



Daily SOON TIMES

Chief Editor
Shah Muhammad Awan

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COAS Gen Asim calls for holding constitution in high esteem

General Asim says the PAF has always lived up to the expectations of the nation



Soon Times Correspondent
RISALPUR
Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Gen Asim Munir said on Thursday "we are aware of our constitutional limits and expect others to hold it (constitution) in high esteem."
Addressing the passing out parade of cadets at the Pakistan Air Force Asghar Khan Academy here, the army chief reminded that Article 19 of the Constitution clearly defines the limits of freedom of speech and expression of opinion. "Those who flout the clear restrictions imposed on freedom of expression as enshrined in the Constitution cannot point fingers at others," he added. While lauding the professionalism of the force, Gen Asim said the PAF has always lived up to the expectations of the nation.
He said without a strong air force, a country is at the mercy of any aggressor.
The COAS said the PAF patrolled the airspace with unparalleled bravery and professionalism,

and February 2019 is a great example for all of us. He asked the passed out cadets that they are "the center of our hopes, the guardian of the skies and the guarantor of regional unity."
He said we expect that the cadets will lead a life adorned with the virtues of character, courage and competence.
Gen Asim expressed the confidence that the cadets will never hesitate to sacrifice for the defence, honour and dignity of the motherland.
He said the military leadership expects that you will always uphold our nation's best spirit, professionalism and the eternal tradition of bravery.
He said the arms race will also disturb the balance of power in our region.
Regarding Palestine situation, he said Gaza war is the latest example of the sufferings that wars can bring. He said indiscriminate killing of elderly people, women and children in Gaza is proof that violence is increasing in the world.

'Sit in' if wheat procurement is not started: JI Emir



Soon Times Correspondent
LAHORE
Jamaat-e-Islami emir, Hafiz Naeemur Rehman, issued a four-day ultimatum to both the Punjab and federal governments, of a sit-in outside the chief minister's office if wheat procurement is not started. He asserted that Jamaat-e-Islami refuses to remain passive in the face of what he deems a mafia-like control over resources.
The JI chief stressed that silence would only encourage such entities to further exploit the nation. He underscored the need for action against those hoarding essential commodities, rather than targeting farmers.

Asif Zardari resigns as PPPP chairman



Soon Times Correspondent
KARACHI
President Asif Zardari has resigned from the chairmanship of the Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPPP).
Sources say Asif Zardari has informed the Election Commission of Pakistan about his resignation from the presidency of the Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians.
Sources further revealed that after Asif Zardari's resignation from the party presidency, there is consideration being given to appointing Asif

Zardari's sister and provincial assembly member Faryal Talpur as the new president of the Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians.
Asif Zardari's resignation from the party comes at a time when some quarters are criticising him for leading a political party despite being the President of the country.
On March 9, Asif Zardari was elected as the president of the country for a second time, securing 411 votes. He received 156 electoral votes from the four provincial assemblies and 255 votes from Parliament.

US ambassador calls on Punjab CM, discusses matters of mutual interest

Soon Times Correspondent
LAHORE
Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif during a meeting with US Ambassador Donald Blome, has said that American investors and businessmen would be provided safe environment for investment in Punjab.
The US ambassador to Pakistan, who called on Maryam on Thursday, congratulated her on being elected as the first woman chief minister of Punjab.
During the meeting, matters of mutual interest came under discussion.
Blome appreciated Maryam Nawaz for her special interest in public welfare projects, and said that the US wanted to work more with the Punjab government for poverty alleviation and economic development.
On this occasion, the chief minister said that the economic relations between the US and Pakistan spanned decades, adding that American businessmen and



investors would be provided safe environment for investment in Punjab, particularly in the fields of agriculture, industry and IT.
Maryam said that there was potential for investment in Punjab, adding that only a stable government could bring Pakistan out of the economic crisis.
She also mentioned that the government's economic policies were reducing inflation.
CM Maryam told the US ambassador that a comprehensive strategy had been formulated to provide quality education, health facilities and cheap bread to the people in Punjab.

CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja's appointment challenged in LHC



Soon Times Correspondent
LAHORE
Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja's appointment to the key constitutional post has been challenged in the Lahore High Court (LHC).
Lahore High Court Chief Justice Malik Shehzad Ahmed Khan heard the petition filed by Advocate Talib Hussain.
The petitioner alleged that Raja was appointed CEC without any advertisement of the post. He said he was given the post on political grounds and the appointment of a retired officer to the post was tantamount to abuse of the constitutional position.
He requested the court to declare the chief election commissioner's appointment illegal.
However, the public prosecutor came up with the counter arguments, seeking dismissal of the application as not maintainable. He said such an application should be filed in the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

Wheat growers to take to the street against Govt apathy



Soon Times Correspondent
LAHORE
Farmer associations in Punjab are gearing up to stage protests due to delay in purchase of wheat by the government.
All factions of the Kissan Ittehad, except the Khokhar

group, have agreed to participate in the demonstrations to assert their rights.
The Kissan Board has also confirmed its participation in the protest movement.
Pakistan Kissan Ittehad Chairman Khalid Hussain Bhatti announced plan to unveil the protest action plan tomorrow (Friday). He revealed that the protests would involve the closure of all highways, with even farmers' children participating.

Pakistan won't provide bases to any foreign govt, says FO



Islamabad (Web Desk) — Pakistan will not provide its bases to any foreign government, the Foreign Office categorically stated on Thursday as the animosity between Iran and the United States over the Israel-Palestine war in the Middle East deepens.
At the weekly press briefing, FO Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said Pakistan enjoyed cordial relations with the US and Iran and would

expand its relations with both countries in larger national interest.
The spox said there existed many channels of communication between Pakistan and Iran, adding that Islamabad would continue to increase cooperation with Tehran.
About the trilateral talks among Pakistan, China and Iran, the spox said the date of these important talks had not yet been

decided.
Regarding the Saudi investment in Pakistan, the spokesperson said talks between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia regarding investment in energy and other sectors were continuing.
About Indian extra-territorial operations, Baloch said the Indian network was active in South Asia for just many decades. She said that Indian network engaged in extraterritorial killings had spread across the world.

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Fawad's plea seeking appearance through video link in May 9 cases put off

LHC Chief Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmed Khan conducts proceedings

Soon Times Correspondent
LAHORE
The Lahore High Court has adjourned the hearing until May 9 on a petition requesting appearance of former information minister Fawad Chaudhry through a video link in the 36 cases related to the May 9 violent riots.
LHC Chief Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmed Khan conducted Thursdays proceedings.
During the hearing, Fawad Chaudhry's lawyer remarked before the court that his client could not appear in all courts of Punjab.
Upon this, the chief justice asked, "In how many districts are the cases registered?"
The additional advocate general informed the court that cases were registered in four divisions of Punjab.
Chaudhry's counsel stated that "wherever FIRs were lodged, we have furnished bonds."

Additional Advocate General Ghulam Sarwar informed that the chief justice had the authority to transfer cases from one court to another in Punjab, but cases related to terrorism could not be transferred from the sessions court to another court.
Chief Justice Khan remarked, "There are 36 cases against one person. How can he appear in all courts simultaneously?"
At this point, Fawad Chaudhry stated that there were actually 47 cases registered against him.
The additional advocate general remarked that there were even more cases filed against the PTI founder.
Chaudhry's counsel requested for some time to present the case.
The chief justice stated, "Sometimes people living abroad cannot appear in Pakistani courts for civil cases. We are considering introducing a system of testimony through video link for them."



Chaudhry's lawyer said, "The division bench has ordered that after the chief justice's order for video link appearance, the proceedings will start after seven days."
During the hearing, the court was disrupted by the whispering between Fawad and government lawyer.
The chief justice remarked, "It seems that Fawad Chaudhry also has old relationship with government lawyer. Fawad Chaudhry seems worried. Stay calm."
Later, the court adjourned the hearing until May 9, providing time for Fawad Chaudhry's lawyer to prepare.



World Press Freedom Day

Today, we are commemorating World Press Freedom Day to affirm our commitment to cultivating an environment where the media is independent and diverse and enjoys freedoms with responsibility as enshrined in our Constitution. This day provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the state of press freedom in our country and make efforts to create a safe and conducive working environment for journalists. We believe that an independent press is essential for highlighting issues of global importance, dispelling fake news and myths, and serving as a watchdog for society. Media also has a crucial role in creating awareness about issues of global concern, including climate change, green technologies,

pollution, and global warming. The theme of this year's World Press Freedom Day "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the face of the environmental crisis" underscores the importance of a free press in creating awareness and educating the people about climate change and its impacts on human life and the environment. We believe that the media can play its role in encouraging people to protect the environment by promoting forestation, adopting clean technologies, reducing carbon emissions, and protecting biodiversity to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change on our ecosystem. The theme also highlights that a free and responsible press should act as a

bulwark against misleading information about climate change. Moreover, World Press Freedom Day also serves as a reminder that journalists, throughout the world, are facing challenges in doing their jobs. We need to provide an enabling environment free of intimidation or harassment to journalists so that they can freely express their opinions. It is, therefore, imperative to initiate measures for the safety and security of journalists enabling them to freely report on important issues, without fear. The Constitution of Pakistan guarantees the freedom of the press; however, it is also the responsibility of the media to abide by journalistic ethics and report responsibly and accurately,

keeping in view the national interest. The media should play its role in countering fake news and promoting moral and ethical values. Today, we also recognize the commendable role played by the media in promoting democratic values in the world, as well as raising awareness about issues of social and economic significance, especially climate change and global warming. I am hopeful that the media would continue to contribute constructively in raising awareness about issues of global concern. I am sure that media advocacy of these issues would spur international action to save our planet from the threat of climate change.

A Call for Empowerment: Providing Oxford Dictionaries to Matric class Students with textbooks in Sindh Province



Mushtaqe Ahmed Rahu.

renowned for its comprehensive coverage and authoritative content, serves as an indispensable resource for students navigating the complexities of language. By placing this invaluable tool in the hands of every Matric class student, we not only equip them with the means to enhance their vocabulary and language skills but also foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of the written word. Furthermore, in today's interconnected world, where access to information knows no bounds, proficiency in English is increasingly essential for academic and professional success. The Oxford Dictionary, with its emphasis on clarity, accuracy, and relevance, not only aids students in their academic pursuits but also prepares them for the globalized workforce of tomorrow. It is worth noting the positive impact of previous initiatives

that provided Oxford Dictionaries to students in Sindh. These efforts were instrumental in bridging the gap between students and a wealth of knowledge contained within the pages of this esteemed reference material. By reinstating this practice, we reaffirm our commitment to empowering every student with the resources they need to thrive academically and beyond. So again we humbly request to School Education and Literacy Department of the Government of Sindh to recognize the significance of providing Oxford Dictionaries to Matric class students. By doing so, we not only invest in the academic success of our youth but also lay the foundation for a brighter, more prosperous future for the province of Sindh. Let us continue to prioritize education and equip our students with the tools they need to excel in an ever-evolving world.

As the education landscape evolves, so must our methods of empowering students with the tools they need to excel. In light of this, the School Education and Literacy Department, Government of Sindh must consider reinstating the provision of English-to-Sindhi language dictionaries published by the Oxford University Press to Matric class students alongside their Sindhi textbooks, as was done in the past under the guidance of Sayed Qalandar Shah Lakari. Education is the cornerstone of progress, and linguistic proficiency is fundamental to academic achievement. The Oxford Dictionary,

Cybercrime leads to death



Sayed Waqas Jillani

Cybercrime is a criminal activity that either uses a computer, a computer network, or a networked device. Individuals, groups, or organizations can commit cybercrime, driven by financial gain, political or social activism, or other motivations. Cybercrime is when people use the internet and devices to access other people's personal information and materials, encrypt them, and then ask for ransom or blackmail. For financial gain, cybercriminals often steal credit card information and other financial keys. These criminals install malware or viruses on other computers in order to hack their data. Cybercrime is a rapidly evolving field, and new forms are constantly emerging as technology advances. Criminals' attacks on people's personal data can lead to suicide in society. Cyberattacks can cost millions; to prevent cyberattacks, individuals can use multi-factor authentication and strong passwords and avoid third-party software and emails that

could be harmful to them. Studying cybersecurity is crucial for safeguarding against cyberattacks. Individuals with less knowledge and awareness are mostly under attack by cybercriminals. Institutions should educate children, adults, and especially older citizens about cybercrime to safeguard them from significant financial and mental losses. Before running any application, software, or email, verify its authorization and recognition, as emails and harmful sites can install viruses on the computer, encrypting and destroying valuable data. Law enforcement agencies and cybersecurity experts continually work to combat cyber threats through prevention, detection, and prosecution, but the evolving nature of technology presents ongoing challenges in their battle against digital crime. In conclusion, cybercrime is a serious and growing concern that requires collective efforts from individuals, businesses, governments, and law enforcement agencies to combat it. We must prioritize cybersecurity and develop effective strategies to prevent, detect, and prosecute cybercrime. Working together can reduce the risk of cyber threats. ATM fraud: In 2002, the New

York Times reported that cybercriminals had skimmed more than 21,000 American bank accounts. Ransomware attack is a very common type of cybercrime where hackers encrypt all the data on computers and their accounts and then ask for ransom in order to give access back. For example, mobile gaming accounts like PUBG are very common, often hacked accounts that are worth thousands of dollars. In cybercrime, social media fraudulence use of fake accounts on social media platforms to threaten individuals, sharing intimidating messages for blackmail, and using fake ads to access social media accounts is common. Additionally, it is important to note that cybercrime can also have a significant impact on businesses and organizations, resulting in financial losses, damage to reputation, and legal liabilities. Furthermore, the increasing use of artificial intelligence and machine learning in cyberattacks has made it even more challenging to detect and prevent cyber threats. As a result, it is critical to stay informed about the latest cyber threats and implement robust cybersecurity measures to protect against them. Moreover, international cooperation and information sharing are crucial in combating cybercrime, as it often crosses national borders. By working together, we can create a safer and more secure digital environment for everyone.

Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Visits NARC, Vows To Establish Endowment Fund For Agricultural Research

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad:

Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Rana Tanveer Hussain, paid a visit to the National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC) to gain insights into the cutting-edge research facilities at NARC and have a valuable interaction with the agricultural scientists of the council. The Federal Minister commended Chairman PARC and PARC's pivotal contributions to safeguarding food and nutritional security. He underscored the historical resilience of agriculture in boosting national economy during periods of economic turmoil. The Minister affirmed that the current government is steadfast dedicated to transform the agricultural landscape of Pakistan, emphasizing ongoing initiatives to support agricultural research and technological advancements in agriculture sector to enhance crop productivity, as in the past. Recognizing food

security as a global imperative, the Minister highlighted the significance of Agricultural research institutions in addressing the critical challenges of climate change. He emphasized the indispensable role of continuous financial support to research in driving technological progress and innovation, not only in agriculture but in other sectors as well. Chairman PARC, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali expressed gratitude to the Federal Minister, members of the media, and scientists for their proactive involvement in promoting food and nutritional security. He highlighted the fundamental role of research as the cornerstone of scientific advancement, technological innovation, and emphasized the necessity of investments in research endeavors. Dr. Ali said that the facilitation of researchers and scientists is crucial to optimizing the potential of young

researchers. It is imperative for young agricultural scientists to engage in collaborative efforts with international institutions and researchers to enhance their knowledge base. Chairman also highlighted PARC's comprehensive presence across all ecological zones in alignment with varying climatic conditions. Dr. Ali also stressed the importance of establishing an endowment fund to ensure sustained funding for research activities.

During his visit, the Minister was briefed on the innovative research initiatives being undertaken at NARC, including the National Institute of Genomics and Advanced Biotechnology (NIGAB), Wheat Speed Breeding, and the Plant Genetic Resources Institute. Members from PARC's Board of Governors, distinguished agricultural scientists, and media persons were also present at the occasion.



Dubai: May 2, 2024: A team of Pakistani volunteers who recused hundreds of people during the recent rains in Dubai were warmly welcomed by Mr. Hussain Muhammad, Consul General at the Consulate. The volunteers were honoured with certificates of appreciation by the Consul General.



Trainings play important role in Officers' professional grooming: Commissioner Sargodha

Soon Times Correspondent
Sargodha: Commissioner Sargodha Division Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti gave a reception to 39 trainees officers of Pakistan Administrative Service led by Additional Director Qadir Nawaz in his office on Thursday. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue, Director Development, ACG and Assistant Commissioner Sargodha were also present on the occasion. Commissioner welcomed the officers and briefed about the historical, geographical, industrial and socio economic developmental aspects of Sargodha Division. He said that the

divisional and district administrations are actively working to fully implement the Punjab government's vision for public welfare, regional and urban development, apart from improving departmental management and efficiency, as well as public relief in various sectors. An open door policy had been adopted for the public in the Commissioner's and allied offices. He said, "The administration is facing various challenges. Efforts are being made to solve public problems in every possible way. The training courses play an important role in improving the personality and professional skills of the officers." On this occasion, ADCR and

ACG briefed the officers about cultural and historical places of the division, revenue collection, price control mechanism and ongoing projects. The visiting officers thanked the Commissioner for hosting them and said that they got a better understanding of various administrative, financial, developmental, security issues, departmental linkages and office procedures. A souvenir was also presented to the Commissioner on behalf of the delegation. Later, the Commissioner inaugurated the newly constructed conference room in his office along with the officers under training.

FPCCI Appoints Shaikh Rashid Alam as Convener of CSC for Youth Empowerment & Recognition

Soon Times Correspondent
Karachi:

In a notification issued by Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of FPCCI, Shaikh Rashid Alam's appointment was recognized as a testament to his outstanding contributions to entrepreneurship development and his commitment to empowering the youth of Pakistan. As convener of the Youth Committee, Shaikh Rashid Alam will be responsible for formulating concrete measures and recommendations to address the challenges facing the youth sector in Pakistan. He will work closely with stakeholders from relevant national and international organizations to develop



solutions that promote youth empowerment and entrepreneurship. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President of FPCCI said, "We believe that under his leadership, we will succeed in creating a brighter future for the youth of Pakistan." Shaikh Rashid Alam expressed his gratitude for the opportunity.

"We are determined to harness the abilities of youth, aligning our efforts to fulfill their potential and meet their aspirations," he said.

CM Punjab has laid the foundation stone of Nawaz Sharif Institute of Cardiology: Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed



Soon Times Correspondent
Sargodha:

With a population of around 35 lakhs and 7 tehsils, Sargodha district has health facilities dating back to the 19th century. Till date not a single cardiology center has been established in such a large district. Majority of the population here go to Faisalabad, Lahore and other cities for treatment of heart diseases. Maryam Nawaz as Chief Minister of Punjab has laid the foundation stone of Nawaz Sharif

Institute of Cardiology in Sargodha. Work on this project is progressing rapidly. In this regard, a large area of Faisal Masood Teaching Hospital Sargodha lying idle will be used for this purpose. It will be a 170-bed hospital where all heart diseases including surgery will be treated. All this was told by MS Sargodha Faisal Masood District Teaching Hospital Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Bashir while talking to our correspondent. He further said that we are trying our best to complete this center by 2025.

Islam never allows encouraging terrorists & extremists: Pir Amir Sultan

Soon Times Correspondent
Nowshera Soon Sakasar:

Central Senior Vice Chairman Jamiat Ulema Maruf Pakistan Niazi, religious and political figure Allama Maulana Abul Hamid Pir Muhammad Amir Sultan Chishti Qadir Hashmi has said that terrorists and their facilitators have nothing to do with the religion of Islam. This is a group of enemies of Islam and humanity. Their actions are for the pleasure of anti-Islamic elements. He added, Islam never allows encouraging terrorists and extremists. State institutions should pay close attention to it. Soon valley is a sensitive area of Khushab district of Punjab. Here the data of persons coming from other districts and provinces should be completed. It is important to record the arrival of Afghans in particular.



Pak-Iran Relations are on the way to Improvement: Kafeel Hussain



Group Photo On the occasion of Iran Expo 2024, President KHA Business and International Relations, CEO Kafeel Hussain Group and famous architect Kafeel Hussain, Trade and Investment Minister Counselor Dr. Amir Hussain, former Consul General of Iran in Pakistan Murad Nemati, Commercial Attache, Rashid Ahmed Siddiqui and President Business Forum and Think Tank Farrokh Mazhar also present.

Soon Times Correspondent
Karachi:

Hussain Group and renowned architect Kafeel Hussain participated in Iran Expo 2024. Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi, Trade and Investment Minister Counselor Dr. Amir Hussain, former Consul General

of Iran in Pakistan Murad Nemati, Commercial Attache, Rashid Ahmed Siddiqui, President of Business Forum and Think Tank Farrokh Mazhar and other business personalities were also present on this occasion. On this occasion, Pakistan's top trade delegation said that Pakistan-Iran relations are on the way to improvement. While many measures are being taken to prevent smuggling at the borders, Kafeel Hussain said that the cooperation of Iran can help in controlling the shortage of electricity, gas and petroleum products in Pakistan. Since the visit of Iranian President Ibrahim Raisi to Pakistan, further improvement is expected. Kafeel Hussain said that under the MoUs signed between Pakistan and Iran, new projects are being worked on rapidly, which will not only boost the economy of Pakistan but also Iran.

PTI to hold countrywide protests today against alleged rigging in elections

Soon Times Correspondent
Nowshera Soon Sakasar:

Due to the carelessness and negligence of the district administration, about 80 students in the special education center established in Nowshera are under the care of driver and gardener. A total of 17 teaching and non-teaching staff posts are sanctioned in the centre. While the work is being done by only three including one female teacher, one driver and one gardener. The female teacher is often busy

in office meetings, while the students who deserve special attention are taken care by the gardener and the driver in the absence of the teacher. An annual budget of lakhs of rupees is spent on the special education center established by the Punjab government. A special vehicle worth lakhs of rupees is approved. The parents of disabled children have demanded the Chief Minister Punjab to pay attention to the Special Education Center Nowshera and to meet the shortage of teaching staff.

One killed, 18 injured in two landmine blasts in Balochistan

Soon Times Correspondent
QUETTA

A man was killed and 18 others suffered injuries in two landmine blasts in Duki district of Balochistan.



The first explosion occurred when a coal-laden truck collided with an already planted landmine in the Takhidar stream in Duki district.

When people gathered there, a second explosion occurred. According to police officials, one person was killed and 18 others were injured as a result of the mine explosions. Officials said those injured in the explosion were shifted to hospital and investigation of the incident was in progress.

ANF seized the largest consignment of Methamphetamine smuggled abroad

Soon Times Correspondent
Rawalpindi:

ANF has seized the largest consignment of Methamphetamine smuggled abroad in the country's history. 224 kg of ice was being smuggled into Belgium under the guise of exporting soap stones from Afghanistan. The drugs were first

smuggled to Karachi via Torkham, Afghanistan to their intended destination in Belgium. Methamphetamine was skillfully concealed in the roof and doors of 5 containers. ANF ?seized all containers used in smuggling at Karachi port, 3 accused who sent the container, out of which 2 are from Afghanistan,

have been arrested. The arrested suspects were trying to escape from Torkham border to Afghanistan. ANF spokesperson said that the ANF is committed to combating drug trafficking and protecting the world from the harmful effects of drugs.

Shortage of teaching staff; Special Children face problems

Soon Times Correspondent
Nowshera Soon Sakasar:

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established by the Punjab government. A special vehicle worth lakhs of rupees is approved. The parents of disabled children have demanded the Chief Minister Punjab to pay attention to the Special Education Center Nowshera and to meet the shortage of teaching staff.

PTI founder challenges NAB's inquiry notice in IHC



Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder has challenged the National Accountability Bureau's (NAB) notice in the Toshkhana case in the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

The PTI founder filed the petition in the IHC against NAB's notice sent to

him in a new inquiry in the Toshkhana gifts' case. PTI founder's counsel Salman Safdar filed the petition in the IHC, which has made the chairman of NAB, superintendent of jail, and others respondents.

Read more: What you need to know about Toshkhana case

TENDER NOTICE
UNIVERSITY OF SARGODHA
Tender No: PC-II/05/2023-24

University of Sargodha intends to purchase the below mentioned items. Relevant interested firms registered with Income Tax / GST departments may obtain / send their tender, upto **30-05-2024** at 11:00AM and will be opened on the same day at 11:30AM in the presence of representatives of the firms in Directorate of Procurement & Stores.

Note: A Pre-Bid meeting for discussion about the specifications will be held on **23-05-2024** at 11:30AM in office of the Director, Directorate of Procurement & Stores University of Sargodha. Participation in Pre-Bid meeting is important.

Sr. No.	Name of Item	Qty	Estimated Cost	Tender Fee
Lot No: 01				
1.	Network Switch Equipment (Network Activates)	22Nos.	Rs.11,000,000/-	Rs.5000/-
Lot No: 02				
2.	Desktop Computers	50Nos.	Rs.13,650,000/-	Rs.5000/-
Terms and Conditions				
1. Detailed Tender documents are available immediately from the Directorate of Procurement & Stores after the publication of tender notice on producing demand draft (Non-Refundable) of above mentioned amount in favor of Treasurer, University of Sargodha.				
2. The Bidding Document carrying all details can also be downloaded from website of University of Sargodha http://su.edu.pk and website of Punjab Procurement Regulatory Authority http://ppra.punjab.gov.pk .				
3. University of Sargodha will not be responsible for any cost or expense incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.				
4. 05% Scheduled Bank CDR (Refundable) of the Estimated Cost (for each Lot) in the name of Treasurer, University of Sargodha must be attached with technical bid as Bid Security.				
5. Detailed specifications along with estimated cost are available in the Bidding document.				
6. In case of official holiday on the day of submission, next day will be treated as closing date.				
7. For all correspondence, please use postal address, Directorate of Procurement & Stores, University of Sargodha, Sargodha.				
8. For further details please contact on phone No. 048-9230110 & 048-9230999.				
9. Purchase will be made under PPRA (Punjab) rule 38(2)(a) "single stage two envelope procedure" as amended from time to time.				
10. All Firms shall have to follow all terms and conditions issued by University of Sargodha and PPRA (Punjab) from time to time.				

Chairman, Purchase Committee,
Directorate of Procurement & Stores, University of Sargodha,
Sargodha, Pakistan
Office Contact No. 048-9230110, 048-9230811-Ext: 501



Biden thinks he can flip North Carolina, polls show a rough road



Web Desk
Since 1968, North Carolina has backed only two Democrats for president: Jimmy Carter in 1976 and Barack Obama in 2008.

President Joe Biden visits the southeastern state on Thursday for the third time this year, betting he can do it again for Democrats in the 2024 election.

But opinion polls suggest Biden will have a tough time flipping North Carolina in this year's rematch against Republican Donald Trump. While winning the presidency in 2020, Biden lost the state to Trump by 1.3% - just 74,000 votes - his narrowest state loss.

Biden's campaign is spending heavily on early advertising, voter outreach and in-state staff, hoping to ride North Carolina's recent population boom to victory.

Some 400,000 people have moved to North Carolina since 2020, census figures show, including many people of color and with college educations, groups that vote overwhelmingly Democratic.



Debutant Canada announces squad for T20 World Cup 2024

(Web Desk) - Cricket Canada has confirmed the official 15-man squad and five reserves for the 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup. Saad Bin Zafar will captain Canada in its first-ever appearance at the Men's T20 World Cup in a squad featuring plenty of experience. Harsh Thaker, Nicholas Kirton, and Dilpreet Bajwa represent the youth in the squad as the only players under the age of 30, though the former two have also established themselves as key members of the Canadian XI. Squad: Saad Bin Zafar (c), Aaron Johnson, Dilon Heyliger, Dilpreet Bajwa, Harsh Thaker, Jeremy Gordon, Jumaid Siddiqui, Kaleem Sana, Karanvirpal Talghat (wk), Navneet Dhallwal, Nicholas Kirton, Pargat Singh, Ravinderpal Singh, Rayankhan Khan, Shreyas Movva (wk). Reserves: Tajinder Singh, Aaditya Varadharajan, Ammar Khalid, Jatinder Matharu, Parveen Kumar. Aaron Johnson's explosive hitting will be critical at the top of the order, as will Kaleem Sana's pace bowling when Canada is in the field.

'Dangerous' Punjab beat Chennai in own

Chennai (India) Key knocks by Jonny Bairstow and Rilee Rossouw helped Punjab Kings to a comfortable seven-wicket victory over defending champions Chennai Super Kings in the IPL. Chasing 163 for victory, Punjab depended on Bairstow's 46 and 43 by Rossouw to achieve victory with 13 balls to spare at Chennai's M. Chinnabram Stadium. England's Bairstow kept up his form from the previous match when he hit an unbeaten 108 as Punjab chased down a record IPL target of 262 against Kolkata Knight Riders at Eden Gardens. Bairstow and Rossouw, a left-handed South African batsman, put on 64 runs for the second-wicket to set up the chase. Shivam Dube had Bairstow caught behind and Shardul Thakur bowled Rossouw to leave Punjab in trouble at 113-3 in 12 overs. Shashank Singh, who made 25, and skipper Sam Curran, who hit 26, then put on an unbeaten stand of 50 to steer the team home for their fourth win and keep their slim slip-of-hopes alive. "Any team that can get momentum at the back-end is dangerous," said Curran, who is stand-in-skipper after regular captain Shikhar Dhawan was injured last month.



Hassan Ali, Haris Rauf stage comeback as PCB names team for Ireland, England tours

Babar Azam leads the team which will embark upon mission to prepare for T20 World Cup on May 7

LAHORE
The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) selection committee on Thursday announced an 18-member national squad for tours of Ireland and England. Babar Azam will lead the team which will embark upon the mission to prepare for T20 World Cup on May 7. Selectors Wahab Riaz, Muhammad Yousuf, Abdul Razaq and Bilal Afzal announced the team at a press conference at the PCB headquarters in Gaddafi Stadium. Seasoned pacers Hassan Ali and Haris Rauf have made a comeback in the squad which includes Shadab Khan, Abrar Ahmed, Azam Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Ifthikhar Ahmed, Imad Wasim, Abbas Afridi, Muhammad Amir, Muhammad Rizwan, Irfan Khan Niazi, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Usman Khan, Salman Ali Agha and Saïm Ayub. Spinner Usama Mir and fast bowler Zaman Khan, who were in the 17-man squad for the recent home series against New Zealand, have been omitted. Wahab Riaz said Haris, Azam and Rizwan had improved and expressed the hope that they would be available for the Ireland series as well.

It may be noted that a 15-member squad for the T20 World Cup will be announced after the first match against England on May 22. The series against Ireland will be played from May 10 to 14 and against England from May 22 to 30. The ninth edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, which will be a 20-team event, will take place in the USA and West Indies from June 1 to 29.

UK to vote in local elections as Tories brace for big losses

London
Millions of voters in England and Wales will cast their ballots on Thursday in an array of local elections that will be the last big test before a UK general election that all indicators show will see the Conservative Party ousted from power after 14 years. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak will hope he can point to successes, notably in a couple of key mayoral races, to douse talk that the Conservative Party will change leader again before the United Kingdom's main election, which could take place as soon as next month. On the other hand, Labour Party leader Keir Starmer will hope Thursday's local elections confirm what opinion polls have shown for two years - that Labour is on course for power for the first time since 2010. "The national context going into these local elections is very good for Labour and very bad for the Conservatives," said Rob Ford, professor of politics at the University of Manchester.



Russia can't match a Western asset seizure, but it can inflict pain



LONDON
Russia's ability to mete out like-for-like retaliation if Western leaders seize its frozen assets has been eroded by dwindling foreign investment, but officials and economists say there are still ways it can strike back.

The United States wants to seize immobilised Russian reserves - around \$300 billion globally - and hand them to Ukraine, while EU leaders favour ringfencing profits from the assets, estimating they will total 15-20 billion euros by 2027. Much of that money is centrally held, meaning it is accessible if the West decides to go after it. Russia says any attempt to take its capital or interest would be "banditry" and has warned of catastrophic consequences, although it has been vague about exactly how it might respond.

Former President Dmitry Medvedev on Saturday acknowledged that Russia did not have enough U.S. state property to retaliate symmetrically and would have to go after private investors' cash instead - a step he said would be less painful. Reuters spoke to six economists, lawyers and experts who have been tracking the status of assets frozen by both sides since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. The consensus among them was that one of the most likely countermeasures would be to confiscate foreign investors' financial assets and securities currently held in special "type-C" accounts, access to which has been blocked since the war started unless Moscow grants a waiver.

Russia does not disclose how much is in the accounts, held by the country's National Settlement Depository, a sanctioned entity. Russian officials have said the amount is comparable to the \$300 billion of Russian reserves frozen. "Payments on blocked assets in type-C accounts could start to be seized in favour of the state," said Vladimir Yázev, investment portfolio manager at investment firm Antiga.

Kyiv's forces are up against a concerted Russian push in eastern Ukraine, a military official says



KYIV, Ukraine
The situation on the front line in eastern Ukraine is worsening but local defenders are so far holding firm against a concerted push by Russia's bigger and better-equipped forces, a senior Ukrainian military official said Thursday. Russia has amassed troops in the Donetsk region in an effort to punch through the Ukrainian

defensive line, according to Nazar Voloshyn, spokesman for Ukrainian strategic command in the east of the country. "The enemy is trying to seize the strategic initiative and breach our defense," Voloshyn said on national television. "The enemy is actively attacking along the entire front line, and in several directions they have achieved certain tactical advances," he said. "The situation is changing dynamically." Russia has pushed Ukraine onto the back foot on the battlefield as Kyiv grapples with shortages of troops and ammunition. Ukrainian forces are now racing to build more defensive fortifications at places along the around 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front line. Ukraine's difficulties have been deepening for months as the military waited for vital new military aid from the United States. The support was held up in Washington for six months. Cities in Russia's crosshairs, including recent target Chasiv Yar in eastern Ukraine, are pulverized by Moscow's missiles, drones and glide bombs. The Donetsk and Luhansk provinces together make up the Donbas, an expansive industrial region bordering Russia.



As India votes, misinformation surges on social media: 'The whole country is paying the price'

NEW DELHI
Bollywood stars seldom weigh in on politics, so videos showing two celebrities criticizing Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi - and endorsing his main opposition, the Congress party - were bound to go viral. But the clips of A-list actors Aamir Khan and Ranveer Singh were fake, AI-generated videos that were yet another example of the false or misleading claims swirling online with the goal of influencing India's election. Both actors filed complaints with police but such actions do little to stanch the flow of such misinformation. Experts warn AI deepfakes will aim to mislead voters and undermine elections around the world. Here's how governments and organizations are responding to the threat. In the U.S., the FCC outlined rebroadcasting AI-generated voices, which have been used to discourage voters. Major tech companies have signed an accord to prevent AI from being used to disrupt democratic elections worldwide. And a Davos report found AI-powered misinformation is the world's biggest short-term threat. AI-powered misinformation and disinformation are emerging risks as people in a slew of countries head to the polls. Read more on the 25 elections in 2024 that could change the world, and take a look at more of the AP's global elections coverage. Claims circulating online in India recently have misstated details about casting a ballot, claimed without evidence that the election will be rigged, and called for violence against India's Muslims. Researchers who track misinformation and hate speech in India say tech companies' poor enforcement of their own policies has created perfect conditions for harmful content that could distort public opinion, spur violence and leave millions of voters wondering what's behind the lies. "A non-discerning user or regular user has no idea whether it's someone, an individual sharing his or her thoughts on the other end, or is it a bot?" Rekha Singh, a 49-year-old voter, told The Associated Press. Singh said she worries that social media algorithms distort voters' view of reality. "So you are biased without even realizing it," she said. In a year crowded with big elections, the sprawling vote in India stands out. The world's most populous country boasts dozens of languages, the greatest number of WhatsApp users as well as the largest number of YouTube subscribers. Nearly 1 billion voters are eligible to cast a ballot in the election, which runs into June. Tech companies like Google and Meta, the owner of Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram, say they are working to combat deceptive or hateful content while helping voters find reliable sources.

Soccer star's murder highlights South Africa's crime problem as election nears

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - In the South African township of Tembisa, Luke Fleurs grew up, some friends joined gangs before they reached high school age, but Fleurs found another path: he was so brilliant at soccer that he rose to be a professional player at South Africa's top club. Fleurs' success story ended abruptly last month when he was killed at a Johannesburg petrol station by someone stealing his car. The 24-year-old's murder not only sparked public grief due to his profile as a Kaizer Chiefs defender but also highlighted South Africa's crime problem. South Africa has one of the highest murder rates in the world, with an average of 75 a day. Voter frustration over the government's inability to curb rising crime rates is one of the reasons the ruling African National Congress is expected to lose its majority in a May 29 election, after 30 years in power. Crime was part of the backdrop of Fleurs' upbringing in Mitchell's



Plain, a suburb of Cape Town where the apartheid-era government relocated mixed-race families. "We gave our blessing for him to move to Johannesburg to escape the violence and gangs back home, only (for him) to meet his demise at the peak of his promising football career," his father Theo Fleurs told Reuters in an interview. He said Luke was a sociable child, whose mother earned the nickname "Magic Mom" for feeding all the friends he brought home for dinner. "It was in these groups of friends that many lost their path and went to join local gangs as early as 12 years old," said Theo Fleurs, a high school janitor and soccer coach, adding that many local boys idolized the gangster lifestyle. Luke's passion for sports kept him out of trouble, but by young adulthood he had one good friend who was in prison for murder and another killed in a shooting.