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Chief Editor
Shah Muhammad Awan

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IHC declares keeping Bushra Bibi in solitary confinement a form of torture



Islamabad
The Islamabad High Court on Monday remarked that keeping Bushra Bibi in solitary confinement was tantamount to torture.
Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb gave these remarks while hearing the plea of the PTI founder's wife for shifting her from Bani Gala to Adiala Jail.
Advocates Usman Riaz Gul and Khalid Yusuf Chaudhry appeared before the court on behalf of Bushra Bibi.
Justice Aurangzeb remarked that how the chief commissioner could declare himself the provincial government. "Keeping one in solitary confinement is a form of torture," he added.
The judge wondered that six miscellaneous applications had been moved against single writ.
The state counsel submitted that it was being assigned that no illegal step had been taken while establishing sub-jail. Justice Aurangzeb censured him that you have no grounds to contest.
The counsel sought adjournment to get the latest information regarding status of the petitioner.

ECP reserves verdict on plea against PTI's intra-party elections



Islamabad
The Islamabad High Court will resume hearing of the PTI founder and Shah Mahmood Qureshi's appeals against their convictions in the cipher case.
A division bench of Islamabad High Court, comprising Chief Justice Ameer Farooq and Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb, will conduct hearing of the case. Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) prosecutor retired Justice Hamid Shah will give arguments.
On the other hand, PTI founder's wife Bushra Bibi's appeal for her shifting from Bani Gala sub-jail to Adiala Jail will be also heard by court.
Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb will hear Bushra Bibi's petition. It may be recalled that court had dismissed Bushra Bibi's plea due to no-show of lawyers in court.

Security forces kill 11 terrorists in KP operations



Rawalpindi
Security forces have killed 11 terrorists in two operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the military's media wing said on Monday.
The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the operations were conducted on April 21-22 in Dera Ismail Khan and North Waziristan.
An intelligence-based operation was conducted in Dera Khan on reported presence of terrorists. During conduct of the operation, after an intense fire exchange, 10 terrorists were successfully neutralised.
In another encounter in North Waziristan, security forces effectively engaged the terrorists as a result of which one terrorist was killed.
These terrorists remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area against security forces as well as the innocent civilians. Arms and ammunition were also recovered from them, ISPR said.
Locals appreciated the operations by the security forces who remain determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country.

Pakistan, Iran sign agreements to take trade volume to \$10bn

The agreements include cooperation in security and judicial assistance in civil matters



Islamabad: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and President of Iran E.A. Raisi witness signing of MoU of cooperation in different fields between Iran and Pakistan on 22 April, 2024.

Islamabad
Pakistan and Iran have signed eight agreements and MoUs for cooperation in diverse fields and decided to take the trade volume to 10 billion dollars.
The agreements included cooperation in security, judicial assistance in civil matters and veterinary and animal health.
The two countries signed an MOU for establishment of a special economic zone whilst another was signed for film exchanges and cooperation between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and the Organization of Cinema and Audio Visual Affairs of Iran.

The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labour and Social Welfare of Iran as well as the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority and the National Standards Organization of Iran also signed MOUs.
An MOU was also signed on legal cooperation. The ceremony was witnessed by the Iranian president and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.
Meanwhile, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, holding a press conference with Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi, said both countries had long-standing mutual relations and the visit of

the Iranian president was an honour for Pakistan.
He said the relations between Iran and Pakistan were 76 years old and it was Iran which recognised Pakistan first.
He said, "We had an excellent discussion today. Both countries have good relations with each other due to common religion, civilisation, investment and security. Centuries-old relations must be used to promote mutual cooperation. We want the borders of Pakistan and Iran to become towers of prosperity. There is an opportunity for us to translate our relationship into growth and progress."

'Zardari has presidential immunity', NAB tells court in Thatta water supply case



Islamabad
The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) submitted a report to an accountability court on Monday informing it that President Asif Ali Zardari has presidential immunity under

Article 248 of the Constitution. The court was hearing the Thatta water supply reference.
President Zardari's counsel Arshad Tabriz informed the court that a plea regarding the immunity was filed earlier, and NAB was supposed to respond today.
The court adjourned the hearing on the case till May 21. During the last hearing, Zardari's counsel maintained that his client enjoyed presidential immunity, therefore, proceedings against him could not be carried out.
The court issued notice to NAB seeking its arguments on the matter and adjourned the hearing of the case till today.
The water supply reference pertains to the special initiative department allegedly illegally awarding the Thatta water supply scheme contract to a private contractor.

CM Maryam approves funds for uplift projects

Lahore
Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has approved funds for adding 630 more buses to the public transportation of urban areas.



A Cabinet Standing Committee of Finance and Development meeting was held under the chairmanship of the Punjab chief minister in which ministers and secretaries also participated.
The CM was briefed on various development projects. 150 motorbikes were approved for the lady police officers and funds for the upgradation of Government Pilot Boys High School, Wahdat Road were also approved.
The meeting also approved addition of 630 public buses in

the urban transportation system. The buses would be bought for Lahore, Rawalpindi, Multan, Faisalabad and Bahawalpur.
The meeting approved special allowances for the Anti-Terrorism Department under-officers and for the establishment of a Water and Sanitation Service Company in Sahiwal.
Funds were also approved for Syed Muhammad Hussain TB Hospital Samli as a general hospital.
The CM was briefed on the establishment of field hospitals at various places in Murree.

Finance minister confident of enjoying larger, longer IMF programme

Aurangzeb anticipates decrease in inflation to single digits by next year



Islamabad
Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb expressed confidence in securing a fresh and bigger IMF loan, and highlighted the positive shifts in macroeconomic factors, aiming to bolster the country's struggling economy.
In an interview with The National, published on Monday, the FM noted stabilization in the currency and anticipated a decrease in inflation to single digits by next year. The interview came following

discussions at the recent IMF and World Bank Spring Meetings in Washington.
Aurangzeb said, "We have entered as a country this year in a better shape, compared to where we were this time last year."
He said that macroeconomic indicators were moving in Pakistan's favour. "He also sounded optimistic that Pakistan's currency has finally stabilized and said rampant inflation is on track to drop to

single-digit levels by the end of next year," The National said.
"We have had very constructive discussions with the IMF managing director and the senior team. And given that we are successfully completing the programme, the fund has been very receptive in terms of agreeing to consider a larger, longer programme," he added.
Replying to the question regarding the possibility of a decline in remittances, the finance czar said.

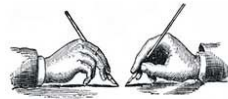
PSX sees record-breaking surge, soars above 71,000 points

Karachi
The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) continued a record-breaking spree on Monday as it crossed 71,000 points for the first time in history and surged close to the 72,000 mark.
The PSX benchmark KSE-100 Index surged by 1,33% or 940 points and hit an unprecedented all-time high of 71,850 points at 1:38 pm today.
As the trading day progressed, the index maintained its momentum, hovering around 71,772 points, marking an impressive intra-day gain of 1.22% or 862 points.
The increase in activity reflected investors' confidence in the domestic economy, particularly following the government's formal approach to the



International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a new loan programme.
Despite the relentless climb of the benchmark index since December 2023, stocks have managed to maintain an affordable stance.
Chief Operating Officer (CEO) of Topline Securities Muhammad Sohail emphasized the sustained positive sentiments pervading the local bourse.

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Restructuring Of PIACL

Two significant milestones were achieved in the restructuring of the Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited (PIACL) on 20th & 21st April, 2024 as the shareholders and creditors of PIACL approved the Scheme of Arrangement filed with the Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP). As a part of the privatisation

process, the Federal Cabinet approved legal segregation and restructuring of PIACL, following which a Scheme of Arrangement (SoA) was filed in SECP on 28th March, 2024. As a regulatory requirement by SECP to restructure the PIACL, the SoA was required to be approved by the shareholders and Creditors of the PIACL. The blueprint of the

restructuring was presented to the Shareholders of PIACL during the Extra Ordinary General Meeting held on 20th April 2024, which was overwhelmingly approved by the Shareholders with 99.97% votes casted in favour. Likewise, in the Creditor's meeting of PIACL creditors held on 21st April 2024, the restructuring plan and

SoA was endorsed by the Creditors. Thus satisfying two major requirements for processing of SoA by SECP. The restructuring will deliver a significantly debt-lite PIA, with better cash flows, focused on aviation and providing a foundation for future growth to potential investors, while ensuring value creation for Shareholders.

Unlock the doors of Laboratories, and Libraries and focus on students Skills in Sindh Province Schools



Mushtaq Ahmed Rahu.

Education serves as the cornerstone for societal progress, empowering individuals to explore, innovate, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. In the province of Sindh, Pakistan, where education has faced various challenges, a renewed focus on enhancing educational standards is imperative. Among the many avenues for improvement, unlocking the doors of libraries and science laboratories in schools holds immense potential to nurture skills and elevate educational standards across Sindh Province. Libraries and science laboratories are not merely physical spaces within educational institutions; they are gateways to knowledge and exploration. Libraries offer a vast array of resources, from books to digital materials, fostering a culture of reading, learning, and critical thinking among students. On the other hand, science laboratories provide hands-on experience, allowing students to apply theoretical concepts, conduct experiments, and develop practical skills essential for future endeavors in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Despite the significance of libraries and science laboratories, many public sector schools in Sindh Province face challenges in accessing and

utilizing these resources effectively. Limited funding, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of trained staff hinder the establishment and maintenance of well-equipped libraries and laboratories. Additionally, socio-economic disparities often result in unequal access to educational resources, further widening the education gap.

To uplift the education standards in Sindh Province schools, concerted efforts are needed to open the doors of libraries and unlock the locks of science laboratories. This entails both increasing access to these facilities and investing in their development and maintenance. Firstly, enhancing access involves ensuring that every school, regardless of its location or socio-economic status, has a functional library and science laboratory. This may require government initiatives to allocate resources specifically for the establishment and refurbishment of these facilities, as well as partnerships with non-governmental organizations and private sector entities to bridge existing gaps.

Secondly, investment in infrastructure and resources is crucial for equipping libraries and science laboratories with the updated necessary tools and materials. This includes providing a diverse collection of books, journals, and digital resources for libraries, as well as modern equipment and apparatus for science laboratories. Moreover, ongoing support for staff training and capacity building is essential to ensure that educators can effectively utilize these resources in their teaching practices.

By opening the doors of libraries and unlocking the locks of science laboratories, schools in

Sindh Province can create environments conducive to skill development and innovation. Libraries serve as hubs for information literacy, encouraging students to explore diverse topics and engage critically with knowledge. From improving reading comprehension to honing learning skills, regular access to libraries can have a transformative impact on students' academic abilities and intellectual curiosity.

Similarly, science laboratories provide opportunities for hands-on learning and experimentation, enabling students to apply theoretical knowledge in practical settings. Through conducting experiments, analyzing data, and problem-solving, students not only deepen their understanding of scientific concepts but also develop essential skills such as peer work, observation, teamwork, and critical thinking. Moreover, exposure to laboratory environments can inspire a passion for STEM disciplines and pave the way for future careers in science and technology.

So, the journey towards uplifting education standards in Sindh Province schools begins with unlocking the potential of libraries and science laboratories and focusing on students skills. By increasing access, investing in infrastructure and resources, highly trained staff in Practical work, and fostering a culture of exploration and innovation, schools can empower students with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in an ever-changing world. As we open the doors of libraries and unlock the locks of science laboratories, we unlock the doors to a brighter future for the youth of Sindh Province.

World English Language Day & Shakespeare



BY SALAUDDIN CHOUDHRY

For ages & eras, languages came about from peoples and places of sorts both independently and needs-based cross-fertilization of diverse and even disparate customs, traditions & values. These in turn found and advanced orally and in black & white by writers of various interests & backgrounds led gradually to language-dependent literature of different kinds & forms. Human civilization since time immemorial has been cognizant of and accordingly served time & efforts in developing the needed medium of communication which resulted in words & phrases founded on personal & sound-based signs used by animate objects in particular human beings culminating into a language of expression. Today, as languages throughout the world developed in shapes & formats, we see an unlimited world of languages alongside literatures enriched by their unabated & definitive inculcation through human cultural pursuits giving identity to each one of them, recognized and esteemed the world over. No wonder, in this respect, one sees with awe and values all languages & literatures in man's modern world. And, here, the United Nations fortunately ensures valued continuity & development of these modes of human expression as prevalent and as required to preserve and promote any of them from going extinct.

The English Language Day, founded by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2010, is traditionally observed to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization. The English Language Day was established to commemorate birth anniversary (23rd April, 1564) of the most famous and celebrated worldwide English playwright and poet, William Shakespeare, who died on the same date in 1616.

This Day aims to entertain and inform people and for increasing awareness and respect about the history, culture and achievements associated with each of the six working languages among the UN community. The day often features book-reading events, English quizzes, poetry and literature exchanges, and other activities that promote the English language.

William Shakespeare is considered by many to be the father

of modern English Literature. It is not just his popularity and influence on modern writers that allows for this title to be attributed to him but because of the massive contributions he made to the development of the English language.

Shakespeare's 154 sonnets are marked by recurring themes and variable beauty with the transcendent power of love and art. Today, over 400 years later, his plays are performed and read more often and in more nations than ever before.

The Tamil language of South Asia is recognized as the oldest language in the world and it is the oldest language of the Dravidian family. This language had a presence even around 5,000 years ago. According to a survey, 1863 newspapers are published in Tamil language every day.

Surprisingly, another very old Sanskrit-based language of South Asia that is Bengali spoken by the majority people of Pakistan (then Eastern Wing), received recognition from the UN in the context of a four-year-long movement since 1948 to achieve officialdom of the Bengali language. The 21st Feb (1952) declared by the world body as International Mother Language Day is a worldwide annual observance to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism.

The other old language that is English was founded in the year 450 when German tribes spoke a similar language. The language of that time is referred as Old English. Even native English speakers find it difficult to understand that, as it has a lot of differences to what we consider as the English Language. The current English language that we speak is referred as Modern English. It is originated in the year 1800. Modern English has more words, which was founded to name new technologies during the time of the industrial revolution.

A Germanic language that began to develop during the 5th and 6th centuries when Anglo-Saxons settled in Britain, early English is also influenced by French, Latin, and many other languages. These influences were so profound that modern English could be regarded as a Latinized, Frenchified dialect of Old German (an over-simplification, of course) to which it bears some resemblance. The Germanic roots of English are evident in the many words that are virtually the same in both modern tongues.

The Latin influence on English gave the developing language a richer vocabulary, and, since the monasteries were centers of literacy and learning, today the learned among us tend to use a lot of words with Latin roots, while the less educated speak "plain" (Anglo-Saxon derived) English. The sciences and fine arts employ a great deal of terminology that comes from the language of the Church, in which all learned discourse was conducted (both words come from Latin).

The French nobility brought with them many words to English language. French is widely regarded in English speaking countries as the language of

refinement and high culture. From fine cuisine to what's in vogue (both words French in origin), this strong French influence is evident today.

The closest major language to English is Dutch. With 23 million native speakers, and an additional 5 million who speak it as a second language, Dutch is the 3rd most-widely spoken Germanic language in the world after English and German.

When the British Empire spread English around the globe, its language had already taken its modern form, and dialects spoken in America, Canada, and Australia are all variants of "the king's English" comprehensible to all native Anglophones. Our modern language was born and raised in England. That's why it's called English.

While English is the most spoken language in the world, it is the native tongue for only one-quarter of those who speak it. Or, more impressively, for three-quarters of those who speak English, it is at least their second language if not a third or fourth.

The father of English Language & Literature is Geoffrey Chaucer, who was born in London sometime between 1340 and 1344. He was an English author, poet, philosopher, bureaucrat (courier), and a diplomat.

Of English language ownership, no one owns English; there is no single standard for it, though American and British English are the main dialects in the world today; they are both very influential in different spheres but the future of World English will be largely determined by people who speak it as a second language.

The English language is far from perfect. With so many words that mean the same thing, or phrases and sayings that make no literal sense. Weirdly, two people with English as a second language can communicate information easier and more accurately than two English people.

Billions of people study English around the world, making it the third most widespread native language, and many are enrolled in an English speaking course as an adult or from a young age. Though apparently difficult, it has been one of the most simple languages, especially in the Common-wealth countries.

Unlike other languages, English is somewhat easy to learn as it has no cases, no gender, no word agreement, and arguably has a simple grammar system. English speakers sometimes have difficulties when learning Portuguese because they are not used to words having genders.

English is easy because it's much easier to spell than most languages, and none of the grammatical rules only have exceptions. Thirdly, it only has easy sounds for foreigners to pronounce unlike difficult languages like Spanish, which has such strange tongue twisting sounds.

Unlike other languages, English has no cases, no gender, no word agreement, and arguably has a simple grammar system. English speakers sometimes have difficulties when learning Portuguese because they are not used to words having genders.



Islamabad: PM's coordinator on climate change & environmental coordination Romina Khurshid Alam holds meeting with Save the children to discuss children role in climate policy, at her office on 22 April 2024.



Largest Higher Education Delegation from the UK set to visit Pakistan



Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad:

The largest delegation of leading UK universities, education champions and experts led by the UK Government's International Education Champion, Sir Steve Smith, has embarked on a five-day visit to Pakistan starting from 22 April and ending on 26 April 2024. This significant visit aims to strengthen educational ties between the two nations and explore opportunities for long-term, collaborative partnerships that go beyond student recruitment. This visit builds upon the UK's commitment to international collaboration in higher education. The delegation co-organised by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, the British High Commission, British Council in Pakistan, the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) and the Department for Education (DfE), comprises of senior

representatives from the UK government, British Council and from sixteen leaders of UK higher education providers and sector organisations who look forward to deepening, expanding and setting up new links with their Pakistan counterparts. The delegation will focus on developing areas like Transnational Education (TNE), joint research initiatives, and faculty development programmes. This visit prioritizes establishing mutually beneficial partnerships between UK and Pakistani universities. Sir Steve Smith, the UK Government's International Education Champion said, "Building on the positive momentum of our work in Pakistan, I'm thrilled to lead this delegation. Pakistan's dynamic higher education sector boasts impressive growth, and we see immense potential for collaboration. We are committed to fostering partnerships that create a lasting impact through knowledge exchange and

joint initiatives." Jane Marriott, the British High Commissioner to Pakistan said: "The UK and Pakistan share a long history of educational exchange, and this visit signifies our unwavering commitment to strengthening these ties further. By working together, our universities can address global challenges, cultivate future-ready graduates, and contribute to the continued growth of Pakistan's higher education sector." The delegation will engage with a wide range of stakeholders throughout the visit, including: Representatives from leading Pakistani universities across the country. Senior officials from the Federal Government and Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan. Education sector leaders and experts. The visit aligns with the objectives of the Pakistan UK Education Gateway, a flagship programme launched in 2018. Funded jointly by the Government of Pakistan and the British Council, the Gateway facilitates collaboration across various areas, including those highlighted during the visit. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman HEC said, "The landscape of higher education has transformed in Pakistan over last two decades based on the reforms implemented by HEC through unparalleled support of the Government of Pakistan. While our universities are increasingly mapped on top universities of the world, research citation in top journals is rapidly improving and work on innovation and commercialization of research have demonstrated considerable improvement, a lot more is needed to improve students' experiences and outcomes in terms of employability and international compatibility.

Ali Nasir Rizvi assumes charge as IG Islamabad

Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE:

DIG Operations Lahore Ali Nasir Rizvi finally assumes the office of Inspector General (IG) Islamabad. Upon taking charge, the newly posted IG Islamabad, Rizvi, arrived at the police headquarters, where he received a warm welcome from the police. Before officially assuming his duties, IG Islamabad paid homage to the Martyrs Memorial. Ali Nasir Rizvi reiterated his commitment to combating criminal elements in Islamabad as his primary responsibility. It's worth noting that the notification for Rizvi as Inspector General (IG) Islamabad was issued on March 30. Meanswhile, Faisal Kamran was posted as DIG Operations Lahore. Following Ali Nasir Rizvi's departure, Faisal Kamran assumes the position of DIG Operations Lahore. Kamran, who began his career as an ASP in



2009, served in various capacities, including ASP in Gulbahar and University Tower, as well as SP in Peshawar. Throughout his 15-year career, Muhammad Faisal held position in the Prime Minister house. He served as SP Security, Mobiles, and Anti-Riot Force in Lahore. He also served as SSP Rawalpindi and DPO Sialkot and Sargodha. He was posted as an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) four times during his tenure.

Lack of routine patrolling; Criminals are active within the limits of PS Satellite Town Sargodha

Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha:

There has been an increase in street crime in the Police Station Satellite Town Sargodha for the past few weeks. Among them, incidents of snatching motorcycles at gunpoint, theft of mobiles and valuables have become common. According to details, non-filing of FIRs for minor incidents encourages criminals. Various people in Bashir Colony, Navab Colony, General Bus Stand, Aziz Park, etc. while talking to Daily Soon Times said that the police patrol has been stopped for some time now. The police warns blocks



Chongi Number 9 and take bribe. While the robbers who commit crimes inside the colonies escape through the back roads.

New JSMU campus welcomes 260 Students in Medical Technology; Introduces Neo-natal Care



Soon Times Correspondent Karachi:

Jinnah Sindh Medical University's (JSMU) third Campus in Landhi is now fully operational, welcoming 260 students of the BS Medical Technology Programme across 11 specialized disciplines in an Orientation Ceremony. At the Ceremony held in Campus 3, the Vice Chancellor Professor Anjad Siraj

Memon S.I., highlighted the importance of this expansion and said, "We pledge to provide an educational experience that equips our students with the necessary skills." The Institute of Medical Technology-JSMU has also introduced neo-natal and intensive care technology disciplines in its BSMT programme. The Director of IMT, Dr Muhammad Imran Khan, emphasized the importance of specialized care for infants and stressed

that the neo-natal programme plays a critical role in saving lives, enhancing healthcare quality and supporting families. In addition to the academic facilities, JSMU Campus 3 provides a dedicated Preventive Cardiology Facility to the public in collaboration with the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) and JSMU alumni notable among whom are the senior cardiologist in the US Dr Javed Suleman. Speaking to the large number of parents attending the event, Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Saadia Akram emphasized that through this collaboration, students have a unique opportunity to contribute to the healthcare landscape not only in Landhi but also beyond. The Orientation Ceremony was attended by Director QEC Dr Abdul Wahid Usmani, Director HR Dr. Rahat Naz, Director Administration Sohbat Zaman and others. For more information,



Karachi: The new Chairman of EOBHI, Flight Lt. (Rtd) Khaqan Murtaza is honoring the retired employees of the institution's General Administration Department, Head Office, Karachi, Murad Hasi, Mub Khan, Shaked Ali Khan, Telephone Operator and Muhammad Amin, Executive Officer by presenting appreciation shield and bouquet to the retired employees on the occasion of the farewell function held. Hamid Ali Khan Director GAD and Harris Bin Masood Deputy Director General IT Department and other officers and staff were also present on this occasion.

ANF recovered 252 kg of drugs & arrested 8 suspects in 7 operations

Soon Times Correspondent Rawalpindi:

ANF's operations against drug trafficking are continuing. ANF recovered 252 kg of drugs in 7 operations and arrested 8 suspects. The ANF recovered 470 narcotic pills from a parcel destined for the UK at a courier office in Rawalpindi. 78 kg of opium and 73.2 kg of hashish were recovered from the accused with the help of the Motorway Police in Pindi Bhattian. ANF recovered 56.4 kg hashish and 15.6 kg opium from two suspects on Ring Road Peshawar. 1.2 kg of opium and 10.8 kg of hashish were recovered from a woman near Sangiam Toll Plaza Islamabad. 7.2 kg hashish was recovered from 3 suspects on JIP Road Islamabad. ANF recovered 3.6 kg hashish, 1.2 kg opium and 1.4 kg heroin from the accused near Kala Shah Kaku Motorway Toll Plaza Lahore. 4.8 kg hashish was recovered from the parcel sent to Islamabad at the courier office on Ring Road Peshawar. According to the spokesperson of ANF, investigations have been started by registering cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act against all the arrested accused.



Drone cameras banned in Karachi for seven days under Section 144

Soon Times Correspondent Karachi:

The city administration in Karachi has banned the flying of all kinds of camera drones in the city under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) for at least seven days as part of security measures ahead of the visit of an Iranian delegation led by President Ebrahim Raisi.



The ban has been imposed at the request of the police and will remain in effect till April 28, as per an official statement. Commissioner Karachi Division, Syed

Karachi division to "avoid inconvenience to the general public" as foreign dignitaries, including the Iranian president, are visiting Pakistan. The Foreign Office said that the Iranian president would undertake an official visit to Pakistan from April 22 (Monday) to April 24 (Wednesday). "The Iranian president will be accompanied by his spouse and a high-level delegation comprising the foreign minister and other members of the cabinet.



Islamabad: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Iranian President H.E. Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi in a delegation level talks between Iran and Pakistan on 22 April, 2024.

Farooq Sattar's victory challenged in election tribunal

Soon Times Correspondent KARACHI:

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Aftab Jahangir has challenged the victory of MQM's Dr Farooq Sattar in NA-244. The Election Tribunal has issued notices to the returning officer, Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and Dr Farooq Sattar for May 7. The applicant sought annulment of MQM leader Farooq Sattar's victory, arguing the applicant was successful in Form 45 and later on the results were tempered, declaring the MQM leader as successful in Form-47.





Pro-China party wins Maldives election in landslide, media say



MALE
Maldives voters handed President Mohamed Muizzu's party a landslide win at parliamentary elections, media said on Monday, an outcome set to shift the Indian Ocean archipelago closer to China and away from traditional partner India.

Muizzu's People's National Congress (PNC) won 65 of the 93 seats up for grabs on Sunday, preliminary results from the Maldives Elections Commission and media projections show.

The main opposition Maldives Democratic Party (MDP) dwindled to just 12 seats from 65 earlier. Both Beijing and New Delhi have wooed the Maldives as they vie for influence in the Indo-Pacific region. Elected last year, Muizzu has pledged to end the country's 'India First' policy, straining ties with New Delhi. His government has asked dozens of Indian military personnel to leave the Maldives, a move critics say could hasten its shift towards China.

Muizzu's post as president is not affected by Sunday's vote, in which 368 candidates contested for five-year terms.



Top US officials Blinken, Austin to visit India for Indo-Pacific talks

Tel Aviv/Moscow
The Israeli military said Monday the head of Israel's intelligence corps has resigned over the failures surrounding Hamas' unprecedented October 7 attack, which broke through Israel's vaunted defences.

This comes as the United States appears close to sanctioning an Israeli military unit over alleged human rights violations in the West Bank.

The head of Israeli military intelligence, Major General Aharon Haliva, has resigned and will leave once a successor is appointed, the military said in a statement on Monday. Haliva is the first senior officer to step down over Hamas' attack on October 7.

Israeli leaders on Sunday harshly criticised an expected decision by the US to impose sanctions on a unit of ultra-Orthodox soldiers in the Israeli military.

Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Monday that the support of the United States, Britain and France for Ukraine was stoking serious strategic risks that had raised the risk of a direct confrontation between the world's biggest nuclear powers.

Lacklustre Atletico fall 2-0 away to Alaves



VITORIA-GASTELIZ, Spain
Atletico Madrid suffered a 2-0 La Liga defeat away to Alaves on Sunday courtesy of a first-half goal from Carlos Benavidez and Luis Rioja's superb late effort as the visitors missed the chance to cement their advantage in fourth place.

"The second half was different, we were closer to equalising. Rioja then scored a great goal. We congratulate them and let's get back to work."

The hosts grabbed the lead in the 15th minute when captain Benavidez pounced on a loose ball on the edge of the box to curl a fine low shot past keeper Ian Ortak.

After Tuesday's (Champions League) blow, it's not easy to come out of it. Right away, their first chance was a goal. We couldn't have a first half where we could play the game we wanted," coach Simone told DAZN.

"The second half was different, we were closer to equalising. Rioja then scored a great goal. We congratulate them and let's get back to work."



Sharjah waives fines for traffic violations committed in unstable weather

Residents of the emirate had no choice but to wade through the murky water to safety.

WebDesk
Sharjah Police has announced that all fines for traffic violations committed by motorists during the recent heavy rains will be waived, Khaleej Times reported.

The United Arab Emirates witnessed its heaviest rainfall in 75 years last week, due to the extension of a 'low surface pressure' event and two waves of unstable weather.

Many motorists across the Emirates faced vehicle damage after heavy rains, leading to water-logged roads and flooding.

These events have been followed by the issuance of free vehicle damage certificates by police for those affected by the unstable weather in Sharjah on Sunday.

Extreme weather conditions in the UAE have continued, forcing hundreds of residents to abandon their vehicles on the roadside while roads are submerged under the rising floodwaters.

Residents of the emirate had no choice but to wade through the murky water to safety.

They also faced the daunting challenge of repairing their vehicles after many cars were stuck in water, leading to technical issues, damages and lost car

parts.

Harald, Norway's oldest living monarch, was hospitalised in February for an infection while on holiday in Malaysia and later received a pacemaker to help compensate for a low heart rate.

Harald resumed his constitutional duties as head of state on Monday after almost two months of sick leave. He has ruled out abdication, however, insisting his oath as king is for life.

"The king will make adjustments to his programme in the future, out of consideration for his age. This will entail a permanent reduction in the number and scope of activities in which the king participates," the palace said in a statement.

Harald has not been seen in public since before leaving for his holiday in February. He returned home early last month aboard a medical evacuation flight. Crown Prince Haakon carried out his father's duties in the latter's absence.

OSLO
Norway's 87-year-old King Harald will

Rybakina beats Kostyuk to win Stuttgart Open

OSLO
Norway's 87-year-old King Harald will permanently scale back the number of official activities in which he takes part following his recent illness, the royal household said on Monday.

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Turkey's Erdogan in Iraq to push for reset of ties, cooperation against PKK



BAGHDAD
Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan began a rare visit to Iraq on Monday aiming to reset ties between the Middle East neighbours by inking a raft of deals covering security cooperation against Kurdish PKK militants, energy and trade.

His long-awaited visit is the first by

a Turkish leader since 2011 and follows years of rocky relations as Ankara ramped up cross-border operations against PKK militants based in mainly Kurdish, mountainous northern Iraq.

Iraq has said such operations violate its sovereignty and have killed civilians, but Turkey says it

must protect itself against the PKK, which it, the US and others have designated as a terrorist group.

Turkey plans a new swoop on the militants this spring and has sought Iraqi military cooperation in the form of a joint operations room, as well as recognition by Baghdad that the PKK poses a threat to Turkey.

Cooperation on big economic projects are also on the table. Iraq last year launched a \$17 billion Development Road project which seeks to turn the country into a transit hub, connecting Asia and Europe with a link between Iraq's Grand Faw Port in the oil-rich south and Turkey in the north.

Baghdad is also seeking a deal to secure a larger share of water from the Tigris.

New Brexit border checks could stifle fine food imports from EU, warn sellers

LONDON
Panzer's delicatessen in north west London has lost 37 suppliers from the European Union since Britain left the bloc's single market in 2021, and owner David Joseph fears more will quit after the UK introduces new border checks this month.

Britain voted to leave the EU in 2016 but, such was the scale of the task to untangle supply chains and erect customs borders, that it is only this year setting new rules.

EU exporters of chilled and frozen meat, fish, cheese, dairy products and some cut flowers have had to present health certificates, signed off by a vet or plant inspector, since Jan 31 - a demand that smaller British retailers and wholesalers say can delay the arrival of goods by weeks.

They are now warning that the start of physical checks, along with higher charges, from April 30 will restrict the variety and freshness of fine artisan foods such as charcuterie, cheese, pasta and olive oil and that prices will rise.

"We find small independent producers making



fabulous things that you wouldn't necessarily see outside their region and we're bringing them into London but it's getting harder, because some of them don't want to do the paperwork," said Patricia Michelson, owner of retailer and wholesaler La Fromagerie.

The new hurdles risk unravelling Britain's diversity of food and drink, said John Farrand, managing director of the Guild of Fine Food, which represents 12,000 independent food businesses.

Russia-Ukraine war: What difference will US aid package make?

KYIV/NEAR KUPIANSK, Ukraine

For the exhausted Ukrainian artillery gunners holding off Russian forces near the eastern town of Kupiansk, the US aid package expected to finally pass this week is a lifeline and, potentially, a gamechanger, although that could take some time.

"If they'd passed it (earlier), it would have changed the situation dramatically," said one soldier, call sign "Sailor", who said a shortage of shells had reduced their covering fire for infantrymen, costing lives and territory.

After six months of congressional wrangling, the \$61 billion aid package is now expected to be approved this week by the US Senate and signed by President Joe Biden.

IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT

KIRANA DIVISION LJC, SARGODHA
NEAR COMMISSIONER OFFICE SARGODHA
CONTACT 048-9230399

INVITATION FOR BIDS

- Date: 28.04.2024
- Sealed Tenders are invited under PPPA Rules 2014 on the basis of MRF Estimate invited from the approved contractors of Irrigation Department who have got their names entered/underwritten in the appropriate category for the financial year 2023-24.
 - The contractor/firms who desired to obtain blank tender forms shall have to furnish original documents to the Executive Engineer, Kirana Division LJC Sargodha regarding entitlement / renewal of their names with Irrigation Department, original G.I for payment of professional fee, estimation / renewal fee, renewal of license constituted by the Executive Engineer, Kirana Division LJC Sargodha will only issue the tenders after verification of all documents of interested contractors / firms.
 - The blank tender form bidding documents can be purchased immediately from the date of publication of this invitation to 06.05.2024 during office hours from the office of the Executive Engineer, Kirana Division LJC Sargodha on payment of non-refundable tender fee mentioned against each work as pricing charges. The tender form shall be sold on the date of receipt of tenders. Further the tenders will be sold only to the proprietors of the firms or their authorized agents. No firm shall be allowed to receive / purchase tender forms in the name of any other firms.
 - Earliest money @ 3% of the estimated amount in shape of bank guarantee in favour of the Executive Engineer, Kirana Division LJC Sargodha from any scheduled bank must be accompanied with the tenders, failing which tender will not be entertained.
 - The tenders will be received by the tender opening committee on 07.05.2024 up to 11:00 AM and opened on the same date at 11:30 AM in the office of the undersigned.
 - The tender must be delivered in person or by the authorized agents of intending bidders to the tender opening committee in sealed envelopes. No tender shall be accepted which are received by post or through other means.
 - In pursuance of the Government of the Punjab F.O. No.RO(Techn) F.OI-2023/1007 dated 24/01/2026 and No.RO(Techn) F.OI-2023/1007 dated 06/04/2026 if the total tender amount is less than the approved estimate (DNIT) amount the lowest bidder will have to deposit an additional performance security from the scheduled bank from 5% to quoted below rates from the technical sanctioned amount within 15 days of issuance of notice letter of award/acceptance of tender rate or within expiry period of bid whichever is earlier.
 - The Irrigation Department will not be responsible for any cost or losses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.
 - All the detail can be seen in the office of the undersigned during working days and all rights are reserved.
 - The potential bidders can lodge their complaint regarding transparency and fairness of all bidding process on the toll free help line 0800-13535, by email pmu@pplp@gho.com or by direct application to PMU/Irrigation Secretariat, Old Anwarul Labor.
 - In case of any dispute between the contractors and the department, decision of the Executive Engineer Kirana Division LJC Sargodha will be final and binding on all parties. The successful contractor will be bound to complete the whole work according to entire satisfaction of the department after issuance of acceptance letter by this office.

IPL-3448

Executive Engineer
Kirana Division LJC Sargodha