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## SC orders issuance of ad to summon Qasim Suri in polls irregularities case



Soon Times Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

The Supreme Court has ordered to issue an advertisement to summon Qasim Suri in the electoral irregularities case.

A hearing was held in the Supreme Court on the appeal against the de-seating of former deputy speaker National Assembly Qasim Suri.

Suri, once again, did not appear before the court despite summons issued for him.

The court ordered to issue an advertisement to summon Suri and asked to paste the notice outside Suri's house. Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa remarked that according to record, Suri's brother Bilal had refused to receive the notice.

"Suri is deliberately not appearing in the Supreme Court. The former deputy speaker's refusal to receive the notice is unfortunate," said the CJP.

The chief justice, while talking to Suri's lawyer Naem Bakhari, said, "Your client is very active on media and social media."

## Institutions should work within their limits, observes Justice Kayani



Soon Times Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

Justice Mobsin Akhtar Kayani of Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday says no one is above the law and all institutions should work within their constitutional jurisdiction.

He gave these remarks while hearing the petition for the recovery of poet Ahmed Farhad Shah.

Advocate Inan Mazari appeared on behalf of the petitioner while senior journalist Hamid Mir assisted the court as amicus curiae.

Additional Attorney General Munawar Iqbal and Assistant Attorney General Barrister Usman Ghuman were also present in the court.

Advocate Inan Mazari said that the bail petition of Ahmed Farhad had been rejected by a local court of Muzaffargarh.

Advocate Riasat Azad said that the court shouldn't dispose of the case as it is a matter of basic human rights.

## PTI leaders Yasmin Rashid, Umar Sarfaraz, others granted bail extension in four cases of May 9



Soon Times Correspondent

LAHORE

Lahore anti-terrorism court (ATC) has granted bail extension to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders, Dr. Yasmin Rashid, Umar Sarfaraz, Cheema, Ijaz Chaudhry and Mian Mehmoondur Rasheed in four cases of May 9.

Lahore ATC heard the case of PTI leaders' bails against four cases of May 9 on Friday.

The case wasn't proceeded further today due to ATC Judge Arslan Javed being on leave.

Court has adjourned the case hearing until June 12 by providing extension in bails of PTI leaders.

# Pakistan, China vow to 'protect' CPEC from detractors, adversaries

PM expresses unflinching resolve to ensure safety of Chinese personnel in Pakistan



Soon Times Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and China have vowed to protect the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) from its detractors and adversaries as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif assured Beijing of providing complete security to personnel working on multi-billion projects.

PM Shehbaz is visiting China from June 4 to 8 at the invitation of President Xi Jinping, seeking to upgrade cooperation under the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a key part of Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative. In a statement, the PM's Office said during the meeting, the two sides discussed the significance of Gwadar as an important

pillar of CPEC and agreed to expedite the timely completion of all related infrastructure projects to transform Gwadar into a regional economic hub. "They also expressed their firm commitment to protect CPEC from its detractors and adversaries and to upgrade CPEC in the form of enhanced cooperation," the statement said.

The prime minister also reaffirmed Pakistan's unflinching resolve to ensure the safety and security of Chinese personnel and projects in Pakistan. Chinese investment and financial support since 2013 have been key for the South Asian nation's struggling economy, including the rolling over of loans so that Islamabad

is able to meet external financing needs at a time when foreign reserves are critically low.

China has also invested billions in various power projects and road networks in Pakistan under the \$65 billion CPEC plan, but the implementation of various projects has slowed in recent months.

"Unwavering support" During the talks, the two leaders discussed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and discussed regional and global developments of mutual interest.

They noted that the China-Pakistan All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership was characterised by mutual trust, shared principles and strategic convergence.

## CM Maryam Nawaz directs implementation of RUDA master plan

Soon Times Correspondent

LAHORE

A decision was made to collaborate with China and other international organisations to complete the Ravi Urban Development Authority (RUDA) projects.

A special meeting, chaired by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz President Nawaz Sharif, included a detailed briefing by the authority CEO Inman Amin about the project.

The CM directed the implementation of the master plan in the authority area. The meeting also agreed on a proposal to build an international-level airport as part of the Twin City Project.

During the meeting, it was decided in principle to increase the forest area in RUDA from 20% to 35%. Also, it was agreed to clean the Ravi River within the RUDA area and maintain a riverbed width of more than 1,000 metres.

CM Maryam ordered the enforcement of rules



prohibiting construction in the RUDA forest area and ordered a halt to the illegal sale and purchase of land in the region.

The establishment of a special police force to prevent encroachment on RUDA's land was also discussed.

On this occasion, Nawaz Sharif stated that in 2013, he had planned to develop a new city on the bank of the Ravi River. However, successive administrations created barriers. Nawaz also called for action against those delaying the future development of Lahore.

## Prince Rahim Aga Khan conferred with 'Nishan-i-Pakistan'

Soon Times Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday conferred Nishan-i-Pakistan award on Prince Rahim Aga Khan.

The top civilian award was conferred on Prince Rahim

Aga Khan to acknowledge his meritorious services for the development, prosperity, and betterment of Pakistan and its people.

The award ceremony was held at the Aiywan-e-Sadr and attended by Senate Chairman Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, KP Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, federal ministers, parliamentarians, diplomats, and senior government officers. Prince Rahim Aga Khan, through his many leadership roles for more than a quarter century within the Aga Khan Development Network, dedicated his untiring efforts to



improve the living standard of the people in resource-constrained regions of Asia and Africa.

Prince Rahim has contributed immensely to the economic, health, education, and cultural well-being of poor and marginalized communities, upholding a multigenerational legacy.

Under his leadership, the Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development has advanced path-breaking initiatives in Pakistan in commercial banking, microfinance, insurance, sustainable tourism and renewable energy sectors.

## Dialogue only with those who hold 'real power': Imran

x-PM says he has not requested any favours or facilities in prison



Soon Times Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

Imran Khan, the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), stated on Friday that he would only engage in dialogue with those who hold "real power."

"I have been kept in a death cell," he lamented, adding that he has not requested any favours or facilities in prison. "I cannot tweet from jail, I instruct my lawyers to tweet on my behalf."

Speaking to the media after the hearing of the £190 million scam case in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail,

Khan criticised the government, saying, "The Hamoodur Rahman Commission was established for two purposes: to prevent the repetition of past mistakes and to identify those responsible. The commission held General Yahya Khan accountable for prioritising his power, and today, the same mistakes are being repeated, leading to economic collapse."

Khan highlighted the achievements of his government, stating, "During our three and a half years in power, NAB collected Rs450 billion. An additional Rs1,100 billion was

expected, but due to amendments in NAB laws, only Rs300,000 was collected once, and Rs1.5 million another time. These amendments have cost the country Rs1,100 billion, a loss it cannot afford." Khan praised PTI's social media activists as heroes and demanded an apology from FIA for fabricating a false cyber case against him. "Political vendetta is ongoing in the country," he said. "I will respond to FIA only in the presence of my lawyers. Mohsin Naqvi is orchestrating all this."

# Pakistan, China resolve to protect CPEC from 'detractors, adversaries': FO

PM Shehbaz also reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to ensure safety and security of Chinese personnel

Soon Times Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang resolved to protect the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project "from its detractors and adversaries", the Foreign Office (FO) said.

Addressing a weekly press briefing, FO spokesperson Muntaz Zahra-Baloch said the two leaders held delegation-level talks in Chinese capital Beijing this morning.

During the talks, premiers Shehbaz and Li Qiang reiterated their unwavering support for each other on core issues and also reaffirmed their continued commitment to CPEC's high-quality development and the timely

completion of all ongoing projects, Zahra said. The two leaders asserted that the Pakistan-China All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership was "characterised by mutual trust, shared principles and strategic convergence," she added. PM Shehbaz also reaffirmed Pakistan's "unflinching resolve" to ensure the safety and security of Chinese personnel and projects in Pakistan, Zahra continued.

She said the two nations agreed to maintain high-level exchanges, including "strengthening institutional linkages at all tiers and in all spheres of bilateral cooperation."

"Pakistan and China will also continue to consult closely on issues of regional and global



significance and multilateral fora, especially during the two-year term of Pakistan" as a non-member of the United Nations Security Council, the FO spokesperson said.

Zahra highlighted that 23 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and agreements were also signed, which were aimed at

"deepening cooperation in transport infrastructure, industry, energy, agriculture, media, health, water and socio-economic development" among other areas. PM Shehbaz will later travel to the city of Xi'an where he will hold meetings with the provincial leadership and business leaders in agricultural and green energy sectors, she

added. INDIA-OCCUPIED KASHMIR

Meanwhile, the spokesperson said Pakistan has called for India to be held accountable for its unabated human rights abuses in the Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK) where more than 7,000 people have so far died in the custody of Indian forces during the last three decades.

Mentioning the reported death of a civilian at a police station in Pulwama district, she said "this is not the first incident of its kind as over the last three decades the number of custodial deaths in IOJK has exceeded 7,000. The perpetrators of these crimes should be held accountable," she said reaffirming Pakistan's continuous political, diplomatic and moral support to Kashmiri.



## World Ocean Day 2024



World Oceans Day (WOD) is celebrated on 8th of June each year; however, this year the Day was observed on 7th June 2024. The aim WOD is to raise awareness among populace to protect the oceans and their resources as they provide more

than 50% of the oxygen produced on this planet and absorb about 30% of carbon dioxide produced by humans, moderating the impact of global warming. The Day provides us an opportunity to focus on the challenges our oceans face in maintaining an ecological balance in the environment.

The theme selected by UNESCO for WOD 2024 is, 'Awaken New Depths'. This resonates deeply with our mission to protect and restore our oceans with renewed understanding, commitment, collaboration and vigour. Our oceans are facing unprecedented threats from human activities such as overfishing, pollution and climate change. These threats not only imperil marine life but also cast devastating impacts on our national security, economy, and

human well-being.

We depend on our oceans for livelihood; fishing alone, produces not only food for billions of people but also creates millions of jobs worldwide. We need to conserve our enormous marine resources for our future generations. Pakistan Navy, entrusted with the task to protect our maritime interests is working assiduously, in league with Pakistan Maritime Security Agency and relevant agencies to prevent pollution, monitor marine traffic and enforce regulations to ensure sustainability of our oceans.

To commemorate significance of WOD, Pakistan Navy is playing a lead role in promoting safe and sustainable use of ocean resources. A number of events and activities have been arranged to highlight the spirit of the

day and raise awareness about oceans and their resources. Some key PN initiatives include: beach cleaning, enforcement of pollution control using harbour debris collection barges, mangroves plantation in association with International Union for Conservation of Nature, banning use of destructive fishing nets, tackling oil pollution at sea and coordinating with industrial community to reduce waste dumping into the sea. National Institute of Maritime Affairs is also holding a seminar on WOD-24 Theme which will help promote the essence of the day.

Let us join hands with the global community to build a sustainable future for our oceans. We must make concerted efforts to address climate change, reduce plastic waste.

## China's Geo-Political and Geo-Economic Interest in Afghanistan: Challenges and Opportunities



Masood Ahmed

country's 647500 km<sup>2</sup>. Afghanistan enjoys a generally temperate climate. The country has more than 3317 miles (5529 km) of borders with neighboring countries. It shares borders to the North East with China (76 km) and the East with Pakistan (2430 km) and others (3023 km). Afghanistan has extensive mineral resources that have barely been tapped, apart from Natural Gas, which also has modest untapped Oil resources.

Afghanistan has an agriculture-based economy although only 12% of the land is suitable for crops; more than 40% can be used as pasture. The country produces a rich variety of high-quality fruits and nuts much of Afghanistan's fresh and Dried fruits have typically been exported to European and Asian countries. Historically, Afghanistan and China have always had friendly relations, when Afghanistan was ruled by Ahmad Shah Durrani and China by Qianlong. However, in the 20th century, two superpowers, the USSR and USA began to attack Afghanistan. These interventions led to massive casualties, political instability, and regional violence. China relations in the 21st Century Although initially somewhat limited commercial relations continued, China provided billions of dollars in aid to Afghanistan and China can help the country achieve peace and stability. In 2022, a major earthquake occurred in Afghanistan, and China participated in humanitarian aid and provided aid worth 7.5 million US dollars to people affected by the earthquake. China's continuous negotiations with the Taliban government on trade investment and aid. China hopes to maintain stability in Afghanistan and prevent the spread of terrorism and insurgency into its territory, especially the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Afghanistan is the gateway to Central Asia and China aims to expand its influence in the region through its relations with Afghanistan. China sees Afghanistan as an important partner in the fight against terrorism, especially

the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM). Natural resources such as oil, gas, and minerals are important for China's energy security. China is interested in Afghanistan's mineral resources, including copper, lithium, and other rare earth minerals. Afghanistan provides access to trade with Central Asia and beyond, which is critical to China's economic growth and expansion.

Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and China:

After withdrawing US troops from Afghanistan in 2021, the Chinese government expressed its willingness to cooperate with the new Taliban-led government. In December 2023, Bilal Karimi was accepted as Afghanistan's Ambassador to China. Karimi presented his credentials to Chinese President Xi Jinping in January 2024, making China the first country to accept credentials from Taliban diplomats.

China's economic character in Afghanistan:

China's business model in Afghanistan and Afghanistan is an underdeveloped country with extreme poverty, unemployment, and poor infrastructure. Afghanistan currently depends on foreign aid for more than 90 percent of its budget. Afghanistan has the largest undiscovered reserves of copper, coal, iron, natural gas, cobalt, mercury, gold, lithium, and thorium, estimated at more than \$1 trillion. Deposits are now also open to international investors. China has shown interest in these resources since the opening of these facilities. In the current global environment, China is the world's largest economy and Afghanistan still needs jobs. China needs more storage space for the Chinese economy, which has an important position in the world economy, to maintain stable growth. Since its domestic resources are not sufficient to meet the needs of its growing economy, China is developing its role in Afghanistan to meet this

demand. China is interested in Afghanistan's security because there are financial interests behind all of this and it wants to provide a good place for companies to operate in Afghanistan and transport natural resources back to China. Economic relations in the 21st century China became Afghanistan's largest trading partner in its first nine years of existence; Bilateral trade between the two countries increased by 25 million US dollars to 250 million US dollars. In 2006, the "China-Arab Economic Committee" was established to expand bilateral trade and provide duty-free access to approximately 278 types of goods.

China Afghanistan Rail Corridor:

While China and Afghanistan are working together to build a new railway that will allow Chinese trains to carry goods from Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan to Afghanistan, Afghan exports are also returning to China via the same route. The first train of this line arrived at the port of Haillan in the northern province of Balkh in November 2017.

China Foreign Policy Objective:

China's engagement in Afghanistan is guided by its broader foreign policy objectives, which prioritize regional stability, security, and economic interests. China's approach to Afghanistan is shaped by its desire to counterbalance the influence of other major powers, including the United States, India, and Pakistan. China's strategies include Accommodation: China has employed various strategies to accommodate Afghanistan's interests, including diplomatic recognition, economic aid, and support for Afghan-led political processes.

Regional standing: China seeks to enhance its regional standing by engaging with Afghanistan and other neighboring countries, promoting economic cooperation, and supporting regional security initiatives.

Status: China aims to elevate its status as a global power by playing a constructive role in Afghanistan's peace and stability, which aligns with its broader foreign policy objective of becoming a major player in international affairs.

Conclusion:

To ensure stability in Afghanistan, regional countries must play an important role in Afghanistan through regional cooperation. All this must be done while respecting the true territory and independence of neighboring Afghanistan. Afghanistan's geopolitical importance and China's heavy investment in the country indicate that the two countries are willing to improve relations and continue economic cooperation. Through regional integration, conflict, security uncertainty, economic instability, and divided society in Afghanistan can be normalized and enable Afghanistan to establish good relations with the rest of the world. To this end, China needs to carefully develop policies that will stabilize Afghanistan through financial investment and reconstruction after 2014. It should also contribute to the provision of amenities such as communications, education, and healthcare, and provide training to the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police, according to the United States and many countries in the region and around the world. Yes, compared to the West's difficult problems in the past decade, China can guarantee peace, security, and stability in Afghanistan; It can also guarantee peace, security, and stability in South Asia in the Asian century. Indeed, China is increasingly unable to accept the counterterrorism approach to its neighbors, especially Afghanistan, where NATO and the United States still hold hands. However, China is ready to join Afghanistan and Central Asia to increase its influence, economic and political influence in the region from Eurasia.

### Abstract:

China has geopolitical and geo-economics interests in Afghanistan, creating a difficult and exciting environment. In terms of geography, China hopes that Afghanistan will remain stable to prevent the spread of insurgency and separatism in the Xinjiang region. It also hopes to tap Afghanistan's natural wealth, and scarce earth minerals, and expand its influence in Central Asia. Through the Belt and Road Initiative, China sees hope for economic cooperation, including economic development, energy projects, and infrastructure development. China supports Afghanistan's economy, participates in international conferences, and establishes good relations. But global cooperation, including actions by neighboring countries, regional powers, and the international community, is necessary to ensure sustainability, security, and awareness of Afghanistan's economic potential.

### Introduction:

Afghanistan's geography helps explain its troubled modern history. A landlocked Central Asian country of modest size, it rests mostly on bare mountains: ranges and high Rocky plains far from the dynamic centers of modern civilization. Its position astride the ancient trade and invasion routes between East Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East once made Afghanistan a crossroads of cultures rugged mountains cover about half of the

## The Rise of Pet Insurance

By Dr. Saba Anwer

For many Pakistanis, pets are cherished members of the family. Yet, rising veterinary costs can pose a significant barrier to ensuring their furry companions receive the best possible care. This is where pet insurance, a relatively new concept in Pakistan, is gaining traction. Let's delve into the burgeoning world of pet insurance, exploring its affordability, coverage options, and the potential impact it can have on the veterinary landscape. Similar to human health insurance, pet insurance allows owners to pay a monthly premium in exchange for coverage against unexpected veterinary expenses. The

burgeoning trend of pet insurance in Pakistan signifies a transformative shift in how pet owners perceive and manage the health and well-being of their furry companions. As the country experiences an uptick in pet ownership, driven by an evolving societal appreciation for animals and their roles in households, the demand for comprehensive pet insurance is witnessing unprecedented growth. This surge can be attributed to the increasing awareness among pet owners about the high costs associated with veterinary care, which often includes routine check-ups, emergency treatments, surgeries, and vaccinations.

Companies like Adamjee Insurance and Jubilee General Insurance are at the forefront, offering a variety of affordable plans that cater to different needs and budgets. These plans typically cover accidents, illnesses, and even routine care, thereby providing a financial safety net that ensures pets receive the best possible medical attention without imposing a significant financial burden on their owners. For instance, Adamjee Insurance's Pet Care Plan offers coverage for surgical expenses, hospitalization, and even third-party liabilities, making it a comprehensive solution for pet health management. Similarly,

Jubilee General Insurance provides tailored plans that include coverage for vaccinations and routine check-ups, which are essential for the early detection and treatment of potential health issues. The rise of pet insurance is not merely a reflection of changing attitudes towards pets but also a response to the sophisticated veterinary services now available in Pakistan. Clinics equipped with advanced diagnostic tools and specialized treatments are becoming more prevalent, and insurance facilitates access to these services, ensuring pets receive timely and appropriate care. Real-life examples abound, such as the case of a pet

owner in Karachi whose dog required an emergency surgery that cost over PKR 100,000. With insurance, the financial strain was significantly mitigated, allowing for prompt and effective treatment. This growing industry is also fostering a competitive market where companies strive to offer better services and more inclusive policies, thereby benefiting the consumers. As more pet owners recognize the value of insurance, there is an increasing push for policies that cover a wider range of services, including dental care and alternative treatments like physiotherapy and acupuncture. This comprehensive approach

not only enhances the quality of life for pets but also alleviates the financial stress for owners, making pet ownership a more viable and rewarding experience. In essence, the rise of pet insurance in Pakistan underscores a broader cultural shift towards more responsible and caring pet ownership, driven by economic pragmatism and an overarching desire to ensure the health and happiness of animal companions. As the market continues to expand, it is expected that more innovative and tailored insurance solutions will emerge, further cementing the role of pet insurance as an integral component of pet care in Pakistan.



# Commissioner urges effective Implementation of CM's Good Governance Objectives

Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: Commissioner Sargodha Division, Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti, has delegated responsibilities to divisional officers, including deputy commissioners, to ensure the concrete implementation of 30 objectives outlined by Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif regarding good governance. The decision was announced during a high-level meeting chaired by the Commissioner in the conference room of his office yesterday. It was revealed that the Chief Minister Punjab has decided to conduct a competition among districts for good governance, for which 30 target indicators related to public welfare have been established. Initially, Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and other officers have been tasked with providing feedback on these objectives. The objectives include ensuring the sale of essential commodities,

bread and bakery items at controlled prices, evaluation of developmental schemes by DCs and Assistant Commissioners, construction and maintenance of dilapidated roads in urban and rural areas, maintenance of overhead bridges, installation of zebra crossings in front of government and private educational institutions, schools, and hospitals, restoration of non-functional street lights, covering the man holes, activation of ineffective filtration plants, visits to educational institutions especially special education institutions, functional improvement of clinic and field hospitals, health center visits, elimination of stray dogs, enforcement of the marriage act, eradication of encroachments and wall chalking, construction of boundary walls around graveyards and recovery of state lands from illegal occupation, action against illegal gas refilling, crackdown on petrol jugs, and initiatives undertaken

under the Clean Punjab campaign. The Commissioner further elaborated that better arrangements for Eid-ul-Adha, revival and care of green belts, drainage and sewer line maintenance, seating arrangements at bus stops, provision of other unavailable facilities including toilets and drinking water, timely disposal of complaints received through Chief Minister's Complaint Cell, sale of fertilizers and agricultural medicines at fixed prices and crackdown against counterfeit agricultural medicines are also part of the objectives. Additionally, two meetings with price control magistrates are scheduled every week. The Commissioner emphasized that initial feedback has been sought from DCs and other relevant officers. He directed all four DCs to complete their planning. The meeting was attended by DC Sargodha Captain (Retired) Oranzeb Haider Khan, DPO, DG PHA, Director Development & others.



# DC Sargodha paid a surprise visit to THQ Hospital Bhera

Soon Times Correspondent Bhera: Deputy Commissioner Sargodha Captain retired Aurangzeb Haider Khan has said that the government is spending a lot of money on providing medical facilities to the people. Medical staff, especially doctors, have a duty to treat patients like a doctor and pay special attention to the diagnosis of the disease. He was talking to doctors, nurses and medical support staff on the occasion of a surprise visit to THQ Hospital Bhera. Assistant Commissioner Mudassar Muntaz Haral and MS Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Ismail were also present on this occasion. Deputy Commissioner Aurangzeb

Haider Khan inquired about the welfare of the patients in the emergency medical wards of the hospital. He inquired about the facilities available to them especially the supply of government medicines and expressed his satisfaction. He inspected the construction work of expansion of the hospital and directed that the work should be completed soon and material quality should be taken care of. MS Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Ismail informed DC Sargodha about the shortage of male and female doctors in the meeting. The Deputy Commissioner assured that he will immediately contact CO Health in this regard. He also visited the cattle market on Zainpur Road.

# PNS ASLAT conducts exercises with ships of Japan & Spain



Soon Times Correspondent Rawalpindi: Pakistan Navy's ship PNS ASLAT conducted exercises with ships of Japan and Spain in the Indian Ocean. PNS ASLAT conducted a naval exercise with the Japan Maritime Defense Force shipbuilder during the Regional Maritime Security Patrol. PNS ASLAT also conducted naval combat exercises with Spanish

Navy SPS CANARIS Ship. The purpose of these exercises is to further strengthen mutual relations and enhance mutual cooperation between the navies in the region. Pakistan Navy believes in joint efforts to maintain law and order at sea. Joint exercises of Pakistan Navy with international naval forces is a manifestation of Pakistan's determination for regional peace.

# Karachi Customs Agents Association Gains Full Endorsement and Support from Government Authorities

Soon Times Correspondent Karachi: Mr. Mehmood ul Hasan Awan, General Secretary of the Karachi Customs Agents Association (KCAA), proudly announces that the Gwadar Port Authority and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs have fully endorsed and pledged their support for KCAA's suggestions, as confirmed in a recent letter (No.F.No.2(3)/2024-GPA) dated June 4, 2024. The authorities assured their backing within the bounds of legal frameworks whenever required. As the principal representatives of the Customs Agents community, KCAA presented several proposals to the Honorable Prime Minister of Pakistan. In a positive response, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Gwadar Port Authority have acknowledged and endorsed these suggestions. The implementation of

these proposals will significantly enhance infrastructure and development in Gwadar, thereby contributing to the overall growth and prosperity of Pakistan. The key proposals highlighted by KCAA are as follows: 1. Gwadar Port Development: To boost activity at Gwadar Port, it is crucial to start feeder vessel services to facilitate bonded/non-bonded consignments movement between Karachi Port, Port Bin Qasim, and Gwadar and vice versa. 2. The introduction of a Ferry Service from Port Qasim to Karachi Port Trust (KPT) and KPT to Gwadar Port could significantly improve travel efficiency and positively impact trade operations. 3. Arrangement of Dry Docks near Gwadar Port: Establishing dry docks near Gwadar Port for ship repairs will help earn more revenue and boost port activity in Gwadar. 4. Abolishment of Sales

Tax on Vessel Registration: Currently, no sales tax is charged on vessel registration internationally. Abolishing the sales tax on vessel registration in Pakistan will encourage more vessels to register under the Pakistani flag. 5. Appropriate Safety and Security for Road Users: Ensuring appropriate safety and security measures, along with providing basic facilities for road users, is essential for improving the overall transportation experience and efficiency. For the better future of our beloved country and the stimulation of economic growth, the KCAA firmly believes that a collaborative effort between the Government and the Customs Agents community is essential. Such a partnership will undoubtedly lead to effective and sustainable solutions for these pressing issues.

# Former President of KATI apologizes Qandhari & Saeed following recent allegations of fund misuse



Soon Times Correspondent Karachi: The immediate past president of the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), Mr. Faraz-ur-Rehman, has issued a formal apology to the current President, Mr. Johar Ali Qandhari, and former President, Mr. Zahid Saeed, following recent allegations of fund misuse published in the media. The decision to issue the apology was made during a meeting. The published news suggested that Mr. Qandhari was using KATI funds for personal purposes,

specifically to host a dinner in honor of Mr. Saeed. These allegations caused significant concern within the association and among its members. In the meeting, it was unanimously decided that these claims were unfounded and that an apology was necessary to address any misunderstandings and to maintain the integrity and unity of KATI. He stated that he deeply regrets any distress or damage to the reputations of Mr. Qandhari and Mr. Saeed caused by the publication. The association reaffirmed its commitment to transparency and ethical conduct.

# Rai Muhammad Akbar Takes Helm at Directorate of Workers Education

STAFF REPORTER ISLAMABAD: Rai Muhammad Akbar has been appointed as the Director General of the Directorate of Workers Education following the approval of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development issued a notification confirming his new role. Rai Akbar, who previously served as Director, has over twenty years of experience in worker education. Last year, he completed the mandatory senior management training course at the National Institute of Management. In an interview, Rai Akbar emphasized the importance of workers to the economy, highlighting the need for their education and training. He pointed out that

equipping workers, especially those going abroad, with proper training and awareness is crucial for enhancing productivity and earning better foreign exchange for the country. "Occupational health and safety awareness for domestic workers is the top priority of the government," said Rai Akbar. "A healthy and accident-free worker can perform better, and the Government of Pakistan is working on legislation to support this." The Pakistan Workers Federation has welcomed Rai Akbar's appointment, recognizing his dedication and expertise. The Directorate of Workers Education, a subsidiary of the Federal Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, focuses on training workers on various issues to enhance their skills and productivity.

# Pakistan Post releases stamps featuring Kashmir markhor



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Post in collaboration with WWF-Pakistan issued stamps showcasing Kashmir markhor to conserve and protect the markhor population and their habitats in the country. These stamps were released during the launching ceremony organized at the Pakistan Academy of Sciences building on Friday, as a news release said. Experts say the Kashmir markhor in this region faces threats that jeopardize its survival. The major threats to the markhor population include habitat loss, agricultural expansion, illegal hunting, climate change, and infrastructure

development. These threats have led to a drastic decline in Markhor population across its habitat range. Considering multiple challenges to the markhor population, experts call for comprehensive conservation efforts to protect and preserve this iconic species. The markhor declared the national animal of Pakistan is a large wild goat species native to South Asia and Central Asia, mainly existing in Pakistan, India, the Karakoram range, parts of Afghanistan, and the Himalayas. Since 2015, it has been classified as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List. Often based on their horn configuration, markhor has been divided into five subspecies namely Astor markhor, Bukharan markhor, Kabul markhor,

Kashmir markhor, and Suleiman markhor. Speaking on the occasion, Hammad Naqi Khan, Director General, WWF-Pakistan said that this postage stamp not only celebrated the existence of Kashmir markhor but also highlighted the need for concerted conservation efforts to safeguard their future. This initiative also aimed to draw attention to the species threatened status and the pressing need for habitat preservation and anti-poaching measures. He further said that the issuance of a postage stamp dedicated to the Kashmir markhor would serve as a reminder of our collective responsibility to protect and preserve our natural heritage for future generations. "It will also provide a platform to showcase Pakistan's commitment to wildlife conservation on the global stage," he said. Rizwan Hashmi, Additional Director General, Pakistan Post said that our country is home to rich biodiversity including Indus river dolphin, whales, common leopard, snow leopard, and many resident and migratory birds. This postage stamp about Kashmir Markhor expresses government commitment to raising awareness and protecting this threatened species which is confronted with different challenges.

# IESCO Power Suspension Schedules for Tomorrow

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned areas will be temporarily suspended as per given schedule: On 9th June 2024, From 06:00 AM to 08:00 AM, GSO

Circle, Pindi Point, Barrian, Public Health, Gharial, PAF, Upper Topa, Lora, Patriaria, Company Bagh, Cecil Restor, Lora-2, MCM, TDCP, Kohala, Sunny Bank, Kuldana, PC Feeder and surrounding areas will remain closed. IESCO management apologizes to its esteemed customers for the power outage. If the work is completed ahead of time, the power supply can be restored even before the scheduled time.



## UN condemns attack on Sudan village that killed over 100



**Web Desk**  
 UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Thursday condemned a paramilitary attack on a village in Sudan that reportedly left more than 100 people dead.  
 The Rapid Support Forces (RSF), which have been at war with the regular army since April 2023, on Wednesday attacked the central village of Wad al-Noura in al-Jazira state with heavy artillery, pro-democracy group Madani Resistance Committee said.  
 It put the toll at "more than 104".  
 "The Secretary-General strongly condemns the attack reportedly carried out on 5 June by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in the Wad Al-Noura village."



## Germany needs 75,000 extra troops as NATO braces for Russia threat, reports Spiegel

**BERLIN**  
 Germany will need at least 75,000 additional troops to fulfil its NATO commitments as the alliance adapts its defence planning to face what it sees as an increasingly hostile Russia, Spiegel magazine reported on Friday.  
 At their Vilnius summit last year, NATO leaders signed off on the first major defence plans since the end of the Cold War, detailing how the alliance would respond to a Russian attack.  
 The move signified a fundamental shift - NATO had seen no need to draw up such plans for decades, as it fought smaller wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and felt certain post-Soviet Russia no longer posed an existential threat.  
 NATO and national military planners have been busy translating the plans into concrete requirements, identifying shortages of troops, weapons and other equipment needed to defend against a Russian attack that could.



## Israel uses Indian missiles in an attack on the UN refugee camp in Gaza

**India is the biggest supporter of Israeli attacks on Gaza**

**Soon Times Correspondent**  
 Gaza:  
 244 days have passed since the ongoing Israeli aggression on Gaza, but the Israeli terror on innocent Palestinians continues. India is the biggest supporter of Israeli attacks on Gaza, which is proof of Modi's Muslim hostility. Last night, the Israeli army bombed the United Nations refugee camp in Nusirat in Palestine. As a result of the bombing, 40 innocent Palestinians were martyred while more than 100 were injured. In the attack, Israel targeted the refugee camp with an Indian-made missile, which is evident from the "Made in India" label on the missile. In January 2024, the Indian defense company Munitions India Limited supplied ammunition and explosives to Israel. According to Indian media, another export of arms to Israel by the Indian company Munitions India Limited is also under consideration. This year too, the drones of the Adani Group were sent from India to Israel, which were used on unruly Muslims in Gaza. The use of Indian missiles in Palestine makes it clear that extremist Modi is fully supporting his Jewish masters by attacking Muslims outside India. This nexus of India and Israel is pushing the world into a dangerous war. In such a case, the war starting from Gaza will engulf the entire region. Modi's united India and Greater Israel are two sides of the same page.

## Biden apologizes to Zelenskyy for monthslong congressional holdup to weapons that let Russia gain

**PARIS**  
 U.S. President Joe Biden on Friday for the first time publicly apologized to Ukraine for a monthslong congressional holdup in American military assistance that let Russia make gains on the battlefield.  
 The apology came as Biden met in Paris with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who appealed for bipartisan U.S. support going forward "like it was during World War II."  
 A day earlier, the two had attended ceremonies marking the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, where Biden had drawn common cause between the allied forces that helped free Europe from Nazi Germany and today's effort to support Ukraine against Russia's invasion and Zelenskyy had been greeted with rapt ovation.  
 "I apologize for those weeks of not knowing what's going to happen in terms of funding," Biden said, referring to the six-month holdup by conservative



Republicans in Congress to a \$61 billion military aid package for Ukraine. Still, the Democratic president insisted that the American people were standing by Ukraine for the long haul. "We're still in. Completely. Thoroughly," he said.  
 The apology — and Zelenskyy's plea for rock-solid support akin to the allied coalition in WWII — served as a reminder that for all of Biden's talk of an unflagging U.S. commitment to Ukraine, realignment among congressional Republicans and an isolationist strain in American politics has exposed its fragility.

## G7 summit: EU to consider leveraging windfall profits from Russia's frozen assets



**BRUSSELS**  
 European Union finance ministers will consider a G7 plan for leveraging windfall profits generated by Russian assets, immobilised in the West after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, after a G7 summit later in June, the ministers' chairman said.  
 Paschal Donohoe, who chairs meetings of euro zone finance ministers, said after a video teleconference of EU ministers on Wednesday that there was unwavering support to help Ukraine meet its financing needs.  
 "The discussion among ministers showed appreciation for the constructive engagement with G7 partners in this regard and full support for it to continue," Donohoe said in the statement after the teleconference.  
 "Finance ministers will consider at their June meeting the need for further discussions following the G7 Summit in Apulia," he added.  
 After Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, western countries immobilised some \$300 billion of Russian central bank assets, which are generating annual profits of 2.5-3.5 billion euros a year.  
 While seizing the capital of the assets would be legally risky, European governments agree that using the profits generated by the frozen capital is fine because the profits do not legally belong to Moscow.  
 The European Union, where the bulk of the assets are held, agreed to put the annual profits into a special fund that would pay for weapons for Ukraine and the country's reconstruction.  
 But within the G7 - which comprises the United States, Canada, Japan, Britain, France, Germany and Italy - Washington has been pushing to use the profits to provide a massive loan to Ukraine now, when the money is most needed, rather than settle for a few billion euros a year over a long period.

# Sports & Showbiz

## Shahid Afridi calls Pakistani strategy in Super Over 'blunder' against US



**Sports Desk**  
 Former cricket captain Shahid Afridi called Pakistan's shocking defeat at the hands of the United States Thursday during their maiden game of the T20 World Cup 2024 a major blunder.  
 The Green Shirts lost during the Super Over by five runs after they were provided a target of 19 runs at the Grand Prairie Stadium, Dallas.  
 While speaking on his YouTube channel Friday, the 47-year-old Afridi said: "They made a huge mistake by opting for Iftikhar instead of Fakhar to play the first ball of the Super Over. The left-arm fast bowler would have suited Fakhar because of the angle of the bowling."  
 "I don't know who told Iftikhar to face the left-armed," Afridi said.  
 Afridi was also unhappy with the way Mohammad Amir bowled in the super over of the match.  
 "Mohammad Amir bowled really well during the match and I thought that they will go within the Super Over as well. But he conceded a lot of extras in the Super Over which also didn't help Pakistan's cause. He is experienced and knows how to bowl yorkers. The ball was reversing as well which is why I think he shouldn't have given away so many runs," the former captain added.



## Cubarsi left out of Spain's Euro 2024 squad

**MADRID**  
 Spain manager Luis de la Fuente left Barcelona's 17-year-old defender Pau Cubarsi and midfielders Marcos Llorente and Alexis Garcia out of his 26-man squad for the European Championship on Friday.  
 Cubarsi's consistency and ability to play the ball out from the back made him one of the breakout players in LaLiga this season. Yet that was not enough to earn him a spot at Euro 2024 as De la Fuente decided to stick with a more seasoned group of centre backs in Robin Le Normand, Nacho Fernandez, Aymeric Laporte and Dani Vivian.  
 Former Manchester City defender Laporte, 30, has been one of the biggest question marks surrounding De la Fuente's squad since he fell out of favour with City manager Pep Guardiola and moved to Saudi Arabia's Al-Nassr last year.  
 After being left out of the Euro 2024 squad, Cubarsi now is expected to make Spain's Olympic selection that will compete in Paris after winning the silver medal at the Tokyo Games.  
 Former Newcastle United and

## Zainab Jamil blames her husband's second wife for her sufferings



**(Web Desk)**  
 Former model and actress Zainab Jamil has shared harrowing accounts of abuse and limitations she faced within her marriage, reportedly influenced by her husband's second spouse.  
 Appearing on a podcast, she blamed her husband's second wife for her sufferings and her husband's mistreatment.  
 She insisted him, claiming my presence on Instagram was inappropriate and that it would set a bad example for other women in the family, Jamil revealed.  
 "He gave me minimal money for household expenses and barred me from using Instagram," she recounted.  
 Her decision to earn money via Instagram was met with an ultimatum from her husband to seek a divorce first.

## Chelsea sign defender Adarabioyo from Fulham

**Sports Desk**  
 Chelsea have signed centre back Tosin Adarabioyo from fellow west London club Fulham on a free transfer, the Premier League side announced on Friday.  
 The 26-year-old, who will join the Stamford Bridge side on a four-year contract beginning on July 1, has made one appearance for the England Under-19s and has played 78 times in the Premier League.  
 He is the first player to join Chelsea since they announced the arrival of new head coach Enzo Maresca, opens new tab earlier this week, and will bolster their options at centre back following the departure of veteran Thiago Silva.  
 "We are delighted to bring Tosin to Chelsea," Chelsea co-sporting directors Laurence Stewart and Paul Winstanley said.  
 "Throughout his career, he has showcased his maturity and defensive qualities and has gained a wealth of experience in the Premier League in recent seasons."



"He is ready to make the step up to Chelsea and work alongside the talented players in our squad. We look forward to Tosin joining up with us for pre-season."  
 Chelsea are looking to revive their fortunes under Maresca after finishing sixth in the standings last season.  
 "I'm looking forward to starting work with Enzo and I'm sure the boys are too," Adarabioyo said.  
 "It's going to be exciting. We're going to play good football and win a lot of games. There are top players in this squad and I'm eager to play with them all."