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In a first, Punjab Assembly dedicates whole session to minorities



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE
The session of Punjab Assembly has been dedicated to minorities for the first time in the country's history. The special session is in progress and ambassadors of several countries are also witnessing the proceedings. Talking to media outside the Punjab Assembly, Minister for Minorities Ramesh Singh Arora said that the constitution of Pakistan talks about equality for every citizen. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has proved that minorities are very close to her heart, he said. The minister said that Pakistan is a country which represents the Hindus, Muslims, Sikh and Christians. Arora said, who is the first Sikh minister in the Punjab cabinet after 1947. The government had declared August 11 as National Minority Day in 2009. The day recalls the vision of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah with reference to his speech to the legislature on Aug 11, 1947.

Ahsan Iqbal blames judges, generals for imposing an 'amateur' leader on Pakistan



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE:
Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal, has accused a group of judges and military generals of derailing Pakistan's progress by imposing an "inexperienced" leader on the country. Speaking to the media at the Expo Centre in Lahore, Iqbal said, "Pakistan was on the development path when a few judges and generals imposed an amateur on the country." The federal minister made these remarks referring to the beleaguered and incarcerated Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan. Iqbal emphasized the potential of Pakistan's agricultural sector, stating that billions of dollars could be added to the nation's resources through agricultural exports.

Pakistan's UN Envoy warns of the threat posed by Fitna Alkharaji



Soon Times Correspondent NEWYORK
Munir Akram, Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations, has warned that the Fitna Alkharaji pose a significant threat to both Pakistan and the world. In an interview, Munir Akram emphasised the connection between the Fitna Alkharaji and Al-Qaeda, urging the international community to take strong action against the Fitna Alkharaji and ISIS. He also stressed that the Afghan government must understand that peace cannot be established without controlling terrorism, which could potentially lead to terrorist groups gaining control over Afghanistan. Akram called for a collective political effort against these terrorist organisations. Furthermore, Munir Akram indicated that the Afghan government needed to understand that normalisation of their relations with the outside world would not be possible until the eradication of terrorism.

Punjab organises historic Independence Day float from Rawalpindi to Lahore

The float is expected to receive an exceptional welcome at Minar-e-Pakistan on the evening of Aug 13



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE
On the directive of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, Punjab has organised its first-ever Independence Day float, traveling from Rawalpindi to Lahore. According to the schedule, the Independence Day float, departed from Rawalpindi for Lahore yesterday. The float was recently traveling along the GT Road and had reached Gujranwala, where it received a warm welcome. Upon arrival in Gujranwala, the float was greeted with drum beats and patriotic songs by performers. Today, the float would reach

Jhelum and Gujrat, and it is scheduled to arrive at Minar-e-Pakistan in Lahore tomorrow, passing through Gujranwala, Kamonki, and Mureedke. As per the planned schedule, the float will make stops at various locations, receiving receptions at each stop. The float is expected to receive an exceptional welcome at Minar-e-Pakistan on the evening of August 13. In accordance with Independence Day, a special poetry event (Mushaira) will be held at Minar-e-Pakistan which would also feature national songs. Additionally, there will be a musical night at Minar-e-Pakistan on the night of August



PM Shehbaz Sharif highlights minorities' role in development of country



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Sunday minorities have played a crucial role in the development of the country. He made this remark while addressing a special ceremony to mark the national day for minorities where he said for the people and the government of the country, there should be a unified sense of

purpose. "Our minority community played a key role in the Pakistan Movement and, since the creation of Pakistan, has been contributing immensely to nation-building," the premier said. On this day the founder of the country had given a historical address in which he said "all the communities from whichever religion they belong to are free to go to their respective places of worship". The government has been taking the necessary actions to protect the minority community," he said. He urged all segments of society to promoting interfaith harmony, the spirit of love, tolerance, brotherhood, and unity to make Pakistan a stable and country.

Army lieutenant succumbs to wounds, embraces martyrdom

Soon Times Correspondent RAWALPINDI:
Lieutenant Uzair Mehmoood Malik, a resident of district Attock in Punjab, aged 24, embraced martyrdom at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Peshawar, Inter-Services Public Relations reported on Monday.



A fire exchange took place between security forces and Khawarij at three different locations in Tirah Valley of Khyber District earlier on Friday. At one of the locations in Bagh, Lieutenant Uzair Mehmoood Malik, leading his troops from the front, fought bravely and sent four Khawarij to hell. However, during an intense fire exchange, the officer got critically injured and was under treatment at CMH Peshawar. He embraced martyrdom today. Uzair Mehmoood Malik Shaheed served in the defense of the motherland for 3 years and 7 months. Security Forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country and such sacrifices of our brave officers and soldiers further strengthen our resolve.



حکومت پنجاب

حکومت سندھ

حکومت بلوچستان

12TH AUGUST

Celebrating INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2024

ہمارا ہر دن یوتھ کا دن!

نیٹھل اویوشن ایوارڈ 160 13000	100 300,000	450,000 260,000	186 279,000
25 150,000	100,000+	595,000	100,000
16 300+	18,000+	26 90,000+	137 101,000

روزگار EMPLOYMENT	پرائم منسٹر یوتھ پروگرام کی
تعلیم EDUCATION	4E's سے مستفید ہو کر
شمولیت ENGAGEMENT	15 لاکھ
ماحول ENVIRONMENT	نوجوانوں کی زندگیاں تبدیل



International Youth Day

On this International Youth Day, I extend my heartfelt greetings to Pakistan's vibrant and dynamic youth, who are the torchbearers of our nation's future. Today, we celebrate not just the potential of our young generation, but also their invaluable contributions to our country's progress. The youth of Pakistan are our most valuable asset as they are the dreamers and leaders of tomorrow. It is our duty to provide them with the opportunities and resources they need to fulfil their

potential and build a prosperous, peaceful, and progressive Pakistan. The Prime Minister's Youth Programme stands as a testament to our commitment to empowering our youth. Through initiatives like the Youth Laptop Scheme, which has distributed 600,000 laptops nationwide, we are ensuring that our students are equipped to succeed in the digital world. The Youth Business Loan program, having disbursed 186 billion rupees, has given rise to

a new generation of entrepreneurs who are creating jobs and driving economic growth. Additionally, the Youth Skill Development Programme has provided training to 450,000 young individuals, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to our society. Moreover, we are actively engaging our youth through the Sports Talent Hunt and the Green Youth Movement, fostering not only physical fitness but also a sense of responsibility towards the

environment. As President, I am deeply proud of the accomplishments of our young people. Their energy, creativity, and resilience are the driving forces behind our nation's success. I urge every young Pakistani to seize the opportunities available to them, to dream big, and to work tirelessly for the betterment of our beloved country. Together, let us continue to nurture and support our youth, for in their success lies the future of Pakistan.

'Strings pulled by others,' JUI-F chief questions govt's sovereignty



Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad

Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rahman launched a scathing critique of the government on Saturday, stating that while some may appear to be in

control, the real power lies elsewhere. Addressing a traders' convention in Peshawar, Fazlur Rahman expressed concerns over the fragile economic situation in Pakistan, asserting that the country's governance and sovereignty are being undermined.

"The front row is occupied by others, but the strings are pulled by someone else," Fazlur Rahman remarked, highlighting what he perceives as a lack of genuine control by the current leadership. He emphasised that Pakistan's economic foundation

is crumbling, and it's beyond the capacity of the current rulers to salvage it. Fazl pointed to the deteriorating law and order situation and questioned whether the ideals for which Pakistan was created are being upheld. "Our homeland lacks both peace and economic stability," he said, attributing these challenges to the country's collective deviation from Islamic principles. He stressed that the disobedience of divine commands has led to the nation's current plight.

Criticising the legitimacy of the current assemblies, he claimed that the representatives sitting in the parliament are not genuine. He also condemned the imposition of oppressive taxes and the government's failure to use public funds effectively, stating, "People know that their taxes are being used to repay loans. First, take the nation into

confidence that their money will be spent on them." Fazl also questioned the involvement of foreign technocrats in Pakistan's economic management, noting that even the finance ministers are not local. "Our rulers have made arrangements abroad to flee when the situation worsens," he added, criticising the lack of long-term commitment to the country's welfare.

He expressed dismay over the government's agricultural policies, noting that despite the country having ample wheat, it was imported from abroad. "When we had wheat in the country, why was it imported?" he questioned.

The JUI-F chief also touched on international relations, expressing concern over Pakistan's diminishing autonomy. He pointed out that the conflict between major powers like the US, Russia, and China has put Pakistan in a precarious position, particularly as China emerges as a significant economic force.

He concluded by addressing the issue of Israel and Palestine, reiterating Pakistan's stance on not recognising Israel and supporting the Palestinian cause. "The issue is not about recognising Israel but recognising Palestine. The occupation is in Palestine, and we must work to free it," he said, recalling the words of Pakistan's founder, who called Israel the "illegitimate child of the West."

National pride Arshad Nadeem welcomed home in Mian Channu after hero's reception in Lahore



Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad

Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem received a grand welcome upon his return to his hometown, Mian Channu in Punjab. The javelin thrower, who made

history at the Paris Olympics 2024, was showered with flowers as he arrived in his native village. Residents of Mian Channu, along with Arshad's family and friends, gathered in large numbers to celebrate his achievement. Addressing the crowd, Arshad expressed his gratitude to everyone who supported him, saying, "I want to thank the entire nation, especially Mian Channu, for showing me so much love." Earlier in the day, the gold

medallist had arrived at Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport, where he was greeted with a water cannon salute and an overwhelming show of support from fans and officials. Among those present to welcome him were prominent political figures, including Ahsan Iqbal and Khawaja Saad Rafique, who congratulated him on his historic victory. After a brief stop at the Morning Markaz in Raiwind for tablighi prayers, Nadeem made his way to Mian Channu, where the celebrations continued. His arrival was marked by music, flowers, and a police escort as he toured Lahore in a double-decker bus before heading to his village. The joy and pride of the local community were palpable as they welcomed their hero home.

Arshad Nadeem; Pakistan's Javelin Thrower Who Clinched a Gold Medal at the Paris Olympics 2024



Iftikhar Uddin Anjum

"If you are reason of a smile on someone's face, you are succeeded." In this context Arshad Nadeem is the reason of smile on the faces of entire nation and entire nation also admired his historical and record breaking victory. Government of Pakistan announced to launch a special postal ticket with title "Az-e-Istehkam" on occasion of independence day of Pakistan with javelin throw picture of Arshad Nadeem. Do you know who is Arshad Nadeem and how he start his journey of glory? Let me tell you his story. In the heart of Pakistan, amidst the bustling streets and vibrant culture, emerged a name that would resonate globally in the realm of athletics—Arshad Nadeem. The 2024 Paris Olympics marked a historic milestone for Pakistan, as Arshad Nadeem clinched a gold medal in the javelin throw, etching his name in the annals of sporting greatness. Arshad Nadeem was born on January 2, 1997, in Mian Channu, a small town in the Punjab province of Pakistan. His journey from a modest background to the pinnacle of Olympic glory is a testament to his dedication, perseverance and unyielding spirit. Arshad's interest in athletics was evident from a young age, but it was his passion for the javelin that set him apart. Nadeem's talent was first noticed during his school days when he participated in local sports events. His remarkable ability to throw the javelin with precision and power quickly caught the eye of coaches and sports enthusiasts. Recognizing his potential, he was provided with the necessary training and support to hone his skills. Arshad Nadeem's rise through the ranks of javelin throwing was swift and impressive. He made his mark in national competitions, consistently outperforming his peers. His breakthrough came in 2016 when he won a bronze medal at the South Asian Games in Guwahati, India. This achievement was a precursor to his future successes and provided him with the confidence to compete at higher levels. In 2018, Arshad's career reached new heights when he secured a bronze medal at the Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia. This

accomplishment not only brought him international recognition but also highlighted Pakistan's potential in athletics. The following year, he set a new national record with a throw of 86.29 meters at the South Asian Games in Kathmandu, Nepal, further solidifying his reputation as a formidable javelin thrower. The journey to the 2024 Paris Olympics was fraught with challenges for Arshad Nadeem. Despite facing financial constraints and limited resources, he remained undeterred. His unwavering commitment to his craft, coupled with the support of his coaches and the Pakistan Athletics Federation, played a crucial role in his preparation for the Olympics. In the years leading up to the Paris Games, Arshad Nadeem participated in various international competitions, gaining invaluable experience and exposure. His performance at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics, where he finished fifth, was a turning point in his career. Although he narrowly missed out on a medal, his remarkable throw of 84.62 meters demonstrated his potential to compete at the highest level. Finally that time of rewards and fruitfulness came, when Paris Olympics started. The Paris Olympics 2024 was the culmination of Arshad Nadeem's years of hard work and determination. Competing against some of the world's best javelin throwers, he remained focused and composed. His training and perseverance paid off when he delivered a spectacular throw of 92.97 meters, securing the gold medal and creating history for Pakistan. Arshad's victory was not just a personal achievement but a moment of immense pride for the entire nation. His gold medal was Pakistan's first in athletics at the Olympics, a feat that inspired countless young athletes and brought hope to a country with a rich sporting heritage. Arshad Nadeem's triumph at the Paris Olympics has had a profound impact on sports in Pakistan. His success has ignited a renewed interest in athletics, with many young athletes aspiring to follow in his footsteps. The government and sports authorities have recognized the need to invest in athletics infrastructure and training facilities, ensuring that future generations have the opportunity to excel in the sport. Nadeem's journey from a small town in Punjab to Olympic glory is a story of resilience and determination. His achievements have transcended sports, becoming a symbol of hope and inspiration for millions. Arshad's legacy will undoubtedly continue to inspire future generations of



Pakistani athletes to dream big and strive for excellence. As Arshad Nadeem basks in the glory of his Olympic gold medal, he remains focused on his future goals. With his sights set on breaking the 92.97 meter barrier and competing in future World Championships and Olympic Games, Nadeem's journey is far from over. His dedication to his sport and his country ensures that he will continue to be a force to be reckoned with in the world of athletics. In conclusion, Arshad Nadeem's gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics is a monumental achievement that has brought immense pride to Pakistan. His story is a testament to the power perseverance, hard work and unwavering belief in one's abilities. As Pakistan celebrates this historic victory, Arshad Nadeem's legacy will inspire generations to come, proving that with determination and dedication, even the loftiest dreams can be realized. Arshad Nadeem, Pakistan's javelin thrower who clinched a gold medal at the Paris Olympics on Thursday, is scheduled to arrive back home on Sunday. His remarkable performance has brought immense pride to Pakistan on the international sports scene. The 27-year-old athlete is set to land in Lahore, his hometown, via Istanbul, with his arrival expected around 1 a.m. on Sunday. The excitement in his native Khanewal is palpable, as preparations are underway to celebrate his historic victory in grand style. In recognition of Nadeem's achievement, the Deputy Commissioner of Khanewal expressed his admiration for the athlete's contribution to the nation. "Arshad Nadeem's accomplishment is monumental. He has made Pakistan proud in Paris," the DC noted. Joining Nadeem on his journey back to Lahore are Muhammad Akram Sahi, Chairman of South Asian Athletics, and his coach Salman Butt. Both will accompany the gold medalist as they return to a hero's welcome. The Athletics Federation of Pakistan and the Sports Board of Punjab are working tirelessly to organize a grand reception for the national hero. Muhammad Akram Sahi commented on the significance of the occasion, stating, "Arshad Nadeem has brought great joy to the nation, and his reception will be historic."



There Should Be A Forensic Audit of The IPPs: Dr. Ishratul Ibad



Soon Times Correspondent
Islamabad.
Former Governor Sindh Dr. Ishratul Ibad Khan has said that the loss of hope in the nation is the biggest challenge at this time. The state and the people are getting the punishment for the incompetence of the government, spreading hatred between the army and the people in the country. It is the common responsibility of all of us to thwart the conspiracy of the people. The unilateral agreements with the IPPs are oppression

and abuse of the people. It should end. There should be a forensic audit of the IPPs. There is a dire need for accountability without discrimination. He expressed these views in the National Press Club Islamabad during the platform of 'My Identity Pakistan' regarding Pakistan Day and the forces. Addressing a program organized to pay tribute to the sacrifices of Pakistan through a video link from Dubai, he further said that at present Pakistan is suffering

from immense problems and it has many serious problems such as inflation, deterioration of the economy etc. Inflation is having a direct effect on the people due to which the people are feeling disappointed. 70% of the youth of the country are trying to leave the country. Nowadays, electricity bills have become the biggest problem for the people. After the end of the subsidy by the IMF, this problem has come to the public and they have come to know what is actually happening to them. They need 70,000 megawatts while the transmission lines are capable of carrying the load of 24,000 megawatts, but 48 thousand megawatts are being collected from the people, which is an abuse of the public. It is the job of the government to provide relief and facilities to the people. The government needs to act instead of reacting. The sacrifices of the armed forces of Pakistan are eternal for the country.

Punjab Government is committed to development of livestock: Kirmani

KARACHI

Awam Pakistan Party (APP) founder Shahid Khaqan Abbasi says political stability is possible in countries where elections are stolen. Addressing an event in Karachi on Sunday, the former prime minister said, "The government has failed. Nothing can happen in a country where there is no justice. People are made to pursue the non-issue of IPPs while the real issue is economy."
"We have to provide the masses with necessities including water, gas electricity, and employment," Abbasi reiterated. He said the elections were stolen by violating the constitution and the only way forward was to respect the constitution.
He said the people of Karachi were forced to



buy portable water from tankers.
"Actually we need to set a Truth Commission. Many laws were made during the 77 years and no one was held accountable. There was an urgent need to bring down dollar price to Rs100. If the dollar price comes down the electricity price will also be reduced. Irrational taxation in the electricity bills are also required to be brought down," he concluded.

SNGPL Disconnected 51 Connections Imposed Rs 0.55 Million In Fines

Soon Times Correspondent
Lahore:
In a continued effort to combat gas theft, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has intensified its crackdown across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad, resulting in the disconnection of 51 illegal gas connections and the

imposition of fines totaling Rs 0.55 million. In Bahawalpur, 01 connection was disconnected due to illegal gas use, with an additional 13 connections cut off for using compressors unlawfully. Meanwhile, in Mardan, 04 connections were terminated for illegal gas usage, accompanied by a fine of Rs 0.28 million imposed on the offenders. In Faisalabad,

the regional team disconnected 01 illegal connection and imposed a fine of Rs 0.04 million. The crackdown in Multan was particularly extensive, with 31 illegal connections disconnected. In Sheikhupura, 01 illegal connection was cut off, and a fine of Rs 0.23 million was imposed for gas theft.

Business Community Is Unable To Pay Advance Tax of Rs 45,000 Per Month: Bhatti

Soon Times Correspondent
Sargodha:
The Traders Friendly Scheme has been rejected by the businessmen. The business community is unable to pay advance tax of Rs 45 thousand per month. This needs to be revised. These views were expressed by Chairman Peace Committee Harmony District Sargodha Anjam Mahmood Bhatti. He said that in some areas 45,000 and in some 33,000 rupees is being imposed as a monthly tax which is tantamount to cruelty. It is not in the minds of the rulers



to take the concerned parties into confidence before imposing any kind of tax. It makes decisions first and tries to force these decisions which leads to problems. Trader friendly scheme is not good for Pakistani economy in any way. Anjam Bhatti said that the grain market traders have gone on strike. Now we have also accelerated the consultation process for the nationwide strike. A strike call may come from the leadership at any time as it is difficult to do business in the current conditions.

Tanzeem Ul Awan Pakistan To Organize A Convention Under The Chairmanship of Malik Shakir Bashir

Soon Times Correspondent
Islamabad:

Tanzeem Ul Awan Pakistan will organize a convention under the chairmanship of Central President Malik Shakir Bashir. These views were expressed by Imran Ehsan Awan, Malik Sajid Awan and Malik Imran Ehsan Awan, the central leaders of Tanzeem Ul Awan Pakistan had a meeting with Central President Malik Shakir Bashir Awan in Islamabad yesterday. In the meeting, it was decided that a convention of Awam Community from all over Pakistan will be held. All the dignitaries from all over Pakistan will be invited to the convention. The purpose of holding this convention is to gather all the officials on this platform. Let them gather and prove that they are united



under the leadership of Malik Shakir Bashir Awan. Also, a plan will be made to solve all the problems of Awam Community. It was decided in the meeting that after the convention, systematization of Tanzeem Ul Awan Pakistan will be completed in the whole of Pakistan.

PHA Takes Emergency Initiatives With Reference To The "Plant For Pakistan" Campaign



Soon Times Correspondent
Sargodha:
The ongoing tree planting campaign in connection with Independence Day in Sargodha district has been extended to other tehsils of Sargodha. DG PHA Tanzeem Haider Kazmi, during his visit to Bhalwal, planted saplings in AC Office's green garden and provided 300 saplings to Municipal Committee Bhalwal. He

assured to supply more plants. A formal function was organized at the EC office regarding the plantation drive of PHA. DG PHA Tanzeem Haider Kazmi said that according to the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz, PHA Sargodha is active in making Punjab green. The Monsoon Season Tree Planting Campaign has been named the Plant for Pakistan

steps taken by PHA regarding the tree plantation campaign said that each individual should do his own thing to rid the society of pollution and make Pakistan greener. Regarding tree planting in Bhalwal, Quim Welfare Council Pakistan, Jago Bhalwal Forum and Daily Al Jalal also gave 300 saplings and assured to make this campaign successful.

Pakistan condemns Israeli attack on Gaza school

Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan condemned the Israeli attack on Al-Tabeen School in eastern Gaza yesterday, which led to the death of over 100 civilians and injuring many more.
In a statement on Sunday, the Foreign Office said attacking an overcrowded school sheltering displaced persons, particularly when they were performing morning prayers, is a horrific, inhuman, and cowardly act.

The indiscriminate targeting of civilian populations and facilities is a grave violation of international humanitarian law and constitutes war crimes.
The Foreign Office said Israel must be held accountable for these war crimes and genocide in Gaza.
It said Pakistan, calls on the international community, especially the United Nations and backers of Israel, to take immediate steps to bring an end to the Gaza genocide and to protect the people of Gaza.

Philanthropist Malik M. Jameel Donates 05 Wheel Chairs To Disabled Persons

Soon Times Correspondent
Nowshera Soon Sakser:

Malik Muhammad Jameel, a resident of Mouza Khora, a suburb of Soon Valley, who is living in Canada right now, has donated five wheel chairs to the disabled people of different areas of Soon Valley Uchhali, Sabharal, Oehla and Khora organized by Anjum Bahboodi-e-Marizan THQ Hospital Nowshera. Social Welfare Officer Najam-un-Nisa Malik thanked the guests and said that the support of philanthropists is admirable. By donating wheelchairs on behalf of Malik Muhammad Jameel, the lives of disabled people will be made easier. The cooperation of philanthropists will continue in the future as well. Malik Ghulam Farid Chegi, Malik Akhlaq Nasal, Dr. Malik Mumtaz and others were present on this occasion.



Nationwide preparations in full swing for Independence Day celebrations



Soon Times Correspondent
LAHORE/ISLAMABAD

Preparations for Independence Day celebrations were in full swing across the country. Markets decorated for the festivities were bustling with activity. Stalls were featuring large flags, flag bunting, green and white attire, and decorative items. Stalls were also offering various items for children, including masks, bangles, wristbands, ponytails, key chains, bangles, and caps.
The public was eager to celebrate the Independence Day with enthusiasm, leading patriotic citizens to engage in preparations.

A trend showed that some people were purchasing flags for their vehicles, while others were decorating their motorbikes. Many were buying national flags to adorn their homes, while others were shopping for small flags and bangles.
Additionally, there was an increased demand for green and white bangles for women and girls.
Shopkeepers reported that the buying spree was driven by children's requests, with even young ones actively participating in purchasing items relevant to Independence Day.
Vendors noted that prices for these items were significantly higher this year compared to last year.

Harris pledges to work to end taxes on tips for service industry employees, echoing Trump vow



LAS VEGAS
Vice President Kamala Harris promised Saturday to work to eliminate taxes on tips paid to restaurant and other service industry employees, echoing a pledge that her opponent, Republican Donald Trump, has made, and marking a rare instance of political overlap from both sides.

Harris made the announcement at a rally on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where the economy relies heavily on the hotel, restaurant and entertainment industries. Trump vowed essentially the same thing at his own rally in the city in June — though neither he nor Harris are likely to be able to fully do that without actions from Congress.

"It is my promise to everyone here that, when I am president, we will continue our fight for working families of America," Harris said. "Including to raise the minimum wage and eliminate taxes on tips for service and hospitality workers."

Trump responded on his social media site a short time later, posting that Harris "just copied my NO TAXES ON TIPS Policy."

"The difference is, she won't do it, she just wants it for Political Purposes!" the former president wrote. "This was a TRUMP idea. She has no ideas, she can only steal from me."

Harris' campaign said afterward that as president she would work with Congress to draft a proposal that includes an income limit and other provisions to keep hedge fund managers and lawyers from structuring their compensation to try to take advantage of the policy. She also would push for the proposal alongside one to increase the federal minimum wage.

Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, came to Nevada as the final stop of a five battle-ground-state blitz in which their party has shown new energy after President Joe Biden exited the race and endorsed Harris. On Sunday, the vice president is holding a San Francisco fundraiser that has already raised more than \$12 million, her campaign said, with House Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi among those set to speak.



'I could have stayed in power if...': Hasina alleges US sought regime change in Bangladesh

Hasina's son previously said protests were likely instigated by a foreign intelligence agency

Web Desk
Former Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, now residing in India, has accused the United States of playing a role in her removal from power.

In a statement quoted by the Economic Times, Hasina claimed she could have remained in office had she been willing to compromise Bangladesh's sovereignty, particularly by surrendering Saint Martin Island and allowing US influence over the Bay of Bengal.

"I resigned so that I did not have to see the procession of dead bodies. They wanted to come to power over the dead bodies of students, but I did not allow it," the ousted Bangladeshi PM said.

"I could have remained in power if I had surrendered the sovereignty of Saint Martin Island and allowed America to hold sway over the Bay of Bengal," Hasina stated, urging her countrymen not to be manipulated by radical elements.

Saint Martin Island, a small 3-square-kilometer landmass in the Bay of Bengal, is situated near the southern tip of Bangladesh.

Hasina expressed deep sorrow over the violence and unrest that followed her resignation on August 5, amid growing student protests against the controversial quota system for government jobs.

The unrest, which included killings, harassment, and vandalism, led to concerns for Hasina's safety, prompting her to leave Dhaka on a military aircraft. She is currently under protection at an undisclosed location in India.

"My heart cries upon receiving news that many leaders have been killed, workers are being harassed, and their homes are subjected to vandalism and arson. With the grace of almighty Allah, I will return soon."

"Awami League has stood up again and again. I shall forever pray for the future of Bangladesh, the nation which my great father strived for," she said.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards hold military drill in western Iran, IRNA says



DUBAI
Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards are holding military drills in the western parts of the country that will continue until Tuesday, IRNA's official news agency announced on Sunday.

The drills, which started on Friday, are ongoing in the western province of Kermanshah close to the border with Iraq to "enhance combat readiness and vigilance," an armed forces official told IRNA.

The drills are taking place as Iran has vowed to retaliate against Israel after the killing of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh's on July 31 in Tehran.

Iran and Palestinian Islamist group Hamas accuse Israel of carrying out Haniyeh's assassination on July 31. Israel has not claimed or denied responsibility for the killing, which has fueled further concern that the war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip was turning into a wider Middle East war.

Cited by Iranian media, Revolutionary Guards deputy commander Ali Fadavi said on Friday that the Iranian supreme leader's orders regarding the harsh punishment of Israel and revenge for Haniyeh are clear and will be implemented in the "best possible way."



Death toll from landslide at Uganda garbage dump rises to 13

KAMPALA
The death toll from a landslide at a vast garbage dump in Uganda's capital Kampala has risen to 13, police said on Sunday, as rescue personnel continued to dig for survivors.

After torrential rain in recent weeks a chunk of garbage from the city's only landfill site broke off late on Friday, crushing and burying homes on the edge of the site as residents slept.

On Saturday, the Kampala Capital City Authority had put the death toll at eight.

"The latest we have is 13 dead, but rescue services are continuing," said police spokesperson Patrick Onyango.



China supports Iran in defending security, says foreign minister

BEIJING
China supports Iran in defending its "sovereignty, security and national dignity", Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi told Iran's acting foreign minister in a phone call on Sunday, according to a statement by China's foreign ministry.

In the phone call, Wang repeated Beijing's denunciation of the assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on July 31, saying the strike had violated Iran's sovereignty and threatened regional stability.

Iran and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas have accused Israel of carrying out the strike that killed Haniyeh.

Israel has not claimed or denied responsibility for the killing, which has fueled concern that the war between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip was turning into a wider Middle East war.

Iran has vowed to "harshly punish" Israel over the assassination.

Shan Masood shares strategy to win World Test Championship final



Sport Desk
Pakistan Test captain Shan Masood has laid out a clear strategy for the national team to secure a spot in the World Test Championship (WTC) final.

Speaking to the media on Sunday, Shan emphasised the critical need for victories in the remaining matches of the WTC cycle.

Pakistan began their 2023-25 WTC campaign on a high note, securing a decisive victory in a two-Test series against Sri Lanka.

However, despite commendable efforts, they were unable to clinch a win in their subsequent three-Test series in Australia, leaving them ranked fifth in the WTC standings.

With a packed schedule ahead, including series against Bangladesh, England, South Africa, and the West Indies, Masood stressed the importance of a proactive and positive approach in all facets of the game—batting, bowling, and fielding.

"If we need to compete in the World Test Championship, we need to secure victories, which requires showing intent and positivity in every aspect of the game," Shan stated.



Mountaineer Murad Sadpara goes missing after summiting Broad Peak, rescue op underway

Renowned Pakistani mountaineer Murad Sadpara has gone missing after successfully summiting Broad Peak.

The incident occurred as Sadpara, known for his record-breaking climbs, reportedly fell after reaching the summit, and all contact with him has since been lost.

Deputy Commissioner of Shigar, Waliullah Falahi, confirmed the disappearance and stated that Army Aviation has been contacted to assist in the search and rescue efforts.

Fellow climber Naila Kiani appealed on social media for the Pakistan Army to send a team from Skardu to the Broad Peak crampon point to bring Sadpara back safely.

Twinkle Khanna's cheeky warning to Akshay Kumar about remarrying has got us in stitches

Web Desk
Former Bollywood actress and author Twinkle Khanna has playfully warned her husband, Akshay Kumar, about the consequences of remarriage, even before the thought could cross his mind.

According to Indian media, Twinkle Khanna shared an amusing anecdote in her latest blog about her recent vacation with Akshay Kumar. During their trip, the couple engaged in a light-hearted conversation about the possibility of Akshay marrying again.

In her blog, Twinkle revealed that one evening, as they were heading back to their camp, their tour guide introduced them to a pair of birds known as "tick-tock."

The guide explained that these birds are so devoted to each other that if one dies, the other consumes poisonous grass to end its own life. This story prompted Twinkle to jokingly tell Akshay that if she were to pass away first, he should follow the bird's example and eat the poisonous grass too.

She added, "Because if you remarry after my death and I see you two together, I promise I will haunt both of you!"

Twinkle shared that Akshay, with a nod and a smile, humorously responded, "I'd rather eat the poisonous grass now so I don't have to listen to this nonsense."

It is worth noting that Akshay Kumar and Twinkle Khanna tied the knot in 2001 and have two children together.

Kennedy Blades advances to Olympic gold medal match at Paris 2024

Kennedy Blades, the 20-year-old American wrestler, has made it to the final gold-medal match at the Paris Olympics, overcoming tough competition with a series of victories.

Her latest triumph in the women's freestyle semifinal at 76kg saw her defeat Kyrgyzstan's Aiperi Medet Kyzyl in an 8-6 decision on Saturday night at Champ-de-Mars Arena.

Blades, clearly moved by her achievement, was seen collapsing to the mat and burying her head in her hands, overwhelmed by the significance of the moment.

Reflecting on her journey, she said, "We're so close. Just one more sleep, and then my body's gonna be feeling really good — although it is right now. But just the rest is gonna make a huge difference. So I'm ready to just blow it through the water."

The semifinal match was a close contest, with Blades holding a narrow 2-1 lead after the first three minutes. However, her relentless attacking style allowed her to extend the lead to 8-2 before holding on to secure the win.

Blades will now face Japan's Yuka Kagami in the final on Sunday, with a gold or silver medal guaranteed.

Kennedy Blades' journey to this point has been remarkable. She had to defeat Olympic silver medalist and her six-time world champion Adeline Gray to earn her spot on Team USA.

In Paris, she overcame Romanian No. 4 seed Catalina Avante and Cuban No. 5 seed Milayni de la Caridad Martin Portillo before her victory over Medet Kyzyl.

Her coach, Lizzy Martinez, praised her growth, stating, "She's been given the freedom to succeed and also fail, but most importantly, grow. And she's grown, and she's getting better every day, and we're just so proud of her."

Blades attributes her success to adopting a "childlike mentality," which has helped her stay relaxed and focused on enjoying the sport.

"Once I started putting pressure on myself,