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CM Maryam approves Google certification for 0.3m students

CM Maryam Nawaz presided over a special session on school education reforms.



Soon Times Correspondent
LAHORE
Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has sought the monthly schedule of a five-year plan for education reforms.
CM Maryam Nawaz presided over a special session on school education reforms.
Senator Pervez Rashid, provincial minister Mariyoun Aurangzeb, Rana Sikandar Hayat, MPA Sania Ashiq, the chief secretary, secretary of education, and others attended the session.
During the meeting, a detailed review was undertaken about public schools reorganisation. The school education secretary briefed the Punjab CM on developments on the school nutrition project.
CM Maryam Nawaz has called for a monthly schedule of a five-year plan of education reforms.

During the session, the CM approved the provision of 32,298 computer tablets to primary school heads. It has also been decided to establish IT and science labs in 1,000 elementary schools.
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will grant \$100 million for financial assistance for the development of labs.
The project for Google certification for 300,000 students of government schools has also been formally approved. Students will get the opportunity of Google certification under the digital journey for the Tech Vayu project.
Suggestions about the formation of Punjab education curriculum and training were also reviewed in the session. It has been announced that more than 92 per cent of free books have been delivered to schools.

Gohar blames Bilawal Bhutto for using indecent language in NA



Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD
PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan blamed Bilawal Bhutto for using indecent language during his address in the Parliament.
Speaking to the media outside the Parliament along with Amir Dogar, the PTI chairman expressed dissatisfaction with Bilawal's conduct, particularly his derogatory remarks towards opposition members.

CM Gandapur 'expels' Governor Kundi from Islamabad's KP House annexe



Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD
In a fresh development in the ongoing verbal duel between the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chief minister and governor, the latter has been barred from entering the KP House in Islamabad.
According to sources, CM Ali Amin Gandapur has ordered the evacuation of the KP House annexe by Governor Kundi.
The CM has been residing in the KP House for the past three days, managing all provincial

£190m reference: IHC approves Imran Khan's bail plea

- IHC CJ-led bench announces reserved verdict on bail plea
- NAB had filed £190 million NCA reference in Dec last year.

Soon Times Correspondent
Islamabad
The Islamabad High Court on Wednesday approved Pakistani Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's bail petition in the £190 million National Crime Agency (NCA) settlement reference.
A two-member bench, comprising IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, had reserved the verdict on the bail petition a day earlier after the National Accountability Director (NAB) prosecutor Amjad Parvez concluded his arguments.
In December last year, the NAB had filed a £190 million NCA reference against Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi and others.
The other accused named in the reference are Farhat Shehzad (Farah Gogi), Mirza Shehzad Akbar, Zulfi Bokhari and others.
In the reference, the NAB Rawalpindi said that each person in connivance with accused



other have committed the offence of corruption and corrupt practices as defined and punishable under the National Accountability Ordinance (NAO) 1999.
The IHC, its short order today, ordered the authorities to release the PTI founder against the surety bond of Rs1 million.
The court announced the short

Pakistan conducts training launch of Fatah-II Guided Rocket System



Soon Times Correspondent
RAWALPINDI
Pakistan Army on Wednesday conducted successful training launch of Fatah-II Guided Rocket System having a range of 400 kilometers.
According to ISPR, the launch was aimed at perfecting the drills and procedures.
Equipped with the state-of-the-art navigation system, unique trajectory and manoeuvrable features, Fatah-II is capable of engaging targets with high precision and defeating any missile defence system.
Fatah-II is being inducted in Pakistan's Artillery Divisions for stand-off and precision engagement of deep targets. The rocket system will significantly upgrade the reach and lethality of Pakistan Army's conventional arsenal. The flight test was witnessed by Chief of the General Staff, senior officers from the three services.

Fawad Chaudhry calls for investigation into Dubai Unlocked revelations



Soon Times Correspondent
MULTAN
Former information minister Fawad Chaudhry on Wednesday called for an investigation into the Dubai Property Leaks.
According to the leaks, approximately 17,000

Pakistanis collectively possess around 23,000 properties in Dubai, with an estimated value of \$11 billion.
Interacting with a group of reporters following his appearance before a court, Fawad remarked that the Supreme Court should take notice of the leaks, Dubai Unlocked, as a substantial amount of \$11 billion was lying abroad.
The leaks uncovered that several influential Pakistanis own properties in Dubai, including PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Only those having an agenda against proposed Punjab defamation law: Azma Bokhari



Soon Times Correspondent
LAHORE
Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari on Wednesday said leveling baseless accusations and promoting fake news won't be possible after the introduction of a defamation law in the province, as she defended the proposed move and rejected the arguments presented by the critics.
Criticise the draft law only after reading the document, said Bokhari who responded

to different arguments presented against the move.
Addressing a press conference, the minister said some people were labelling the document tabled in Punjab Assembly as a "black law" without any reason.
Arguing her case, she said similar laws had been in place around the globe and were tough in their nature and added that anyone having objection on any of the sections should submit the same in a written form by Sunday.
She said the proposed law would also be applicable to social media which was being used to insult and defame the people by levelling unfounded allegations. "No one is afraid of social media," she said, but added that there were reservations over the unending series of baseless accusations and insults. "No one can have freedom of expression nor will be there any."
Replying to various questions, Bokhari said no professional journalist could have any problem with the law.

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Bring evidence to support accusation or stop maligning state institutions: Vawda

Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD
Weighing in with a blistering critique on the pressing matter of alleged interference by intelligence agencies in judicial affairs, Senator Faisal Vawda, in a veiled reference to judges of the high courts, stated that they must either provide evidence to support their accusations or refrain from maligning state institutions.
During a press conference at the National Press Club on Wednesday, the senator assured that he would stand by the judges if evidence is presented, underlining the importance of exposing those meddling in judicial matters.
But Vawda reiterated that evidence must be provided.
The senator mentioned that he penned a letter seeking details 15 days ago [about the matter], but no response had yet been



received.
Vawda, while addressing Justice Babar Sattar, wondered why the judge chose to speak after a year. "If there is any paperwork, it should be brought forward. Bring evidence of interference, we stand with you," the senator said, voicing concern over the increasing doubts among the public.
He also cited Article 2 of the

constitution, adding that it stipulates that there should be no greed.
During his media talk, Vawda took the time to applaud Justice Athar Minallah, saying history will remember him, but not those judges holding dual citizenship. He opined that dual nationality holders must not be holding any positions in state institutions and government departments.
Vawda highlighted the sacrifices made by soldiers and policemen alike, questioning if the constitution mandates laying down of lives by them [police and military] alone. He deplored that the way intelligence agencies were so repeatedly mentioned it seemed that a state institution was being mocked.
Vawda also berated politicians, suspecting their involvement. The senator called for an end to this maligning, emphasising the importance of halting Pakistan's economic decline.
Vawda said that anyone who poses a challenge to Pakistan will face repercussions. "Those who show respect will receive double in return, while those who act inappropriately will face double the consequences."
He advised against behind-the-curtains gossip, encouraging transparency and openness.

Pak-China FMs' Strategic Dialogue

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar will visit Beijing, China from May 13-16 where he will co-chair the fifth Pakistan-China Foreign Ministers' Strategic Dialogue with Chinese Foreign Minister and Director of the General Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Communist Party of China,

Wang Yi. The two sides will comprehensively review Pakistan-China bilateral relations including economic and trade cooperation; high-level exchanges and visits; up-gradation of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and future connectivity initiatives. The two leaders will also exchange views on the unfolding regional geopolitical landscape and

bilateral cooperation at the multilateral fora, a Foreign Office news release said. On the sidelines of the Strategic Dialogue, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister is expected to meet Chinese leaders, senior Ministers and leading corporate executives. Deputy Prime Minister's visit is part of regular high-level exchanges between Pakistan and China. It

reflects the importance attached by the two countries to further deepening the "All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership"; reaffirming mutual support on issues of core interest; enhancing economic and trade cooperation including China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC); and reinforcing joint commitment to regional peace and development.

Killing is genocide



Kazim Laghari

Despite killing ratio reaching 35000 and infrastructural damage is beyond to be measured the US national security adviser Jake Sullivan said that President Joe Biden's administration does not see the killings of Palestinians in Gaza by Israel as genocide. The collective and intended killing of Gazans does not come in the definition of genocide, then the word genocide might be removed from its origin language, or the security adviser and Biden's administration have removed the word genocide's core meaning and spirit. Whatever, the case is, it explicitly shows the intention and thinking of the USA's officials and drivers at its helm about the principles and respect for laws. This shows how their principles and respect for laws are variable. And They can change the meaning and can skew the laws for their allies anytime.

In the interest of the USA in the Middle East is clear that it does not want to leave its presence in the Middle East. Israel has been remained its strong and guaranteed ally for making its clout strong in the Middle East. For that, it even can go far ahead to support Israel and its unlawful actions and genocidal murders of Palestinians.

Campuses protests and denouncement from the human rights watches in the USA as well as in Europe have not forced the Biden administration to ask for a ceasefire in Israel's continued war on Gaza. Though it took a stern stance on Israel for Rafah's ground invasion due to strong condemnation across the globe, the Biden administration has made a change in its previous stern stance on Israel as it says that the USA cannot support Israel on its ground invasion of Rafah, where 1.3 million displaced Palestinians were living in makeshift tents before Israel's attacks and warning of evacuation, without Israel's plan of securing civilians of Rafah city. It points out that the USA is indicating Israel for legalizing cover of its Rafah's ground invasion by simply announcing a plan of securing civilians such as red herrings and then attack Rafah city with USA's support and kill innocents on the name of Hamas' fighters.

For maintaining political and strategic clout across the globe, particularly in Asia and Africa, the USA has been history of distorting the laws in its interest. Afghanistan, Palestine, Niger, and Mali are some apparent examples of the USA's interest-shifted policies.

Coming to Gaza, one report suggested that Gaza's rubble-strewn damage is greater than the Ukraine, Russia and Ukraine have been fighting since February 2022. The damage of the first four months

of Israel's continuing war on Gaza approximated at about \$18.5bn, a report by the World Bank and UN has found. The report further estimated that the damage was equal to 97 percent of the collective GDP of the occupied West Bank and Gaza in 2022.

Since Israel's continuing war on Gaza, the report only drew the first four months damage of Gaza. To date, nearly seven months have been passing the continuing war on the Gazans of Israel. Latter three months damage is still not included in the findings. Hunger, malnutrition, woods, and mental traumas have not been reported conclusively which are suffering by Palestinians on a daily basis particularly children and women who are highly vulnerable in such terrifying situations.

Considering such an appalling and terrifying situation in Gaza, one conscientious mind cannot hold its condemnation on the illogical and untrue statement of the USA's officials that killing is not genocide. For viewing killing as a genocide how much blood still needs to be flowed? How many innocent lives should be lost? The powerful drivers across the globe and their allies now should learn the lesson from history that power does not last forever, the repressed nations emerge with strong will and determination and they dethrone the powerful drivers from their helms. History is full of such lessons.

What is the Effect of Monsoon Season on Dates fruit?



Mushtaque Ahmed Rahu

Date palms grow in many tropical regions of the world and have been gaining popularity in recent years. Dates are generally oval or cylindrical in shape and come in a variety of colors, from bright red to amber to dark brown, depending on variety and ripeness. Dates are rich in sugar, especially glucose and fructose, which provide quick energy. They also contain fiber, especially insoluble fiber, which aids digestion and increases the feeling of fullness. Additionally, dates contain many vitamins and minerals such as potassium, magnesium, vitamin B6 and iron. The impact of the monsoon on the palm tree, especially in oil palm growing areas, will vary depending on many factors such as rainfall patterns, humidity, temperature and humidity, and the unique growth stage of the palm tree. Monsoon rains can provide much-needed water for oil palm trees, especially in arid and semi-arid regions where water is scarce. Adequate irrigation during monsoon is good for the growth and development of date palm fruits. The timing and intensity of monsoon rains affect the development date. Adequate rainfall during the flowering and fruiting period will encourage healthy fruit development and increase yield. However, excessive or untimely rainfall can affect the quality and quantity of the crop by causing problems such as fruit rot,

fungal diseases or poor pollination. Monsoon conditions are characterized by high humidity and humidity, which can create a favorable environment for date palm-related pests and diseases. Increased humidity can lead to fungal diseases such as fusarium wilt or the development of pests such as mites and aphids. Proper control of pests, including timely use, is important to protect fruit trees and increase fruit production during the summer months. Excessive humidity during monsoon affects the quality and shelf life of dates. Increased humidity can cause dates to absorb moisture from the air, causing them to soften, become slippery, or cause mold growth, especially if they are fresh or stored. Proper drying and storage techniques are essential to maintain the quality and extend the shelf life of dates during the monsoon season. While the rainy season in general can have a positive impact on planting date by providing water and promoting fruit growth, it also creates problems such as pest and disease risk and fruit damage. Good management practices and proper maintenance are required to reduce the adverse effects of monsoon days and ensure crop success. Pakistan experienced major floods in many regions in 2022 due to heavy rains during the monsoon season. Impact of flood on date crop in Pakistan, especially in date crop area. Crop damage floods can cause serious damage to fruit trees by toppling trees, washing away soil, and uprooting or damaging plants. Floods can carry debris, dirt and pollutants that can affect the health and growth of oil palm trees, causing crop failure and, in severe cases, crop failure. Heavy rains and floods can cause soil erosion,

affecting the stability of palm trees and their root systems. Erosion can also cause nutrient loss and soil degradation, affecting the long-term productivity of log orchards. Too much rain and flooding can saturate the soil and cause waterlogging, where too much water accumulates around the base of the palm tree. Waterlogged conditions can deprive roots of oxygen, causing root rot and other physical diseases that can weaken or kill the tree. Floods and prolonged high humidity create pressure for the emergence of fungal diseases in date palm groves. Diseases such as Fusarium wilt, Phytophthora palm, and various root rot diseases can grow in waterlogged soils and cause serious damage to palm trees. Delayed harvest and quality problems, floods can delay the harvest date because excessive moisture affects the ripeness and quality of the fruit. Flooding or high humidity lasting for days can lead to mold, rot and other problems after harvest, reducing market value and shelf life. Losses from flooding can have a significant financial impact on date palm growers, affecting their health and income. Losses from crop damage, recovery efforts and reduced profits could create financial problems for farmers and impact Pakistan's entire oil palm market. Measures to reduce the impact of climate change on crop production may include using drainage systems, using soil conservation measures, selecting solar varieties, and using insect control strategies and diseases to prevent or reduce crop yields. Additionally, government programs and efforts should help farmers and communities recover from the impact of flooding on planting day.

PTI's Shibli Faraz, Raja Basharat, Zartaj Gul secure bail in May 9 cases

Soon Times Correspondent RAWALPINDI An anti-terrorism court in Rawalpindi has approved the bail applications of PTI leaders Shibli Faraz, Raja Basharat, Zartaj Gul, Zain Qureshi and several others in cases related to the May 9 violent riots.



ATC judge Malik Ijaz Asif conducted Wednesday's proceedings wherein more than 500 individuals accused in the

May 9 cases appeared before the court. The court confirmed the bails of up to 25 accused, including

Shibli Faraz, Raja Basharat, Zartaj Gul and Zain Qureshi. It also accepted Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur's petition for exemption from attendance, directing him to appear on the next hearing which will take place at the Adiala Jail. Later, the court adjourned the hearing till May 29.



Health activists proposed 26% increase on tobacco products

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD. Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC), held a briefing session with journalists on Wednesday at local hotel in which it was shared that SPARC along with other organizations wrote a letter to Finance Ministry of Pakistan and demanded to increase taxation on cigarettes. It was proposed that tobacco taxation should be increased by at least 26% in upcoming federal budget. Pakistan faces a significant challenge with widespread tobacco consumption, with over 31.9 million adults aged 15 years and above identified

as current tobacco users, constituting nearly 19.7% of the adult population. Smoking-related illnesses claim over 160,000 lives annually, representing a substantial 1.6% of the nation's GDP each year. However, in the fiscal year 2022-23, cigarette taxes covered only 10% of these expenses, marking a decline from 19.5% in 2019. Dr. Khalil Ahmad, program manager SPARC stated that, the affordability of cigarettes and the devastating toll of smoking on public health are indeed pressing concerns that demand urgent action. When cigarettes are inexpensive, it can

encourage more people, especially the youth and those with limited financial means, to start smoking or to continue the habit despite the known health risks. The loss of innocent lives due to smoking-related illnesses is tragic and preventable. It underscores the importance of implementing effective tobacco control measures, including increased taxation on cigarettes, to make them less affordable and discourage consumption. Furthermore, comprehensive tobacco control strategies should encompass not only taxation but also measures such as public education campaigns, smoke-free

policies and support for smoking cessation programs. Malik Imran Ahmad, Country Head Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids (CTFK) said, that increasing tobacco taxes, as recommended by global health organizations like World Health Organization and the World Bank, can indeed be an effective measure to reduce consumption and generate revenue for healthcare. A 26.0% FED increase, as proposed for the fiscal year 2024-25, appears to be a significant step forward. Not only could it help recoup a substantial portion of healthcare costs, but it also has the potential.

Commissioner Sargodha for 100% target of cotton sowing in division



Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: Commissioner Sargodha Division Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti has stated that cotton is a crucial crop for Pakistan, which can contribute significantly to foreign exchange earnings. But due to unfavorable weather conditions this year, there have been delays in cotton sowing. Therefore, he urged the Deputy Commissioners to be proactive and ensure cotton cultivation according to the set targets within the prescribed timeframe. He was addressing the Divisional Cotton Management Committee meeting in his office yesterday. The Commissioner

mentioned that agricultural experts have set a target of cotton sowing in Sargodha Division by May 25th. All deputy commissioners, assistant commissioners and agriculture officers across the division should conduct awareness programs to reach out to every farmer. He stated that with the personal interest of the Chief Secretary Punjab, efforts have been made to revive this crop. He further added that farmers should not face any difficulty in accessing high-quality seeds, fertilizers and agricultural medicines at prescribed rates, along with ensuring sufficient water availability. During the meeting, Deputy Director Agriculture informed that this year, a target of cotton sowing had been set on an area of 1,97,500 acres in Sargodha

Division. Cotton will be cultivated on 7,710 acres in Sargodha, 2,890 acres in Khushab, 1,45,470 acres in Mianwali, and 41,430 acres in Bhakkar district. He said, "Thirty-four percent of the sowing target has been achieved so far in all districts. Cotton cultivation is being carried out in 215 villages across the division, with 18 teams of the Agriculture Department working to guide the farmers." In the meeting, Commissioner also demanded a meeting of FESCO officers regarding the issue of excess billing on agricultural tube wells highlighted by the participating farmers. Deputy Commissioners along with officers from relevant departments and cotton growers, also participated in the meeting.

Welfare work of special people is going on by Govt: Najma Al-Nisa

Soon Times Correspondent Nowshera Soon Sakas: Social Welfare Officer CD Tehsil Nowshera Madam Najma Al-Nisa has said that the welfare work of special people is going on by the Punjab government. In this, more than 30 numbers are being registered on a daily basis at the Help Desk with the support of the Punjab Government for the registration of special persons. Announcements have been made in all areas of Soon Valley so that more and more special persons can be registered and they can benefit from the facilities provided by the Punjab Government. In this regard, all the citizens of the community are requested to inform the people so that more and more people can register.



Padhrar Welfare Society has completed projects worth crores of rupees



Soon Times Correspondent Nowshera Soon Sakas: Col. Malik Muhammad Aslam Awan while talking to journalists said that the non-political, welfare organization Padhrar Welfare Society was started in 2019 by the youth of Padhrad in the form of a WhatsApp group. In the early days, the youth helped clean the graveyards themselves. After that,

others gradually joined. Now Padhrar Welfare Society has hundreds of members. The society got its rise when in 2023 I. Master Malik Muhammad Munir, Alhajr Malik Muhammad Yusuf and many other political and social figures joined the organization. Now the society under my patronage has completed projects worth crores of rupees for public welfare in a short

period of time. Among them, water supplies in different neighborhoods with solar system, street construction and repair, sewage system maintenance, garbage disposal, graveyard cleaning program, Zakat program and many other public welfare projects have been completed.

ANF recovered 384 kg of drugs & arrested 10 suspects

Soon Times Correspondent Rawalpindi: ANF's operations against drug trafficking are continuing. ANF recovered 384 kg of drugs during 10 operations and arrested 10 suspects. ANF recovered 280 grams of ice and 466 grams of hashish from two passengers bound for Doha and Bahrain in two separate operations at Karachi Airport. 2 suspects were arrested after recovering 280 kg of ice from a container in Karachi. 36 kg hashish was recovered from the accused near Sultanabad in Karachi. In two

different operations near M1 Islamabad, 37 kg hashish and 700 grams of ice were recovered from two suspects. 10.8 kg hashish was recovered from near RCD Road Hub. 9.6 kg hashish was recovered from the accused in Hanpur. ANF recovered 6 kg hashish from the accused in South Agriculture Center Punjab. 3.6 kg hashish was recovered from the accused near Kashmir Road Faisalabad. According to the spokesperson of ANF, investigations have been started by registering cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act against all the arrested accused.

Employees of Govt departments stage protest rally for their demands



Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: In Sargodha, the employees of all government departments completely locked their offices and took out a rally

for their demands. The rally was carried out from the CEO Education Office to the DC Office against reduction in levy encasement, amendments in pension rules and against privatization of institutions, in

favor of increase in salaries in proportion to inflation, 200% increase in house rent, medical and conveyance allowance. Hundreds of employees participating in the rally carried banners containing their demands and chanted slogans in favor of their demands. They shouted slogans against the government in the protest rally. In the rally, District Patron General Punjab SES Teachers Association and Punjab Teachers Union District Sargodha Dr. Muhammad Idrees Qadri, Rana Yaqub Iqbal District President Punjab SES Teachers Association District Sargodha, Rao Shaikat Nadeem Khan General Secretary Punjab Teachers Union District Sargodha, Malik Zahoor Ahmed President PTU District Sargodha, office bearers APCA and others participated. The rally concluded at the DC office in Sargodha.

Fazl reiterates demand for fresh elections

Soon Times Correspondent MULTAN: Jamiat Ulema-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazur Rehman demanded the resignation of the incumbent government and reiterated his call for fresh elections. He urged the establishment to shun its involvement in the polls. Talking about the rigging in the elections, he said the JUI-F has started its movement while adding other parties also wanted to join them. Read More: Fazl demands fresh elections to



ensure respect of people's mandate. Talking about farmers' protests, he said the JUI-F stood by the farmers of Punjab who had faced a great deal of ordeal while adding those were involved should be brought to book. He said he would only become the prime minister or president through the trust and vote of the masses.

Korea & UNHCR mark contribution of 1 million dollars to support refugees, local communities in Pakistan

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad: The Republic of Korea on Tuesday marked the contribution of one million dollars, aimed at bolstering UNHCR's response in supporting Afghan refugees and their host communities in Pakistan. This one-year project focuses on livelihoods assistance, prevention and response to gender-based violence, community-based protection and updating of critical identity documentation, benefiting more than 125,000 people across the country. The announcement was made at a ceremony held at the National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), Centre of Excellence in Islamabad, where the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Pakistan, His Excellency Mr. Park Ki Jun, and UNHCR Representative, Ms. Philippa Candler signed an agreement. The Chairperson of NAVTTTC, Ms. Gulmaira Bilal, was also present for the occasion. Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador Park said, "The refugee issue is not the sole concern of any one country, but a global agenda that the international community must work together in solidarity." UNHCR's



Representative welcomed Korea's generous assistance, underscoring that the funding is already transforming lives, with 1,000 Afghans and Pakistani students enrolled in the NAVTTTC training programmes this year. Ms. Gulmaira Bilal, the Chairperson of NAVTTTC, highlighted the importance of the Republic of Korea's contribution and partnership with UNHCR to continuing providing youth skills development training and enhance

their social and economic opportunities during the ceremony. In closing the ceremony, Mursal, an Afghan refugee who participated in a NAVTTTC training and is now a project coordinator, shared her views on the importance of empowering youth, including women. "When I first learned about this opportunity to participate in this programme, I saw it as a chance to accomplish my dreams," she said.

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT DR. FAISAL MASOOD TEACHING HOSPITAL, SARGODHA.

TENDER NOTICE

Dr. Faisal Masood Teaching Hospital, Sargodha invites sealed bids from registered firms having established credential, Technical, Financial and Managerial capabilities for the in following items for the Financial Year 2024-2025.

- Interested bidders may get bidding documents / information / terms & conditions from the Purchase Cell of Dr. Faisal Masood Teaching Hospital on following dates up to 02:00 p.m., after the submission of written application with copy of CNIC along with payment of non-refundable Rs. 2,000/- in the Account Branch of this Hospital.
- Big Security @ 2% of the estimated cost, in shape of C.D.R. should be attached with the financial bid in the name of the Medical Superintendent Dr. Faisal Masood Teaching Hospital Sargodha otherwise tender will be rejected.
- Single stage two envelope procedure shall be applied. The envelope shall be marked as "FINANCIAL PROPOSAL" and "TECHNICAL PROPOSAL" in bold and legible letters. Financial proposal of bids found technically non-responsive shall be returned unopened to the respective bidder.
- Procurement shall be governed by the Punjab Procurement Rules, 2014. (Amended up to date)
- Sealed bids are requested to be brought in person by the authorized representative of the interested bidders on following submission dates at 11:00 a.m. positively in the office of the undersigned. The bids received till the stipulated date & time shall be opened **on same day at 11:30 a.m.** in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
- The bidders are required to submit the company profile including Technical Engineering, Financial and managerial capabilities, regarding after sale service and past experience / performance along with their technical bids as per PPRA Rules 2014.
- The bidders are required to quote separate prices / rates for each Tender Sr. no. as per requirements detailed in the terms & conditions for complete systems.
- Bidding document shall be made available from the office of the undersigned immediately from the date of publishing & uploading of this tender.

NO	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST	LAST DATE FOR THE PURCHASE OF TENDER DOCUMENTS	DATE OF SUBMISSION & OPENING OF BID	BID SECURITY IN FORM OF CDR
	Life Saving Medical Gases				
	Liquid Medical Oxygen Gas	175 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost
	Life Saving Medical Gases				
	Compressed Medical Gas Oxygen Cylinder Size: All 16000 Liters & Carbon Dioxide Gas 25kg Cylinder	102 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost
1.	Life Saving Medical Gases				
	Compressed Medical Oxygen Gas Cylinder Size: 58 CF1	302 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost
	Life Saving Medical Gases				
	Compressed Medical Oxygen Gas Cylinder Size: 58 CF1 240FT	62 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost
2.	Refilling of LPG Cylinder Capacity: 45 KG	302 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost
3.	X-Ray Film & Chemicals	10 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost
	Lab Kits & Chemicals	50 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost
	Home Medicines	50 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost
	Dental Materials	55 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost
	General Store Items	55 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost
	Bedding & Clothing	55 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost
	Stationery	07 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost
	Printing	05 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost
	Repair & Maintenance of Lifts (2)	05 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost
	Repair & Maintenance of AC, Chiller and cabinet	30 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost
	Repair & Maintenance of Air Compressor	02 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost
	Repair of Eye Equipment	09 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost
	Repair of OT Table	02 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost
	Repair of ICU Portable X-Ray Machine Make: B&B, Model: MARX 650	12 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost
	Repair of Ventilator Part of Ministry	06 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost
	Purchase of Ophthalmoscope with Charger	15 M	31/05/2024	01/06/2024	2% of Estimated Cost

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT DR. FAISAL MASOOD TEACHING HOSPITAL, SARGODHA.

IPL-4365

One killed, 12 injured in Afghan air force helicopter crash



KABUL
A helicopter used by the Afghan air force crashed as it attempted an emergency landing in central Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing one person and injuring 12, the defence ministry said.
The Mi17 aircraft encountered "technical issues" as it attempted to recover the bodies of people who had fallen into a river in the central Ghor province, Afghanistan's Taliban-run Ministry of National Defence said in a statement.
The helicopter crashed as it attempted an emergency landing, the ministry added.

Turkey says it killed PKK members in northern Iraq strikes



ANKARA
Turkey hit northern Iraq with air strikes on Wednesday and claimed to have killed 12 members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) sheltering there.
The Turkish defence ministry said the PKK militants had been "neutralised" in the Gara and Fakurk regions of northern Iraq.
The ministry's use of the term "neutralised" commonly means killed. The PKK, which has been waging an insurgency against the Turkish state since 1984, is designated a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the United States and the European Union.



Palestinians across the Middle East mark their original 'catastrophe' with eyes on the war in Gaza

NATO allies condemned Russia's behavior and called on the country "to uphold its international obligations."

JERUSALEM
Web Desk
Palestinians across the Middle East on Wednesday are marking the anniversary of their mass expulsion from what is now Israel with protests and other events at a time of mounting concern over the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza. The Nakba, Arabic for "catastrophe," refers to the 700,000 Palestinians who fled or were driven out of what today is Israel before and during the war surrounding its creation in 1948.
More than twice that number have been displaced within Gaza since the start of the latest war, which was triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7 attack into Israel. U.N. agencies say 550,000 people, nearly a quarter of Gaza's 2.3 million people, have been newly displaced in just the last week, as Israeli forces have pushed into the southern city of Rafah, along the border with Egypt, and reinvaded parts of northern Gaza.
"We lived through the Nakba not just once, but several times," said Umm Shadi Sheikh Khalil, who was displaced from Gaza City and now lives in a tent in the central Gaza town of Deir-al-Balah.
The refugees and their descendants number some 6 million and live in built-up refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Israeli-occupied West Bank. In Gaza, they are the majority of the population, with most families having relocated from what is now central and southern Israel.

Fighting intensifies between Israel and Hamas in north and south Gaza

CAIRO
Gun battles between Israel and Hamas, Islamic Jihad and smaller Palestinian factions intensified overnight into some of the fiercest in months in both northern and southern Gaza, both sides said on Wednesday.
Israeli tanks reached densely populated neighborhoods and narrow alleyways of Jabalia in the northeast, facing fierce resistance. Residents said the army destroyed clusters of homes there in areas where they had not invaded before.
The armed wing of Hamas ally Islamic Jihad said its militants killed and wounded Israeli foot soldiers during fierce clashes in eastern Jabalia, the biggest of eight refugee camps built in Gaza after the 1948 Middle East Arab-Israeli war.
"The invaders are trying to destroy the camp. They are bombing houses on top of their inhabitants. We know of many families being trapped inside their homes," said Abu Jehad, a resident of the camp who gave a nickname, fearing reprisals.



UN launches probe into first international staff killed by unidentified strike in Rafah



NEW DELHI
The United Nations has launched an investigation into an unidentified strike on a UN car in Rafah on Monday that killed its first international staff in Gaza since Oct. 7, a spokesperson for the UN Secretary General said.
The staffer, a retired Indian Army officer named Mahesh Anil Kale, was working with the UN Department of Safety and Security and was on route to the European Hospital in Rafah along with a colleague, who was also injured in the attack.
On Wednesday, India's foreign ministry said its diplomatic missions were "in touch with relevant authorities" on the investigation, and helping to bring home the remains.
Israel has been moving deeper into Rafah in southern Gaza, where more than a million people had sought shelter, and its forces pounded the enclave's north on Tuesday in some of the fiercest attacks in months.
Israel's international allies and aid groups have repeatedly warned against a ground incursion into Rafah, where many Palestinians fled, and Israel says four Hamas battalions are holed up. Israel says it must root out the remaining fighters.
In a statement on Monday after Kale's death, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres reiterated an "urgent appeal for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and for the release of all hostages," saying the conflict in Gaza was continuing to take a heavy toll "not only on civilians, but also on humanitarian workers."
Palestinian health authorities say Israel's ground and air campaign in Gaza since Oct. 7 has killed more than 35,000 people and driven most of the enclave's 2.3 million people from their homes.

Sports & Showbiz

Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan shatter T20I records



Sports Desk
Pakistan skipper Babar Azam and wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan shattered records in the recently-concluded three-match T20I series against Ireland.
The Green Shirts clinched the series from Ireland by winning 2-1 at the Clontarf Cricket Club in Dublin as they warm up for the upcoming T20 World Cup in June.
After losing the first match by five wickets, the Babar Azam-led unit made an excellent comeback in the series as they won the remaining T20Is with dominant performances.
First Pakistani to score 25 runs in an over among many other records, Babar became the first Pakistani batter to score 25 runs in an over in the shortest format of the game against Ireland.
The 29-year-old batter hit four sixes in an over to Benjamin White, which was the first time in his career. He also took a single run. Before Babar, only four Pakistani batters had managed to score as many as 24 runs in an over.
Asif Ali hit four sixes in one over against Afghanistan in 2021. Aamir Jamal scored 24 runs against Hong Kong in 2023 Asian Games. Khushi Shah scored 24 runs in an over by hitting four sixes against Hong Kong in 2021 and Rizwan scored 24 runs in an over against Namibia in 2021.
Babar became the third Pakistani batter to hit four sixes in a single over.

Injured Taskin Ahmed named in Bangladesh's T20 World Cup squad



DHAKA (Web Desk)
Taskin Ahmed has been named in Bangladesh's 15-member squad for the 2024 T20 World Cup despite his injury. Taskin, who has also been named vice-captain, suffered a side strain during the recent series against Zimbabwe and will receive treatment for the next few weeks to get fit before the tournament starts next month.
Taskin suffered the injury before the fifth T20I against Zimbabwe on May 12 and missed the match as a result. He was named Player of the Series for his eight wickets in four games. Bangladesh's chief selector Gazi Ashraf said the BCB's medical team is confident of Taskin's recovery before the start of the tournament.
Najmul Hossain Shanto will lead the team that also includes Shakib Al Hasan, who has played every T20 World Cup since the inaugural edition in 2007. Litton Das has also found a place in the squad despite his poor form in white-ball cricket this year.
Bangladesh have also picked young right-arm pacer Tanzim Hasan over Mohammad Saifuddin, with Ashraf saying that the call was taken after assessing the duo's performances in the Zimbabwe series. Saifuddin had taken 15 wickets in the BPL and eight against Zimbabwe, while Tanzim has 12 wickets in these two competitions. Ashraf said that Saifuddin's lack of yorkers in the death overs against Zimbabwe was one of the reasons he was left out.
"We kept Saifuddin in the squad that we submitted to the ICC on April 30," Ashraf said. "We wanted to observe and analyse Saifuddin's performance in the Zimbabwe series. But when we considered what the team needs at the moment, Tanzim was ahead of Saifuddin. It was a close call between the two."
"We saw Tanzim against Sri Lanka. His dedication and hunger kept him ahead. He is also a good fielder. We didn't see enough yorkers in the death overs from Saifuddin. He died in domestic cricket but didn't do it in Zimbabwe. Some of his short-pitched balls went over the batters' head. He was the only player who got changed from the squad we submitted to ICC on April 30."

'Heeramandi' star Taha Shah's touching gesture to



(Web Desk) - In response to appreciative remarks from Yashna Gill, 'Heeramandi' star Taha Shah has expressed his gratitude to her with words, "Thanks dude. Lots of love back from this side of the border."
In a heartwarming exchange on social media, 'Heeramandi' star Taha Shah responded to actress Yashna Gill's admiration for his performance in the series.
The interaction, which unfolded on Instagram, delighted fans as the two actors shared a moment of appreciation.
Yashna Gill, known for her roles in various Pakistani dramas, took to Instagram to express her praise for Taha Shah's portrayal in 'Heeramandi'.

Swiatek battles past Kerber as climate protesters invade courts

ROME
Iga Swiatek saw off Angelique Kerber 7-5, 6-3 at the Rome Open to set up a quarter-final clash with Madison Keys, who beat Sorana Cristea despite her match being interrupted by climate activists.
World number one Swiatek is yet to drop a set and is favourite for a third Foro Italico crown before she begins her French Open title defence later this month.
The three-time Roland Garros champion arrived in the Italian capital off the back of a thrilling triumph in Madrid, her third WTA 1000 title of the season after also winning at Indian Wells and Doha.
But the 22-year-old didn't have it all her own way against former world number one Kerber, a three-time former Grand Slam champion who at 33 is the lowest-ranked player ever to reach the last 16 in this tournament.
Swiatek battled to the first set in just under an hour and was frequently put to the test by 36-year-old German Kerber, who fell behind after saving five set points in game 10 and then succumbing two games later.
Kerber went two ahead in the second set but Swiatek fought back and after the Pole broke serve in game eight she held steady to close out the match.
"I'm a perfectionist but it's impossible to play perfect tennis, so you always have to be humble and not take anything for granted," said Swiatek.



"The pressure is there for sure but this year has been pretty good for me. I started the season well so I don't feel like I have to chase anything."
"NOT THE GREATEST FEELING"
Swiatek will face Keys whose 6-2, 6-1 win was suspended for half an hour by a court invasion from activists from Ultima Generazione (Last Generation).
Wearing orange vests, protesters threw a liquid and confetti onto the Pietrangeli court, where Keys was playing, and court 12 where a men's doubles match was taking place.
There were also protesters in the stands with a tournament spokesman telling AFP that at least one person had tried to glue their feet to the floor in order to slow their removal.
"Obviously it's not the greatest feeling when you're on court, your first reaction is kind of your own safety," said Keys.