



Daily SOON TIMES

Chief Editor
Shah Muhammad Awan
Saturday
1st June, 2024
Page: 4 Rs: 20
Vol: 3 Issue: 154
Islamabad
www.soonimes.pk

ABC Certified

Simultaneously Publishing from Islamabad, Sargodha & Karachi

+92 321 888 1135

Two terrorist leaders killed in Peshawar



Soon Times Correspondent PESHAWAR
Terrorist leaders Ayaz alias Muhammad and Ahmadi alias Kochi were killed, and two others were wounded in an intelligence-based operation in Hasankhel area of Peshawar.

According to the ISPR, the operation was conducted on the night of May 30-31 following reports of the presence of terrorists. During the operation, security forces successfully located the terrorists' shelter. Muhammad and Ahmadi were killed.

More to read: Six terrorists killed in two operations in KP: ISPR
Pakistan Army spokesperson stated that the deceased terrorists were involved in several acts of terrorism against security forces and the killing of innocent civilians. The local population appreciated the security forces' operation. The ISPR further highlighted that Pakistan's security forces are committed to eradicating terrorism from the country.

Dar rules out any talks with people involved in May 9 incidents



ISLAMABAD
Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar has ruled out any talks with the elements involved in the May 9 incidents. Talking to the media on Friday, Dar said he believed in reconciliation and negotiations but May 9 was an uprising against the state. "No one can be lenient towards the attackers of GHQ, Jinnah House and other facilities," he said. "Position taken by the corps commanders in a recent meeting is stance of every Pakistani and there should be no concessions in this regard," he concluded.

Dr Shahzad Baig steps down as head of Pakistan's polio eradication programme



ISLAMABAD
(Web Desk)
Dr Shahzad Baig, coordinator of the National Emergency Operations Centre for Polio Eradication, announced his resignation from the post. Dr Baig, who was recently included in the list of 100 most influential people across the world in the field of health in 2024 by Time magazine, confirmed the development, saying he had stepped down for "personal reasons". The resignation of Mr Baig comes after the government decided to appoint a bureaucrat to lead the polio programme in the country. He has been facing criticism over the spread of the crippling disease in Pakistan, with the virus detected in at least 153 environmental samples across 39 districts. Pakistan has so far reported three polio cases in 2024. The third polio case of the year has been reported from Killa Abdullah district of Balochistan.

CM Maryam meets UN delegation, vows to boost cooperation in various sectors

Punjab CM shared her government agenda and running welfare projects.



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE
Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and the United Nations delegation held a meeting and agreed to strengthen cooperation in various sectors. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan Muhammad Yaqub along with a 22-member delegation met with Punjab CM. The delegation included local presidents of UN bodies. It was agreed to boost cooperation in various sectors including education, health, and agriculture in the meeting. Both sides also exchanged views on running developmental projects with the support of UN bodies. Punjab CM informed the delegation about education, health sector reforms, and government policies. She boosted the Punjab stating Punjab's agriculture sector has full potential to transform Pakistan's economy. She reiterated that development and reforms in every sector were her priority. She said her government was dedicated to resolving public crisis on a priority basis. To build 10.1 million homes Punjab CM shared her government agenda and running welfare projects. The public will be facilitated with reforms very soon. For the very first time, the online grading system is being devised for service delivery and good governance. The agenda to build 0.1 million homes with the cooperation of UN bodies will soon be accomplished. CM Maryam Nawaz highlighted that becoming a chief minister despite obstacles was an honor for her.

PM Shehbaz to embark on China visit seeking investment next week

ISLAMABAD
(Web Desk)
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will leave for China on five-day official visit next week on the invitation of Chinese leadership. According to foreign office, the prime minister will meet President Xi Jinping and hold delegation level talks with Premier Li Qiang in Beijing.



The two sides will undertake discussions to further strengthen the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership, upgrade CPEC, advance trade and investment, enhance cooperation in security and defense, energy, space, science and technology. The prime minister will also hold meetings with the Chairman of standing committee of the National People's Congress and heads of key government departments. The foreign office spokesperson said an important aspect of the prime minister's visit will be meeting with the corporate executives of leading Chinese companies dealing in oil and gas, energy, ICT and emerging technologies. In the Chinese city Shenzhen, the prime minister will address Pakistan-China Business Forum. He will also visit economic and agriculture zones in China. According to foreign office, the prime minister's visit is a manifestation of the iron clad China-Pakistan friendship characterised by frequent high level exchanges and dialogue. Earlier, the prime minister directed the authorities concerned to prepare an action plan to encourage the Chinese companies to set up industries in Pakistan.

Mohsin Naqvi meets British counterpart, signs LOI to combat crime



Soon Times Correspondent LONDON
Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has met with Britain James Cleverly. During the meeting, a Letter of Intent (LoI) was signed between the government of Pakistan and Britain. This collaboration between law enforcement agencies (LEAs) of Pakistan and Britain will take up criminal offences cases. Its implementation will be done by a Joint Steering Committee including representatives from the Interior Ministry, the National Police Bureau and the British High Commission. The initiative will promote mutual cooperation in drug prevention, investigations of serious crimes and to combat illegal migration. It will also improve joint cooperation in combating illicit financial tracks and bilateral assistance in tracking crimes at air and sea borders. Talking to media, Mohsin Naqvi stated Britain was long-term partner of Pakistan and the bilateral ties between both states at government and public were commendable. On this occasion, Britain Interior Minister stated that Britain honoured the relations.

Pakistan demands India stop suppressing political activists, intimidating Kashmiris

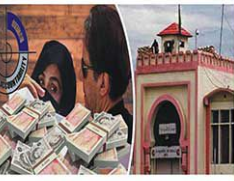


FOREIGN AFFAIR
Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
Pakistan on Friday reiterated its call for India to stop its ongoing campaign to suppress political activists and intimidate the Kashmiri public in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. "The headquarters of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference in Srinagar also remains sealed. India must stop its ongoing campaign to suppress political activists and intimidate the Kashmiri public. The people of

Jammu and Kashmir should be able to freely exercise their right to self-determination as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions." Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said at the weekly press briefing here. Highlighting the unabated Indian campaign to crush dissent in IOJK and the confiscation of properties, the spox told the media that earlier this week, the properties, including lands and a shop of two more Kashmiri youth, were sealed in Shopian district. The Indian authorities have so far seized hundreds of properties across the occupied territory to punish Kashmiri activists, she added. The spokesperson reiterated Pakistan's resolve to continue extending political, diplomatic and moral support to Kashmiris for the just and peaceful settlement of the dispute as per the UN Security Council resolutions.

190m pound reference against Imran, spouse adjourned until June 4

Soon Times Correspondent RAWALPINDI
The hearing of the 190 million pound reference without proceedings has been adjourned until June 4 due to the absence of lawyers in court. During the hearing, Imran Khan and his spouse, Bushra Bibi, appeared before the court. Both said their lawyers couldn't appear in court as cases of terrorism were registered against them in Islamabad. The court inquired why the lawyers who filed the petition on behalf of Imran Khan haven't appeared. Imran Khan replied that the lawyers, who were supposed to defend this reference, had been accused of terrorism. Owing to the unavailability of PTT lawyers in the hearing, the prosecution's nine witnesses couldn't be cross-



examined. Barrister Salman Salfdar, representing the accused, appeared before the court. The petition was filed by PTT lawyers Azhar Saddique, Shoaib Shaheen, and others in court. The petition contended that the counsel, Usman Gull, who had to cross-examine and defend the 190 million pound reference, had been named in the terrorism case. The court adjourned the case hearing without proceeding until June 4.

IHC declines request to dispose of petition for poet Farhad's recovery

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
The Islamabad High Court on Friday rejected the request of the additional attorney general to dispose of a petition seeking the recovery of a poet from Azad Jammu and Kashmir, remarking that the case could only be concluded upon Ahmed Farhad's production. IHC's Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani presided over the proceedings on the plea filed by Arooj Zainab, Farhad's spouse. Lawyers Imaan Mazari and Hadi Ali Chattha represented the petitioner. At the outset of the proceedings, Additional Attorney General Munawar Iqbal Duggal stated that there were cases registered against Farhad in Azad Kashmir, and he was on physical remand until June 2. The state lawyer stated that Farhad's family had met him, so the habeas corpus petition be disposed of. Advancing her arguments, petitioner's lawyer Imaan Mazari said her client



had not only asked for the return of her husband, but also sought action against those responsible for his enforced disappearance. At this, Justice Kayani remarked that the instant case would culminate only on appearance of Farhad in court. In argument AAG Duggal stated that Kashmir was a foreign territory with its own constitution and courts, where judgements of Pakistani courts were treated similarly to judgements of foreign courts. The counsel for the petitioner informed the court that from Islamabad, Farhad's family went to the Dhirkot police station, but he was not there, adding that upon inquiry,

Securities Managers Regulations

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has issued the draft Securities Managers (Licensing and Operations) Regulations, 2024, along with a consultation paper on the proposed Regulations, in order to obtain feedback from

market participants and the general public. The proposed regulatory framework permits eligible securities brokers to provide portfolio management services after obtaining the requisite license to act as a 'securities manager' from the Commission. The licensing requirements for securities

managers include net worth, fiduciary rating, research capacity and other related areas, as provided in the Regulations. Additionally, the securities manager is required to maintain customer funds and securities with an independent custodian. Other key areas addressed in the

Regulations include licensing procedures, conduct of the securities manager, preparation of Investment Policy Statement for the customers, management of conflict of interest, management and investment of customer money and portfolio of securities.

"Foreign investment is indispensable for economic stability"



Tariq Khan Yousafzai

Lack of investment despite announcements and promises is a very important question, which needs immediate attention. What are the concerns of friendly countries? The answer of course is that the political situation is unstable, everything. It is in specific hands. Political parties and leadership have no importance in the country. Evidence of various actions and decisions taken in the past is sufficient. In this regard, former Prime Minister Imran Khan, who is confined in jail, is an example, whose official X handle has uploaded a video of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the main character of the fall of Dhaka. The answer is, because it has unsuccessfully tried to incite the officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army to rebel, dereliction of duty and to incite the officers and soldiers to take action against state institutions. The said video has been viewed by 4.2 million people. See, 56,000 people liked it while 38,000 users reposted it. Moreover, according to him, he was kept in solitary confinement, and he made a big mistake by trusting General Bajwa. Serious allegations have been made that the move is seen as an act of mutiny in the ranks of the Armed Forces and the PICA Act, 2016 is applicable. That is, now Imran Khan will also face this dangerous trial, as far as the country's economy is concerned, no investor will be willing to invest in this situation. Despite this, the government has made reservations for friendly countries. To remove the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has been formed, which includes the heads of the army in addition to the relevant government institutions. The purpose of establishing this investment council is to facilitate investment from friendly countries and implementation was to be

ensured. After the Prime Minister's visits to the Gulf, it is expected that Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates promised to invest 15 billion dollars, after which economic stability began to come to the country. At present, China, which has been given opportunities in Afghanistan, is not taking much interest. However, investment is expected from there too, in this case, the release of a very dangerous video by the founder of a major party in the country is very meaningful, after which investors will definitely prefer to stay away. No one denies the fact that Pakistan wants to get out of its economic difficulties through the investment of friendly countries, but those who want power and the government's institutional system are not allowing the investment agreements to be converted into practical form. Although in the world after changing the form of energy, the Gulf countries want to invest in various sectors in the countries of the world where their investments are safe in order to reduce their dependence on oil. Although Pakistan is a more attractive place for them. But the unstable political situation in Pakistan, mistrust of each other in the provinces and the federation, as well as the business environment, the most important of which are high interest rates and security issues due to the lack of governance in the implementation of investor announcements and agreements. In this situation, it is necessary for the leadership of all political parties to unite to bring economic revolution in the country. And where there are concerns of the units, the path of immediate legislation should be adopted to create such a capital-friendly environment, in which the capitalists approach for investment here on our terms rather than on their terms.

Imran Khan must keep 'mouth shut' if he wants tensions to reduce: Khawaja Asif

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif Friday asked Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan to keep his "mouth shut" if he wants political tension in the country to lessen.

"I think founder PTI wants to increase tension," said the minister in an exclusive interview with in the wake of the controversial social media post shared on Khan's official X — formerly Twitter — account.

A post on X was attributed to the former premier said: "Every Pakistani should study the Hamood ur Rahman Commission Report and get to know who was the true traitor. General Yahya Khan or Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

Asif said the former prime minister, who remains incarcerated at the Adiala jail since August 2023, is trying again to create a situation like that on May 9.

The minister, commenting on the video in question, said attempts are being made to retract the tweet related to the former Bangladeshi president.

"Barrister Gaultar [Khan] clarified that the social media team did not



seek permission before tweeting," said the minister, adding that this was the first time that the party had to retract a post on their social media account.

Khawaja Asif said he has a different stand on the history of the Bangladeshi politician and the tragedy of East Pakistan.

"By exaggerating the tragedy of East Pakistan today, you want to increase the tension," he said, slamming Khan and his party.

The minister maintained that whether it was in politics or sports, the former premier had stung everyone who had done good to him.

"General [Qamar Javed] Bajwa's father, General Faiz [Hamid] was his uncle, now [he is] dumping all the debris at them," said Asif.

commenting on Khan's relationship dynamics with the former military men when he was in power.

Meanwhile, the Federal Investigation Agency's (FIA) cyber crime team on Thursday decided to initiate action against Khan over his controversial tweet on social media.

To pursue an investigation, the anti-crime body reached Adiala jail late Thursday night, but was turned down for a meeting by Khan.

According to the sources within Adiala jail, the former prime minister refused to become part of the FIA investigation related to the controversial social media post.

Khan refused to answer any questions from the FIA team, said the sources.

Digital Transfer Application launched by PULSE Project and Multan Development Authority

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad

The Punjab Urban Land Systems Enhancement (PULSE) Project has successfully launched its first Digital Transfer Application in partnership with the Commissioner Multan and Director General Multan Development Authority (MDA) Maryam Khan. Prior to this development, land records were manually scanned and updated. However, with the advent of this application, the room for human error would be minimized and everything related to land records would be under one roof.

In her inaugural address, Commissioner Multan Maryam Khan lauded MDA's partnership with PULSE as a major step



towards speedy digitization of land records of Punjab, whereby people would not need to run from pillar to post for their land related issues now.

Furthermore, the Commissioner Multan, while appreciating the PULSE Project for its tireless efforts and dedication, directed

all the Deputy Commissioners and Revenue Staff to ensure timely execution of activities undertaken by the PULSE Project such Stakeholder Engagement Workshops in order to provide maximum relief to the common man at the earliest.

The "Books and Novel Ghar" program of The Literary Forum "Tameer-e-Nau"

As part of the program, students are offered free PDF books for research purposes.

Soon Times Correspondent Lahore:

The literary forum "Tameer-e-Nau" is providing free PDF books to students and researchers as per their needs, under the 'Books and Novel Ghar' program. The Tameer-e-Nau team, both in Pakistan and abroad, strives to make available the creations (books,

etc.) of any writer, to the extent possible, so that writers may not face difficulties in their research work. The Tameer-e-Nau team believes that our main objective is to promote knowledge and literature. Moreover, we also provide books and national newspapers/magazines to students, including textbooks for 'All Educational Boards' in

Pakistan and Competitive Exam materials, without any doubt, this is a laborious and commendable effort. The entire responsibility of this series of Tameer-e-Nau lies with Syeda Sadia Amber Jilani and Mah Gul Baloch, who are working with full dedication, hard work, and enthusiasm.



Islamabad : Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on preparation of his upcoming visit to China, on 31 May 2024.

Central Chairman of Imam Hasan Council of Pakistan will visit Bhalwal today



Soon Times Correspondent Lahore: Central Chairman of Imam Hasan Council of Pakistan and Gadi Nashin Darbar Aliya Hazrat Pir Muhammad Yar Bhatti Nowshahi Qadri aka Baba Mali Shah Sarkar, Pir Nasir Abbas Nowshahi Qadri Advocate will visit Tehsil Bhalwal District Sargodha today on Saturday 1st June 2024. Imam Hasan Council's Central Joint Secretary Allama Ghulam Abbas Qadri, Meher Munir Ahmad Siddiqui, Saeed Paracha Advocate and others will welcome him. During his visit, he will meet scholars, lawyers, political, social, religious and journalistic figures. He will consult regarding the organization of Imam Hasan Council Pakistan in Bhalwal and Sargodha. He will also consult regarding the organization of the All-Parties Golden Jubilee Khatam-e-Nabuwat Conference in Bhalwal organized by Imam Hasan Council Pakistan in connection with the fiftieth anniversary of the Law of Khatam-e-Nabuwat.

Bhalwal police arrested owner who harassed child

Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: A 14-year-old child was made to hold up his ears in the sun and harassed by the owner after taking time off from work in Bhalwal. A case was registered on the instructions of the DPO after the video went viral on social media. Farhan, a 14-year-old boy, worked at a furniture shop in Bhalwal, Tehsil of Sargodha. He took leave the day before, so the owner made him hold his ears for two hours in the intense heat and sun. On this, the condition of the child became bad. After seeing the viral video on social media, DPO Asad Jaz Malhi ordered Bhalwal police station to immediately register a case and arrest the accused. Bhalwal police station took immediate action and arrested the accused. DPO says that strict action will be taken against the accused.



Imran Khan refuses to meet FIA team for controversial tweet probe

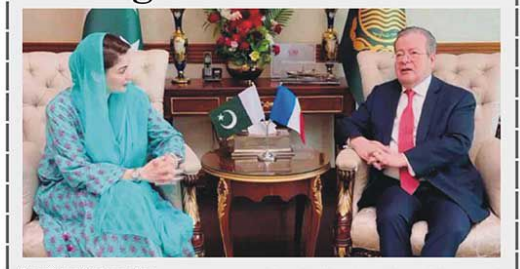
ISLAMABAD Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on Thursday refused to meet a Federal Investigation Agency cyber crime team which visited Adiala Jail to grill him about the latest controversial tweet shared from his account. Khan took the plea that he could not meet the FIA team in the absence of his lawyers. The team, however, returned with a written response by the embattled PTI leader who has been embroiled in a number of cases. A tweet from his account surfaced in which he urged people to read the Hamoodur Rehman Commission report on the 1971 debacle. PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar said it (tweet) was taken out of context.



founder. The official account was used to upload this video, it said. Sources said the FIA Cyber Wing would discuss the matter with four PTI members: the PTI founder, Barrister Gohar, opposition leader Omar Ayub, and Raouf Hasan. The FIA team would determine whether the video was tweeted by the PTI founder himself or anyone else with his consent. FIA sources said they would investigate who created and propagated the "anti-Pakistan" content. "If the account holder is responsible, legal action will be taken against him. If not, he will need to submit a written request to close the X account due to its unlawful use," they said.

FIA decides to conduct probe The FIA Cyber Wing on Thursday decided to conduct an inquiry into the uploading of a "propaganda" video featuring Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from the official X account of the PTI founder. According to FIA sources, on May 26, a propaganda video was tweeted with reference to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from the official X handle of PTI's

French ambassador calls on CM Maryam, vows to strengthen bilateral ties



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE French Ambassador Nicolas Galey and Economic Consul Laurent chopion have called on Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz today. Punjab CM and French ambassador exchanged views to cooperate in various sectors to strengthen bilateral ties. Both sides agreed to boost cooperation in climate change mitigation and initiatives for environmental protection.

Punjab CM reiterated that Pakistan and France' ties and collaboration has strong history, on this occasion. French Ambassador Nicolas Galey commended the public welfare and development initiatives in Punjab saying wanted to work together for progress and stability of Pakistan. He said that collaboration was inevitable to mitigate global challenges like climate change.

NICVD Celebrates International Nurses Day 2024 with Theme "Our Nurses. Our Future: The Economic Power of Care"

Soon Times Correspondent Karachi: The National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) celebrated International Nurses Day 2024 with great enthusiasm and reverence, honoring the theme "Our Nurses. Our Future: The Economic Power of Care." The event was held at a local hotel in Karachi on Friday, May 31, 2024, to recognize the invaluable contributions of nurses and their pivotal role in healthcare. The celebration commenced with a warm welcome note delivered by Ms. Shamsa Samani (Director Nursing, NICVD), setting a positive tone for the day. Following this, the guest of honor, Professor Tahir Saghir, Executive Director of NICVD, delivered an inspiring speech emphasizing the vital economic and social

impact of nursing care. Professor Jawaid Akbar Sial, Executive Director of NICVD, also addressed the audience, highlighting the significance of nursing in the holistic healthcare system and the ongoing efforts to enhance nursing services within the institution. The event's chief guest, Professor Naqem Qamar, former Executive Director of NICVD, delivered a heartfelt speech, reflecting on the transformative journey of NICVD and the indispensable role of nurses in its success. He lauded the dedication and unwavering commitment of the nursing staff, acknowledging their crucial contribution to patient care. Dr. Tariq Ahmed Shaikh, Administrative Executive of NICVD, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all attendees,

especially the nurses, for their relentless service and dedication. He also thanked the distinguished guests for their insightful speeches and continued support. The celebration concluded with the distribution of souvenirs and certificates among the chief guest, guest of honors, and nurses, recognizing their outstanding service and dedication to the healthcare profession. NICVD remains committed to supporting and empowering its nursing staff, acknowledging their critical role in providing top-tier cardiovascular care to patients. This celebration was a testament to the institute's ongoing dedication to enhancing the professional and personal growth of its nurses.

LHC takes up plea challenging ECP authority to withdraw PTI election symbol

Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE The Lahore High Court on Friday commenced hearing on a petition filed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf challenging the Election Commission of Pakistan's authority to withdraw the party's election symbol of bat. Justice Abid Aziz Shaikh, who conducted the proceedings, directed the counsel for the federation to submit arguments regarding the jurisdiction of the ECP. The petition was moved by several office-bearers of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. The petition argues that the withdrawal of PTI's electoral symbol on part of the ECP prior



to the general elections constituted an illegal action. It requests the court to declare the Sections 215, 209, 208 and others of the Election Act as unconstitutional. Later, the court adjourned the proceedings

Azerbaijan FM calls on army chief, discusses regional stability



Soon Times Correspondent RAWALPINDI Azerbaijan Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, who is on a visit to Pakistan, called on Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir on Friday and discussed matters

of mutual and bilateral interest, including regional peace and stability. The Azerbaijan minister visited the General Headquarters (GHQ) here and held in-depth discussions with the COAS. Gen Asim emphasized Pakistan's longstanding fraternal ties with Azerbaijan and reiterated unwavering commitment to providing comprehensive assistance and cooperation in the fields of defense and security. The COAS praised the Azerbaijani Armed Forces for their exemplary professionalism and valor. The visiting dignitary expressed his sincere appreciation for Pakistan's steadfast support to Azerbaijan and acknowledged the country's pivotal role in maintaining regional stability. Related Topics

Pakistan's Sammi Deen Baloch receives int'l award for human rights activism

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad Pakistani activist Sammi Deen Baloch has been honoured with the Front Line Defenders Award 2024 in Dublin, Ireland, for raising her voice on human rights issues in the South Asian nation. Front Line Defenders announced the five winners of its top distinction, the 2024 Award for Human Rights Defenders at Risk, at a special ceremony in Dublin on Friday. "It is an honour for me that my struggle has been recognised at the global level. It is very difficult to fight for human rights in Pakistan, but it is vital," Baloch told Geo News from Dublin, as she vowed to continue her struggle. The annual Front Line Defenders Award for Human Rights Defenders at Risk was established in 2005 to honour the work of HRDs who are courageously making outstanding contributions to the promotion and protection of the human rights of others, often at great personal risk to themselves. The Award focuses international attention on



the work and struggles of HRDs, providing a greater national and international platform to speak about and advocate for the human rights issues they are defending. Laureates are selected from among scores of candidates which are put forward in a secure, public nomination process carried out towards the end of each year and Award winners are announced on the day of the Award Ceremony in Dublin usually in May the following year. Baloch, hailing from Balochistan's Awaran and the General Secretary of the Voice for Baloch Missing Persons (VBMP), was selected from Asia and the Pacific.

No "anti-state" slogan and speech; 39 conditions set for PTI rally on June 8

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD The federal government on Friday set 39 conditions for permission to the former ruling party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), to hold a public rally on June 8. The deputy commissioner was compelled by the Islamabad High Court (IHC) to allow the PTI to hold a rally. The deputy commissioner issued an NOC (No-objection Certificate) in



this regard. The deputy commissioner has bound the PTI to start and end the rally according to the scheduled time given to the administration. There will be no slogans and speeches against the state. The party will guarantee that there will be no riots and damage to the state property. Moreover, the PTI will ensure the security of the rally participants and others. It may be recalled that the administration allowed the PTI to hold rally on June 8 on the IHC order and subsequently informed the court of permission granted to it.

US, UK air strikes on Yemen kill at least 16: Huthi TV



HODEIDA
The United States and Britain carried out air strikes on Yemen in what they said was a bid to degrade Iran-backed rebels' maritime attack capabilities, with Huthi media on Friday reporting 16 killed. The Huthis have been targeting shipping around the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden since November, citing solidarity with Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, which has been bombarded by Israel since militant group Hamas launched an attack inside Israel on October 7.

AFP journalists heard loud explosions in the capital Sanaa and the port city of Hodeida overnight from Thursday to Friday. Strikes also targeted telecoms infrastructure in the town of Tazeh, the Huthi-controlled Al-Masrah television reported.

Citing health authorities, the TV station said 16 people were killed and more than 35 were wounded in Hodeida alone, without specifying if they were civilians or militants.

US, China defence chiefs lock horns on Taiwan at Asia security summit



SINGAPORE
The US and Chinese defence chiefs locked horns on Taiwan in their first face-to-face meeting in two years on Friday, but both sides emphasised the need to keep military-to-military communications open.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and China's defence minister, Dong Jun, met in Singapore on the sidelines of Asia's premier defence summit, the Shangri-La Dialogue. The Philippines' president was to give a speech at the meeting later in the day that was expected to touch on sensitive South China Sea claims.

The US-China relationship is expected to loom over the dialogue, as are the wars in Ukraine and Gaza.



Israeli airstrike on Rafah kills 12 Palestinians, Gaza medics say

Israel has kept up raids on Rafah despite an order by the ICJ to halt the attacks

JERUSALEM
Israeli forces killed at least 12 Palestinians in a dawn airstrike on Rafah in southern Gaza on Thursday and fighting raged in several other areas of the coastal enclave, Gaza medics said.

Israel pressed on with its offensive on Rafah a day after saying its forces had taken control of a buffer zone along the nearby border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, giving it effective authority over Gaza's entire land frontier.

It said the buffer zone's capture had cut off a route used by the Palestinian group Hamas to smuggle arms into Gaza during more than seven months of war, which has laid waste to much of the territory and raised fears of famine.

Gaza medical sources said the 12 Palestinians, whom it said were civilians, had been killed and an unspecified number of others wounded in an Israeli airstrike as they tried to recover the body of a civilian in the centre of Rafah.

Another Palestinian civilian was killed in an airstrike on Al-Shati refugee camp west of Gaza City in the north of the densely populated enclave, the medics said.

Israel reported clashes in southern, central and northern Gaza but did not immediately comment on the reported deaths in Rafah, where hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians took refuge earlier in the war.

Communication services were cut off in Rafah, Palestinian telecommunications company Jawa said in a statement.

Israel has kept up raids on Rafah despite an order by the International Court of Justice, the top UN court, to halt the attacks.

Xochitl Galvez, the maverick opposition candidate seeking Mexico's presidency

MEXICO CITY
A rags to riches story and a penchant for publicity propelled businesswoman Xochitl Galvez into the limelight as the main opposition candidate for Mexico's presidency, campaigning on a promise to confront drug cartels and improve the economy.



Galvez, 61, who trails ruling party candidate Claudia Sheinbaum in the polls ahead of Sunday's vote, represents a coalition of opposition parties and vows to restore security to Mexico, where around 30,000 people are murdered every year and criminal groups wield far-reaching influence.

Born in Tepatepec, in the central state of Hidalgo, Galvez has described how the poverty and violence that she and her mother suffered at the hands of her father, an alcoholic rural teacher, motivated her to push forward. She is proud of her Otomi indigenous origin.

Galvez calls herself a rebel. She left

home at the age of 17 for Mexico City to study and escape the social expectation in her home town that she marry young. In Mexico City she studied computer engineering at the National Autonomous University of Mexico and specialized in robotics before founding technology companies.

In 1999, the World Economic Forum named her one of the 100 global leaders of the future.

Galvez is known for her casual and irreverent way of speaking, using colloquial slang in the face of a Mexican political tradition that remains largely formal.

Egypt extends crackdown on Gaza activism with student arrests



CAIRO
Egypt has detained several students who were trying to promote pro-Palestinian boycotts and solidarity campaigns, the latest sign that it does not want to leave space for activism over the war in Gaza despite growing official criticism of Israel.

The students are among dozens of people held in connection with protests against Israel's military campaign, some of them detained in October when state-sanctioned rallies spilled over to unauthorised sites including Cairo's Tahrir Square.

Analysts say Egyptian authorities fear that demonstrations over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict could fuel domestic political dissent, which has been suppressed in a broad crackdown lasting more than a decade.

According to the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR), an independent Cairo-based group, at least 125 people have been arrested since the Gaza war began in October, 95 of whom are still being held in pre-trial detention on charges including membership of a banned group or spreading false news.

Three students were arrested earlier this month over their attempt to create a group called Students for Palestine, according to Nabeh El Ganadi, a human rights lawyer who represents two of the students. They include Ziad Bassiouny, a 22-year-old student at an arts institute in Giza.

About 40 members of the security forces were deployed to arrest Bassiouny at his apartment in the early hours of May 9, his mother Fayza Hendawy told Reuters. "They pointed their rifles at us so that none of us could move," she said, describing the overnight raid.

The students "did not call for protests or anything like that," she said. "It's not a political group," they're just students calling on Egyptian students to stand with Palestine and show their support publicly like the rest of the universities globally."

Sports & Showbiz

Naqvi announces \$100,000 cash prize for each player if team wins T20 World Cup



LONDON (WebDesk)
Pakistan cricket team on Friday departed for the US from London to participate in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, scheduled to start from June 1. The Team Green will land in Dallas where it will take on hosts US in their first Group A match on June 6. Earlier this month, the Pakistan Cricket Board unveiled its 15-player squad for the mega cricket event in the USA and Caribbean from 1-29 June.

Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Rizwan, Naseem Shah, Sam Ayub, Shadab Khan, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Usman Khan
Of the 15 players, Abrar Ahmed, Azam Khan, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Saim Ayub and Usman Khan have been picked for their maiden T20 World Cup, while Mohammad Amir and Imad Wasim last appeared in the 2016 and 2021 tournaments, respectively. The other eight players participated in the 2022 event in Australia. Pakistan has one of the most impressive records in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup since its inception in 2007 in South Africa.



West Indies issue warning with impressive Australia triumph

(WebDesk)
The West Indies showed some ominous signs as the ICC Men's T20 World Cup co-hosts registered an impressive 35-run victory over Australia in their warm-up fixture in Trinidad.

Nicholas Poonan was the star of the show with a superb 75 as the West Indies posted a massive total of 257/4 at Queens Park Oval and that score proved too much for Australia as the Caribbean side cruised home to victory ahead of their opening match at the T20 World Cup against Papua New Guinea on Sunday.

Poonan snatched a whopping eight sixes during his 25-ball stay and skipper Rowan Powell (52), left-hander Sherfane Rutherford (47*) and opener Johnson Charles (40) also got in the act as the two-time T20 World Cup champions delighted their home crowd with some scintillating power-hitting. All of Australia's bowlers felt the wrath of the West Indies' top-order, with first-choice spinner Adam Zampa conceding 62 runs from his four overs while picking up two

wickets. Australia put up a decent show in reply despite missing a host of key players, with Josh Inglis (55), Natlan Ellis (39) and Ashton Agar (28) looking the most dangerous in what was always going to be a difficult chase as the 2021 T20 World Cup winners finished with 222/7 in their final warm-up fixture.

Spinner Gudakesh Motie (2/31) and tall pacer Alzarri Joseph (2/44) picking up a pair of wickets each for the hosts.

In the other completed warm-up fixture on Thursday, Namibia narrowly defeated Papua New Guinea by three runs (DLS method) following a rain-affected contest in Tarouba. Papua New Guinea could only muster 109/7 from their 20 overs, but an inspired spell from Assad Vala (2/17) helped keep Namibia in touch and the African nation were sitting precariously at 93/6 in the 17th over when the match was called off at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy.

Diljit Dosanjh's mesmeric rendition on Arif Lohar's song 'Jugni' delights fans



TEXAS (WebDesk)
Indian singer and actor Diljit Dosanjh mesmerised the crowd with his entrancing performance on Pakistani singer Arif Lohar's classic song 'Jugni'.

Uruguay's Cavani retires from international duty



(Reuters)
Uruguay's Boca Juniors striker Edinson Cavani announced his retirement from international football. A 2011 Copa America winner, the 37-year-old Cavani is Uruguay's second-most capped player (136) and second highest scorer (58) behind Luis Suarez, having made his debut in a 2-2 draw with Colombia in a friendly in February 2008.

"They were undoubtedly many precious years. I would have a thousand things to say, tell and remember, but today I want to dedicate myself to this new stage of my career and give everything where I have to be," Cavani wrote on Instagram.

"Today I decide to take a step aside, but I will always follow you with a beating heart, like when I used to go out on the pitch wearing this beautiful shirt."

At club level Cavani won six Ligue 1 titles and five French Cups with Paris St Germain between 2014 and 2020. He scored 200 goals in all competitions for the Parisian club.

Cavani also played for Napoli, winning the 2011-12 Coppa Italia, and Manchester United. He joined Boca Juniors in July 2023 after parting ways with La Liga side Valencia. Related Topics