



Daily SOON TIMES



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Monday
April 22, 2024
Page: 4 Rs: 20
Vol: 4 Issue: 114
www.soontimes.pk

Hanifa Aamir reveals suffering from mental fatigue

Simultaneously Publishing from Islamabad, Sargodha and Karachi



Presiding officer of PP-149 gets Form-45 signed from polling agents before time



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE
The presiding officer of a polling station stands accused of prematurely obtaining signatures on Form-45 from polling agents before the conclusion of voting.
In a contentious turn of events at the polling station No 127 in Lahore's PP-149 constituency, allegations of pre-poll rigging have surfaced.
It has been reported that the presiding officer also admitted procuring signatures on Form-45 from polling agents.

Finance minister Aurangzeb hopes IMF, Pakistan strike next deal by mid-July

Aurangzeb expects IMF team to come to Pakistan in May. Saudi Arabia will invest \$5 billion, says finance minister.



Soon Times Correspondent WASHINGTON:
Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb hoped that Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reach a staff-level agreement by mid-July for the next expanded loan deal.
Talking to journalists at the Pakistani embassy in Washington at conclusion of his week-long US trip, Aurangzeb said the long ignored economic reforms agenda should be implemented for a healthy economy.
Pakistani Ambassador to US Masood Khan was also present on this occasion.
The minister anticipated an IMF team to come to Pakistan by mid-May to finalise the terms of the new extended loan arrangement. "The new programme's draft will take form later. By mid-May, we will begin delving more into the specifics of the project," he stated.
He hailed the current Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) as a success and expressed optimism that the last tranche of 1.1 billion dollars will be disbursed shortly following the IMF executive board's approval by April end. The IMF has already said that its executive board will review Pakistan's SBA during a meeting scheduled by the end of this month.
"Direction for reforms of the economy is clear. The ball is in our court and we will have to work hard. Efforts to access the Chinese markets are underway. Improvement in taxation system will multiply the tax collections. While, we are bringing digitalisation in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) system as well," he said.
Aurangzeb said progress on the public institute's privatisation was also on the anvil. Debt on the Pakistan International Airline (PIA) continued to accumulate manifold every year, which the government had to bear, he said, adding that in the past the state's efforts of privatisation encountered resistance.

Azma Bukhari asks police to arrest worker's killers



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE
Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari has asked police to immediately arrest the killers of PML-N worker Muhammad Yousof.
Expressing her condolence over the killing of the worker, she said the PTI "goons" had shown their traditional hoodlomanism by killing the worker in Narowal.
She said the PTI associates had gone mad due to the fear of defeat in the by-elections and resorted to violence. The provincial minister said the PTI had always won the election through rigging and this time they did not get an opportunity and resorted to violence.

CJP seeks explanation over unnecessary use of public resources on govt officers'



LAHORE: Web Desk
Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa has sought an explanation from the Punjab chief secretary on the unnecessary use of public resources and the establishment of illegal guard rooms in government officers' residences in Lahore.
The registrar of the Supreme Court wrote a letter to the chief secretary, expressing concern over unnecessary expenditure around government officers' residences.
The registrar said that the top judge heard cases from April 15 to 19 at the Supreme Court Registry, Lahore, during which he stayed at the Chief Justice Rest House in Government Officers Residence (GOR).
The letter said that during the stay, CJP Isa observed that changes were being made in government officers' residences and illegal guard rooms had been established in the open green area despite a complete checking system at the entrance. He said the guard must be in the premises of that residence where he was required.
The letter questioned whether it was justifiable to waste public resources on the walls of government residences. "Why the past example of fencing is abandoned, your answer will be awaited," the CJP asked in the letter.
He directed to provide rules and regulations regarding government residences, their construction and construction of their walls.
This is not the first time that he has spoken for adoption of austerity measures for government officers.

Punjab CM Maryam claims PML-N will have clear majority



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE
Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has confidently claimed that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) will clinch a historic victory with a resounding majority in the by-election.
Addressing league voters, she asserted that it's a welcome sign that PML-N voters were casting votes today. The chief minister underscored the swift and substantial relief measures her government has implemented in Punjab.
Maryam Nawaz insisted that her administration had prioritised providing relief, relief and only relief to the people of Punjab within a short span of time.
She emphasised that farmers, labourers, students, and women were at the forefront of her government's agenda.
Highlighting the tangible outcomes of her administration's efforts, Nawaz listed several projects under the belt, including the Ramadan Nigehban Package, distribution of 20,000 bikes, and the provision of affordable flour and bread.
She stressed that these initiatives spoke volumes for her administration's performance in the province.
The CM reiterated her commitment to serving the common man, asserting that she and her team were always ready to address the needs of the people.
Maryam Nawaz announced plan to launch a laptop and iPad scheme across Punjab in near future.

By-polls 2024: Vote counting under way as polling concludes in 21 constituencies



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE
The counting of votes is under way as polling concluded in by-elections on 21 seats across the country on Sunday.
The polling started at 8am and concluded at 5pm without any break in Lahore, Kasur, Sheikhupura, DI Khan, Bajaur and other parts of the country.
Elections were originally scheduled for 23 constituencies. However, the results of two seats, one provincial and one national, have already been announced.
Earlier, the polling began in by-elections on five national and 16 provincial assembly seats amid suspension of internet and mobile phone service and tight security.
Rangers and army officials were deployed in some sensitive constituencies to maintain law, order situation.
Mobile phone and internet services were suspended in 13 cities of Punjab

TOTAL VOTERS
Approximately 2.55 million voters will use their right to franchise for the NA constituencies, while around 3.61 million people will cast votes for 16 provincial assembly seats nationwide.
The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has provided 6.23 million ballot papers to the returning officers (ROs), which were handed over to the presiding officers from their camp offices on Saturday.

Raisi to reach Islamabad tomorrow with a focus on regional developments, connectivity, trade



ISLAMABAD (Web Desk) - Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will reach Pakistan on Monday for a three-day visit. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Sunday, to become the first head of state to arrive in the country after the Feb 8 general elections.
During his stay, Raisi will

meet President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Senate Chairman Yousof Raza Gilani and National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the statement said, adding that he was also scheduled to visit Lahore and Karachi, where he would hold talks with the provincial leadership.
The Iranian president would be accompanied by his spouse, the foreign minister and other cabinet members, senior officials as well as a large business delegation.
According to the Foreign Office, the two sides will have a wide-ranging agenda to further Pakistan-Iran ties and enhance cooperation in diverse fields including trade, connectivity, energy, agriculture and people-to-people contacts.
"They will also discuss regional and global developments and bilateral cooperation to combat the common threat of terrorism."

Tarar denounces killing of PML-N worker, assails PTI for resorting to violence

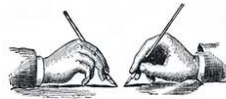


Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
Information Minister Attaulah Tarar strongly condemned the killing of a senior worker of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) during the by-polls in one of the constituencies of Narowal on Sunday.
In a statement released here, the minister identified the deceased as Muhammad Yousof and offered condolences to the bereaved family members for their loss. He prayed to God Almighty to rest the departed soul in

Pakistan dispatches 8th shipment of humanitarian assistance for Gaza



Soon Times Correspondent (Web Desk)
Pakistan dispatched the eighth tranche of humanitarian assistance for Gaza on Sunday, reaffirming the country's ongoing commitment to supporting the oppressed Palestinians.
According to a news release, the consignment comprises 350 tonnes of aid, including medicines, hygiene kits, female dignity kits, dry ration, ready-to-eat food, jerry cans and tents.
The shipment is destined to reach Sidi Port, Egypt, for further distribution to the people of Gaza.
The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with the Al-Khidmat Foundation coordinated to send another commercial cargo ship for the 8th tranche of relief assistance.
Additional Foreign Secretary Ahmed Amjad Ali, Palestinian Ambassador Ahmad Babaita, the representatives of Al-Khidmat Foundation, senior officials of the NDMA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and armed forces attended the send-off ceremony at the South Asia Pakistan Terminal (SAPT) in Karachi.



Pakistan's Aid for Palestine

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with Al-Khidmat Foundation has coordinated to send another commercial cargo ship for the 8th tranche of relief assistance in accordance with the government of Pakistan's instructions to provide

humanitarian support to the people of Gaza. Additional Foreign Secretary Ahmed Amjad Ali, Palestinian Ambassador Ahmad Rabaie, Representatives of Al Khidmat Foundation, Senior officials of NDMA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Armed Forces attended the send-off ceremony at

South Asia Pakistan Terminal (SAPT) Karachi, a news release said. The shipment is destined to reach Said Port, Egypt for further distribution to the People of Gaza. This 8th relief consignment comprises 350 tons of aid including medicines, hygiene kits, Female

Dignity kits, dry ration, ready to eat food, jerry cans, and tents as per needs in Gaza. Earlier, the NDMA sent six relief consignments comprising 630 tons of aid which included special winterized tents, blankets, surgical supplies, medicines, and food packs.

Teacher Licensing Policy in Sindh a Milestone for Educational Reform



Mushtaq Ahmed Rahu.

In a significant move towards educational reform, the Sindh province of Pakistan has introduced a pioneering Teacher Licensing Policy, marking a transformative step towards ensuring quality education for all. This policy, spearheaded by various educational institutions and governmental bodies, aims to elevate teaching standards, enhance professionalism, and ultimately improve the learning outcomes for students across the region.

At the forefront of this initiative are the Aga Khan University Institute for Educational Development (AKU-IED), Sukkur IBA University, Sindh Teacher Education Development Authority (STEDA), Durbeen, and the School Education and Literacy Department (SELD) Govt of Sindh. Each of these entities has played a pivotal role in the conception, design, and implementation of the Teacher Licensing Policy, contributing their expertise and resources to make it a reality.

The introduction of the Teacher Licensing Policy marks a paradigm shift in the education landscape of Sindh. By requiring teachers to undergo a rigorous licensing process, including standardized tests and assessments, the policy aims to ensure that only qualified and competent individuals enter the

teaching profession. This move not only raises the bar for educators but also instills confidence in parents and students regarding the quality of education being provided.

AKU-IED, renowned for its commitment to educational excellence and research, has been instrumental in designing the framework for the teacher licensing examinations. Drawing upon its wealth of expertise in teacher training and curriculum development, AKU-IED has crafted assessments that accurately gauge the pedagogical skills, subject knowledge, and classroom management abilities of aspiring teachers.

Sukkur IBA University, with its emphasis on innovation and academic integrity, has collaborated closely with AKU-IED to ensure the smooth implementation of the licensing policy. Through training workshops, seminars, and capacity-building initiatives, Sukkur IBA has equipped educators with the necessary knowledge and skills to excel in the licensing examinations.

STEDA, the regulatory authority responsible for overseeing teacher education and development in Sindh, has been the driving force behind the implementation of the licensing policy. With its robust infrastructure and dedicated team of professionals, STEDA has laid the groundwork for conducting fair and transparent examinations, thereby upholding the credibility and integrity of the licensing process.

Durbeen, a non-profit organization committed to enhancing teacher quality in Pakistan, has played a vital role in advocating for the introduction of the licensing policy. Through its advocacy campaigns, research initiatives, and partnerships with governmental agencies, Durbeen

has raised awareness about the importance of professionalizing the teaching profession and ensuring accountability.

SELD, the governmental body tasked with formulating educational policies and programs in Sindh, has provided crucial support and guidance throughout the implementation phase of the licensing policy. By aligning the policy with broader educational objectives and priorities, SELD has facilitated its integration into the existing educational framework, thereby maximizing its impact and reach.

So, the introduction of the Teacher Licensing Policy in Sindh represents a watershed moment in the quest for educational excellence and equity. Through the concerted efforts of AKU-IED, Sukkur IBA, STEDA, Durbeen, SELD Govt of Sindh, and other stakeholders, Sindh is poised to witness a transformation in its educational landscape, with qualified and empowered teachers at the helm, driving positive change and shaping the future of generations to come. For the sake of Education and reforms in the Education Department Govt of Sindh should take more necessary steps towards the betterment of education through a license policy there should be a clear policy for Licensed pass teachers, and special allowance should be given to Licensed pass teachers, and in future, it should be focused and discussed how other countries like Australia, Belgium, England, New Zealand, Ghana, Japan, etc are implementing Teachers license policy and Teachers License policy should be uplifted to High Standards i.e. test should be conducted by World class Institutes like Oxford University, Cambridge University, and British Council as the teachers of Pakistan and Sindh province can perform Internationally.

"What is ice? And why is it so popular?"



Tariq Khan Yousafzai

Pakistan is such a developing country of the third world. Where a large number of people are suffering from various problems due to lack of proper opportunities for health, sports, education, employment, business and industry. The issues of justice. The courts cases make a human being at such a crossroad, from which human beings deteriorate their health, even though the formula of Health is wealth is the greatest blessing for human life. Good health. Only through this, a person can enjoy the joys and happiness of life. And can play an active role in every field of life. Bad health, burdened mind blurs the colors of life and life becomes a burden. Due to mental problems, many people are getting addicted to different types of drugs, the most dangerous drug addiction is ice, which we will write about in detail today. Ice is a drug that when used for the first time, the hormones of happiness become highly active in a person. Which makes a person feel extremely happy. Ice intoxication lasts 36 to 72 hours. And that person stays awake for 72 hours. The pleasure and happiness that a person feels when using ice for the first time gradually diminishes. According to a survey report of the United Nations, there is an illegal drug trade of 400

billion dollars annually around the world, which includes the main drugs cocaine, heroin, opium, hashish and the type of synthetic drugs that are produced in laboratories. The amount can be estimated from the fact that currently, among the 92 countries in the world, China, Japan, and Switzerland, the United States,

South Korea are countries that have a total foreign exchange reserves of more than 400 billion dollars. Ice, whose real name is methamphetamine, which is called amethyst or crystal meth for short. It is a chemical obtained from a specific plant. According to the United Nations Office of Drug Control report, there is no international ban or control on this plant. And in Central Asian countries it is also called Mahwang. In Chinese medicine, including Central Asia, this plant is also used for various diseases such as respiratory disease, allergies, colds, and in some countries, medicines made from this plant are also used to reduce weight. It is also used as fuel for fodder and cooking. This plant contains substances called ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, which is used in making ice. While some species of this plant do not contain this substance. According to the United Nations report, the ephedra plant grows in mountainous areas at an altitude of 5000 thousand meters above sea level. The amount of ephedrine is high while in Afghanistan it is grown in various mountainous areas at an altitude of 2500 to 3000 meters. And it is harvested between July and October. According to the United Nations report, 90% of the drugs in Pakistan are smuggled from Afghanistan are according to the United Nations Office for Drug

Control, the data collected from Afghanistan in 2021 states that there is a demand of 150 kg of ephedrine and 2800 kg of pseudoephedrine in the country, while this demand was 50 kg of ephedrine and 300 kg of pseudoephedrine in 2014. It can be inferred that Afghanistan does not have pharmaceutical facilities for the manufacture of this medicine, so it is most likely that instead of making cold medicine, ice is made from it. And after it is prepared, it is smuggled to Pakistan. Ice Addiction is fast becoming a fashion trend among the youth. Ice is becoming more popular because it is not made from a plant, compared to marijuana and cocaine, which is made from a

plant, which makes it more difficult for drug dealers to smuggle it. However, ice can be prepared anywhere in the laboratory. Experts who research crystal meth addiction say that this drug called crystal or ice is made from a chemical called methamphetamine. It is a white crystalline substance similar to a large grain of sugar or salt, which is passed through a thin glass and heated, goes for this reason, the thin glass of the bulb is usually used, while drug addicts also inject it into their body. According to doctors, the continuous use of ice creates feelings of consciousness and happiness in a person. Like an energy drink, the body feels energized. After drinking ice, the energy inside a person doubles and a normal person can stay awake for 24 to 48 hours. During this time they do not sleep at all, this drug works exactly like cocaine, it is cheaper and more dangerous than cocaine. Most of the people who use ice become crazy and they develop such changes that they are everyone else to them.

They look at them with suspicion and think that someone is plotting to kill them. A drug addict can also take someone's life and cause any harm to anyone by being suspicious. A person suffering from this drug addiction is always at risk of harming his friends, neighbors, wife, children and family members. According to experts, the drug creates an imbalance in the brain cells and the brain does not work in the same way. Just like a normal person does. And as a result, a person becomes disabled mentally, physically, economically, morally and socially. The speed with which the drug addiction has spread its roots across the country is very alarming. Unfortunately, due to the incompetence of the law enforcement agencies or the strong grip of the influential elites, drug trafficking is on the rise in Pakistan. The tolerance of drugs, without distinguishing between cities and villages, has taken hold of the young generation, especially hashish, heroin and opium, the use of ice and other similar drugs is becoming fashionable

Poem

Black Night And Blue Moon!
Black night and blue Moon,
Listen my whisper very soon
How much distance, don't know,
They are with me just show
When my eyes have rain!
They come silently, share my pain
In this world that is sain,
With struggle humanity who gain
Love and Sympathy are main,
Which my feelings explain
White bird is like my heart,
Who loves Moon by heart
Only best in creature,
Who is sensitive by nature!!
Amber! we must know,
The skint of feeling is no!
Syeda Sadia Amber Jilani
(Poetess, writer, Columnist and
Economist Faisalabad, Pakistan)

PTI's Gohar calls by-elections a farce, slams ECP for failing to ensure transparency



Soon Times Correspondent GUJRAT
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan criticised the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Sunday, accusing it of failing to conduct the by-elections on 21 national and provincial seats transparently. Speaking to reporters outside the Khattala polling station in Gujrat's PP-32 constituency, Gohar called the by-elections a farce, arguing that parliament should consist of genuine public representatives with popular

support, rather than those installed through electoral malpractice. Gohar declared that the PTI would not recognise the results of the PP-32 constituency by-polls. Asked about the death of a political worker from the PML-N in Narowal, Gohar expressed sadness and stressed the importance of respecting differing opinions among political workers from opposing parties. Responding to a question about the PTI founder, Gohar stated that efforts to distance him from the public would not succeed. He expressed optimism about the founder's imminent release. Gohar also mentioned that the PTI founder had been served three sentences within a span of five days, noting that one judge was even compelled to delay his son's walima ceremony.



Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Mr. Khalil Hashmi paid a one-day visit to Shouguang county, renowned for being China's "vegetable capital" at the invitation of the Shouguang government. Ambassador Khalil Hashmi also delivered remarks at the opening ceremony of the 25th China (Shouguang) International Vegetable Science and Technology Expo. He took a tour of the expo and visited the Pakistan pavilion.



PML-N Eyeing Karachi Business Tycoon Shaikh Imtiaz Hussain for Sindh Governorship

Karachi Staff Reporter

The senior leadership of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is currently considering the nomination of Shaikh Imtiaz Hussain, a well-known business figure in Karachi, as a potential candidate for the position of Governor Sindh.



Shaikh Imtiaz Hussain is active in strengthening trade, cultural, and economic relations between Pakistan and the United States. He has also been instrumental in providing social services during times of crises such as polio eradication campaigns and COVID-19 relief efforts.

Shaikh Imtiaz Hussain was recognized with the Best Exporter Award during the tenure of former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif for his remarkable contributions to Pakistan's economy. His company, Imtiaz Enterprises, receives the Best Exporter Award annually for its significant role in boosting the Pakistani economy.

Flora Festival organized by PHA to commence today

Soon Times Correspondent

Sargodha: Flora Festival 2024 organized by PHA Sargodha will start today. This family festival organized in connection with Jashan-e-Baharan will continue for 7 days. In this festival held at Sabzar of PHA office from April 22 to April 28, many steps have been taken to provide positive entertainment activities to the people of Sargodha.

It has been given a new dimension in the name of Flora Festival. There will be ample entertainment arrangements for men and women of all ages, especially children. Eminent artists will showcase their talents during the grand musical show at the festival. On this occasion, various tableaux, variety shows and cultural shows and other healthy entertainment activities will also be organized.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER BHALWAL CANAL DIVISION BHAIWAL AT SARGODHA NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

- Bids are invited under PPA Rates 2014 (amended to date) based on Market Rates System 1st Bi-Annual period (1st January 2024 to 30th June, 2024) District Sargodha of Rates approved by the competent authority from the approved contractors of the Irrigation Department who have got their names enlisted / renewed in appropriate category for the current financial year 2023-24.
- In accordance with Administrative Department Notification No. SD (EVL) Jrl-1/2010 dated 23.01.2024 a complete set of Tender Documents can be purchased from the office of the Executive Engineer, Bhalwal Canal Division Bhalwal at Sargodha (Secretary Tender Opening Committee Circle Level) on or before 06.05.2024 (Monday) by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the above office upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs.10000/- (Rupees: Ten thousand) upto 3.00 PM. No tender documents will be received by the Tender Opening Committee on the tender form after 3.00 PM tender documents will be received by the Tender Opening Committee on 07.05.2024 (Tuesday) at 12.30 PM in the office of the Superintending Engineer, Lower Jhelum Canal Circle Level. The tender will be opened on the same day at 01.00 PM in the presence of the Executive Engineer, Bhalwal Canal Division Bhalwal at Sargodha (Secretary Tender Opening Committee Circle Level) who will be accompanied by the District / Provincial / Federal Government, tender will be received and opened on next working day.
- The contractors / firms who desire to obtain tender form / tender documents shall have to furnish the original documents to The Executive Engineer, Bhalwal Canal Division Bhalwal at Sargodha (Secretary Tender Opening Committee Circle Level) including Enlistment / Renewal of their names with Irrigation Department & Pakistan Engineering Council for the current financial year 2023-24, Government receipts for payment of Professional Tax, Enlistment / Renewal Fee Registration with the Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA) for the year 2023-24, CNIC, Original Power of Attorney (valid) on appropriate stamp paper i.e. Rs.2000/- issued by the BOP with date of issuance and valid only along with photo copy of CNIC of proprietor of the firm. The photo copy of the same documents should also be provided at the time of getting tender form / tender documents. In case of any missing document, tender will not be issued to the contractor / firm. The Executive Engineer, Bhalwal Canal Division Bhalwal at Sargodha (Secretary Tender Opening Committee Circle Level) will issue the tender form / tender documents after his entire satisfaction and verification of all documents.
- Only Contractors/authorised persons having power of attorney can purchase / attend bid opening meeting/s. The financial bids as required under Classes 16 of "General Directions for Guidance of the Tender".
- The tender must be delivered by the intending bidders in person or through their authorized representative to the Tender Opening Committee in sealed envelope. Tenders received by post or through any other means shall not be entertained / accepted.
- The conditional, incomplete & overritten tender submitted by the bidders will be considered as rejected.
- All the bidders must sign and sign the Tender Form / Application Form.
- All the bidders must sign and sign the Tender Form / Application Form.
- The Procuring Agency / Tender Opening Committee may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal, the grounds for its rejection shall be communicated upon request to any contractor who submitted a bid or proposal, but it is not required to justify those reasons.
- Enact money @ 2% of the estimated cost of work preferably bank guarantee / in the shape of Deposited Call, drawn in favor of the Executive Engineer, Bhalwal Canal Division Bhalwal at Sargodha from any scheduled bank must accompany the tender, failing which tender will not be entertained / accepted.
- All the bidders should satisfy themselves about site, location, conditions prevalent at site and its accessibility because immediately after issuance of letter of acceptance from the Executive Engineer, Bhalwal Canal Division Bhalwal at Sargodha (Secretary Tender Opening Committee Circle Level) the contractor will have to mobilize to the site of work within seven days and to start the work at site.
- In case of tender rate less than 5% of the Technical Sanctioned amount, the lowest bidder will have to deposit additional performance security / quality assurance security as per Finance Department, Government of Punjab, Lahore. Notification No.RO(Tech)FD-1/283/VI(P)99 dated 06.04.2005, No.RO(Tech)FD-1/283/VI(P) dated 24.01.2006 and No.RO(Tech)FD-1/283/VI(P) dated 09.09.2012 prescribed therein.
- In accordance with Government of Punjab Finance Department Notification No. RO(Tech)FD-1/2707 dated 16.11.2022, General direction No. 26(A). In case the total tendered amount is equal to or less than 5% of the approved estimated (DNIT) amount, the lowest bidder will have to deposit quality assurance security from the schedule bank equal to the amount of difference between approved DNIT amount and the quoted bid amount, within 15 days of issuance of notice or within expiry period of bid, whichever is earlier.
- The payment will be made as per actual work done after deduction as per departmental rules, subject to the clearance of works by the ADP Consultants, departmental committee or any other agency and subject to availability of funds.
- No interest shall be paid to the contractor on account of any delay in making payment by the department on the work done by him.
- The contractor have no right to claim any interest on account of delay in making the payment of the work done, due to non-receipt of funds in time.
- The Deposited at Calls of 2nd & 3rd lowest bidders will be released after approval of tenders by competent authority.
- If two or more contractors / firms become the lowest by quoting the same rates for this work, the decision of competent authority to accept the tenders for award of contract will be final.
- In case of any dispute, the matter shall be referred to the 11th Vice Chief Engineer, Sargodha Irrigation Sargodha whose decision will be final and binding for both parties.
- The successful bidder will have to execute an agreement with the Executive Engineer, Bhalwal Canal Division Bhalwal at Sargodha (Secretary Tender Opening Committee Circle Level) within 07 days of issuance of acceptance letter.
- The potential bidders can lodge their complaint regarding transparency and fairness of all bidding process on toll free helpline: 0800-11333, by Email: pmimpe@soonthimes.com or by direct application, PMUI Irrigation Secretariat, Old Anarkali, Lahore.

The detail of work is as under:-

Sr#	Name of work	Estimated cost (Rs in Million)	Earliest start (Month)	Earliest end (Month)	Tender Fee (Rupees)	Time Limit (Months)	Sanction No. & Date
1	Concrete Lining of Hujan Disty from RD 33-550 to 35-400 (GS No 4582 ADP)	83.201	1.680	10000/-	18	Months	CE (I) Spd. No. 43501/A-99-2001 dated 06.04.2024
2	Concrete Lining of Ratokala Disty from RD 21-1700 to RD 33-560(GS No. 4582 ADP)	90.587	1.810	10000/-	18	Months	CE (I) Spd. No.4350/A-99-2001 dated 06.04.2024

Gas theft crackdown: Another 124 connections disconnected in Punjab, KP and Islamabad; Rs 43.7 million fine imposed

Soon Times Correspondent

Lahore: During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad, disconnecting another 124 connections; Rs 43.7 million fine imposed in Lahore, the regional team disconnected 9 connections on illegal use of gas. The team also imposed fine of Rs.1.26

against gas pilferers. In Multan 7 connections were disconnected on illegal use while another two disconnected on use of compressor. In Peshawar and Karak, the company disconnected 81 connections on account of direct use of gas and illegal use of gas and amount of Rs 4.4 million against gas theft cases. The team also lodged 4 FIRs against gas thieves. The regional team of Rawalpindi disconnected 2

connections on illegal use of gas while imposing fine of Rs 0.10 million against gas theft cases. In Sahiwal one connection was disconnected on illegal use of gas. In Faisalabad the team disconnected 1 connection on illegal use of gas while imposing fine of Rs 0.43 against gas pilferers. The regional team of Bahawalpur disconnected 1 connection on illegal use of gas while another four on use of

compressor. In Gujranwala four connections were disconnected on illegal use of gas while three on use of compressor. The team also imposed fine of Rs 37.4 against gas theft cases. The regional team of Mardan disconnected 05 connections on illegal use of gas and also imposed fine of Rs 0.1 against gas theft cases. In Sargodha three connections were disconnected by the team on illegal use of gas. The regional team of

Sindh CM's adviser steps down after LEAs foil weapons smuggling bid



Soon Times Correspondent

KARACHI: After law enforcement agencies foiled an alleged weapons smuggling bid from Balochistan to Jacobabad, Allah Dino aka Babal Khan Bhayo has stepped down as the adviser to Sindh Chief Minister Murrad Ali Shah. The News reported on Sunday.

As per Bhayo's statement issued a day earlier, his decision to resign from the post is aimed at allowing a fair and transparent probe into Friday's failed arms smuggling attempt. The official has also requested CM Shah to accept his resignation with immediate effect and order an inquiry into the matter. The development comes after

LEAs recovered a large number of arms and ammunition including two sub-machine guns, two G-3 rifles, 18 magazines, 1118 bullets of 7-62 bore calibre, 670 bullets of light machine gun and 200 bullets along with two cellphones and Rs2,500 from two vehicles including a double-cabin pickup truck and a police vehicle that was escorting it. The police vehicle was sanctioned to the provincial adviser for his security and protocol. The News reported citing police sources. According to the publication, quoting Sindh government sources, the Pakistan Peoples Party leadership had asked him to step down from the post after the LEA's successful anti-smuggling operation. Stressing that the issue of illegal weapons' seizure on Friday was unnecessarily politicised in a bid

to tarnish his reputation via accusations of his alleged involvement in the smuggling of arms. Bhayo categorically refuted such allegations saying that he had nothing to do with this incident. Meanwhile, a case — with Inspector Ishtiaq Ahmed as the complainant — has been registered by the Jacobabad police against four smugglers and three policemen, including an ASI, under sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act on charges of smuggling of arms. Suspects Ikhtiar Ahmed Lashari, Nabeel Ahmed Bhayo, Taufiq Ahmed Gujjar and Zakir Hussain Bhayo, assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Imtiaz Ahmed Bhayo, constables Sanullah Manghanhar and Baquallah Umar have been booked under Section 23(i) of the Sindh Arms Act-2013 read with sections 67 of the ATA 1997 for escorting the smugglers' vehicle.

Pakistan dispatches eighth tranche of humanitarian aid for Gaza



The 400 tonnes of aid consists of "winterized tents, tarpaulins, blankets, medicines and food supplies". In a post on X, Dar said the shipment would be received by the Pakistan Ambassador to Egypt at Port Said and handed over to the Egyptian Red Crescent for onward delivery to the people of Gaza.

Lahore: Leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Mr. Nasir Iqbal Bosal calls on Prime Minister Muharrar Shehbaz Sharif on 21 April 2024.



Ecuadorean President Noboa seeking approval for security measures in Sunday vote



QUITO
Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa is seeking voter support on Sunday for a raft of security measures in a national referendum, as he grapples with spiking violence that has made international headlines.

Noboa has asked voters to back joint police-military patrols, the extradition of wanted criminals and longer sentences for terrorism and murder, among other crimes, to fight rising violence attributed to drug trafficking gangs. Polling has suggested voters are more likely than not to support Noboa, 36, in the 11-question referendum.

Zelenskiy says he is grateful for US House approval of Ukraine aid



Web Desk
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy expressed gratitude for the passage by the U.S. House of Representatives of a military aid bill for his country and said the assistance would save lives and "bring a just end" to the war with Russia.

"I am grateful to the United States House of Representatives, both parties, and especially Speaker Mike Johnson for the decision that keeps history on the right track," Zelenskyy wrote on X.

The president said the bill "will keep the war from expanding, save thousands and thousands of lives, and help both of our nations to become stronger."



Israeli strikes on southern Gaza city of Rafah kill 18, mostly children, as US advances aid package

The second strike killed 13 children and two women, all from the same family, according to hospital records.

RAFAH, Gaza Strip
Israeli strikes on the southern Gaza city of Rafah overnight killed 18 people, including 14 children, health officials said Sunday, as the United States was on track to approve billions of dollars of additional military aid to its ally.

Israel has carried out near-daily air raids on Rafah, where more than half of Gaza's population of 2.3 million has sought refuge from fighting elsewhere. It has also vowed to expand its ground offensive to the city on the border with Egypt despite international calls for restraint, including from the U.S.

The House of Representatives approved a \$26 billion aid package on Saturday that includes around \$9 billion in humanitarian assistance for Gaza.

The first strike killed a man, his wife and their 3-year-old child, according to the nearby Kuwaiti Hospital, which received the bodies. The woman was pregnant and the doctors managed to save the baby, the hospital said.

The second strike killed 13 children and two women, all from the same family, according to hospital records. An airstrike in Rafah the night before killed nine people, including six children.

The Israel-Hamas war has killed over 34,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials, devastated Gaza's two largest cities and left a swath of destruction across the territory. Around 80% of the population have fled their homes to other parts of the besieged coastal enclave, which experts say is on the brink of famine.

15 people suffer minor injuries in tram accident at Universal Studios

LOS ANGELES
A tram accident at Universal Studios Hollywood in Los Angeles injured 15 people Saturday night, authorities and the company said.

Los Angeles County Fire Department units were dispatched to the theme park on Lankenshim Boulevard shortly after 9 p.m., the department said in a social media post. The victims taken to area hospitals had minor injuries, the department said. A Universal Studios Hollywood spokesperson emailed a statement to The Associated Press confirming there were "multiple minor injuries" from an accident involving a tram at the theme park.



Iran's supreme leader tacitly acknowledges Tehran hit little in its massive attack on Israel



JERUSALEM
Iran's supreme leader on Sunday dismissed any discussion of whether Tehran's unprecedented drone-and-missile attack on Israel hit anything there, a tacit acknowledgment that despite launching a massive assault, few projectiles actually made through to their targets.

Avatollah Ali Khamenei's comments before senior military leaders didn't touch on the current Israeli retaliatory strike Friday on the central city of Isfahan, even though air defenses opened fire and Iran grounded commercial flights across much of the country.

Analysts believe both Iran and Israel, regional archrivals locked in a shadow war for years, are trying to dial back tensions following a series of escalatory attacks between them as Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip rages on and inflames the wider region.

Khamenei, 85, made the comments in a meeting attended by the top ranks of Iran's regular military, police and paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, a powerful force within its Shiite theocracy.

"Debates by the other party about how many missiles were fired, how many of them hit the target and how many didn't, these are of secondary importance," Khamenei said in remarks aired by state television.

Satellite image analyzed by AP shows damage after Iranian attack on Israeli desert air base

Sports & Showbiz News



Verstappen wins Chinese GP sprint race

SHANGHAI
Red Bull's triple world champion Max Verstappen won the first sprint race of the Formula One season at the Chinese Grand Prix.

The Dutch 26-year-old beat Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton by 13.043 seconds in the 19-lap race at the Shanghai International Circuit to stretch his championship lead over team mate Sergio Perez, who finished third.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz were fourth and fifth.

McLaren's Lando Norris started on pole position but ran wide on the opening lap as he battled with Hamilton and ended up sixth. Team mate Oscar Piastri was seventh and Mercedes' George Russell eighth for the final point.



Azam Khan ruled out of New Zealand T20is

RAWALPINDI
Azam Khan has been advised to undergo a 10-day rest following radiology reports confirming a Grade One tear of his right calf muscle.

Consequently, Azam will be unable to participate in the ongoing T20I series against New Zealand, which will end in Lahore on April 27.

Azam will now depart from Pakistan men's cricket team and report to the National Cricket Academy, where he will commence his rehabilitation process under the supervision of the PCB medical panel.

Shirazi Vlogs acquires YouTube golden play button



(Web Desk)
The dynamic sibling duo behind Shirazi Village Vlog - Muskan and Shiraz - have accomplished a noteworthy distinction on YouTube.

Moreover, by getting the golden button, they have become the youngest YouTubers to hit the one million subscriber mark, having

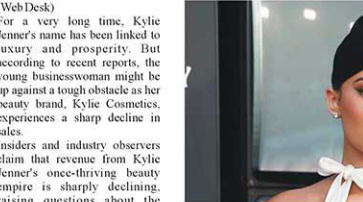
have won over fans all over the world.

In a heartwarming display of gratitude and joy, Shiraz celebrated this milestone with his friends and the entire village. The scene was adorned with happiness as Muskan, his supportive sister, joined in the jubilant festivities, washing the Golden Button in a gesture of shared success.

In addition to providing viewers with entertainment, the Shirazi Vlogs have provided a forum for discussing important concerns in their community.

Aspiring content creators throughout the county resort to Shiraz and Muskan's honest views because of their engaging storytelling and authentic depiction of rural life.

Kylie Jenner encounters serious losses in cosmetic business



(Web Desk)
For a very long time, Kylie Jenner's name has been linked to luxury and prosperity. But according to recent reports, the young businesswoman might be up against a tough obstacle as her beauty brand, Kylie Cosmetics, experiences a sharp decline in sales.

Insiders and industry observers claim that revenue from Kylie Jenner's once-thriving beauty empire is sharply declining, raising questions about the brand's long-term survival.

According to people close to Jenner, she may not be as financially secure as the public believes, despite her love of finery and her seemingly affluent lifestyle.

A troubling financial picture is being painted by Kylie Jenner's lavish habits and declining sales numbers, according to a shocking revelation. According to reports, the drop in sales of.

Moreover, market research firm Statista's observations highlight the difficulties Kylie Cosmetics is facing.

The brand's merchandise sales have significantly decreased online, with a startling \$36.2 million decrease in 2022 alone, according to data. Forecasts indicate that sales will likely continue on their current decreasing trajectory, falling to \$29 million in 2024.



Eating disorders still a "huge problem" in climbing, gold medallist Garnbret says

PARIS
Eating disorders remain a "huge" issue in climbing, Olympic gold medalist Janja Garnbret said, even as new regulations meant to stop dangerously underweight athletes competing came into effect earlier this month.

The International Federation of Sport Climbing announced the new rules in February after a group of elite climbers spoke out about their experiences with relative energy deficiency in sport (RED-S) and demanded action from the governing body.

Climbers benefit from a higher strength-to-weight ratio and many resort to losing weight rather than getting stronger, not realising the damage that could do to their health.

"They came out with a new policy which reads good on the paper, but until I see it in practice, it won't change anything and I won't believe it," Garnbret told Reuters in an interview on the sidelines of Addidas' Olympics kit launch in Paris on Thursday.

"It's still a huge problem. I think it is going in the right direction but nothing is changing for now, and I hope soon something will start to change."

Under the regulations, in force since April 9, climbers provide details of their height, weight, heart rate and blood pressure, and national federations either issue a health certificate based on those parameters, or request more testing.

The IFSC also conducts random testing throughout the climbing season.

Widely considered the world's most successful competitive climber, Garnbret sounded a confident note about her preparations for this summer's Olympic Games in Paris, having last year missed several competitions after fracturing her toe.

"This year I'm injury-free, just working on my weaknesses and things I want to improve. I just did my first two World Cups and I'm really happy with my shape and with my mentality," she said.

The 25-year-old Slovenian said she would like to compete on men's routes, and that how well she could do would depend on the route setting.

"I always had the belief that women can do everything that men can do, we can be just as strong as men, so I've been always training hard to catch them," she said.