



# Daily SOON TIMES

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## PM condemns killing of Landi Kotal journalist



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday strongly condemned the murder of Khalil Jibrani, a senior journalist in Landi Kotal city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.  
The prime minister, sympathising with the bereaved family members of the slain journalist, directed the KP chief minister and relevant authorities to arrest the perpetrators and take them to the task.  
He reiterated the government's resolve to take all-out measures to protect the lives and freedom of the media community.  
Prime Minister Shehbaz prayed to Allah Almighty for peace for the departed soul and strength for the bereaved family to bear the loss.

## Balochistan CM Bugti hopes balanced budget in difficult situations



Soon Times Correspondent Quetta  
Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti said that they want to bring a balanced budget in difficult situations benefiting education, health, communication, and agriculture directly, all areas of public engagement.  
On the third day of Eid, the Chief Minister's Secretariat remained open to the public, and people from different walks of life met the Chief Minister.  
Provincial Minister Rahila Hameed Durrani, Bakht Kakar, Haji Muhammad Khan Lahri and others also met the CM.  
Chief Minister Balochistan further said that a task force will be formed to deal with the pending issues related to solarization and electricity theft.  
Bugti said that a liver transplant hospital will be established in Naseerabad.  
He said that they want to provide relief to poor people by improving medical facilities.

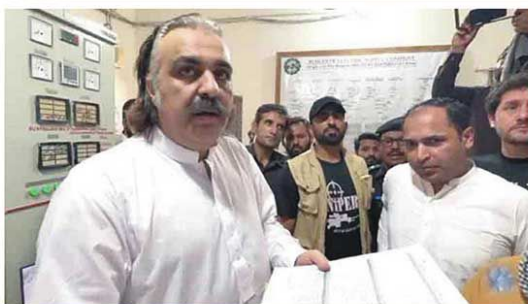
## Laptop battery explosion kills two children in Faisalabad



Soon Times Correspondent FAISALABAD  
Two children died and seven others were injured when a house in Faisalabad caught fire due to a laptop battery explosion on Wednesday.  
Rescuers identified the victims as six-year-old Dua Fatima and nine-year-old Muhammad Taha.  
They said that the children were using a laptop when its battery exploded, causing a fire throughout the house.  
The seven injured were transferred to the Allied Hospital's Burn Centre for medical treatment.

## KP CM takes control of grid station, restores power supply in DI Khan

CM warns he will halt power supply if unbridled power outages persisted in province



Soon Times Correspondent PESHAWAR  
The loadshedding dispute between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and centre intensified on Wednesday as Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur entered a grid station in his hometown of Dera Ismail Khan and restored the power supply.  
The firebrand KP CM also issued his own loadshedding schedule limited to 12 hours per day.  
"We'll not allow the loadshedding exceeding from 12 hours per day in any area. All the MNAs and MPAs should visit the grid stations in their areas and ensure the implementation of 12-hour loadshedding schedule," said the chief minister.

Ali Amin Gandapur has slammed the federal government for the rampant electricity loadshedding in the province after protests erupted in major cities and towns on the third day of Eidul Azha amid ongoing heatwave.  
The chief minister came down hard on the ruling PML-N, warning that if the issue of the unbridled power outages persisted he would be forced to take steps to halt electricity supply.  
Gandapur also accused the WAPDA (Water And Power Development Authority) of unfair treatment towards Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He also insisted that no WAPDA assets were damaged.

## PM lauds CM Maryam for cleanliness services during Eid days

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday appreciated Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and her team for ensuring cleanliness and providing other public services during the three days of Eid-ul-Azha.  
"Well done Punjab Well done Maryam Nawaz," the prime minister remarked while lauding the Punjab CM and her team for successfully carrying out the cleanliness drive.  
He said that an 80% reduction in throwing waste in the Lahore canal consequent to the use of drones was appreciable.  
Prime Minister Shehbaz saluted the cleanliness teams for performing their duties in the sizzling hot weather and asked the Punjab government



to keep up the tradition of public service and sprinkling rose water in the streets to suppress the odor.  
He expressed the hope that the Punjab government would not only continue the standard of public service but would also improve it further.

## Bilawal to meet PM Shehbaz to discuss reservations over federal budget

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

Pakistan People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is likely to meet Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to discuss his party's reservations over the federal budget.  
According to sources, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has conveyed Eid greetings to Bilawal Bhutto and invited him to visit the PM house.  
The PPP chairman will discuss the issues related to the Punjab and centre during his meeting with the prime minister.  
Bilawal Bhutto will also discuss his party's reservations about the federal budget.  
Earlier, the PPP had attended the budget session only after a high-powered delegation of PML-N visited Bilawal Bhutto Zardari at his chamber



in National Assembly.  
MNA Shazia Marri of PPP had said that the PML-N violated its earlier commitments related to the PSDP and therefore they had decided not to participate in the budget session.  
Senior PPP leader Syed Khurshid Shah had said that they were not informed about the budget and the government did not take them into confidence regarding agreements with the IMF and China.  
Later, Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar and senior cabinet member Rana Tanveer Hussain had visited Bilawal Bhutto's cha

## Ahsan Iqbal says state's policy not determined by random published 'articles'



Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad  
Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday accused "a political party" of spreading misinformation about Pakistan-China relations over the past few days, claiming that a smear campaign was underway to sabotage the strong ties between two time-tested friends.  
"Trolling is being used to put pressure on critics, subjecting them to harassment," Iqbal said addressing a press conference in Lahore.  
Iqbal categorically stated that Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) or any other political party would not be allowed to spread misinformation against the state's diplomatic relations and policies.  
"While differences exist between the government and opposition, state institutions should not be targeted. Weakening these institutions jeopardises the stability of the state."  
The minister pointed out that for the first time, Pakistan and China were advancing their relations in the space sector.

"China's participation will elevate the space programme to new heights. China has expressed readiness to enhance CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) at an upgraded level," he reiterated.  
He said that a state's policy was not determined by random articles. "Articles are written and published worldwide, but no country or state formulates policy based on them. Policy decisions are made through negotiations between governments."

## "Concerted campaign" needed to recover weapons from terrorist groups like TTP, Pakistan tells UN

UNITED NATIONS:  
Pakistan's Ambassador Munir Akram has called for a "concerted campaign" to recover weapons from terrorist groups like Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) at the 4th UN Conference to review the implementation of the UN Programme of Action (UNPoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).  
He stated that TTP have been using safe havens in Afghanistan to launch deadly cross-border attacks into Pakistan.  
"Pakistan is particularly concerned about the acquisition and use of modern, sophisticated small arms by terrorist groups such as TTP—a UN-listed terrorist organization," stated Pakistan's envoy.  
The 2001 UNPoA, backed by all member states, provides a framework to counter the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.  
Since then, the UN has supported its implementation at national, regional, and international levels.  
"Terrorists and criminals do not manufacture these arms," the Pakistani envoy told delegates, emphasising they acquire them from illicit arms markets or receive them from entities aiming to destabilise a region or country.  
Pakistan has strengthened its legislative

"It is essential to investigate how terrorist groups and criminal organizations acquire such sophisticated weapons," Akram said.  
"All States and the UN must take measures to prevent the illicit trade, transfer, and disposition of these arms."  
He highlighted that the illicit proliferation, excessive accumulation, and misuse of small arms exacerbate conflicts, fuel terrorism, threaten peace and security, and undermine sustainable development.  
This results in hundreds of thousands of lives lost annually, immense suffering for civilians, and devastated economies and societies.  
"The evolving nature of conflicts and the advent of new technologies pose new challenges to combat the proliferation of increasingly lethal small arms—UAVs and drones," Akram added.  
He noted that the UNPoA and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) represent an enduring international consensus and agreed framework to address challenges related to the unauthorised, illicit trade and trafficking of these arms.  
The current review conference offers an important opportunity to assess progress, identify challenges, and chart the way forward.  
Pakistan has strengthened its legislative



frameworks, enhanced transfer controls, and implemented border measures to prevent the diversion of SALW to unauthorised users.  
However, Akram argued that a supply-side approach alone is insufficient to

tackle the challenges posed by SALW.  
"To reduce demand, more strenuous efforts and resources are required to resolve conflicts, and terrorist activities, and eliminate organised crime."





By:  
**Ahmed  
Naeem Malik**



# Government of Punjab: Exemplary Cleanliness Campaign on Eid

**Under the guidance of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz exemplary cleanliness arrangements were made in every city and village on the occasion of Eid.**

Special Edition



Eid al-Adha has been coming every year and passing away as usual, but this Eid was uniquely remarkable. Throughout Punjab, special attention was not only given to general cleanliness in cities, towns, and even in streets and villages over all three days but also to the timely disposal of sacrificial animal remains and waste. Despite intense summer heat, there were no unpleasant odors from traditional sanitation issues, sewer lines remained clear, and there were no heaps of garbage lying around. The province witnessed revolutionary changes for the first time, driven by the leadership of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. As soon as the sighting of the Zilhaj moon occurred, the Punjab government initiated a plan to make all three days of Eid al-Adha zero waste. From provincial to divisional, district, and tehsil levels, strict instructions were conveyed to ensure that no place in the province should show signs of littering or remnants of animals. Consequently, meetings were promptly convened at all levels. Cleanliness plans were put in place, with responsibilities delegated to Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, and Municipal Officers. To oversee the cleanliness campaign rigorously, the Chief Minister established provincial control rooms and provided citizens with toll-free number 1198 for complaints, available 24/7 if any area was not cleaned on time. Following the Chief Minister's directives, effective implementation was also achieved in the Sargodha division where Commissioner Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti, during preparations on June 13 for Eid and cleanliness operations, issued instructions in a meeting saying, "All municipal officers are urged to ensure responsible implementation. It is everyone's responsibility to make the division zero waste. Municipal bodies should carry out their responsibilities efficiently.



During Eid al-Adha, special teams were formed to promptly address complaints received on control rooms and portals. All DCs, ACs, and municipal officers were required to be present in the field during Eid days." In the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Sargodha Captain (Retired) Orangzeb Haider Khan, Director Local Government, CEO District Council, and CEO Municipal Corporation, along with Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, and other municipal officers, participated via video link. The commissioner said that Suthra Punjab committees for Eid operations in all Punjab should also be entrusted with responsibilities. Social and print media were used to maintain cleanliness and appropriately dispose of sacrificial animal remains among the masses. Immediate arrangements were made for manpower and necessary machinery. In this regard, all four deputy commissioners were instructed to provide meals on the first day to staff participating in Eid cleanliness operations. The commissioner stated that the Punjab Interior Ministry had imposed various restrictions during Eid al-Adha, including a ban on burning animal remains in public places, swimming in rivers, canals, and streams,

livestock at designated sales points and livestock markets, apart from ensuring exemplary arrangements for cleanliness at houses, mosques, and imambargahs. He emphasized that the government had imposed restrictions on gathering proscribed organizations and only holders of the NC can gather them. He said that during all three days of Eid, all health centers should have doctors and paramedical staff on duty. Deputy commissioners briefed the meeting on Eid operation preparations. According to the directives of the Chief Minister and

staff operational at the level of towns for cleanliness and cemetery placement of sacrificial animals' remains. In their respective districts, municipal staff was kept active to clean neighborhood streets. The first phase of cleanliness in houses, mosques, and imambargahs was completed using the best arrangements. Due to the best arrangements, Eid al-Adha gatherings ended well across the division. In the second phase, Assistant Commissioners were responsible for cleanliness staff under the supervision of deputies. Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti toured Sargodha city himself. Detailed review of



Commissioner, divisional and district administrations were present in the field on the first day of Eid al-Adha to provide residents with a clean environment free from infection. Commissioner Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti and Deputy Commissioner Captain (Retired) Orangzeb Haider Khan visited various areas of Sargodha city. Shopping bags were distributed to store animal remains safely, ensuring cleanliness and security arrangements for Eid prayer congregations. The commissioner and deputy commissioner also reviewed sanitation operations in view of Eid prayer performance. The commissioner and deputy commissioner also examined the dumping site. Restrictions were imposed on dumping animal remains in rivers and canals. Section 144 was also applied to illegal hide businesses. Comprehensive plans for making the city clean and clear during Eid seemed to be implemented. The cleanliness operation continued in villages during all three days of Eid. Deputy commissioners had made the

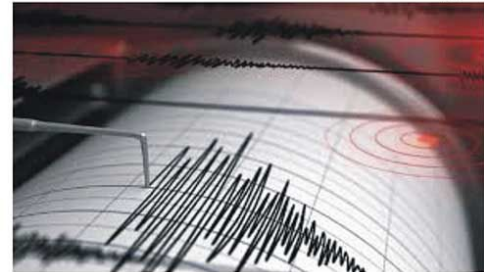
cleanliness operations and boosting morale of workers performing sanitation duties in intense heat. Lunch was also consumed with sanitary workers in the presence of sanitary workers. Cleanliness operations continued throughout the division in full swing. Once again, emphasizing strict instructions, it was said that until zero waste was ensured, all responsible officers and field staff would remain active. Citizens should also cooperate and place remains of sacrificial animals in designated places. The Municipal Corporation's operation to make the city zero waste continued in full swing on the second day of Eid al-Adha. Commissioner and administrator of municipal corporation, Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti, deputy commissioner Captain (Retired) Orangzeb Haider Khan, and DC MC Tariq Paroya, along with other officers, remained in the field themselves. On the second day, 44 Chung Chi Rikshaw, 6 Paikap, 4 Dumper, 15 Tractors, Trolleys, and 8 Leaders were involved in using other heavy machinery. More than 400 sanitary workers moved about 2800 metric tons of animals remains to dumping sites on the first day. Dumping sites were built outside town No. 91 and Jhali Chakyan. Total waste removed in Bhakker was 579 MT, in Khushab 322 MT and in Mianwali 456 MT during three days of Eid.



and dumping remains in rivers, drains, main holes, and sewers, under Section 144. He also announced restrictions on swings in neighborhoods and obtaining full-proof arrangements for all recreational places and parks' fitness certificates. The commissioner added that Sargodha's four districts should appear at the top in the cleanliness competition during Eid operations. Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti emphasized strict enforcement of buying and selling



## Earthquake strikes Karachi, suburbs; no damage or casualties reported



Soon Times Correspondent Rawalpindi  
 A mild-to-moderate earthquake was felt in the coastal city of Karachi and its surrounding areas in the southern province of Sindh on Wednesday night, seismological authorities said.  
 According to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre (NSMC), the tremors were recorded at 9:26 PM.  
 The earthquake registered a magnitude of 3.2 on the Richter scale with a depth of 42 kilometres. The epicentre of the earthquake was located 32 kilometres southwest of Karachi.

Authorities are monitoring the situation and have advised residents to remain calm. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.  
 Earlier in the day, an earthquake measuring 4.7 magnitude jolted Islamabad, Rawalpindi, and parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.  
 The tremors from the earthquake were felt across the twin cities as well as cities across the country's northwestern province.  
 KP cities, where tremors were felt, included Peshawar, Swat, Parachinar, Malakand, Lower Dir, Hangu, Charsadda, Swabi, and their surrounding areas. The tremors were

also recorded in districts North and South Waziristan.  
 According to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre, the earthquake's epicentre was the southeastern region of Afghanistan.  
 The depth of the earthquake, it added, was 98 kilometres.  
 In the first week of this month, an earthquake of 3.2 magnitude had jolted parts of Karachi including the Clifton neighbourhood.  
 The epicentre of the quake was 15 kilometres northeast of Karachi at a depth of 22km, according to the seismic monitoring centre.  
 However, no loss of life or property was reported due to the earthquake.  
 This was the third time that the city was hit by a minor quake in the last few weeks ahead of June.  
 On May 2, a 2.3 magnitude earthquake jolted parts of the metropolis including Gadap Town, Katohar and adjoining areas of Malir district.  
 The epicentre of the quake was 38 kilometres from the northeast of Malir at a depth of 84km, according to the seismic monitoring centre.  
 Similarly, a 3.2 magnitude earthquake jolted Karachi's Malir district on April 24.  
 Natural disasters such as earthquakes are not uncommon in Pakistan, as the country is situated on the boundary of the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates.



## PNS Babar, the first Muljam class warship of Pakistan Navy, visited the port of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Soon Times Correspondent Rawalpindi  
 PNS Babar, the first Muljam class warship of Pakistan Navy, visited the port of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia upon its arrival in Jeddah, the ship of the Pakistan Navy was warmly welcomed by senior officials of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces and Pakistani diplomatic officials. Commanding Officer PNS Babar meeting with Deputy

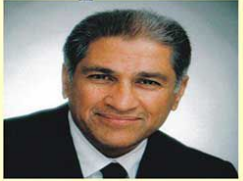
Western Fleet Commander Royal Saudi Naval Forces During the meeting, issues of mutual interest including maritime cooperation between the two countries were discussed. At the end of the visit, PNS Babar participated in a naval exercise with Royal Saudi Naval Forces ship HMS Al Riyadh. The objective of the exercise is to promote mutual cooperation and strong friendly relations between the two countries.



Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi offering Eid prayer in Lahore.

## King Charles awards British-Pakistani philanthropist

LONDON Web Desk  
 King Charles III has awarded the prestigious Commander of the British Empire (CBE) honour to British-Pakistani philanthropist and entrepreneur Asif Rangoonwala for his outstanding philanthropic contributions in the United Kingdom and South Asia, particularly in Pakistan.  
 Rangoonwala, who serves as a vice chair of the King's charity the British Asian Trust (BAT), received this coveted recognition after being named in the King's Birthday Honours list 2024 for his remarkable work in charity and philanthropy.  
 The philanthropist expressed his deep



gratitude and humility upon receiving this honour, stating, "I am deeply honoured and humbled to receive this recognition. I will strive to further our mission of creating a more equitable and compassionate world." Rangoonwala acknowledged the support

of his colleagues over the years, saying, "Public service is a legacy I inherit from my parents as they were devoted to helping others and social causes. We are working in several areas in Karachi, but our work in the education sector is truly remarkable, with tens of thousands of underprivileged children benefiting from our schemes. We plan to expand the scope and nature of our work."  
 The entrepreneur also highlighted the need for more British Pakistanis to be honoured and recognized, stating, "We are one of the most integrated communities in the UK and we play a vital role in all areas of public life. We will be working to bring out more heroes and role models from our communities."

## ANF's crackdown on drug trafficking continues.

Soon Times Correspondent Rawalpindi  
 More than 182 kg of drugs were recovered in 5 operations, 7 accused were arrested. 4 kg of ice was recovered from the parcel sent to Kenya from the cargo office in Rawalpindi. 88.8 kg of hashish and 700 grams of opium were recovered from the accused in Khushab. 22.8 kg hashish and 2 kg opium were recovered

from the accused along with two women near M1 Motorway Islamabad. 22.8 kg of opium, 19.2 kg of hashish and 500 grams of ice were recovered from two suspects in Johar Town Lahore. 21.6 kg hashish recovered from rickshaw in Quetta, accused arrested. Cases under the Anti-Narcotics Act have been registered against the arrested accused and investigation has been started.

## Another important leader of TTP Khawarij died in Kunar region of Afghanistan

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad  
 Internal differences between the TTP and its affiliated terrorist groups have intensified. Due to the infighting and chaos of TTP in Afghanistan, important commanders of TTP are being mysteriously killed day by day. There was an uproar in TTP Khawarij circles when Abdul Manan alias Hakeemullah, a member of TTP Shura Malakand in Asadabad District, Kannada, Afghanistan was sent to hell. The death of the main terrorist leader of TTP in Afghanistan is a clear proof of the presence of TTP in Afghanistan. Terrorist Abdul Manan was involved in several terrorist activities including target killing, landmine blasts, firing at check

posts and extortion in Bajaur. Terrorist Abdul Manan was the right-hand man of TTP leader Azmatullah Mehsud (Azmat Lala), Wali of Malakand. Abdul Manan played a key role in shaping the terrorist activities in Bajaur. Abdul Manan joined the TTP in 2007 and participated in several operations against security forces and innocent civilians. In 2014, the terrorist Abdul Manan was arrested by the Afghan government from Nangarhar province, but after the capture of Kabul by the Afghan Taliban in 2021, the terrorist Abdul Manan was released along with the rest of the terrorists. Terrorist Abdul Manan's brother Tariq alias Asad also belongs to TTP and is involved in terrorist activities. The death of TTP's main leader Abdul Manan is being

considered as a big blow for TTP. After the killing of Abdul Manan alias Hakimullah in Afghanistan, it has once again become clear that "Afghanistan's land is continuously being used against Pakistan" and the Afghan Taliban are providing safe havens to the Khawarijs of the TTP. TTP, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar and Baloch terrorist organizations are leading among the organizations spreading terrorism from Afghanistan to Pakistan. The hideouts of Afghan terrorists who attacked Pakistan are located in Kunar, Nuristan, Paktika, Khost and other areas of Afghanistan. Many times, using the territory of Afghanistan in countless incidents of terrorism, terrorists played bloodshed in Pakistan.

## Pakistani-US family on Eid visit falls prey to 'hi-tech' Motorway robbers



Soon Times Correspondent Rawalpindi  
 In a brazen-faced robbery on the Motorway near Charsadda, three armed dacoits looted a Pakistani-American family travelling from Peshawar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province to federal capital, Islamabad, in the wee hours of Sunday (June 16), according to local police.  
 The trio of robbers used a "tyre blaster" — a puncturing device or technique — to stop the family's vehicle at 2:00 am, then held them at gunpoint, stealing three iPhones, Rs58,000 in cash, and two tolas of gold.  
 The affected family was visiting Pakistan to celebrate Eid ul Adha with their relatives.  
 Police have formed a special investigation team led by SP Investigation Charsadda to probe the

incident and apprehend the culprits. Six suspects have been detained for questioning, and geo-fencing of the crime scene has been conducted. Details of gangs involved in the robbery have been retrieved from records, according to police.  
 Regional Police Officer Mardan Zahoob Babar Afridi informed Geo News that the suspects fled on foot after the holdup. He however assured that they would be apprehended soon.  
 Afridi also said that the Pakistani-American family were guests in Pakistan and efforts were underway to trace the perpetrators and ensure justice. The trio of robbers used a "tyre blaster" — a puncturing device or technique — to stop the family's vehicle at 2:00 am, then held them at gunpoint, stealing three iPhones, Rs58,000 in cash, and two tolas of gold.



Group photo of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar with Chinese engineers and Pakistani team during his visit to Jagran-2 Hydropower Plant under construction in Neelum district, Azad Jammu and Kashmir on June 19, 2024.



## At least one dead due to New Mexico wildfires, thousands evacuated



**RUIDOSO (Reuters)** - At least one person died due to the wildfires in New Mexico which have also led to the evacuation of thousands of people and damaged hundreds of structures, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's office said on Wednesday. "We don't have any additional details," a spokesperson of the governor's office told media. "Only one fatality as a result of the fire."

As of late Tuesday, about 1,400 homes and other structures had been destroyed. The entire New Mexico village of Ruidoso, population 7,000, was evacuated, officials added.



## Despite sanctions, Russia still gets hands on Western goods

**PARIS (AFP)** - A Kansas businessman shipped banned avionics equipment to Russia through Armenia, the UAE and other countries. A French firm falsified documents to help unscrupulous European exporters circumvent sanctions.

Despite more than two years of Western punitive measures, Russia is still getting its hands on prohibited goods, with the help of cunning businesses that go to great lengths to dodge the embargo. Last week, the United States unveiled fresh sanctions against 300 targets in and outside Russia. "These actions strike at their remaining avenues for international materials and equipment, including their reliance on critical supplies from third countries," said Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen. "Unfortunately, when people want to commit fraud, it might take some time but they will succeed." Claire Lavarde, a lawyer at international law firm Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, told AFP.



## Most of deceased pilgrims were without Hajj permits, say officials

**Hajj season witnessed a significant increase in temperature in Makkah**

**(Web Desk)** - Officials from several countries have confirmed that most of their pilgrims who passed away during the Hajj season this year were individuals who entered Saudi Arabia on tourism or visit visas months before the Hajj rituals began. These individuals remained in Makkah until the Hajj season and performed the pilgrimage without proper authorization, lacking support from any company or entity to provide accommodation, food, or transportation services.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration, and Tunisians Abroad confirmed that most of the deceased Tunisian pilgrims had arrived in the Kingdom on tourism, visit or Umrah visas. Similarly, Dr. Sufyan Qadaf, Director of Operations and Consular Affairs at the Jordanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, reported that all Jordanian pilgrims who passed away or went missing were not part of the official Jordanian Hajj delegation; i.e. they had entered Saudi Arabia with tourism or visit visas and without Hajj permits. According to Saudi embassy, this year's Hajj season witnessed a significant increase in temperature in Makkah. A large number of pilgrims arrived on tourism or visit visas from various nationalities. These pilgrims traveled long distances at the holy city under the scorching sun, without any company or entity providing accommodation, food, or transportation services. Consequently, they were exposed to the risks of heat exhaustion, sun exposure, and long walking on rugged, unpaved paths not designated for pedestrians.

## Senegal's President Faye travels to France

**(AFP)** - Faye, who was inaugurated on 2 April, said he would be travelling to France, Wednesday. He will first take part in the Global Forum for Vaccine Sovereignty and Innovation in Paris, scheduled for tomorrow (Thursday), which aims to give Africa more sovereignty to address the many health crises it faces. The Forum has two objectives. The first one is to launch the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA). Based on the lessons learned from the Covid pandemic, the mechanism is an important step in giving African countries health sovereignty. It aims to do this by helping the African Union to meet its goal of manufacturing at least 60% of the vaccine doses needed by Africa on the African continent by 2040.

The second objective is to mark the start of Gavi's replenishment campaign for 2026-2030. Gavi's replenishment campaign is an initiative to secure financial commitments from donor governments, private sector partners, foundations, and other stakeholders to fund its vaccination programs for a specific period, usually five years. Gavi itself, officially known as Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is a global health partnership that aims to increase access to immunization in poor countries. First presidential meeting. The Senegalese head of state has also been invited to lunch by his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron. Faye is coming to France for the summit, but it is not a surprise that it is the first country in Europe that he will visit, analyst Pape Ibrahim Kane said, as the two countries have a long relationship.



## Russia's Putin praises Vietnam for its stance on Ukraine



**Web Desk**  
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# Sports & Showbiz

## Clash of heavyweights as England take on West Indies



## Aliza Sultan's pictures with cryptic caption leaves fans curious



**(Web Desk)** - While sharing her Eid pictures with caption "My perfumes stay longer than their promises", actor Aliza Sultan has left her fans inquisitive to know whose these words are meant for. On this festive post is about her former husband Feroz Khan, who recently contracted second marriage. Rising star Aliza Sultan caused a stir on social media with her stunning Eid appearance and cryptic caption. On this Feast of Sacrifice, Aliza dropped pictures on social media wearing black silk saree with a shiny top and hair band, exuding elegance. Along with her striking snaps, Aliza wrote "my perfume lasts longer than their promises" and fans took it as a subtle reference to her ex-husband - who recently tied the knot.

**GROSISLET (Web Desk)**  
After the angst they endured in the group stage, England have floated down to St Lucia on a wave of exhalation. Whatever happens in their T20 World Cup defence from hereon in, their avoidance of a humiliating first-round exit might yet prove to be as much of a fillip as four rousing wins from four. Their campaign can begin in earnest now, which is just as well, because they are about to bump into a team with no such concerns to weigh them down. England and West Indies are each competing for an unprecedented third T20 World Cup title, and the events at

the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground in Beausport -- a venue named in honour of the man who delivered the hosts those two first titles -- could go some way towards confirming the readiness, or otherwise, of these two very real contenders for the crown. West Indies are fit, focused and firing on all cylinders. They come into this contest on an eight-match unbeaten run, and if there were a few early-tournament nerves on show in an anxious pair of Group C victories over Papua New Guinea and New Zealand, then their unmitigated thrashings of Uganda and a highly-rated Afghanistan have assuaged



## Euro 2024: Southgate faces Foden dilemma ahead of England's clash with Danes



**FRANKFURT (Germany)**  
Garth Southgate must solve his Phil Foden conundrum as the England playmaker struggles to reproduce his brilliant Manchester City form at international level. While England can book their place in the last 16 of Euro 2024 by beating Denmark in Frankfurt on Thursday, Foden's latest underwhelming display for his country has sparked a debate about Southgate's use of such a sublime talent. Foden laboured to make any impact on England's nervy 1-0 win against Serbia in their Group C opener in Gelsenkirchen on Sunday. The 24-year-old was voted the Premier League's Player of the Year after playing a key role in City's fourth successive title triumph with 19 goals and eight assists. Yet, in stark contrast to his excellence in a City shirt, Foden has never looked comfortable with England's Three Lions on his chest. He struggled during England's run to the Euro 2020 final, making substandard starts in the first two games and playing for only a further 25 minutes before missing the final defeat against Italy due to injury.

Following another inconsistent contribution at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, Foden has scored only once in his last 13 internationals. Southgate's decision to play Jude Bellingham, England's number 10 and use Bukayo Saka on the right flank shunted Foden out to the left wing against Serbia. Not for the first time, Foden seemed lost on that side of the three attacking midfield spots behind England striker Harry Kane. At City, Pep Guardiola is completely comfortable with using Foden as the number 10, while he also operates on the right wing at times. Guardiola has allowed Foden to dictate the champions' tempo and he has thrived more than ever this season after taking on an influential role in the absence of the injured Kevin De Bruyne. But against Serbia there were few signs of the skill, deft passing and clinical finishing makes of the 'Stockport Iniesta' - named after former Barcelona and Spain legend Andres Iniesta -- such a favourite of City fans.

## Birmingham WTA champion Ostapenko knocked out in first round

**London**  
Reigning champion Jelena Ostapenko lost in the first round of the Birmingham WTA tour event on Monday as she went down in straight sets to Italy's Elisabetta Cocciaretto. The Latvian, ranked 13th, won her second career title on grass last June but she fell 6-3 6-3 at Edgbaston Priory to Cocciaretto, who still needed seven match points to defeat the 2017 French Open champion. Cocciaretto will face another Grand Slam singles winner from seven years ago in the second round when she takes on Sloane Stephens of the United States. Former US Open champion Stephens beat China's Yuan Yue 6-3, 6-3.



In other matches, Laylah Fernandez -- runner-up to Britain's Emma Raducanu in the 2021 final at Flushing Meadows -- saw off Spain's Sara Sorribes Tormo 6-1, 6-1. Third seeded Romanian Sorana Cirstea lost 7-6(7/2), 6-2 to China's Zhu Lin. Both seventh seed Anastasia Potapova and two-time Wimbledon quarter-finalist Ajla Tomljanovic made it through to the next round. Britain's Katie Boulter, fresh from retaining her title in Nottingham -- another Wimbledon warm-up event -- is set to make the short journey across the English Midlands to begin her Birmingham campaign against Anhelina Kalinina of Ukraine on Tuesday, with former world number one Caroline Wozniacki also scheduled to play.