of the House and remarked they had every right to ask about the affiliation of the party.

"Absolutely not" as a slogan was coined by the PTI after claiming that the US had removed the Imran Khan government for his refusal to accept its demands. However, the party since then decided to hire lobbyists in the US to garner support among the influential circles.

When it comes to extremism, the PUC chief also noted that the constitution had guaranteed equal rights to all the minorities in Pakistan, including following their religious rituals and celebrating sacred events.

Senator Mushahid Hussain praises China for leading 'alternative global order'

Soon Times Correspondent BEIJING:

Senator Mushahid Hussain has praised China for establishing an 'alternative new global order based on equality and justice.'

He made these remarks at an International Conference in Beijing organised by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to commemorate 70 years of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

The event was attended by over 200 political leaders, scholars, intellectuals, economists, and journalists from more than 50 countries.

Chairman of the Pakistan-China Institute and Co-Chairman of the International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) Senator Mushahid also expressed gratitude to President Xi Jinping for awarding him the prestigious 5 Principles of Peaceful Coexistence Award.

"China has taken political ownership of the 5 Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, which today are the foundation of the new emerging global order," Mushahid said.



He described President Xi Jinping's speech at the function as "truly significant, having far-reaching historical significance."

Mushahid noted the three-fold relevance of the Beijing Conference for contemporary international politics.

First, he highlighted China's initiative for the 5 Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and its continuity through President Xi Jinping's vision of a 'Community for Shared Future for Mankind', which he described as visions rooted in Asian wisdom.

Second, he emphasised that this is the first non-Western vision of a new global order that rejects hegemony, militarism, or the dictate of any single power.

Sikh Yatrees's Departure to India

The Sikh pilgrims who came from India went back after performing their religious rituals. The Indian Sikh pilgrims who came to Pakistan in connection with the 185th anniversary of Maharaja Ranjit Singh left for India via the Wagah border after completing the 10-day

pilgrimage. They crossed Wagah border under tight security. Additional Secretary Shrinves, members of the Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Bandhak Committee and others bid farewell to the Sikh pilgrims. On this occasion, the Sikh Jatha leader described the love and respect received

from Pakistan as his capital. The Sikh pilgrims expressed their views as they received love and respect cannot be forgotten for lifetime. They thanked the Government of Pakistan and the Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee for the wonderful arrangements and said that best measures

had been taken for security, accommodation and best medical facilities. Especially the accommodation arrangements were very good. Gurdwaras were beautifully decorated for that they thanked to the Government of Pakistan and the ETPB.

The Ordeals Encapsulating Kachho



Saad Akhund

investment in the development of Kachha Sindh is markedly low. The scarcity of functional schools contributes to low literacy rates, limiting economic opportunities and exacerbating poverty. Compared to the more prosperous Pakka Sindh, land in Kachha Sindh holds less value, further marginalizing its inhabitants. The absence of adequate healthcare and emergency services leaves residents vulnerable in crisis situations. The dire conditions force many into criminal activities. The lack of legitimate opportunities pushes individuals towards banditry and robbery, undermining social order and escalating insecurity. Such regions become hotspots for terrorism, tarnishing Pakistan's international reputation and deterring tourism and foreign investment, which are critical for the nation's economic growth. Historically, the Kachha lands were once fertile and economically vibrant. Residents enjoyed well-constructed homes, robust infrastructure, and significant contributions to the provincial economy. The transformation began with the construction of irrigation systems and embankments along the Indus River. While these developments benefited Pakka Sindh, they devastated the livelihoods in Kachha Sindh. ## Conclusions and Solutions To address these

issues, the government must take immediate and comprehensive action: For infrastructure Development invest in robust flood defenses, build resilient homes, and improve road connectivity to ensure safe and reliable transportation. Actions to be taken to ensure healthcare Improvement. Establish emergency medical units and ensure regular health services to cater to the population's needs. Measure should be taken to support Education. Rebuild and equip schools, provide training for teachers, and create programs to ensure continuous education even during crises. Develop sustainable economic programs, such as flood-resistant farming techniques, vocational training, and microfinance initiatives to empower residents. Implement social protection programs to support families during times of displacement and economic hardship. Introduce sustainable water management practices to prevent contamination and ensure the availability of clean drinking water. By focusing on these areas, the government can transform Kachha Sindh, alleviating the hardships faced by its residents and fostering a more stable, prosperous, and peaceful region. The rehabilitation of this area is crucial not only for the well-being of its inhabitants but also for enhancing Pakistan's global standing and economic health.

The Sindh province, known for its cultural, ethnic, and geographical diversities, enjoys a unique climatic spectrum that supports a rich variety of fruits, vegetables, and farms. The abundant resources of Sindh meet daily necessities, allowing many to prosper. However, amidst this fertile landscape lies a stark contrast: the Kachha or riverine area. Stretching from Southern Punjab (Panjnad) through Rahim Yar Khan and Ghotki in Sindh to the northern coastal areas of Thatta, this region, adjacent to the embankment of the Indus River, is highly susceptible to floods. Monsoon seasons and melting glaciers cause the Indus River to overflow, frequently displacing residents and wreaking havoc on homes, farms, and livestock. This devastation perpetuates poverty and leaves lasting impacts on the community. Constant displacement and insecurity contribute to high levels of stress and mental health issues among residents escalating unethical behaviours. Government

Literature Unveiled: A self-help guide to English literature



Mushtaqe Ahmed Rahu

Personal: Muhammad Ibrahim Khokhar is currently working as an Assistant Professor of English Literature at the Faculty of Arts and Language at Shah Abdul Latif University Khairpur. He hails from the city of Kandiaro, District Naushahro Feroz. He has studied M.Phil at Shah Abdul Latif University, Khairpur, currently pursuing a Ph.D in English Literature from NUML, Islamabad, he has dedicated himself to the field of English literature with a wider teaching experience in the English language spanning over two decades. He taught at the university school in the mornings while continuing his studies in the evenings, eventually achieving first position in his examinations. He subsequently qualified as a Vice Principal through the FPSC and as a Section Officer through the SPSC, his commitment to education is evident in his decision to pursue teaching despite being selected as a vice Principal and Section Officer in the Government of Sindh, highlighting his unwavering dedication to his true passion. Due to his strong commitment to teaching, despite being selected as a section officer in the Government of Sindh, he preferred to leave the bureaucracy and teach at the university, and today many of his students are making a name for themselves in the bureaucracy, teaching and research. Though he passed several other exams, his passion for teaching led him to join Shah Abdul Latif University, where he secured a lecturer position with flying colors. He qualified for the combined competitive exam but did not get allocations as per his choice. Despite this, he continued to excel in his career, becoming a guide in his own right, a motivational speaker, and a career counselor. His book, "Literature Unveiled," reflects his personality and dedication. As we know, writing a book is a Herculean task, but authoring one on literature and language is an even greater challenge. He has authored insightful books on the English language, literature, and poetry, two collections of his Sindhi and English poetry have been also published. He is not only a passionate educator but also a bilingual poet, translator, author, and public speaker. His dynamic presence in both academia

and public discourse underscores his significant contribution to the literary landscape and his role as an inspiring figure within his field. **Book Review:** "Literature Unveiled: A Self-Help Guide to English Literature," consists of 400 pages, published by Gutgu Publication Islamabad, is a comprehensive book meticulously crafted for aspirants preparing for FPSC, SPSC, and other Provincial Service Commissions in Pakistan. Designed to be an invaluable resource for scholars and educators pursuing the GAT Subject in English Literature, as well as students enrolled in BS and MA English programs across all universities in Pakistan. Undoubtedly, English Literature and Linguistics have a great scope around the world and based on these students are also offered many national and International scholarships every year. Not only that, it also necessary to have some knowledge of English subjects in the true sense. Keeping this fact in mind, the basic notes, to the point, easily understandable, and important topics of English Literature and Linguistics are presented in a logical order in the form of a book. An experienced teacher of English literature and language has compiled this book based on his extensive reading, careful observation, teaching experience, objective research, and current needs. **The book consists of two parts.** In which first part is about detailed introduction to English literature and its genres, the history of English literature, poetry, drama and its types, Tragedy, Novel in the 18th century, masterpieces of famous writers specially Pakistani Anglophone literature like Fatima Bhutto etc. terms used in English literature, literary theory and criticism, figures of speech, Ages of English Literature 16th century to 20th Century etc. are explained in a very powerful and easy way. **The second part consists of** Linguistics and Pedagogy. If anyone is interested in modern linguistics, theories, branches and key terms, syntax, Diction, word formation, themes, famous plays, from Shakespeare to Samuel Beckett, and Ferdinand de Saussure to Bloom's Taxonomy, introduction to teaching techniques & methodology, key terms, classroom management & Discipline, Testing & evaluation, and Bloom Taxonomy in pedagogy are essential reading and understanding for every student interested in English language and literature, and *Literature Unveiled* should be your first choice.

beneficial. It can help readers understand the rules and structures that underpin effective language use. In the second edition, it would be better to add.

2. **Updated 21st Century Skills in Pedagogy:** Incorporating more information on 21st-century skills, such as critical thinking, collaboration, and digital literacy, would enhance the book's relevance and usefulness in modern educational contexts.
3. **If the Measurement topic would be added in the pedagogy section it would be better.**

Recommendations: This book is no less than a perfect gift for those who are interested in English literature or teachers who are involved in teaching English literature in school, college, or university, this book can also be useful as a reference book. This book is a great resource for anyone interested in English literature and linguistics, pedagogy. It offers a comprehensive look at teaching methods, covering various aspects of literature and language education. The content is well-organized and easy to understand, to the point, making it suitable for both beginners and experienced educators.

This book is highly recommended for teachers, students, and anyone interested in English literature and language teaching. It's a valuable addition to any educational library. **"Literature Unveiled: A Self-Help Guide to English Literature by Muhammad Ibrahim Khokhar" & "Towards Meaningful and Enlightening English Mastering English through Grammar, vocabulary and Composition by Prof. Ghulam Hussain Manganhar"** these two books are highly recommended for availability in Colleges and university libraries for students reading and various test preparations.

Token of Appreciation: A big thank you to the author for creating such a valuable resource. Your hard work and dedication are truly appreciated. Sending you love and prayers for continued success in your future endeavors. To write a book is one of kind of contribution to national development so our prayers and well wishes for Mohd Ibrahim Khokhar may He continue His write-up for youth and generations. Aameen.

Some ideas for the next edition:
1. **Addition of Grammar Section:** Including a small portion dedicated to grammar would be

Mental Health Awareness

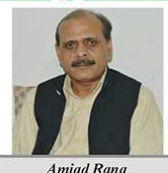
Aleeza Maqbool

marginalized, ostracized, and discriminated against, he consequences of untreated mental health issues can be severe, leading to social isolation, decreased productivity, and even suicide. It is essential to recognize the warning signs, such as changes in mood, behavior, and sleep patterns, and seek professional help when needed. The consequences of untreated mental health issues can be severe, leading to social isolation, decreased productivity, and even suicide. It is essential to recognize the warning signs, such as changes in mood, behavior, and sleep patterns, and seek professional help when needed.

patterns, and seek professional help when needed. Mental health awareness campaigns aim to educate people about mental health, reduce stigma, and encourage open conversations. By sharing our experiences and listening to others, we can create a supportive community that fosters a culture of understanding and empathy. Let us work together to break the silence and shatter the stigma surrounding mental health. By promoting mental health awareness, we can create a society that values mental well-being and supports those affected by mental illness.

Health is a vital aspect of our overall well-being. Mental health remains a taboo topic in many parts of the world. Mental health awareness is crucial to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health issues, provide support to those affected, and promote a culture of understanding and empathy. One in four individuals will experience a mental health issue each year, making it a common concern that affects people from all walks of life. Despite its prevalence, mental illness is often stigmatized, and those affected are frequently

Wisdom and Knowledge Warrior



Amjad Rana

submitting individually to US dominance, except for Iran. Historically, only Iran's rulers have shown the courage to defy US orders. In this context, Iran is taking action against Israel in response to the alleged genocide of Palestinians and continues to warn against further attacks on them. The supremacy of the US has been undermined due to its perceived harassment of innocent countries through forceful measures, exposing both the US and its allies to accusations of violating international laws. It's widely recognized that masses in the US and other countries are strongly opposed to these negative policies, which are

seen as clear violations of international laws, including human rights, the geopolitical landscape involving the United States, Israel, Iran, and other countries in the Middle East is fraught with complexity and tension. The actions and policies of various nations, including perceived aggression, defiance, and violations of international laws, contribute to an atmosphere of mistrust and conflict. It's evident that there are differing perspectives and grievances among the parties involved, underscoring the need for constructive dialogue, diplomacy, and respect for human rights and international laws. These challenges will

The United States of America (USA) and their close allies, including Israel and NATO partner countries, are targeting nations facing financial crises and political instability. Meanwhile, leaders of 56 Muslim-majority countries have been perceived as

require a multifaceted approach that prioritizes mutual understanding, cooperation, and the pursuit of peaceful resolutions. By engaging in meaningful dialogue, respecting sovereignty, and upholding the principles of justice and equality, there is hope for progress towards a more stable and harmonious future in the region. However Knowledge facts, and skills acquired through experience, education, or learning. **Wisdom:** Involves the ability to apply knowledge and experience judiciously to make sound decisions, solve problems, and navigate life effectively. **Education:** Pursue formal education through schools, colleges, and universities. **Self-study:** Read books, articles, and research papers on various

subjects of interest. **Hands-on experience:** Gain practical experience through internships, apprenticeships, or volunteering. **Continuous learning:** Stay curious and open-minded, always seeking to expand your knowledge base. **Life experiences:** Learn from successes, failures, and challenges encountered throughout life. **Reflection:** Take time to reflect on past experiences and extract lessons and insights. **Mentorship:** Seek guidance and advice from wise and experienced individuals who can offer valuable perspectives. **Contemplation:** Engage in introspection and contemplation to deepen self-awareness and understanding. **Education:** Critical thinking is essential for evaluating information, distinguishing

between fact and opinion, and making informed decisions. **Wisdom:** Critical thinking helps in discerning the deeper meanings behind events, recognizing patterns, and understanding the broader implications of one's actions. **Problem-solving:** Use knowledge to identify problems and wisdom to devise effective solutions. **Decision-making:** Draw upon knowledge and wisdom to make thoughtful decisions that align with personal values and goals. **Interpersonal relationships:** Apply wisdom to communicate effectively, resolve conflicts, and build meaningful connections with others. **Cultivating both knowledge and wisdom involves a holistic approach to learning and personal development.**



Lahore airport to observe three-hour closure daily during monsoon for safety reasons

Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE

The Allama Iqbal International Airport will be closed daily for three hours during the monsoon season, Dunya News has reported.

In a notification released on Sunday, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) stated that due to a high concentration of birds during the monsoon season, both runways of Lahore airport will remain closed from 5:00 am to 8:00 am for safety reasons, effective from July 10 to September 10.



The CAA has notified domestic and international airlines about this precautionary measure to ensure the safety of passengers.

Punjab Govt is taking special measures for the welfare of special children: Goraya

Soon Times Correspondent Mianwali:

Deputy Commissioner Khalid Javed Goraya visited Government Special Education School Girls and Boys. The Deputy Commissioner made a detailed review of the classrooms, craft centers, computer lab and other various departments and facilities

provided in the institutions for special children. Focal Person Special Education Muhammad Hafeez Khattak and Principal Boys Muhammad Mushtaq Alvi were also present on this occasion. The Deputy Commissioner inspected the handicraft products and dresses made by special girls and appreciated them. On this occasion, the Deputy Commissioner

said that the Punjab government is taking special measures for the welfare of special children so that they can be useful citizens of the society. An exhibition of garments and products made by special girls will be exhibited to provide employment opportunities to them, he added.



PTI 19-member committee to oversee July 6 rally in Capital

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has set up a 19-member central committee in connection with the party rally in the Capital on July 6.

Gohar Ali Khan will be the head of the committee while PTI Islamabad president Amir Mughal will be the convener of the committee. Umar Ayub, Shibli Faraz, Raut Hasan, Assad Qaiser, Shoaib Shaheen, Ali Bukhari, Khalid Khurshid, Malik Taimur, Shahryar Riaz, Kanwal Shuzab, Raja Waheed and Akhunda Youssafzai are included in the committee.



Shoaib Shaheen, Ali Bukhari and Niazullah Niazi will file a case in the High Court if the PTI was not given a NOC for holding the rally in the Capital.

The public meeting will be held at Tarnool Chowk, the venue decided after the approval of Islamabad DC. The committee will review all administrative matters pertaining to the rally.

2-day annual Urs of Baba Sakhi Khushal comes to an end

Soon Times Correspondent Nowshera Soon Sakasar:

The two-day annual Urs and Mela of Sufi Baba Sakhi Muhammad Khushal has come to an end in Dhadar, a suburb of Soon Valley. On the first day of the festival, Quran recitation, chadar poshi and spiritual gathering were held in the morning. In the Mehfil, Naat Khawan

participated and scholars shed light on the life conditions of Baba Sakhi Khushal. Later Bail Karah competitions were held in which bulls of rich breed from local and nearby districts took part. As the night fell, the poet entertained the audience with Punjabi poetry. On the second day too, a large number of people participated in the Mela. Attorney General of Pakistan Malik Mansoor Usman

Awam, Advocate Malik Khalid Karim Awam, Leader of Pakistan People's Party Malik Muhammad Ali Sawal and District President of Istekham-e-Pakistan Party Malik Amir Haider Sangha Awam were the special guests on the of the Urs and Mela celebrations on first and second day respectively. The celebrations of this annual Urs and Mela are held on 14th and 15th of Haar.

Incompetence of MC claims the life of XEN Public Health



Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha:

Incompetence of municipal corporation claims the life of XEN Public Health Sargodha. XEN Public Health Rana Ali was seriously injured after falling into the motor pit of the disposal site during a visit to Silanwali road disposal yesterday. He was shifted to Dr. Faisal Masood Teaching Hospital in critical condition. The municipal corporation authorities had placed fiber on top of the disposal and covered it with soil. XEN Public Health Rana Ali put his foot down and fell on the disposal motor inside. Due to many injuries on his body, he died at one o'clock late at night. He was a resident of Multan. His body will be sent to Multan.

Wafaqi Mohtasib Presides Over the Asian Ombudsman Association's Annual Meeting at Istanbul

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad:

The Wafaqi Mohtasib, Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi has said that Ombudsman Institutions constitute a global fraternity which can play a very effective role in improving the quality of life for the common man through better governance. He addressed the 25th Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD) of the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA) as its current President at Istanbul (Republic of Turkey). He said that the objectives and purposes of the establishment of the Ombudsman Institution has a direct bearing on the realization of the overall goals, principally the protection and promotion of fundamental rights and good governance in all spheres of life. He emphasized the need for greater sharing of experiences and best practices to the mutual advantage of all stakeholders. He expressed the confidence

that such exchanges amongst the Ombudsman Institutions would lead to further refining and streamlining the systems and procedures for addressing mal-administration, bureaucratic bottlenecks and systemic issues. He thanked the Board of Directors for expressing confidence and trust in Pakistan's contribution in promoting the cause of Ombudsmanhood. The Board, in its deliberations, took stock of the ongoing activities and decided to further step-up cooperation in core areas, expressing satisfaction over the mutuality of perception evolved in the meeting. It also considered measures for instituting AOA Calendar of Activities and upgrading facilities at the AOA Resource Centre established in Islamabad. The 25th meeting of the Board, held at Istanbul, on 28 June, 2024 was attended by heads of Ombudsman Institution in Azerbaijan, China, Hong Kong, Iran, Japan, Korea, Pakistan, Tatarstan and Turkey.

Seminar on "5th generation warfare" held at UoS



Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha:

Youth Organization Pakistan Punjab chapter University of Sargodha in collaboration with the Department of Sociology and Criminology at the University of Sargodha, recently organized an enlightening seminar

focusing on "5th generation warfare", specifically addressing the war of narrative and perception. The event took place at the university and featured a range of distinguished speakers and participants. The seminar was organized by Mehwish Abbas Campus Head Youth organization Pakistan & Her Team. Esteemed guest

speakers included Dr. Asma Yonus, Professor Muhammad Imran, CEO of Iqra Education Sargodha, YOP Chairman Mr. Ijaz Khan, & other experts provided valuable insights into the complexities and implications of modern warfare strategies, emphasizing the importance of narrative control and perception management in contemporary conflicts. During the seminar, certificates were distributed to the participating members and shields were awarded to the speakers as a token of appreciation for their contributions.

SNGPL continues crackdown against gas pilferers; disconnects 32 connections

Soon Times Correspondent Lahore:

During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad. It disconnected 32 connections and imposed fine of Rs 0.2 million. In Lahore, the team disconnected 02 connections on illegal use of gas and 14 on use of compressor. In Multan the team disconnected 03 connections on illegal use of gas and 02 on use of

compressor. The regional team of Rawalpindi disconnected 02 connections on illegal use of gas and 04 on use of compressor. In Sahiwal the team disconnected 01 connection on illegal use of gas. The regional team of Peshawar/Karak disconnected 04 connections on illegal use of gas, imposed fine of Rs 0.2760 million against gas theft cases and lodged 01 FIR against gas theft case.

IESCO Power Suspension Schedules for Today

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad:

According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 1st July 2024, From 07:00 AM to 10:00

AM, Rawalpindi City Circle, Pind Hoon, Raja Sultan Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, NPF-1, River Garden-II Feeders and surrounding areas will remain closed. IESCO management apologizes to its esteemed customers for the power outage. If the work is completed ahead of time, the power supply can be restored even before the scheduled time.

North Korea blames South Korea, US and Japan ties as Asian version of Nato



SEOUL North Korea criticised a joint military exercise by South Korea, Japan and the United States held this month, state media said on Sunday, saying such drills show the relationship among three countries has developed into "the Asian version of Nato".

On Thursday, the three countries began large-scale joint military drills called "Freedom Edge" involving navy destroyers, fighter jets and the nuclear-powered US aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt, aimed at boosting defenses against missiles, submarines and air attacks.



France votes in election that could hand power to far right

PARIS French voters headed to the polls on Sunday in the first round of a snap parliamentary election that could usher in the country's first far-right government since World War Two, a potential sea change at the heart of the European Union.

President Emmanuel Macron stunned the country when he called the vote after his centrist alliance was crushed in European elections this month by Marine Le Pen's National Rally (RN). Her eurosceptic, anti-immigrant party was a longtime pariah but is now closer to power than it has ever been.

Polls opened at 0600 GMT and will close at 1600 GMT in small towns and cities, with an 1800 GMT finish in the bigger cities, when the first exit polls for the night and seat projections for the decisive second round a week later are expected.



In Gaza, hunger is taking a toll on the bodies of children. The impact can last a lifetime.

One in three children in northern Gaza are acutely malnourished or suffering from wasting, UN says

Web Desk Nearly 166 million people worldwide are estimated to need urgent action against hunger, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), a global partnership which measures food insecurity.

That includes nearly everyone in the Gaza Strip, where the Israeli military launched an offensive in October following an attack on Israel by Hamas militants. More than one million of Gaza's inhabitants face the most extreme form of malnutrition - classified by the IPC as "Catastrophe or Famine".

Seven-month-old Majd Salem is one of them.

Born on Nov. 1, three weeks after Israel launched the offensive, the child was being treated for a chest infection in the neonatal ICU at Kamal Adwan hospital in northern Gaza on May 9. The nurse caring for him said he was suffering from severe malnutrition.

Majd was born at a healthy weight of 3.5 kg (7.7 pounds), said his mother, Nisreen al-Khateeb.

Majd, whose eyes keenly followed

visiting reporters in the ward, had to be given antibiotics for the infection and fortified milk to boost his weight, his mother said. Reuters was unable to trace them after May 21, when the hospital was evacuated following an Israeli raid.

One in three children in northern Gaza are acutely malnourished or suffering from wasting, according to the UN children's agency UNICEF, citing data from its partners on the ground.

Ismail Al-Thawabta, director of the Hamas-run government media office, said their records showed 33 people had died of malnutrition in Gaza including 29 children, but added that the number could be higher.

COGAT, an Israeli defence agency tasked with coordinating aid deliveries into Palestinian territories, did not respond to a request for comment for this story. Israel's foreign ministry in late May issued a detailed statement questioning the IPC's methods of analysis, which it said omitted measures Israel had taken to improve access to food in Gaza. The IPC declined to comment.

The plight of Gaza's children is part of

Myanmar central bank denies UN report on weapons transactions

Web Desk Myanmar's central bank denied a UN report that the country's military government can still access money and weapons for its war against anti-coup forces, saying financial institutions under the bank's supervision followed prescribed procedures.

The Central Bank of Myanmar "expressed our strong objection to the UN Special Rapporteur's report", it said in a statement published in a junta newspaper on Saturday.

"The UN report severely harms the interests of Myanmar civilians and the relationship between Myanmar and other countries," the rapporteur on Myanmar's human rights, Tom Andrews, reported on Wednesday that while international efforts to isolate the junta appear to have dented its ability to buy military equipment.



Trump focuses in anti-immigration drive on murdered women and girls



WASHINGTON Minutes before going on stage for the first presidential debate on Thursday, Donald Trump received a phone call from the mother of 12-year-old Jocelyn Nungaray, who was killed in Houston this month, allegedly by two Venezuelan men in the US illegally.

The mother, Alexis Nungaray, was returning a voicemail Trump had left earlier in the day when she was at her daughter's funeral, a friend of the family, Victoria Galvan, who witnessed the call, told Reuters.

Nungaray's home was found in a creek near her body on June 17, after her attackers allegedly took her under a bridge, tied her up, took her pants off and strangled her, according to police and prosecutors.

The suspects - Johan Jose Martinez Rangel, 22, and Franklin Jose Pena Ramos, 26 - had been detained by US border authorities in Texas earlier this year but released pending a court appearance.

During the debate, Trump spoke of Nungaray's case and the phone call as he hammered Biden on his immigration policies, accusing the Democrat of allowing murderers and rapists into the country.

"There have been many young women murdered by the same people he allows to come across our border," Trump said. "These killers are coming into our country and they are raping and killing women. And it's a terrible thing."

Citing Nungaray's case, he said: "This is horrible, what's taken place... We're literally an uncivilized country now."

Trump's attacks are from a well-thumbed playbook he has used repeatedly since first running for office in 2015 to cast immigrants illegally crossing the southern border as violent criminals.

Sports & Showbiz

After Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma too says goodbye to T20 format



(Web Desk) - Indian captain Rohit Sharma has announced that the T20 World Cup final triumph against South Africa was his last in the format. Rohit confirmed the same in the post-match press conference.

"This is my last game as well, no better time to say goodbye to this format. I've loved every moment of this. I started my career for India playing this format and this is what I wanted, I wanted to win the World Cup," Rohit said.

Emotional on the back of India's first ICC tournament win in 11 years, Rohit added, "I am completely lost and can't say what kind of emotions I am going through. Can't explain it in words. Let this sink in. Last night, I couldn't sleep as I was desperate and wanted it so badly. But I managed myself well inside the ground."

The 37-year-old becomes only the third

Indian captain to have won a World Cup - across formats - after Kapil Dev (1983) and MS Dhoni (2007 and 2011). The Indian skipper has now become the first-ever captain to lead a team to 50 T20 games. The 50th triumph being the World Cup final against South Africa.

Rohit took over India's captaincy in the shortest format after the underwhelming outing from the team in the 2021 T20 World Cup.

In his first outing as captain in T20 World Cup, Rohit had led the team to the semifinal in Australia two years back. It was a campaign that ended with a comprehensive defeat against England.

Under Rohit, India have also become the first team to win the T20 World Cup without losing a single game.



Missing Wimbledon would not have been 'correct', says Djokovic

LONDON Novak Djokovic said on Saturday it would not have been "correct" to miss Wimbledon despite having undergone knee surgery just over three weeks ago.

The 37-year-old Serb, who is looking to equal Roger Federer's record of eight Wimbledon titles and become the oldest champion of the modern era, said he was driven by his "incredible desire to play and compete".

Djokovic needed surgery to repair the damaged meniscus in his right knee after being injured at the French Open earlier this month.

He was forced to withdraw before his quarter-final and hasn't played since. "I do have something that is described as a feeling of not missing out at a Grand Slam while I can still play and while I'm still active and at this level," said Djokovic.

"I wouldn't call it a fear of missing out. I would just say it's this incredible desire to play, just to compete."

"Particularly because it is Wimbledon, the tournament that always has been a dream tournament for me when I was a kid. Just the thought of me missing Wimbledon was just not correct. I didn't want to deal with that."

Djokovic arrives in London without a title to his name this season.

He has seen 22-year-old Janmik Sinner take his Australian Open crown as well as his world number one ranking.

Carlos Alcaraz, who deposed him as Wimbledon champion 12 months ago, succeeded him as French Open champion earlier this month.

"I'm confident about the health of my knee and just general physical state is really good," said the Serb who is chasing a 25th Grand Slam title. "I haven't had any setback. I'll had one setback, I would be then questioning whether I should be here or not. But I haven't had a single one. Why not give it a shot?"

Alcaraz has been impressed by what he's seen of Djokovic just 24 days after going under the knife.

The Spaniard on Saturday described Djokovic as a "superhuman".

But the Serb said he was inspired by Taylor Fritz, the American player who was back on court 21 days after requiring similar knee surgery in 2021.

Fritz suffered his injury at the French Open and needed a wheelchair to help him off court.

After surgery, he returned at Wimbledon and made the third round. "I think Taylor Fritz is a superhuman," insisted Djokovic.

"His situation really gave me optimism that I can make it, too."

"Three weeks is just making the cut, so to say. It's not ideal maybe in the eyes of the doctors and specialists that would normally tell you it's normally between three and six weeks."

Feroze Khan's video with Indian actor Geethika Tiwari leaves fans guessing



(Web Desk) Pakistani actor Feroze Khan and Indian actress Geethika Tiwari will feature in their next movie, 'Luck Lag Gaye'.

On Instagram Stories, Geethika just posted a video of the two of them performing in the untitled film. The video, time-stamped at a little more than eight minutes, featured a scenario where Feroze and Geethika were spotted together in a swimming pool.

The two had a love relationship before the actor denied the rumors herself. The actor from Gul-e-Rana's dating status was one of the most frequently searched inquiries about Geethika on Google.

She responded to this in an interview with an Indian magazine, which she shared on Instagram.

Lyles wins 200m in world lead, setting up Paris Olympic double bid

ELIGENE Noah Lyles will pursue the Olympic sprint double in Paris after he won the men's 200 metres at the US Olympic trials in 19.53 seconds on Saturday, the fastest time of the year, as Gabby Thomas put on another flawless performance to win the women's race.

Kenny Bednarek got off to a speedy start and looked as though he would pull off an upset with 50 metres to go but double world champion Lyles picked up the pace in a thrilling sprint to the finish.

Lyles crossed the line 0.06 seconds ahead of Tokyo silver medalist Bednarek, while Erryon Knighton took third in 19.77.

Lyles, who won the men's 100m on Sunday, promised the trio would give international challengers a run for their money at the Paris Games.

"USA is the USA," Lyles said in televised remarks. "We don't give anything - you've got to take from us."

Thomas put on a clinical performance on the women's side in 21.81 seconds, the second-fastest time of the year, while Sha'Carri Richardson's hopes for an Olympic double were dashed when she



finished fourth.

Tokyo bronze medalist Thomas left no doubt that the US title was hers as she grabbed the lead off the turn, leaving Britany Brown and McKenzie Long to battle with Richardson for the last two spots on the podium.

Richardson, who won the 100m a week earlier, could not match their intensity and ran out of steam down the home stretch, crossing the finish in 22.16 as Brown (21.90) and Long (21.91) each booked a spot in their first Games.