

Daily SOON TIMES

Wednesday
April 24, 2024
Page: 4 Rs: 20
Vol: 4 Issue: 116
www.soontimes.pk

ABC Certified

Simultaneously Publishing from Islamabad, Sargodha & Karachi

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi lauds Pakistan's stance on war-torn Gaza

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz welcomed President Raisi at Lahore airport



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE
Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi arrived at the Allama Iqbal International Airport from Islamabad here on Tuesday morning. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz welcomed the Iranian president as he touched down at Lahore airport. Senior Provincial Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb and Information Minister Azma Zahid Bokhari was also present.
Provincial ministers Mujtaba Shujaat Rehman, Khawaja Salman Rafique, Chaudhry Shafiq Hussain, Bilal Yasin, the chief secretary and IG Punjab were also in attendance. A smartly turned out contingent of Punjab Rangers presented guard of honour to President Raisi. City roads have been decorated with welcome banners and hoardings on arrival of Iranian President. President Raisi, after landing in Lahore, went straight to Mazar-e-Iqbal and laid floral wreath on the grave of Poet of the East

Allama Muhammad Iqbal. Lauds Pakistan's stance on Gaza
The Iranian president lauded Pakistan's support for Gaza and its people amid relentless atrocities by Israel.
He said Allama Iqbal showed a new path to the Muslims the world over. As for Gaza war, he said the supreme leader was of firm opinion that the people of Palestine would emerge victorious in the light and Israel would face defeat.
He said he was thoroughly enjoying his visit to Pakistan and he was feeling at home. He said he wanted to address the people of Pakistan.
During his visit to Lahore, the Iranian president also visited Minar-e-Pakistan, Badshahi Masjid and Lahore Fort. Later, Raisi met Punjab Governor Balqush Rehman at the Governor House where they discussed matters of mutual interest. Radio Pakistan reported.
Governor Rehman also hosted a luncheon in honour of the president and his delegation, the report said.

Azam Swati's bail confirmed in Section 144 violation case



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
The district and sessions court has confirmed bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Azam Khan Swati in Section 144 violation case against him. Swati appeared before the court along with his counsel. Judge Awais Muhammad Khan heard the case. The court confirmed the bail against a surety bond of Rs5,000.
During the hearing, Swati's counsel argued that the case was illegal and fabricated as his client was granted bail in the case very next day after his arrest but he was declared proclaimed offender and a police officer was made complainant.

Not holding negotiations with anyone, says Barrister Gohar



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
Senior PTI leader Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said that they are not holding negotiations with anyone and all such reports are fake. He was speaking to the media after meeting the PTI founder at Adiala Jail on Tuesday.
"We held meeting with the PTI founder today in connection with the AI Qadir trust case," Gohar said. He added that the case was politically motivated and PTI founder would soon be exonerated.
According to Barrister Gohar, he requested the judge to hold open trial of the case as media was not allowed to cover it.
Barrister Gohar said that the ballot boxes were already filled even before the polling during the by-elections held on April 21.
"We moved a petition in the supreme court demanding election results based on Form-45 but the petition is yet to be heard," Barrister Gohar said.

Punjab CM approves establishment of provincial enforcement authority



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE
Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has granted approval for establishment of the provincial enforcement authority in Punjab.
Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz chaired a meeting in which she was briefed on establishment of provincial enforcement authority at the district and tehsil level. Maryam approved the

district enforcement authority while tehsil enforcement authority will be headed by assistant commissioner. Enforcement authorities will perform special tasks relating to encroachments on government lands. The authority will also be given powers to take action against over-pricing, encroachment on government lands, making encroachments and hoarding.
A police station and special force will also be established at the tehsil level under the supervision of the tehsil enforcement unit. Unit in charge, investigation officers, enforcement officers and constables will be appointed in the tehsil enforcement authority.
The tehsil enforcement unit will also have the powers to file cases, investigate and make arrests, apart from implementing the law. The offices of provincial enforcement authority and district enforcement authority will also be established for monitoring purpose.

Bushra Bibi declared fit, medical report sent to concerned



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
The Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) doctor has declared former first lady Bushra Bibi fully fit and sent the report to the higher authorities.
The doctors examined her during the day and declared her completely fit. The former first lady has complained of heartburn.
The team conducted a complete examination of the former first lady at the Fani Gala in the night. Read also: IHC declares keeping Bushra Bibi in solitary confinement a form of torture
The PIMS Hospital's doctor conducted her examination and advised her to be careful on eating only.

Govt to re-constitute committee on issue of missing persons: Law Minister



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday said that the incumbent government was serious to address the long standing issue of missing persons and was going to re-constitute the committee on it.
He was addressing a press conference here along with Federal Minister for Information Attaulah Tarar.
The law minister said that 10,200 cases of missing persons were registered in the Commission of Inquiry on Enforced Disappearances (CIOED) out of

Voters rejected PTI's narrative of hatred in by-elections: Tarar



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar said on Tuesday that the voters during the recent by-elections had rejected the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's narrative of hatred, hypocrisy and lies.
Addressing a press conference along with Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, he said much hue and cry was made

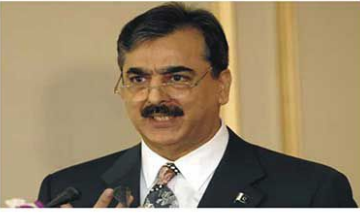
about so-called rigging in the by-elections but even a single proof could not be presented by the PTI leadership.
He said that the outcome of by-elections also cleared doubts about February 8 general elections created by a certain political party. By the grace of Allah Almighty, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, swept the by-elections as the masses voted for love of Nawaz Sharif, and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's economic reforms.
The minister remarked that people of Pakistan had buried the PTI's narrative based on violence, duplicity and lies as not PML-N voters, but other people also voted for PML-N due to its pro-people policies and track record of servicing the masses.
Regarding Bushra Bibi's health, he said funny things were being shared on social media, though all her medical tests were clear. He said it appeared that the PTI leaders had sworn that they have to speak against the country's national and defense institutions.

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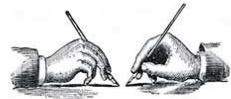
Gilani calls for concerted efforts to tackle environment, population issues

He commended the summit for its role as a constructive forum for addressing key challenges

ISLAMABAD
Senate Chairman Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani on Tuesday called for concerted efforts to tackle economic challenges, environmental issues, social welfare, and population growth.
Addressing the seventh edition of Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit here, he expressed gratitude to the organisers for the invitation. He emphasized the importance of forums like the summit in fostering dialogue and collaboration among business leaders.
He commended the summit for its role as a constructive forum for addressing key challenges and formulating strategies for economic growth. Regarding security



challenges, the Chairman noted the resurgence of terrorism and emphasized the importance of regional stability. He underlined the need for global attention to end conflicts that threaten national security.
On the economic front, the senate chairman said that there is a need for a shift in policy paradigms to stimulate economic revival and growth, emphasizing collaboration between the government and business leaders.
He also addressed environmental challenges, advocating for sustainable practices and public awareness to mitigate climate change impacts. He highlighted the significance of social welfare programs like the Benazir Income Support Program and stressed the need for efficient resource utilization in social safety-net initiatives.
He also emphasized the urgency of addressing population growth to ensure social stability and well-being. He called for prioritizing population welfare and promoting family planning initiatives.
Chairman Gilani praised the organisers for their efforts in convening the summit and facilitating meaningful discussions on the nation's critical issues.



Pak - Iran Friendship and Indian Media Propaganda

Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi's visit to Pakistan is being welcomed. Meanwhile, projects are being signed to promote continuous cooperation. There is continuous propaganda on the Indian media. Attempts are being made to link the sanctions imposed by the United States on the

companies supplying four missile parts to Pakistan-Iran fraternal relations. India is calling the Iran-Pak meeting as a new strategy against Israel. No one should have any doubt because Pakistan will always play its positive role in any problem faced by the Muslim world. As far as the question of Israeli brutality on the innocent

Muslims of Palestine is concerned, then Pakistan can go to any extent. India is screaming because of Pakistan's Shaheen III. While Israel will have to bear the consequences of the massacre of thirty-four thousand Muslims in many respects. It is a pleasure that the Iranian President came to Pakistan at such a time and

meet with the Pakistani leadership. The Indian people are not going to be deceived by the sensation that India is spreading for the Lok Sabha elections. PM Modi is seeing defeat in various states, so now the media is trying to win sympathy by spreading sensationalism.

Warriors Turned into Spineless Cowards: A Tribute to the Brave Palestinian!



Muhammad Irfan Nadeem

The lullaby the children of the bravest nation had to enjoy in their beds before getting lured to the peaceful slumber, was that the dauntless nation, believing in the sanctity of its existence, is here to rule and not to be ruled over. But, unfortunately, in today's world we have got just the reverse of the medal and it is totally opposite to the sacred message we have been having generations after generations. It couldn't be even imagined by our ancestors that situation will get that much rotten as it is today. The peak of dominance, perfection, conquer and exuberance is acquired in centuries, but when a nation starts losing it, it's like journey downward from the steep road. It all happened with our nation and we feel helpless, hopeless, spineless, friendless, worthless and aimless without having any hope for the recovery and restoration. Course of events could be so agonizing and painful to the sacred nation, was unbelievable, unimaginable and unacceptable in the past of glory, wisdom, abundance, splendor and grandeur. But, in today's world, it is understood, expected, digested and believed without a moment's hesitation, because it seems to be the fate of the past warriors who have turned into spineless cowards. Bravery used to be the synonym of our nation in the past, but I am afraid that meanings have changed now. Courage, dare, gallantry and bravery are buried dead and have been buried decades (if not centuries) ago. The situation in Palestine is self-explanatory. Israel, literally just a heap of rubbish in comparison to the powerful giants around, has been humiliating and insulting them all dauntlessly, because it knows that its enemies are spineless cowards. Blood, tears, cries and agonies of Palestinian children, women, and innocent people mean nothing to the world and most shockingly to the bravest nation itself, which ruled over half of the world in the glorious past. We don't care, if the world

doesn't care, but we are hard pressed to shed blood tears the way our brethren are behaving and showing unacceptable, unforgivable, unforgettable and unjustifiable cowardice. Is it what our religions teaches us? Is it the way the brave nations behave? Materialism and worldly desires have captured our conscience so tightly that we can't see any way out or any relief for the innocent Palestinian. Their innocence has become their biggest crime and the callousness of our Elder Brothers is an enormous sin, which the analyst will quote with wet eyes and deep-rooted hatred for the cowards of this era.

The worldly pleasures are so powerful for the bravest of the past that they have blinded, immunized and neutralized themselves from the shrieks, torments, agonies and affliction of our very own Palestinians. What keeps us away from being the victim to selfishness is the sacred reward we will get in the life hereafter. That sacred reward gives us the impetus to serve the humanity and behave selflessly for the welfare and betterment of the other human beings. When it is replaced by selfishness, narrowmindedness and petty gains, the conscience automatically goes to the sleep mode or gets dead. The basic reason for the heart rending change is the decline in the faith of the bravest nation on the face of this planet. Otherwise, in the past, moaning of just one lady, devastated RajaDahir and his thousand soldiers, because the power of un-shattering faith of the bravest nation of the past was intact and they had the power of 'Takwa' and 'Tawakkal'. In today's world the superpowers have snatched away the sacred treasure of the Muslims. Fear, fright, selfishness and the love of the world has done an imaginable damage to our nation, and we have become pathetic cowards and have closed our eyes to the sufferings of the innocent Palestinians. The superpowers of the past are scared of the superpowers of this current era. We still believe in the miracles and have been waiting for the divine intervention, otherwise, we don't have any hope, because it has already been ravished by our own brethren. I personally don't pine over the callousness of the world or UNO, because we have pinned

our hopes to our brethren. We had the belief that none on the face of this earth has the power to show cruelty to the Palestinians, because our brethren are so powerful and filthy rich to destroy the agents of the devil. Unfortunately, our confidence was badly dented and threw our Palestinian brethren in the blind ditch of utter disappointment. We believe that the Divine Intervention will drag our innocent people out of the quagmire of frustration, dejection, torments, agonies and pain.

The fact remains that the petty differences among one another have given the reason to the nation to bury their heads in the sand and enjoy the slaughter of our own brethren. How could the petty differences be so powerful to snatch away honor and prestige of our nation? Time will come when each Islamic country will have the harmony and friendly relations. Differences should never give the satisfaction over the bloodshed of our own nation. It is a deplorable fact that our very powerful countries believe that their ego is so big that it will be satisfied with the blood of our own people. It's absolutely shocking and the blood of our Palestinian brothers will shake the heaven and then only destruction, devastation and tribulation will be the fate of our nation. There was a time that we were the rulers of the world and, it seems, such passion has already been evaporated due to the cowardice of our nation.

We pray to Allah Almighty that the sanity should prevail and the passion to rule over should come back in the nation. It is darkness all around, but we are hopeful that the good days will come and our nation will stand tall against the brutalities against the innocent Palestinians. Pricks of conscience will do the wonder and the glimpses of the past glory will be the spectacle all around. We don't have any hope about the intervention of the superpowers of this world to be honest, just and loyal to the cause of peace, but our hopes about the reemergence of the past glory, dauntlessness, gallantry and bravery of our own nation are still alive. The truth will prevail. The peace will prevail. The innocent Palestinians will get their rights. Long live our nation! Long live Palestine!

The Rainbow Propaganda and Children's Animated Media



Fiza Fatima Naqvi

Children's Animated Media has been a subject of bad controversy in recent years due to its destructive results on youngsters. Concerns have been raised about the effect of this kind of media on kid's development. Critics argue that such media can make a contribution to the early sexualization of children, in addition to the perpetuation of harmful social norms and values. Additionally, there had been growing concerns approximately the ability for this form of media to desensitize children to violence and promote aggressive behavior. In the last five years, there were numerous research and reports highlighting the bad impact of The Rainbow Propaganda and Children's Animated Media on youngsters, leading to calls for

more regulation and responsible content introduction inside the industry. There have been numerous examples of LGBTQ+ inclusion in children's media. One such example is the show "The Loud House," which introduced a character with two dads. This portrayal was met with both positive reception and backlash from audiences and critics. Other shows, such as "Adventure Time" and "The Legend of Korra," subtly incorporated LGBTQ+ themes through the development of complex character relationships. On the other hand, movies like "Onward" and "Toy Story 4" "Blues Clues", "Coco melon", "my little pony", "Ciao", "Arthur" have taken a more explicit approach by featuring openly LGBTQ+ characters. The range of approaches highlights the industry's commitment to inclusivity while navigating the sensitivity and complexity surrounding this representation. Lets look some of the recent film and have a brief insight on to the type of animations that kids were exposed to! The three movies that were most

prominent were Nimona, A Strange World as well as the debut film by Dan Levy Good Grief. Nimona a film featuring a non-binary protagonist and a gay couples romance. The question is the same is this type of exposure necessary? The Disney Film A Strange World features a gay teenager and his supportive family. The point is that this film is suppose to be about three generations of explorers finding themselves in the middle of a strange world. Yet for their to be a gay character seems extremely far fetched and unnecessary. Simply put it's like a trend that entertainment companies have to be a part of. The concept of diversity in itself isn't problematic. The real problem lies with how our media has pushed it in the minds of young kids. It's a common known fact children mimic behavior. To have this expectation that children will understand the complexities of gender identity or sexual orientation is outrageous. It is high time parents are made aware of this issue and regulate the type of content their child is exposed to.

Imran alleges 'pre-planned' rigging in Punjab by-polls

Islamabad
WebDesk

Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan asserted on Tuesday that premeditated rigging marred the by-polls in Punjab, accusing the Punjab Police of indulging in rigging. As opposed to the shocking victory of the opposition in the general elections, the ruling

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) had smooth sailing in the recently held by-elections. Unofficial results showed that the ruling party secured majority of seats of the national and provincial assemblies contested on Sunday. "Democracy hinges on the supremacy of law and the conduct of free and fair elections, yet what we

witnessed was jungle law. The interference of the police in the Punjab by-elections is deeply concerning," he remarked during a media interaction at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail. Imran highlighted that by-polls were also conducted in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, where the PTI-backed Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) is ruling, affirming that no instances of

rigging transpired in the province. "There exists no semblance of democracy in the nation presently. The rigging was a preemptive move, driven by fear of the events that unfolded on February 8. The postponement of the [general] elections from October to February, was a deliberate tactic to suppress the PTI.



Political Counsellor British High Commission, Ms. Zoe Ware called on Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja in Islamabad on April 23, 2024.



Khan Bibi demands the Govt to evict suspicious persons from Fedral Capital

World Peace Jirga Program Country Head Sadiya Khan alias Khan Bibi has demanded the government to immediately evict illegal and suspicious persons from the federal capital Islamabad because these are the people in Islamabad Involved in robberies and banditry incidents, illegal guesthouses should be closed, commercial activities in residential areas should be stopped, search operations should be conducted in all the plazas of Islamabad. She said, a security system should be installed, all

the offices of IOM should be moved out of the diplomatic enclave. She expressed these views along with the Chairman of World Peace Jirga Program Mushtullah Khan aka Khan Baba NPC President Azhar Jatoi and newly elected officials. While giving a press conference on the occasion of the swearing-in ceremony at the Press Club Islamabad, Sadiya Khan alias Khan Bibi further said that the World Peace Jirga Program has been busy for the development and prosperity of the country for the past twenty years, while now in Pakistan. Major health, education and employment projects are

being launched. The organization has built a network at all provincial and divisional levels of Pakistan. Donors conference will also be organized in the convention center and for this donor conferences will be held in America, Canada and United Arab Emirates. Khan Bibi added that members of all provinces of the country will be sworn in. In this regard, a seminar and oath-taking ceremony will be held in Lahore on May 13, while on May 15 Karachi on May, Quetta on May 17, Peshawar on May 21, Gilgit-Baltistan on May 24 and Islam at the beginning of June.

People have to support PTI to get rid of World Bank: Shamim Aftab

Due to Pakistan Muslim League-N and PPP, preparations are being made to make Pakistan a slave of the World Bank. Now people have to support PTI so that Pakistan can develop in real sense and get rid of World Bank forever. These views were expressed by Shamim Aftab, Member of Provincial Assembly and President of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. She said, the people are aware of the conspiracy against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. The recent election has proved that people are with PTI. PML-N has no right to remain in power after the humiliating defeat. In the future Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf will emerge as a major force.



Supreme Court approached for implementation of National Action Plan

A petition was submitted to the Supreme Court, urging the implementation of the National Action Plan 2014. Patron-in-Chief of Martyrs Forum Balochistan, Nawabzada Jamal Raisani, filed the petition through Advocate Hafiz Ehsan Khokhar. Federal and provincial governments, the Ministry of Interior, and others were made as respondents. The petition calls for immediate action on police reforms and expeditious resolution of pending terrorism cases in all courts. It also urged the federal and provincial governments to adhere to international standards in providing protection and



prosecution for witnesses. It also stressed ensuring free education for children and security for families affected by terrorism. Furthermore, the petition emphasised the need to combat terrorism propagated through social media platforms. It also demands legal action against those who falsely label terrorists as missing persons.

ADC (HQ) chairs meeting of DERC regarding Dengue cases



by ADC (HQ) Mr. Arshad Wattoo was held at 11.30am at Committee room Commissioner Office Sargodha. The district heads of all allied departments

participated. Chief Executive officer District Health Authority Dr. Aslam Asad briefed the participants about prevalent Dengue situation in the district. He informed that a confirmed dengue case has been reported so far in the district during current year. He added that dengue vector surveillance teams of DHA Sargodha have detected/eradicated dengue larvae at 36 positive sites in this year. DWR resolution, TPV activities & dengue hotspots coverage are 100% with negligible android user dormancy throughout the district. Five FIRs along with 31 legal notices have been issued against violators of Dengue SoPs by DHA Sargodha till date. The chairman appreciated the efforts of health department and directed to work with same spirit to avert any dengue outbreak in the district in coming days.

Court records testimony of six additional witnesses in 190m pounds reference

In the £190 million reference, Accountability Court recorded testimony from six additional witnesses, with cross-examination of two witnesses concluded. Judge Nasir Faiz Rana conducted the hearing at Adiala Jail where the PTI founder and his wife, Bushra Bibi, were present. The legal representatives, Usman Gul and Zaheer Abbas participated in the proceedings. During the session, the statements from a total of 21 witnesses have been recorded so far, with cross-examination completed for 15 individuals. The court adjourned the hearing until April 29. It was noted that during a hearing



on January 6, charges could not be framed against the PTI founder and his wife. Later, during a hearing on March 6, testimony from three NAB witnesses was documented. Furthermore, the court declared the six co-accused in the £190 million reference as fugitives.

Disclosure of illegal posting in FA Examinations, Question mark on credibility of Controller Exams BISE Rawalpindi

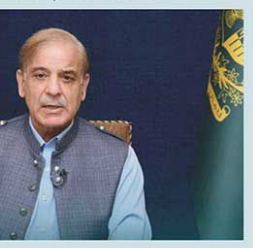


Naecem is a clerk and appointment of clerk as invigilator is a question mark on the performance of controller examinations. It should be noted that the same clerk Kamran Naecem was helping the cheating in exams while performing his duties as superintendent in Government High School Noorpur in Matric examination. Assistant Commissioner Kalar Kahar caught him on the spot and registered FIR No. 195/24 on April 1, 2024 in police station Kalar Kahar. Clerk Kamran Naecem was

arrested and is posted again for intermediate exams after bail. It can be well inferred that the said person has links with the corrupt officers of the department whose alleged connivance has revealed the illegal appointments. The Director of Colleges should take notice of the matter and replace the said corrupt clerk with honest staff. Director Colleges Rawalpindi Division Sher Ahmed Sati was asked for the version but he did not bother to reply.

Delay in tax cases: PM directs to suspend Chief Commissioner Inland Revenue, officials

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday took notice of the 'willful' delay in tax cases and ordered for suspension of Commissioner Inland Revenue Islamabad and other relevant officials. While issuing a directive for suspension of all the relevant officials, the prime minister also asked for initiating an inquiry against them. PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. Soon after assuming the office, the prime minister had directed for immediate reforms in the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and decided to oversee the process himself. As per details, billions of rupees' cases related to government revenues have been pending for adjudication in the Tax Tribunals. The prime minister had requested the Chief Justice of Pakistan for early disposal of such cases. Recently, the prime minister took a



notice of one of these pending cases in which an FBR counsel had sought adjournment and directed the relevant authorities to inquire into the matter. The prime minister observed that the national exchequer had been suffering due to the pendency of such cases involving worth billions of rupees tax matters. Shehbaz Sharif made it clear that he would not tolerate any kind of lethargy in pursuance of such legal matters, and under his pledge with the nation, would continue monitoring the tax reforms. "For enhancing the revenues and saving every penny of the country and nation, they would have to strive day and night," the press release quoted the prime minister as saying.

Knowledge without ethics has no value, says Iran president's wife Dr Jamileh



Earlier, Dr Jamileh inaugurated a cultural festival at the university. She took round of various national and international stalls showcasing different cultures and their traditions. Rector NUML Major General (ret'd) Shahid Mahmood Kayani, Director General Brig Shahzad Munir, faculty members and a large number of students were present on the occasion.

Addressing the students, Dr Jamileh said that during the colonial era, religious leaders of Iran and this part of the region played a significant role in keeping the nations united. She admired the role of Poet of the East Muhammad Iqbal in spreading the Islamic message of knowledge and ethics through his poetry. She also spoke at the launch of her own book "The Art of Living Femininely", which, she said, was being translated into Urdu as well. She praised NUML's role in knowledge production and dissemination and also desired to explore the possibilities of mutual academic collaboration in the field of science and technology and languages.

ISLAMABAD Dr Jamileh-Sadat Alamoiloda, wife of the Iranian President, said that Islam had highlighted the importance of knowledge 1400 years ago. "Knowledge without ethics has no value," she made the remarks her address at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML).

Dr Jamileh thanked the NUML administration for a warm welcome and on providing her an opportunity to interact with the students and faculty. Speaking on the occasion, the Rector NUML said that Pakistan and Iran enjoyed historic, brotherly, and mutually trusted bilateral relations, and they also had deep-rooted people-to-people ties.



Selby considers retirement after 'pathetic' world championship exit



Sheffield (United Kingdom) Four-time world champion Mark Selby is considering retirement after crashing out at the first round of the world championship 10-6 to qualifier Joe O'Connor.

Defeat capped a dismal season for Selby, who has slipped to fifth in the world rankings. "I will take a long time to think about it over the summer," said the 40-year-old. "Away from snooker I'm happy, then when I come to snooker it's the opposite. It was pathetic from start to finish."

O'Connor, who is the only debutant in the field at The Crucible amassed a 7-2 lead during the first session on Sunday and held on for the biggest win of his career despite a rally from one of his snooker heroes.

"I'll sit down with (my wife) Vicky and see what the options are," added Selby.

"Obviously it will be a big decision but if I do carry on playing I need help, probably on the mental side of it a little bit more just to go out there and enjoy the game." "That's all I want to do, go out there and enjoy it and for me, it's always sort of life or death. I've always been that kind of character, putting too much pressure on myself and trying too hard."

UK's Sunak says nothing will stop Rwanda policy; migrants die in channel



LONDON British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak vowed that nothing would prevent him from sending asylum seekers to Rwanda after parliament finally approved the divisive policy that is designed to deter migrants from travelling in small boats to Britain.

Hours after the bill passed, a French newspaper reported that at least five migrants had died in an attempt to cross the Channel. The French coast guard could not confirm the details but said there were several "lifeless bodies". Tens of thousands of migrants - many fleeing wars and poverty in Africa, the Middle East and Asia - have reached Britain in recent years by crossing the English Channel in small boats on risky journeys, organised by people-smuggling gangs.

Five migrants die in attempt to cross English Channel: French police says



PARIS At least five migrants died in an attempt to cross the English Channel from an area near the French town of Wimereux on Tuesday, police said. The French coast guard confirmed a police rescue operation had found several "lifeless bodies" following a failed attempt to cross the Channel. A coast guard spokesperson said its agents were still operating at sea after what the official called a "busy" morning, with several crossing attempts.

The attempts took place after Britain's upper house of parliament passed legislation on Monday night that will allow the UK government to send asylum-seekers to Rwanda rather than ship them to Britain for processing. Stopping the flow of migrants is a priority for British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's government, which says the Rwanda plan will act as a deterrent. Human rights groups and other critics say it is inhumane.

La Voix du Nord newspaper said about 100 migrants had been rescued early on Tuesday, with three helicopters and several rescue boats taking part in the operation.



US turns blind eye to Israel's violation of human rights in annual report

Israel's war on Hamas has also plunged the Middle East into heightened instability and violence

Web Desk

A prejudiced US State Department's annual human rights report likened Hamas and Palestinian Authority violations to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) turning a blind eye to the killings of over 34,000 innocent and unarmed civilians in Gaza.

Ironically, the report issued on Monday cited several reported rights violations committed in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza in 2023 by parties including the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, before and after Hamas's Oct. 7 attacks, not singling out Israel as prime violator.

Hamas, in its attack on Oct. 7 had killed around 1,200 Israelis, and in turn Israeli forces have so far killed 34,000 civilians in air attacks and bombing besides dismantling health system in Tel Aviv's occupied and besieged West Bank and Gaza.

The Israeli assaults are continuing with the alleged backing of the US who vetoed several ceasefire resolutions in the United Nations Security Council and allowed Israel to continue its offensive by approving additional aid package for Tel Aviv. And US officials declined to say whether they would halt US aid to elements of Israel's military over alleged abuses.

Israel's war on Hamas has also plunged the Middle East into heightened instability and violence.

The Washington Post, in its news story mentioned US report as describing "the resulting conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip has had a significant negative impact on the status of human rights in Israel. The report also cited "credible" reports of "unlawful killings" by both Hamas and the Israeli government. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the Oct. 7 attacks, which killed about 1,200 people, and the subsequent death of civilians during Israel's military response in Gaza "have also raised deeply troubling human rights concerns."

Ukraine launches military charm offensive as conscription flags



DNIPRO

Web Desk

Far from the trenches, as orderly new centres across Ukraine, civilian recruiters armed with laptops and info packs offer patriotic volunteers opportunities to join the war.

As Ukraine's efforts to fight Russia are stymied by public scepticism, defence officials and military units are embarking on a multi-pronged charm offensive to recruit a citizens' army to resist the invasion.

The position of SWP candidate Iqra Hassan from Kairana is stable in election



Soon Times Correspondent

Kairana: The Samaj Wadi Party has fielded Iqra Hassan from the Kairana Lok Sabha seat against the BJP. 29-year-old Iqra Hassan is contesting Lok Sabha elections for the first time. But the family's political

background, especially after the arrest of brother Nabeed Hasan, she has the experience of running her election campaign. This time, Congress and Samaj Wadi Party are contesting the election separately. According to media reports, Iqra

Hasan's position is stable. Iqra Hassan, daughter of late Chaudhry Munawar Hasan, has been declared as the candidate from Kairana. She has raised the slogan of providing electricity, education and employment in Kairana. It should be noted that Chaudhry Munawar Hasan, her mother Tabasum

Hasan and her grandfather Chaudhry Akhtar Hasan have been members of Parliament. While at present her brother Nabeed Hasan is the Member of Assembly from Kairana Assembly seat. Special prayers are being made for the success of Iqra Hassan on social media all over the world, especially by the people of Pakistan. Iqra Hassan's victory in Friday's elections is certain.



Modi is accused of using hate speech for calling Muslims 'infiltrators' at an Indian election rally

NEW DELHI

Web Desk

India's main opposition party accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of using hate speech after he called Muslims "infiltrators" — some of his most incendiary rhetoric about the minority faith, days after the country began its weeks-long general election.

The remarks at a campaign rally Sunday drew fierce criticism that Modi was peddling anti-Muslim tropes. The Congress party filed a complaint Monday with the Election Commission of India, alleging he broke rules that bar candidates from engaging in any activity that aggravates religious tensions. Critics of the prime minister — an avowed Hindu nationalist — say India's tradition of diversity and secularism has come under attack since his Bharatiya Janata Party won power a decade ago. They accuse the party of fostering religious intolerance and sometimes even violence. The party denies the accusation and says its policies benefit all Indians.

At a rally in the state of Rajasthan, Modi said that when the Congress party was in government, "they said Muslims have the first right over the country's resources." If it returns to power, the party "will gather all your wealth and distribute it among those who have more children," he said as the crowd applauded. "They will distribute it among infiltrators," he continued, saying, "Do you thank your hard-gained

money should be given to infiltrators?"

Mallikarjun Kharge, the Congress party's president, described the prime minister's comments as "hate speech" and party spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi called them "deeply, deeply objectionable."

The party sought action from the election commission, whose code of conduct forbids candidates from appealing to caste or communal feelings "to secure votes. The first votes were cast Friday in the six-week election, which Modi and his Hindu nationalist BJP are expected to win, according to most surveys.

The results come out on June 4. Asaduddin Owaisi, a Muslim lawmaker and president of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen party, said on Sunday: "Since 2002 till this day, the only Modi guarantee has been to abuse Muslims and get votes. Hindu mobs have long been tensions between India's majority Hindu community and Muslims, rights groups say that attacks against minorities have become more brazen under Modi.

Muslims have been lynched by Hindu mobs over allegations of eating beef or slaughtering cows, an animal considered holy to Hindus. Muslim businesses have been boycotted, their homes and businesses have been bulldozed and places of worship set on fire. There have been open calls for their genocide.

Elon Musk accuses Australia of censorship after court bans violent video



MELBOURNE, Australia

Tech billionaire Elon Musk accused Australia of censorship after an Australian judge ruled that his social media platform X must block users worldwide from accessing video of a bishop being stabbed in a Sydney church.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese responded Tuesday by describing Musk as an "arrogant billionaire" who considered himself above the law and was out of touch with the public.

X Corp., the tech company rebranded in 2023 by Musk after he bought Twitter, announced last week it would fight in court Australian orders to take down posts relating to a knife attack on Bishop Mar Mari Emmanuel in an Assyrian Orthodox church as a service was being streamed online on April 15.

The material was geoblocked from Australia but available elsewhere.

But the regulator that made the orders, Australia's eSafety Commission, which describes itself as the world's first government agency dedicated to keeping people safer online, successfully applied to the Federal Court in Sydney for a temporary global ban on sharing the video of the bishop being stabbed.

In an after-hours hearing Monday, Justice Geoffrey Kennett suppressed the footage from all X users until Wednesday, when an application for a permanent ban will be heard.

Hours later, Musk posted on his personal X account a cartoon that depicted a fork in a road with one path leading to "free speech" and "truth" and the other to "censorship" and "propaganda."

Musk cited Albanese telling reporters Monday that other social media platforms had largely complied with the regulator's orders to take violent content down. "I'd like to take a moment to thank the PM for informing the public that this platform is the only truthful one," Musk posted.

Albanese berated Musk in several television interviews Tuesday.

Police in Bosnia arrest 23 people suspected of being part of global drug kingpin's 'inner circle'

SARA JEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Law enforcement officers in Bosnia arrested 23 people suspected of belonging to a "global drug kingpin's inner circle," including police and security officials, in a clampdown on criminal networks controlling much of Europe's cocaine trade, authorities said Tuesday. Europol, the European Union's law enforcement agency, and Bosnian officials said the suspects were detained Monday as security forces searched their homes and other locations. They are suspected of drug trafficking, money laundering and other organized crime offenses, officials said.

"Among the 23 persons arrested yesterday are not only accomplices, but also corrupt officials identified as facilitators of the network's criminal activities," Europol said in a statement. The 23 are suspected of being



part of the "inner circle" of a drug kingpin arrested in 2022 and sentenced to seven years in prison a year later in the Netherlands, it said. Police seized guns, money, cars, laptops and other evidence during the raids. Bosnian authorities had previously arrested two other people and seized 55,000 euros (\$58,000), eight firearms, 11 police radios and money-laundering documentation, Europol said. It said Monday's arrests were

"another milestone" in the fight against the alliance of criminal networks. Agents from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and FBI also participated in the operation, it said. In Bosnia, the state security agency SIPA said authorities temporarily froze bank accounts belonging to the suspects and halted any financial transactions. It said evidence against the group included encrypted phone conversations.