



Daily SOON TIMES

Chief Editor
Shah Muhammad Awan

Monday
May 13, 2024
Page: 4 Rs: 20
Vol: 4 Issue: 135
Sargodha
www.soontimes.pk

ABC Certified

Simultaneously Publishing from Islamabad, Sargodha & Karachi

+92 321 888 1135

Privatisation key for achieving economic stability, says Fin Min Aurangzeb

Finance czar reassures of facilitation, doubles down on government's stance on tax collection

Soon Times Correspondent
Islamabad

As Pakistan gears up for its upcoming bailout talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb Sunday underscored the significance of privatisation terming it as necessary to achieve economic stability. "You have to move towards privatisation if you want economic stability in the country," Aurangzeb said while speaking at the Pre-Budget Conference 2024-25 in Lahore. His remarks come as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led government has made a push for privatisation of several state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in a bid to address the burden on the exchequer and tackle the prevailing financial crunch driven by various dire economic circumstances. Stressing that the private sector has been brought on board with the government, the



finance czar underscored improved economic indicators including the reduced current account deficit (CAD) of less than \$1 billion and a decrease in inflation coupled with "all-time high" stock exchange levels. Revealing that around \$8 to 10 trillion cash is currently in circulation in Pakistan, the finance minister underscored the need to work on issues pertaining to tax and gross domestic product (GDP) and called on businessmen to come into the tax net by themselves if they haven't done so already. Reassuring that the government will provide all kinds of facilities, the minister reiterated that the authorities will not back down from their stance on the issue of broadening of tax net. "People think that if they come in the tax net, they will be harassed for no reason [however, that's not the case as] we will provide facilities, negotiate but will not go back from the track," he said.

It's a welcoming Sign CM Maryam inspired by KP projects: Barrister Saif

Soon Times Correspondent
PESHAWAR

Dr. Saif mentioned the introduction of ambulance services for pregnant women project, which he asserted was inspired by a successful project operational in KP for several years. The project, seamlessly integrated with the Rescue 1122 service, has exhibited commendable outcomes by swiftly transporting expectant mothers to hospitals equipped with delivery kits upon a single call.



Punjab to start solar tube-well project for farmers



Soon Times Correspondent
LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz announced plans to start a solar tube-well project for farmers in the province. In a meeting with the Provincial Minister for Irrigation Kazim Pizzada, they discussed the affairs of the Irrigation Department, focusing on ensuring timely water supply to farmers. Progress was reviewed on updating the irrigation system and strengthening waterways

Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori says 'Road to Makkah' project will be successful



Soon Times Correspondent
KARACHI

Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori emphasized the success of the 'Road to Makkah' project during his address at a ceremony in Karachi. He highlighted the government's efforts to ensure affordable access to Hajj, underscoring the significant focus on Hajj training and the implementation of special arrangements for a seamless experience this year. Governor Tessori also lauded the development of a dedicated Hajj app to streamline all matters related to the pilgrimage. Expressing gratitude, he thanked Chaudhry Salik, the secretary, and warmly welcomed a delegation from Saudi Arabia at Karachi Airport.

AJK situation expected to settle down soon: PM

Shehbaz urges all parties to adopt peaceful course of action to resolve issues

Soon Times Correspondent
Islamabad

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed deep concern over the ongoing situation in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), urging all parties to adopt a peaceful course of action to resolve the demands. A day earlier, clashes broke out between protesters and law enforcement personnel during a protest against the increase in electricity tariffs in Mirpur. A sub-inspector was martyred and 16 police officials including a station house officer (SHO) were injured. The prime minister emphasized that while debate, discussion, and peaceful protests were beautes of democracy, there was no tolerance for taking the law into one's own hands and damaging government properties. "Unfortunately in situations of chaos and dissent, there are always some, who rush in to score political points," he wrote on his X timeline.



He also spoke to the Prime Minister of AJK and directed all PML-N office bearers in the region to engage with the leaders of the action committee to find a peaceful resolution. "Despite the efforts of defectors, the matter is expected to be settled soon," he said. Meanwhile, President Asif Ali Zardari has also taken notice of the situation in AJK and summoned the leadership and parliamentary party of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Azad Kashmir in Islamabad. Earlier in the day, the central leadership of the Azad Kashmir

Joint Awami Action Committee (AAC) dissociated from violent incidents between protesters and police in AJK. Members of the committee reiterated their commitment to conducting a peaceful movement and declared that any propaganda against the state of Pakistan on social media is 'utterly unacceptable'. "The insidious Indian media is fabricating baseless allegations to conceal the atrocities in Occupied Kashmir, which are devoid of any connection with reality" the committee stated. Last week, several of the AAC members were arrested by police in Muzaffarabad and Mirpur divisions. The committee announced a shutter-down and wheel-jam strike on Friday and Saturday. The AAC also announced that police blocked the arteries leading to Muzaffarabad and resorted to baton charge and teargas shelling to disperse the protesters on Saturday.

Bakers in Punjab agree to sell 'roti' for Rs15



Soon Times Correspondent
LAHORE

The bakers association has agreed to sell roti (bread) for Rs15. The association assured Food Minister Bilal Yasin to cut the rate of roti during a meeting with him. Association President Atfah Gul recorded a video message in the presence of the minister agreeing to sell roti at Rs15 apiece. He said the government agreed to reduce the rate of flour. The association was standing shoulder to shoulder with the government to avert inflation, he added. Food Minister Bilal said that the price of flour has been significantly reduced to give relief to the people. The government aimed at providing quality and low cost bread to the masses, he continued. He boasted Rs1,200 reduction in the price of flour was the steepest fall in the rates of the commodity in the history of the country.

AJK govt calls in Rangers as protests, demonstrations enter 3rd day

ACC leadership distances itself from incidents. PM Haq says they reached an agreement.



Soon Times Correspondent
Islamabad

The Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), on the call of Awami Action Committee (AAC), has called in the Rangers as the protests and demonstrations against high electricity bills and taxes entered the third day. The development comes after clashes between the police and protesters erupted in Mirpur during demonstrations that killed a policeman and injured

over 70. Meanwhile, the central leadership of the AAC has distanced itself from the violent incidents that occurred during the protests. One of the AAC members, Sajid Jagwal, said their movement is peaceful. He said that they have been sitting for two days and no incident has happened. Another member, Tauseef Mansoor, said that the committee has nothing to do with the two to three incidents that have

happened during the protests. Anjumam Tajran President Sahabzada Waqas said that the protest was not against the state or any institution. "This is our issue and this country is ours. We are neither against the army nor against Pakistan or any other institution," said the president. Yasir Hussain Naqvi, another member of the AAC, said that they are not persuasive of destruction as these are their properties. "These institutions are ours and police is ours," he added.

SOON TIMES
Daily
SOON TIMES
ISLAMABAD - SARGODHA - KARACHI
JOIN US!
As a CORRESPONDENT
CONTACT US
0321-888-1135
www.SoonTimes.pk

Alvi comes down hard on coalition governing country based on Form 47

Soon Times Correspondent
LAHORE

Former president Dr Arif Alvi came down hard on the government formed after the February 8 general elections, stating that if this coalition governing the country based on Form 47 continued, the situation would deteriorate further. Speaking at a press conference alongside fellow PTI leaders, Alvi observed that the current parliament had a weak mandate since it had been formed based on Form-47. Alvi deplored that the founder and leaders of the PTI were still in jail despite having won a heavy mandate. The former president said that he met with the founder of the PTI on last Thursday and found him in



good health and good spirits. Alvi opined that dialogue was the only solution to all national issues. He said that he had always played a mediatory role and would continue to strive for dialogue. He said that he had always defended the country's military and would continue to do so. Alvi said that Pakistan needed investment at the moment and the recent visit of the delegation of Saudi businessmen would prove beneficial for the country.

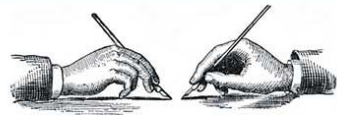
Abdul Qayyum demands resignation of AJK PM as AAC protest enters third day

Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD

Former minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi demanded the resignation from AJK Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar Haq over the deteriorating law and order situation. Addressing a press conference on Sunday, the former prime minister said that these are the effects of regime change operation executed in AJK a year ago. "The incumbent AJK prime minister is a puppet. The killing of a police inspector during the protest demonstrations must be probed thoroughly," Niazi said. The clashes erupted across the valley on Saturday as enraged protesters opened fire and pelted stones at law enforcers, killing a



policeman and wounding 28 others. The former prime minister said that his government used to give relief to the masses but the incumbent failed to do so. A protest movement was launched around nine months ago against inflation but the government didn't provide any relief, he added. "This government was installed in a hurry by forming a forward bloc and therefore it failed miserably. The situation demands fresh elections as early as possible," he said. Earlier, the Rangers were deployed on Kohala road to control the situation as the protest of Awami Action Committee against inflation entered in third day.



International Mother's Day

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has said that the love and affection of a mother is beyond any specific day or occasion. In his message on International Mother's Day, he said that the relationship between a mother and child is the most sacred and precious one, which cannot be replaced by any other

relationship. Interior Minister said that the word "mother" is the most beautiful and sweetest word, which encompasses true emotions like love, sincerity, and compassion. Headed that the comfort and peace found in a mother's lap is unparalleled and cannot be found even on the most luxurious beds in the

world. Mohsin Naqvi credited his mother's prayers for his success and said that he feels the absence of his late mother at every step in his life. He stated that her beautiful memories and blessings are always with him. Interior Minister paid tribute to all mothers, saying that their greatness cannot be matched. He also saluted the

mothers of martyrs who have laid their lives for the country. He prayed that may Allah keep all mothers safe and sound. In his message, Interior Minister said that he extends heartiest greetings to all mothers on this special day, which is celebrated to express love and gratitude for them.

Pakistan has long way to establish stable political system



Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer

Pakistan is facing many problems of rising inflation, food shortages, the threat of sovereign debt, and escalating violence, its political system entered 2023 with high stakes among the political elite, causing government paralysis and confidence. The democratic institutions are drastically going to be declined. Harsh politics are not new in a polarized Pakistan, but their combination with economic, humanitarian and security crises have made the country's current problems all the more pressing. The challenges facing this populous, strategically located and nuclear-armed Islamic nation are also spilling over into Pakistan's relations with countries and neighbors in the region.

On 25 July 2018, parliamentary elections took place, which were won by Imran Khan and his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Party (PTI, Pakistan Movement for Justice). Even though significant restrictions were imposed during the election campaigning, the elections can be described as democratic, leading to the second peaceful change of government in succession. The new government had promised a number of socio-economic reforms and efforts against corruption. Therefore its record has been mixed, and its fiscal space is limited. The socio-economic situation remained difficult.

The latest round of political turmoil began in April 2022 with the overthrow of Imran Khan's government in a parliamentary vote of no confidence that exposed the collapse of the ruling military-civilian condominium and the clever dealings of the various 12 political parties. But rather than leave Khan alone, he has joined a spirited

populist campaign that now looks likely to see him returned to office in the next national election. The current political deadlock is particularly over setting the date for those elections, constitutionally mandated for October 12, 2023.

Building on the momentum of his move, Imran Khan and his Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters are trying to hold early elections, while a coalition led by the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) party arrives as late as possible. To stay in power, the government relied on its patronage networks and resorted to politicizing key state institutions such as the judiciary, the accountability office, and the country's electoral commission. In mobilizing his supporters, Khan used inflammatory rhetoric and maneuvered politically in ways that many believe exceeded the limits of democratic competition. Pakistan's powerful military, temporarily on the sidelines but mindful of its institutional interests, arbitrates the bitter rivalry.

Pakistan's internal security is threatened by terrorism, extremism and separatist movements. The security situation in the Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, in the former tribal areas and in the Province of Balochistan is constantly tense. Even though the security situation in significant parts of the country has improved, the government has so far not been able to enforce its monopoly on force throughout the country. Since the Taliban took power in Afghanistan, terrorism has begun to increase again, especially in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Many international actors are also closely following the political developments in Pakistan. Many countries are concerned about the ability of a troubled and politically paralyzed Pakistan to deal with the growing challenge of militant extremism. Although Khan has toned down some of his anti-American rhetoric, he continues to refer to the current government as "imported" and his often sympathetic views of the Pakistani and Afghan Taliban have worried American and European

powers. Many Gulf States, which for years have relied on Pakistan's military to provide security for the government and value Islamabad's regional diplomatic role, need the security of a politically predictable and stable Pakistan. The same is true of the international financial community which, along with the Saudis, Chinese and others, has invested heavily in Pakistan.

The year 2023 probably has many open questions. Among them, can Pakistan's warm political system succeed in curbing election violence? Will the army keep its promise not to interfere in the electoral process? Could the resounding triumph of Khan's conspiratorial populism reshape politics in a way that sets Pakistan on a more authoritarian path? How could a collapsing economy affect the political process, possibly postponing elections? The minor question is that Pakistan has a long way to go to establish a stable and functional political system, let alone build a democratic political culture.

Now all eyes are on how military-civilian relations that are being shaped up under Asim Munir. Under Bajwa, the military consolidated its control over all sorts of behind-the-scenes politics. Bajwa presided over a close "same page" relationship with Khan. When this conflict occurred, the Muslim League (N) was eager to replace Khan as an ally of the military and head of the civilian government. Bajwa resigned saying that the army would never be involved in political affairs. Very few people in Pakistan believe him. With politics dominating the agenda this year and elections approaching, army chief Asim Munir has a chance to show the country whether he will follow in his predecessor's footsteps or chart a new course for Pakistan's civil-military relations. The political parties must also agree that in future the opposition parties will fulfill their duties but will not attempt to overthrow any existing government before the end of their term. All political parties must also express their commitment to maintain continuity in the economic policies of each government.

Urgent Appeal to President of Pakistan for Peoples Bus Service Expansion: Enhancing Connectivity and Mobility in Shaheed Benazirabad District



Mashtaque Ahmed Rahu.

But all sought to survive or prosper. Putin has proven to be sophisticated, so he must understand what he says and likely depends on the world not taking his claims seriously.

world not taking his claims seriously.

Elsewhere, while expressing his willingness to negotiate, Putin mentioned that the United States was harming itself by using the dollar to force foreign powers to align with its worldview. He then made disconcerting comments, stating that China's economy dwarfs that of the United States and that its economic future is

bright. It's as if the reality of China has been overlooked in the two years since Ukraine was attacked. He said this in the context of claiming that a new economic order is emerging and that for that to happen, China must lead it. It's interesting that Putin's deeply analytical remarks, even if some parts are debatable, concluded with obviously erroneous claims, likely due to fatigue. Another point that caught my attention was his comments about Russian intercontinental hypersonic missiles. The speed and maneuverability of hypersonics make defending against an attack very difficult. The United States has not yet deployed a hypersonic missile and there is no evidence that it is developing an intercontinental version. If Russian intercontinental hypersonic missile is as capable as Putin suggested, then that may have been the most significant aspect of his statement. The remainder

of Putin's comments comprised complaints about NATO and the United States and his insistence that the uprising in Kyiv in 2014 was the real start of the war. He did not explain how Russia could have ignored such a significant threat for so long. As the president of a modern nation-state, Putin is obligated to elucidate his policies to his people and seek to influence foreign governments and public opinions. The objective is not solely truthfulness, but rather persuasiveness, strategically applying pressure on other governments. It can be observed that Russia has embraced modernity, adeptly balancing the presentation of truth and myths, even allowing Carlson some opportunities for refutation. Putin perceived him as a friendly yet unpredictable figure, leading to a cautious approach with limited engagement.

Mother

Rameen Mohammad Shahid

Mother is irreplaceable and the greatest of God's creations. Mother's love, mother's compassion, mother's allure, mother's watching, mother's prayer and mother's motherhood are all on one side and the world is on the other side. A mother's love is pure, selfless and unselfish. There is no single day for a mother, every day is a mother's day. Just as the children are important to the mother every moment, so the mother is also the most important. God has given three levels to mother. Allah has also compared the example of

His love to the love of a mother. Mother is a blessing given by God which is given only once. No matter how grateful you are for this blessing, it is less. It is unparalleled that God has placed heaven under the feet of Mother. Holy Prophet (PBUH) said: I wish I was praying Isha and my mother would give me a voice, O Muhammad (PBUH). Then I would leave the prayer and answer her. You should appreciate your mother in life and not after death. Bo Ali Sina says: I saw the highest example of love in my life when apples

were four and we were five. Then my mother said I don't like apples. So, don't celebrate International Mothers' Day to the extent of social media but adopt it all in real life as well. Because just as a mother's prayer reaches the skies, so does a mother's sigh shakes the skies. Learn to respect your mothers. My prayer is that may Allah Almighty grant me and all mothers a long life with health and wellness. May He make all children, especially me, obedient and serving children of my parents. (Amen)

Palestinian Leader Urges Muslim Unity Against Israeli Aggression



Khan Sheikh Tamimi emphasized the need for Muslim unity against Israeli aggression, stating that Palestine is the land of the Prophets of Islam and its protection is a collective responsibility of the Islamic nation. He condemned the destruction caused by the alliance of Israel, Britain, and India and urged the rulers of Muslim countries to take a stand against these powers. Other leaders at the conference echoed Sheikh Tamimi's sentiments, calling for the protection of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the liberation of Palestine. They criticized the inaction of Muslim rulers and the failure of the United Nations to implement resolutions in favor of Palestine. The conference concluded with a call to action, urging Muslims to unite and demonstrate their strength in support of the Palestinian cause. The leaders emphasized that the scholars and religious parties have an crucial role to play in keeping the issue of Palestine alive and advocating for the rights of the Palestinian people.

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD: Sheikh Memon Asad Tamimi, Imam of Al-Aqsa Mosque and Member of Palestinian Parliament, addressed an All-Parties Conference on Palestine Organized by Jamiat Ahle

Hadith Pakistan at the National Press Club Islamabad. The conference was attended by prominent leaders, including Allama Hisham Elahi Zaheer, Chairman Allama Tariq Mehmood Yazdani, and Khushnood Ali

Siddiqui appointed MQM-P chairman as major changes made in organisational structure

Soon Times Correspondent KARACHI:

Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui has been elected as the chairman of Muttahida Quami Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) as major changes were made in the party's organisational structure, according to a statement issued by a party's spokesperson on Sunday. The MQM-P has abolished the post of convener and revived structure consisting of chairman, vice chairman and secretary general positions. In a statement, the spokesperson said the central committee appointed Siddiqui as the



chairman of the MQM-P. The development during a central committee meeting chaired by Siddiqui held at Pakistan House in Karachi. The meeting was attended by top party leaders including Mustafa Kamal, Farooq Sattar, Nasreen Jalil, Anis Qaimkhani, Faisal

Sabzwari, Aminul Haque, Rizwan Babar and others, the spokesperson added. The huddle also decided to form a high-level central council to deal with organisational and political issues. The party spokesperson said the names of the members of the central council will be announced soon. Earlier in March this year, the MQM-P dissolved its Rabita Committee — the party's top decision-making body — after two audio leaks surfaced of the body's meetings.



Unilateral decisions of Govt are not acceptable: Tarar

Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: Unilateral decisions of the government are not acceptable in any case. Import of material for shopping bags should be banned. President of Sargodha Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sajid Hussain Tarar expressed these views while addressing the meeting of the Assistant Director Environment Sargodha Ali Raza and members of the Chamber. He said,

the government plans to crack down on shopping bags and factories associated with them across the province, including Sargodha, from June 5. The government has announced the closure of the shopping bag industry but has not given any alternative solution. By closing the industry, lakhs of people will become jobless. We will not allow the environment to be cracked down under any circumstances. An alternative policy

should be made first and any action should be taken after consultation with the traders. Former Vice President Muhammad Hasan Yousof said, We will not let the businessmen be unemployed. Assistant Director Ali Raza said that I will convey your suggestions to the higher authorities. Policy makers will be brought soon to Sargodha chamber in this regard so that they can be aware of your problems.

Violence on media representatives will not be tolerated: Ziaur Rehman

Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: The murderous attack and violence on Member Press Club, senior journalist Shafique Khan and his son is an attack on the entire journalist community. These views were expressed by Chief Editor Daily Soon Times Shah Muhammad Awan and member of Sargodha Press Club Rana Ziaur Rehman Nasir in their condemnation statement. They said, attacks, violence and vandalism on media offices and media representatives will not be tolerated under any circumstances. The



higher authorities should take notice of this serious situation and arrest the accused by taking immediate action. Punish them severely otherwise there will be massive protests from Sargodha to Lahore and from Lahore to Islamabad. They said that the leadership of Sargodha Press Club has effectively retaliated against the abuse of journalists. We hope it will deal with this issue in a comprehensive way. They have demanded from the concerned institutions that the abuse of Shafique Khan should be remedied.

Darul Uloom Muhammadiyah Ghausia holds annual convocation ceremony



Soon Times Correspondent Bhera: The annual convocation ceremony of Darul Uloom Muhammadiyah Ghausia Bhera was held at Al Farid Auditorium Bhera. The ceremony was presided over by Sajada Nashin Darbar Amir-ul-Salkeen, former Minister of State, Pir

Muhammad Amin Al-Hasanat Shah. The welcome speech was delivered by Crown Prince Sahibzada Muhammad Naemuddin Shah, Minister of Religious Affairs of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Pir Adnan Qadri, Vice Chancellor of Al-Karam International Institute Muhammad Aslam Kamboh, Dr. Imtiaz Munj and Professor

Saeed Ahmed Saeedi of Punjab University spoke at the event. In the ceremony, 382 scholars who graduated from Darul Uloom Muhammadiyah Ghausia were given Dastar-e-fazilat. While 408 female students who completed the degree of Shahadat Al-Alamya from Ghausia Girls College were given Rida-e-fazilat.



Protest rally held against Sweden & Israel

Soon Times Correspondent Nowshera Soon Sakseer: A peaceful protest rally was held in Nowshera Soon Valley against the recent incident of desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden and Israel's oppression of innocent Muslims in Palestine. The rally was led by PP-81 Crane Party Tehsil Nowshera's Ameer Muhammad Saleem Sarif, District Naib Nazim Hafiz Niaz Ahmed and Candidate from Constituency PP-

81 Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Awan. The rally started from Milad Chowk, passed through Main Bazaar and ended at Takbir Chowk. Participants held placards with slogan against Sweden and Israel. Allama Faheem Sikandar, Qari Mushtaq, Allama Sadiq, Ricksaw Union and a large number of people participated in the rally. The speakers demanded the government to end diplomatic relations with Sweden and declare jihad against Israel.

Tahafuze Azzaa-Daari Council holds meeting regarding administrative affairs

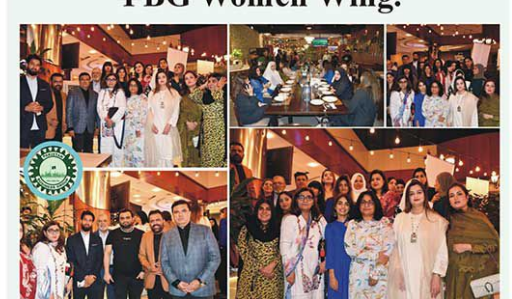


Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: A meeting of officials of Tahafuze Azzaa-Daari Council was held at Imambarah Qasr Al-Qaim in connection with the administrative affairs of Muharram. In the meeting, a plan of action was prepared regarding administrative matters in the programs

of all the processions and assemblies during the days of Muharram. Various committees were formed to meet the administration regarding Muharram in Sargodha. Syed Sajad Haider Shirazi, Syed Ahsan Raza Bukhari, Syed Afzal Shirazi, Syed Mohsin Raza Bukhari, Ali Raza Bajwa and others attended the meeting along with license holders of

Sargodha Majalis and Processions. At the end of the meeting, prayers were made for the security of Pakistan and the Palestinian Muslims. Addressing the meeting, District General Secretary Iqbal Haider Shirazi said that every member of the Tahafuze Azzaa-Daari Council is engaged in promoting the atmosphere of mutual love among Muslims in all sects.

Pakistan Business Group UAE Chapter organized a monthly fellowship dinner in honor of PBG Women Wing.



Soon Times Correspondent Karachi: Pakistan Business Group UAE Chapter organized a monthly fellowship dinner in honor of PBG Women Wing. The event, hosted by Iqbal Adwani, introduced the concept of the Sharik Tank, aimed at assisting businesswomen in exploring opportunities, and highlighted Chairman PBG Faraz Rahman's commitment to investment under the vision of business and entrepreneurship. Emerson unveiled plans for the upcoming Europe Trip 2024 in July, aiming to showcase Pakistani products in Europe. Yousof Vaisraiy presented the concept of a collaborative

group together, emphasizing the promotion of active social media presence. PBG is also launching a podcast for businesswomen and investors under the Sharik Tank program. Chairperson of PBG Women Wing, Rizwana Shahid, urged women to play their role in promoting Made in Pakistan products. Secretary PBG Women Wing, Maruk Alahi Bukk, briefed on efforts to unite and organize businesswomen under the PBG banner. Coordinator Nadia Sadiq utilized social media platforms to organize media coverage and increase event reach. Meanwhile, Sultan Mahmood encouraged partners to strive for excellence.

Awareness seminar for "Autism & Speech Disorder" in DHDC Hall

Soon Times Correspondent Mianwali: An awareness seminar/training session for "Autism & Speech Disorder" is being organized in DHDC Hall Mianwali. Autism is a neurological and developmental disorder that affects how Children interact with others, communicate, learn and behave. Although autism can be diagnosed at any age, it is described as a "Developmental Disorder" because symptoms generally appear in the first 2 years of life. The Master Trainers have elaborated different aspects of

concerned disease including introduction, Signs & Symptoms as well prevention and clinical phase as this is being reported in entire Punjab but

appeared as a neglected disorder among public. They include Dr. Faisal Hayat Khan, Pediatrician at DHQ Hospital, Mianwali, Muhammad Mushtaq Alvi Principal Special Education Institution Mianwali, Muhammad Hafeez Focal Person Special Education Institution Mianwali, Resource Persons including Seema Zahid, Sadia Ambreen, Azra Haleem and others. Doctors, Nurses and Paramedical staff of different health facilities have joined this session as participants.

CM Maryam Nawaz says mothers are like cool shade and epitome of love

Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has shared her special message on Mother's Day, stating mothers are the cool shade, epitome of love and kindness. She paid tribute to the mothers of Gaza and Palestine on this Mother's Day for their resilience and courage in the face of tyranny. Maryam Nawaz said mothers are like comfort and peace in the harsh and bitter realities of the world. She stated Allah Almighty has elevated the status of mothers by associating His love with a mother's love. She asserted mothers are the building stone and key pillar of home and society. Punjab CM emphasized Mother's Day is a day to acknowledge and honor the mothers for their selfless love and sacrifices.



She also said she missed her great mother every day and she is thankful to her mother, Kulsom Nawaz, for her love and kindness. Punjab CM attributed her achievements to her, stating, 'I am here in this office of the first chief minister of any province due to my mother's prayers.' She highlighted that those who serve and honor their mothers are successful in this world and the hereafter.



Multan: Chairman Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani in a meeting with the delegations of Multan Hightcourt Bar Association and District Bar Association here at Circuit House today.



Indonesia school bus crash kills 11, dozens



BANDUNG
At least eleven people were killed and dozens more were injured when a bus carrying high school students on a graduation trip crashed on Indonesia's biggest island, police said on Sunday. The bus was carrying more than 60 students and teachers from the Java island town of Depok to Lembang, a popular tourist spot, when it crashed at 6:48 pm (11:48 GMT) on Saturday. The students had just celebrated their graduation and were on a school trip when the bus suddenly lost control and tilted to the left, crashing into a car and three motorbikes, West Java province police spokesman Jules Abraham Abast told AFP Sunday. "Out of the passengers who died, nine of them were students, and one of them was a teacher," Abast said.

Ukrainian shelling kills 7 in Russian apartment block collapse, Russia



MOSCOW
At least seven people were killed and 15 injured when a whole section of a multi-storey apartment block collapsed after a Ukrainian missile strike in the Russian city of Belgorod near the border with Ukraine, Russian officials said. Footage from the scene posted by Vyacheslav Gladkov, governor of the region, showed at least 10 stories of the building collapsing. The city of Belgorod and the Belgorod region were subjected to massive shelling by the armed forces of Ukraine, Gladkov said. "As the result of a direct hit by a shell into an apartment building, the entire entrance from the tenth to the first floor collapsed," Gladkov said. Russia's Mash Telegram news channel said that at least seven people were killed and 15 injured.



Israel pushes back into northern Gaza, ups military pressure on Rafah

Bombardment from the air and ground hasn't stopped since yesterday," a resident of Jabalia said

CAIRO
Web Desk
Israel sent tanks into eastern Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip early on Sunday, after a night of heavy aerial and ground bombardments, killing 19 people and wounding dozens of others, health officials said. Jabalia is the biggest of Gaza's eight historic refugee camps and is home to more than 100,000 people, most of whom were descendants of Palestinians who were driven from towns and villages in what is now Israel during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war that led to the creation of the state of Israel. Late on Saturday, the Israeli military said forces operating in Jabalia are preventing Hamas, which controls Gaza, from re-establishing its military capabilities there. "We identified in the past weeks attempts by Hamas to rehabilitate its military capabilities in Jabalia. We are operating there to eliminate those attempts," said Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari, Israel's military spokesman, during a briefing to reporters. Hagari also said that Israeli forces operating in Gaza City's Zeitoun district killed about 30 Palestinian militants. "Bombardment from the air and ground hasn't stopped since yesterday."

Lithuanians vote in a presidential election as anxieties rise over Russia and the war in Ukraine

VILNIUS, Lithuania
Lithuanians are casting votes in a presidential election on Sunday at a time when Russian gains on the battlefield in Ukraine are fueling greater fears about Moscow's intentions, particularly in the strategically important Baltic region. The popular incumbent, Gitanas Nausėda, is favored to win another five-year term in office. But eight candidates are running in all, making it difficult for him or any other candidate to muster the 50% of the votes needed to win outright on Sunday. In that case, a runoff will be held on May 26. Polls opened at 7 a.m. and closed at 8 p.m. (17:00 GMT). Results are expected late Sunday night. The president's main tasks in Lithuania's political system are overseeing foreign and security policy, and acting as the supreme

commander of the armed forces. That adds importance to the position in the relatively small nation given that it is located strategically on NATO's eastern flank as tensions rise between Russia and the West over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine. The Russian exclave of Kaliningrad on the Baltic Sea is sandwiched between Lithuania to the north and east, and Poland to the south. There is great concern in Lithuania, and in neighboring Latvia and Estonia, about Russian troops' latest gains in northeastern Ukraine. All three Baltic states declared independence after the collapse of the Soviet Union and took a determined westward course.



Ex-bike champ Rossi relishes 'honour' of taking on Le Mans on four wheels



Web Desk
Spa-Francorchamps (Belgium) (AFP) - MotoGP may have seen the back of Valentino Rossi but the seven-time world champion is still hard at work on the track, albeit in cars. Since quitting two wheels at the end of the 2021 season, the 45-year-old has turned his attention to four wheels and is currently involved in the World Endurance Championship with the BMW of GT3 team WRT, a road which inevitably leads to next month's Le Mans 24 hour race. "When I started motorsport, taking part in the Le Mans 24 Hours was my first objective because it's the most prestigious race in the world," Rossi told AFP on the sidelines of the 6 Hours of Spa-Francorchamps, the third leg in the WEC programme. "Last year I was able to discover the circuit and I enjoyed it. It's an honour to be able to compete at Le Mans. "To win at Le Mans, everything would have to go perfectly." "Another 10 years?" Long car races are a far cry from the flat-out bike sprints of his past but the Italian sees some similarities and appears to be settling into the world of endurance. Despite failing to finish in Spa, he is currently equal to 10th in the GT3 world championship standings. "I like 24-hour races and I've already done three of them." "There are a lot of superb cars, some very good drivers, and a superb atmosphere. You have to work hard and push yourself to the limit because the level is very high, but I'm very happy." "The big difference is the format because in MotoGP the race lasted 45 minutes, here it's several hours." "So there's a lot of strategy and you have to share the car, which I like." There are also similarities, such as braking, finding the right line, hitting the gas at the right moment... It's very different and similar at the same time." Rossi, however, is unlikely to win Le Mans overall, certainly not this year when he is competing in the GT3 category.

Sports & Showbiz News



City eye fourth successive title after rout of Fulham, Burnley relegated



LONDON
Manchester City took another decisive step toward an unprecedented fourth successive Premier League title with a 4-0 demolition of Fulham on Saturday that lifted them two points clear of Arsenal on top of the table with one week remaining. Burnley were relegated after a 2-1 defeat at Tottenham Hotspur, while Luton Town are on the brink of going down after a 3-1 defeat at West Ham United. Resurgent Chelsea boosted their European hopes with a 3-2 victory

at Nottingham Forest to move level with a sixth-placed Newcastle United who drew 1-1 with Brighton and Albion. Defeat for Forest meant they could still mathematically finish below Luton although they head to the final day three points better off and with a big goal difference advantage. Josko Gvardiol scored twice with Phil Foden and Julian Alvarez also on target as City won a seventh successive league game to hit the top of the table with two games left to play.

Nadal unclear on French Open participation after Rome exit



ROME
Rafa Nadal said he was still in two minds about whether he will play in the French Open starting this month after he was eliminated from the Italian Open in straight sets by seventh seed Hubert Hurkacz. Poland's Hurkacz beat Nadal 6-1 6-3 in the second round to end the Spaniard's run at the tournament he has won a record 10 times, his last title coming in 2021. Nadal had come through a three-set win over Zizou Bergs on Thursday but was broken four times by Hurkacz before he bowed out in 93 minutes. The 37-year-old Spaniard, who has said he expects to retire after this season, spent most of last year nursing a hip issue that required surgery, before a muscle tear in Brisbane stalled his comeback in January. Nadal has won the French Open a record 14 times but competing at

his favourite Grand Slam is still not certain for the 22-times Grand Slam winner. "You can see today on the court how difficult it is," Nadal told reporters. "Probably one is to say, 'Okay, I'm not ready, I'm not playing well'. Then it's the moment to take a decision in terms of not playing Roland Garros. Another is accept how I am today and work the proper way to try to be in a different way in two weeks." "The decision, as you can imagine, is not clear in my mind today. But if I have to say what's my feeling and if my mind is closer one way or the other way, I'm going to say 'Be in Roland Garros and try my best'." "Physically, I have some issues, but not probably yet enough to say not playing in the most important event of my tennis career."

Haris Rauf to be my choice for role of hero, says Natasha



(Web Desk)
Renowned actor Natasha Ali, who recently appeared as a contestant on "Tamasha 2", shared her ideal cast for a film during a talk show alongside veteran actor Babar Azam. When questioned about her dream cast from Pakistan's national cricket team, Ali humorously suggested Haris Rauf for the hero role and Babar Azam as the brother character, eliciting laughter from the audience. She further proposed Muhammad Rizwan as the villain, noting his facial expressions, while acknowledging that villains can come in various appearances. For the father's role, Ali mentioned Ihtikar Ahmed, and for a comedic character, she suggested Shaheen Afridi.

Ranveer dispels divorce rumours with Deepika



(Web Desk)
The speculation about the marital life of Bollywood's ideal couple, Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone, among their fans was put to rest when Ranveer Singh appeared at a private event wearing his wedding ring. Fans and the media immediately recognised Ranveer's wedding ring, which seemed to dispel the growing rumours about Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh's relationship. Interestingly, at the event, Ranveer made several attempts to draw the media and public's attention to his ring. He was seen touching it, running his hand over his face multiple times, and even kept the hand with the ring visible while posing for the media. Dressed in high heels, a double-layered necklace, and a beautiful white satin suit, the actor seemed to be quashing the rumours for which he himself was partly responsible. Recently, a viral news story claimed that actor Ranveer Singh had deleted all his wedding photos with Deepika from his Instagram account, raising concerns that the couple might be separating.