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JIT finds ex-minister Qureshi guilty in May 9 cases, files challan with court



Soon Times Correspondent
LAHORE

Former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has been found guilty by the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) in seven cases related to the May 9 riots. Police sources said that the PTI leader was implicated based on conflicting statements and evidence gathered during the investigation. They noted that Qureshi failed to provide satisfactory answers regarding the May 9 events. Sources said that Qureshi's involvement in incidents of arson and violence was supported by digital evidence. The JIT conducted interrogations of Shah Mahmood Qureshi at Adhala Jail, where he was found guilty in all seven cases. The team made multiple visits to the jail to record the former minister's statement. Subsequently, the JIT filed a challan with the court.

Yasmin Rashid slays govt for pushing the poor to the wall



Soon Times Correspondent
LAHORE

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Yasmin Rashid has criticised the governance of the incumbent government, asserting Form-47 government is trying to make the poor poorer. Speaking to the media after her appearance in the anti-terrorism court (ATC), she said according to the State Bank of Pakistan, the debts have increased in the last two years. The revenue generated from the budget will be paid in interest on loans, she added. She criticised the loan from global lenders, stating Pakistan was going to more destruction. She insisted that her party leaders were being subjected to oppression, and new cases were being registered against them. PTI women leaders Aliya Hamza and Sanam Javed were handed over in judicial remand.

PTI wants supremacy of constitution, no vendetta with anyone, says Barrister Gohar



Soon Times Correspondent
LAHORE

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman Barrister Gohar has asserted that his party has no grudge against anyone and only wants supremacy of the constitution. Addressing the lawyers' convention in Lahore, he highlighted the significant role of the LHC for the justice and supremacy of the constitution. The PTI leader stressed the need for uplift of the constitution and no political revenge against anyone. He insisted that the judiciary and executive must be free. Gohar claimed that those who provide justice were seeking justice now. He affirmed that Punjab's people were standing with the judges. He stated, "Law mustn't be blind in Pakistan after 70 years, it must protect the fundamental rights of the public."

PM Shehbaz extends olive branch to incarcerated Imran Khan

Premier says it's the 'only way' to ease PTI founder's jail hardships



Soon Times Correspondent
KARACHI:

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday extended "another chance" for dialogue to PTI founder Imran Khan, terming it the "sole option" for the incarcerated former premier if he wants to ease his jail hardships. Speaking in the National Assembly, Sharif said, "If Imran Khan has problems in jail, so let's sit and talk." The premier recalled proposing a compact economy in his first speech, only to have it rejected outright. Sharif extended an offer to discuss the economy again, questioning who is responsible for the current bitterness that

has prevented even the simplest of gestures, like shaking hands. The prime minister recounted his own time in jail, stating that he was denied leave when his mother passed away. Despite enduring significant personal hardships, including severe back pain and being transported with dangerous inmates, Sharif maintained resilience even while battling cancer. Highlighting the distinction between the rights of undertrial and convicted prisoners, PM Shehbaz emphasised the need to avoid subjecting Imran Khan to similar mistreatment. He urged dialogue as the only way forward to progress the country, stressing the

importance of working together for the nation's benefit. "Let's agree on the charter of economy," proclaimed the premier during Wednesday's session of the National Assembly. Shehbaz stated that in his initial address, he had focused on the charter of democracy and now wished to extend an invitation to the opposition for negotiations on the charter of economy. The premier expressed disappointment that his call for dialogue on the charter of democracy was met with disdain by the opposition. "Ghosts were raised against my speech, which is an insult to this House".

US Congress calls for investigation into Pakistan's Feb 8 polls

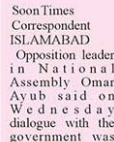


(Web Desk)

The United States House of Representatives voted on Wednesday for an independent investigation into claims of election manipulation in Pakistan following the Feb 8 national elections, stressing the importance of democratic participation. The US House voted 368-7 for a resolution calling for a "full and independent investigation of claims of interference or irregularities in

Pakistan's February 2024 election." The resolution condemned efforts to suppress Pakistanis' participation in their democracy through harassment, intimidation, violence, or other violations of their rights. It expressed support for democracy and human rights in Pakistan and urged the government to respect democratic processes, human rights, and the rule of law. Pakistan's recent general elections were troubled by an internet shutdown on election day, arrests, violence, and delayed results, leading to accusations of rigging. The issue was prominently raised by former prime minister Imran Khan's party, PTI, whose leaders had to run as independents after losing their party symbol due to a legal dispute. Most of PTI's leadership, including Imran Khan, faced legal charges during the elections, though their candidates still became the largest group in the National Assembly.

Release of Imran Khan, other detainees precondition for dialogue: Omar Ayub



Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD

Opposition leader in National Assembly Omar Ayub said on Wednesday that a dialogue with the government was possible only if PTI founder Imran Khan and other detainees were set at liberty. Ayub said so in response to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's offer of talks, stating that "discussions will take place only when the PTI founder and other detainees are released." Speaking in the National Assembly, Ayub addressed the prime minister, whom he referred to as "Form 47 PM". The speaker intervened, saying the environment was improving, to which Ayub responded that he had the right

to reply. He said the House could only function with mutual respect. Ayub mentioned that while Shehbaz Sharif talked about his mother's funeral, he attended Kulsoom Navaz's funeral but could not attend his own father's funeral. More to read: PM Shehbaz equates PTI with TTP. The opposition leader also stated that reconciliation would only be possible if the government makes amends for mistreatment of Dr Yasmin Rashid, Mahmoodur Rashid, Hassan Niazi and others.

Pakistan condemns US resolution, cites misunderstanding of political landscape

Timing and context of resolution do not align well with positive dynamics of bilateral ties, says FO spokesperson



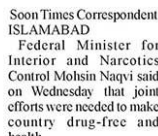
Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Wednesday criticised the US House of Representatives' Resolution 901, labelling it neither constructive nor objective due to its perceived lack of understanding of the country's political situation and electoral process. Responding to media inquiries regarding the resolution, Foreign Office Spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch confirmed that Pakistan had noted its passage. "We believe that the timing and

context of this particular resolution do not align well with the positive dynamics of our bilateral ties and stem from an incomplete understanding of the political situation and electoral process in Pakistan," Baloch remarked. She emphasised that Pakistan, as the world's second-largest parliamentary democracy and fifth-largest democracy overall, remains committed to constitutionalism, human rights, and the rule of law in line with its

national interests. Baloch stressed the importance of constructive dialogue and engagement based on mutual respect and understanding. "Such resolutions are therefore neither constructive nor objective. We hope that the US Congress will play a supportive role in strengthening Pakistan-US ties and focus on avenues of mutual collaboration that benefit both our peoples and countries," she added.

Naqvi, Maryam pledge to Eradicate drug abuse on International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking



Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD

Federal Minister for Interior and Narcotics Control Mohsin Naqvi said on Wednesday that joint efforts were needed to make country drug-free and health. In his message on International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the minister said that nation will have to put up a combined fight against the dangers posed by the drug abuse, adding that country has been facing the problems of domestic violence, crimes, deteriorating health and infertility due to this menace of drugs for a long time. Accepting the severity of the problem, the minister said that the government is taking



Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD

steps to prevent drug abuse smuggling under National Anti Narcotics Policy which includes reduction in demand and supply of drugs and international coordination. Naqvi also paid tribute to the martyrs of Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) who sacrificed their lives in battle against drugs while stressing action against hazards caused by drugs. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz also vowed to stamp out drug abuse from Punjab in her message on International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. She underscored the need of awareness to root out the menace while expressing sympathy with families of drug abusers in her message.

Connection of Retired Govt Employees never ends with their office, Ahmad Naem Malik



Soon Times Correspondent
SARGODHA

Director Information Sargodha Division Ahmad Naem Malik has said that the connection of employees who retire from government service never ends with their office and this connection continues for future generations. He was addressing a function organized in honor of Deputy Director Shahzad Ahmed Virk, newly posted Information Officer Qasim Ranjha and retired Assistant Ran Abdul Jabbar and Muhammad Sarwar, who were transferred to his office yesterday. Other employees of the

office also participated in the function. The participants paid tributes to the transferred Deputy Director and retired Associates in glowing terms and wished them all the best for their future life. Retired employees Rana Abdul Jabbar and Muhammad Sarwar narrated their memorable moments spent in the department. Director Information welcomed the newly appointed Information Officer Qasim Ranjha and congratulated him on assuming the new responsibilities. At the end of the ceremony, the retired employees were sent away with gifts. On this occasion, a luncheon was also organized in honor of the participants.



Promotion of Alternative Energy

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday called for a special focus on the promotion of alternative energy, particularly solar energy, besides directing the authorities concerned to formulate a strategy for Thar coal gasification. He, chairing a meeting to discuss the matters related to the Petroleum Division, said Thar coal was significant to cope with Pakistan's energy

needs and instructed taking measures to transport Thar coal to other parts of the country through rail network. During the briefing, it was highlighted that despite minimal carbon footprints, Pakistan was among the top five vulnerable countries and that measures were being taken to mitigate the climate change impacts by promoting products based on alternative energy. It was told that a strategy would be formulated

to enhance production of tight gas and smart meters would be installed to curb gas and oil theft. The meeting was told that a policy was being formulated to promote electric bikes and vehicles, and domestic electric appliances. Moreover, the proposals for deregulating the petroleum sector would be worked out besides digitizing the petrol and gas exploration. The Petroleum Division authorities said that

steps were being taken to enhance competitiveness in the petroleum sector, promotion of bio-fuels, and enhancing the local production of oil and gas. Federal Petroleum Minister Dr Musaddik Malik, Power Minister Awais Ahmed Leghari, PM's Coordinator Rana Ehsas Afzal and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

Lahore is The Pulse of Pakistan



Rabia Shakeel

Lahore reflects the hope and progress of Pakistan and represents significant advancements in architecture, business, education, and culture. The city's main industries include textiles, food, pharmaceuticals, and electronics, with key industrial areas such as Sundar Industrial Estate and Quaid-e-Azam Industrial Estate. Lahore has seen massive growth in IT, with many software companies, tech startups, and IT parks emerging. The Lahore Knowledge Park aims to foster innovation and research in technology and biotechnology, positioning the city as a tech hub. The retail industry has grown significantly, with major shopping malls like Emporium Mall, Packages Mall, and Lahore.

After the Ghaznavid dynasty, Lahore came under the rule of the Ghor dynasty and then the Delhi Sultanate. During this time, it developed as a center of Islamic education and culture. In the 16th century, Emperor Akbar chose Lahore as his capital, continuing the tradition of significant development. Some notable Mughal contributions include the Lahore Fort, a large fort with beautiful mosaics, and the Badshahi Mosque, built on the

orders of Emperor Aurangzeb. Thanks to Mughal patronage, Lahore gradually became a center of art, music, and literature. The city's culture flourished, attracting artists and talented individuals from the region. This period marked relative prosperity and affluence for the city. During Ranjit Singh's reign, many Mughal-era buildings were restored and renovated. He also constructed new buildings, such as the Hazuri Bagh Baradari, a marble pavilion in the Lahore Fort complex. After the Anglo-Sikh War, Lahore underwent significant expansion under British rule. The British built modern infrastructure, including railways, canals, and schools.

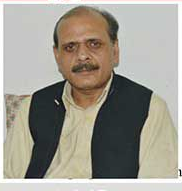
Lahore hosts numerous festivals and events that celebrate its rich heritage and contemporary culture. Festivals such as the Lahore Literature Festival, Faiz Festival, and Lahore Music Festival draw performers, writers, and artists globally. The city's culinary scene is diverse, ranging from traditional Punjabi cuisine to international fare, with food streets like MM Alam Road and Gawalmandi being popular destinations. Lahore has a vibrant arts and entertainment scene, with the Alhambra Arts Council hosting plays, art exhibitions, and concerts. The city also boasts modern cinemas, theaters, and cultural centers. Despite rapid development, Lahore maintains numerous parks and green spaces, providing recreational opportunities for residents. Bagh-e-Jinnah, Jitani Park, and Shalimar Gardens are popular spots for enjoying nature. The city is

passionate about sports, particularly cricket, with Gaddafi Stadium hosting international and domestic matches. Facilities for other sports, including hockey, football, and tennis, are also available. Rapid urbanization has brought challenges such as traffic congestion, pollution, and inadequate public services. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive urban planning, investment in infrastructure, and sustainable development initiatives. Environmental concerns, including pollution and habitat degradation, are significant challenges. Efforts to mitigate these issues include reforestation programs, waste management, and promoting green technologies. To stimulate growth, Lahore must diversify its economy by encouraging innovation, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and integrating into international trade. Enhancing business education and training will help meet the demands of the modern business environment.

Terraced gardens are a hallmark of Mughal garden design, known for their beauty and elegance. In the heart of Iqbal Park, a massive monument commemorates the pivotal decision of the 1940 Lahore Conference, which played a crucial role in the creation of Pakistan. This monument symbolizes the nation's pride and freedom. The Old City, often referred to as the "walled city," is vibrant with bustling markets, narrow streets, and historic buildings, including popular tourist attractions like the Delhi Gate, Shahi Baths, and Wazir Khan Mosque. Founded in 1882, one of the oldest schools in

Pakistan exemplifies the city's rich educational heritage, while the university blends historical and modern architecture, noted for its high academic standards and research facilities. Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) stands out as a premier institution for business, law, and science education. Lahore is also renowned for its diverse culinary scene, offering specialties such as Biryani, Nihari, haleem, and kebabs. Street food areas like Gawalmandi and Anarkali are famous for their mouthwatering dishes, reflecting the city's true nature with a mix of traditional and international cuisines. Kite flying competitions, accompanied by music,

Price-Hike Escapes Government Control



Amjad Rana

A new or old government promises to control inflation but unfortunately, these pledges often remain unfulfilled. The public is aware that each government tends to prioritize projects that benefit their own interests. This self-serving approach by the rulers has led to the emergence of corrupt networks that siphon off money through massive commissions, which is then transferred to foreign banks. The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has registered many corruption cases against these corrupt individuals or groups (referred to as "mafias"), but convicted members of these corrupt networks often secure release by negotiating different cases. Consequently, after a few months, these individuals often receive a clean chit from the NAB. This situation underscores the need for effective governance, transparency, and accountability to combat corruption and ensure that public funds are utilized for the benefit of the people, a serious issue with corruption impacting Pakistan, particularly related to inflation and the misuse of public resources. Corruption can indeed have devastating effects on a country's development by diverting funds away from essential services like health and education. Comprehensive efforts to strengthen accountability, transparency, and the rule of law. Efforts to combat corruption should involve robust investigation and prosecution of corrupt practices, as well as measures to enhance transparency in government processes and public spending. Building strong institutions that are independent

and capable of holding individuals and groups accountable for corruption is essential. Moreover, promoting public awareness and citizen engagement can play a crucial role in combating corruption. When people are informed and actively involved in demanding accountability from their leaders, it can lead to greater transparency and accountability in governance. It's important for societies to work towards sustainable development by addressing the root causes of corruption and fostering a culture of integrity and transparency in public institutions. Organized criminal groups use all forms of corruption to infiltrate political, economic and social levels all over the world. Through corruption criminal groups generate poverty, as corruption determines the misuse of public resources by diverting them from sectors of vital importance such as health, education and development. Therefore, corruption prevention and investigations in all sectors are necessary to reduce the ability of organized criminal groups to survive and profit, and for a society to achieve sustainable development. Although there is no universally agreed definition on corruption, it has been described in generic terms as the use of public office for private gain or the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. It subverts legitimate governmental processes, mispends public's money, and undermines public confidence in government. Corruption supports the ongoing existence of organized crime, because corrupt public officials protect organized criminal groups from law enforcement and disruption (Rose-Ackerman and Palikfa, 2016; Rowe, Akman, Smith and Tomison, 2013; Transparency International, 2017; White, 2013). It is difficult to keep a continuing criminal enterprise profitable and survive over the long term unless there is a means to protect it from law enforcement, which ultimately learns of its existence. For example, border

crossings need to be ensured, locations of illicit activity "protected," police or customs officials paid off, illicit funds delivered and deposited. Court cases "fixed," stolen property bought and sold, and politicians persuaded not to interfere. These are examples of the kinds of corrupt activity needed by organized criminal groups in order to remain in illicit business and engage in ongoing criminal activity without interruption. Corruption is also the focus of a separate Convention, the United Nations Convention against Corruption (hereinafter Convention against Corruption) that entered into force in 2005. It is a comprehensive normative instrument and the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. It addresses a broad range of issues such as prevention of corruption, criminalization and law enforcement, international cooperation, and for the first time in an international Convention, asset recovery. The Convention against Corruption includes a comprehensive set of criminalization provisions, both mandatory and optional, covering a wide range of acts of corruption. In addition, it offers a platform not only for harmonizing national substantive provisions, but also for ensuring a minimum level of deterrence through specific provisions on the prosecution, adjudication and sanctions in corruption-related cases. States parties to the Convention are obliged to establish as criminal offences: The inclusion of optional criminalization provisions was deemed necessary because of the fact that there may be criminal offences which some countries may have already established in their domestic law, or may find their establishment useful in fighting corruption, but other countries would be unable to do the same, often because of constitutional impediments, concerned about rising prices and how governments or rulers are managing this issue.

TENDER NOTICE

University of Sargodha intends to purchase the below mentioned items. Relevant interested firms registered with Income Tax / GST departments may obtain / send their tender, upto 11-07-2024 at 11:00AM and will be opened on the same day at 11:30 AM in the presence of representatives of the firms in Directorate of Procurement & Stores.

Sr. No.	Description	Qty	Estimated Cost	Tender Fee
1.	Purchase of 1.5 Ton Air Conditioner	50	Rs. 1,15,00,000/-	Rs. 5000/-

- TERMS & CONDITIONS**
- Detailed bidding documents are available immediately from the Directorate of Procurement & Stores after the publication of tender notice on producing demand draft (Non-Refundable) of above mentioned amount in favor of Treasurer, University of Sargodha.
 - The Bidding Document carrying all details can also be downloaded from website of University of Sargodha <http://uoa.edu.pk> and website of Punjab Procurement Regulatory Authority <http://ppra.punjab.gov.pk>.
 - University of Sargodha will not be responsible for any cost or expense incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of Bids.
 - 05% Scheduled Bank CDR (Refundable) lumpsum of the total estimated amount in the name of Treasurer, University of Sargodha must be attached with financial bid as Bid Security.
 - Detailed specifications along with estimated cost are available in the bidding document.
 - In case of official holiday on the day of submission, next day will be treated as closing date.
 - For all correspondence, please use postal address, Directorate of Procurement & Stores, University of Sargodha, Sargodha.
 - For further details please contact on phone No. 048-9230110.
 - Purchase will be made under PPR (Punjab) rule 382(2a) "single stage two envelope procedure" as amended from time to time.
 - All Firms shall have to follow all terms and conditions issued by University of Sargodha and PPR (Punjab) from time to time.

Chairman Purchase Committee
Directorate of Procurement & Stores
University of Sargodha
Contact No: 048-9230110, 048-9230811

Anti Narcotics Force Commemorates International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking - 26th June

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad. Anti Narcotics Force Pakistan observed the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, a day of profound importance dedicated to raising awareness and strengthening our resolve against drug abuse and illegal drug trade. This significant day calls for global solidarity in addressing the challenges of drug addiction and trafficking, striving towards a drug-free society. The day began with a Wreath Laying Ceremony & heartfelt tribute to the martyrs of the Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF), who sacrificed their lives in the fight against drug trafficking. Their courage and

dedication continue to inspire us in our relentless pursuit of a society free from the dangers of drugs. DG ANF Major General, Abdul Moed (HJM) was present at the ceremony along with families of Shuhada. During latter half of the day a cycle rally and anti-drug awareness walk, were also organized which underscored the collective determination of the community, media representatives, Diplomats, DLOs of various countries to combat drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. Participants carried banners and posters with messages advocating for a drug-free future, spreading awareness among the public. The event was organized at

the F-9 Park, Islamabad. Director General Anti-Narcotics Force, Major General, Abdul Moed (HJM) emphasized the critical role of the ANF in combating drug abuse and trafficking. He acknowledged the sacrifices of the ANF martyrs and highlighted the ongoing efforts to create a safer and healthier nation. The event was graced by the Chief Guest, Captain (R) Muhammad Khurram Agha, Federal Secretary of the Ministry of Narcotics Control, Mr. Jeremy Milson, the Country Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UNODC Goodwill Ambassador.



SUJ expresses deep grief over the mother of APP cameraman

Soon Times Correspondent
Sargodha: Delegation of Sargodha Union of Journalist (Dastoor) under the supervision of President Sargodha Union of Journalist Zulfiqar Hashmi on Wednesday visited APP office

Sargodha. Delegation members expressed their heartfelt grief over the death of the Mother of Azhar Hussain cameraman APP Sargodha. Haji Khalid Mehmood Bhatti, Zia ul-Din Lali and Qamer javed were also in the delegation. Later, Deputy Director

NCHD, Mhr Umar Draz jhawri, Regional Director Social welfare Shakra Noreen and Superintendent Engineer Sui Gas Muhammad Abdullah also expressed their deep grief for the departed soul.

Inayatullah, injured in alleged police violence dies after undergoing treatment for 10 days



Soon Times Correspondent
Bhalwal: A youth injured in alleged police violence in Bhalwal died after undergoing treatment for ten days. Inayatullah, a resident of Ameen Abad, a suburb of Bhalwal, had gone to Kot

Momin on personal business, where the Kot Momin police detained him on suspicion of robbery of mobile phones worth one crore rupees and brutally tortured him for a week. As his condition deteriorated, he was handed over to his family members who kept taking him to

Sargodha Police Department. The relatives have demanded the Chief Minister of Punjab to take notice of the incident and take action against the Police Station Kot Momin.

Ulema must urge Govt to increase taxes on unhealthy sweet drinks in Finance Bill 2024-25: Health experts

Soon Times Correspondent
Islamabad: Pakistan is grappling with a severe crisis of non-communicable diseases, with millions suffering from diabetes, obesity, heart disease, kidney ailments and certain types of cancers. 60% of deaths in Pakistan are caused by these non-communicable diseases. Increasing taxes on these drinks is first and most effective evidence based policy option to reduce their consumption. This was said by health experts in an event with religious leaders organized by PANAH at a local hotel in Islamabad. Col. Dr. Shakeel Ahmed Mirza said that the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) reports that 33 million people in Pakistan are living with diabetes. Another 10 million are pre-diabetic. More than 1,100 people are dying daily due to diabetes and its complications. In 2021, the annual cost of managing diabetes in Pakistan was \$2.640 million which is double than the expected installment from IMF. CEO Heartfile Dr. Saba Amjad said that more than 106 countries and states in the world have increased taxes on these drinks and



reduce the disease burden. Referring to a modeling study of the World Bank about Pakistan he said that a 50% FED on sugary drinks, it will have a health gain of 8,500 DALYs, will generate an economic value of health impact of USD 8.9M and will have an average tax revenue of USD \$10M for next 10 years. The beverage industry is negotiating with Pakistani Finance Minister and Chairman FBR to reduce taxes on juices, said Sana Ullah Ghumman, General Secretary PANAH.

Government must prioritize public health over corporate interest and increase taxes on sweet drinks in Finance Bill 2024-25. Dr. Quyyam Awan, senior executive vice president PANAH said urged Ulema to play their role in educating public on health harms of sweet drinks and demand policy makers to take immediate policy action to reduce their consumption. Ulema in their speeches assured that they will use their platform to educate public on health harms of sweet drinks.

Young doctors' strike in government hospitals challenged in LHC



Soon Times Correspondent
LAHORE: Young doctors' strike across government hospitals in Punjab has been challenged in the Lahore High Court (LHC). Citizen Mazhar Abbas has filed a miscellaneous petition in the LHC against doctors' strike through Advocate Safdar Shaheen. The petitioner says the Young Doctors Association (YDA) has been on strike across government hospitals since June 15 after some doctors were detained on the pretext of fire incident in a teaching hospital of Sahiwal. Also read: Sahiwal Hospital's high-ups face inquiry after 11 newborns die due to blaze. The petitioner contended that patients were suffering due to doctors' strike. It said the doctors were paid from government kitty but they were creating problems for patients instead of providing them timely treatment and cure. Read more: Striking members given deadline to resume duty by Monday. The petitioner pleaded court to direct the YDA to call off the strike immediately.

THE PLIGHT OF PATIENTS: Doctors have not been going duty in OPDs of the hospitals across Punjab. Only emergencies are working. More than 900,000 patients have been affected owing to strike in the OPDs. Surgeries and procedures of hundreds of patients have been cancelled. However, talks are going on between the health department and doctors. It is expected that the talks will be fruitful and the YDA will call off strike. Receipts counters at Mayo Hospital, Ganga Ram Hospital, General Hospital and Jinnah Hospital have been working. Senior doctors and administration are working together to run OPDs in General, Services, Nawaz Sharif, Yakkhi Gate, Miam Munshi, and Samanabad hospitals. Minister for Health Khwaja Imran Naezer has asked doctors to call off their strike and hold talks. He said the government would not meet their demands under any pressure. The YDA, on the other hand, is adamant and says it will continue strike until apology by the Punjab chief minister and resignation of health secretary.

Faisal Vawda seeks unconditional apology from SC in contempt case



ISLAMABAD
Senator Faisal Vawda has tendered unconditional apology from the Supreme Court (SC) in the contempt of court case. Former federal minister Vawda has also submitted a response to the show-cause notice issued to him in the contempt of court case in SC. Also read: Supreme Court issues show-cause notices to Vawda, Kamal over remarks against judiciary. In his response, Vawda sought an unconditional apology from SC and said he was at the mercy of court. He requested to end proceedings against him in the court contempt case. He also apologised for any disagree to the judiciary in his press conference as he asserted the motive behind the press conference was not to commit any contempt. At a press conference, Vawda stated that the high court judges must either provide



evidence to support their accusations (alleged interference of some elements in judicial affairs) or refrain from vilifying state institutions. The senator raised questions about assertions made by Islamabad High Court judge Babar Sattar, adding, "Merely making accusations isn't enough; evidence must be presented in court." The senator assured that he would stand by the judges if evidence is presented, underlining the importance of exposing those meddling in judicial matters.



H.E. Dr. Rina Klionka, Ambassador of the European Union (EU) to Pakistan called on the Federal Minister for Law and Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar today on 26th June, 2024.

SNGPL continues raids & disconnects 27 connections

Soon Times Correspondent
Lahore: During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khunber, Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad. It disconnected 27 connections and imposed fine of Rs 1.84 million. In Lahore, the team disconnected 04 connections on illegal use of gas. In Multan the team disconnected 04 connections on illegal use of gas. The regional team of Shikhpura disconnected 02 connection on illegal use of gas. In

Mardan the team disconnected 10 connections on illegal use of gas and also booked an amount of Rs 1.20 million against gas theft cases. The regional team of Gujranwala disconnected 01 connection on illegal use of gas. The team imposed a fine of Rs 0.61 million against gas theft cases. In Faisalabad the team disconnected 02 connections on illegal use of gas and also booked an amount of Rs 0.03 million against gas theft cases. In Bahawalpur the team disconnected 4 connections on illegal use of gas.

IESCO Power Suspension Schedules for Today

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 feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule:
Dated 27 June 2024, 08:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Islamabad Circle, PC, TDCP, MCM, Gharial, Kohala, Sunny Bank Feeders, 06:00 AM to 11:00 PM, Islamabad Circle, Lohi Bheer Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Khanna Road, Gulzar Quaid, Gangal, Tench Bhata, Madina Colony, Ameer Hamza Colony, Commercial Centre, Pind Hon Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Islamabad Feed Mill, Jhata Hatial, Basali, Pind Jarla, Lab. I & II, Reliance Weaving Mill, Industrial, Bhal, Jarrar Comp, New Klam, Old Klam, Media Town. II, Qureshaabad, Garja, I, Hayal, Murt, Ranyal, Gulistan Fatima, Zaraj, Pepsi, Model Town, Hamak, Emirates, RCCI, Mohra Nagyal Feeders, Attock Circle, Punjab Small Industrial Estate, Mix Industries, Kohistan Enclave, Model Town, 500 Bed Hospital, Kohsar Valley, Kashif Gul, Dar es Salaam Colony, People's Colony, NASTP, Quziabad, GBHP Colony feeders, Chakwal Circle, Dharabi, Tala Gang City, Main Bazar, Murt, Daulatala, Raman, Kaler Kahar feeders and surrounding areas will remain closed. In addition, 132 KV Suhay will be required for load management of 30 to 40 MW. And can be done at Bakra Mandi grid station and from 27th June to 18th July, 08:00 am to 06:00 pm 132 KV Chhatar Pari, New City Mirpur, Mirpur, Islanagar, Chakswari and Dhadial grid station 20 MW in normal condition and emergency. A load management of 50 MW can be done in this situation. IESCO management apologizes to its esteemed customers for the power outage. In case of premature completion of the work, the power supply can be restored even before the scheduled schedule and the surrounding power will remain off. 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.

Chief Executive IESCO will listen to complaints of customers via FB live & Telephone Today

Soon Times Correspondent
Islamabad: Chief Executive IESCO Dr. Muhammad Amjad Khan will conduct Facebook live E-Kachery on Thursday 27th June, 2024 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Consumers can contact Chief Executive IESCO via Facebook ID CEO-IESCO E-Kachery or call at Tel No. 051-9253105 according to above given scheduled to register and resolve their electricity-related issues. While registering complaints, customers are required to provide their name, bill reference number and contact number.

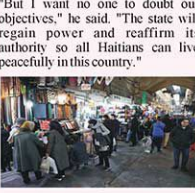


Haiti PM vows to retake country as first Kenyan police arrive

PORT-AU-PRINCE
The first contingent of Kenyan police arrived in the Haitian capital on Tuesday to launch a long-awaited peacekeeping mission in the Caribbean country that has been ravaged by gang violence, even as deadly protests back home prompted doubts.

"At last the multinational force is here to support our national police," Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille said at a press conference, saying work to retake the country would begin "slowly, without major fights unless necessary."

"But I want no one to doubt our objectives," he said. "The state will regain power and reaffirm its authority so all Haitians can live peacefully in this country."



Iran election hopefuls struggle to offer fix for economic woes

DUBAI
Candidates in Friday's Iranian presidential election have vowed to revive the flagging economy, but voters see little prospect of relief from a cost of living squeeze without an end to sanctions and an easing of Iran's international isolation.

The daily struggle of ordinary Iranians to make ends meet is a persistent challenge for Iran's ruling clerics, who fear a revival of protests that have erupted periodically by lower and middle-income communities angry at enduring hardship.

The reinstatement of US sanctions in 2018 hit Iran's oil exports, slashing government revenues and forcing it to take unpopular steps such as increasing taxes and running big budget deficits, policies that have kept annual inflation close to 40%.



North Korea fires ballistic missile into sea: South Korean military

The offensive has left Gaza in ruins, killed more than 37,400 people

SEOUL
North Korea fired a ballistic missile toward the sea on Wednesday (Jun 26), the South Korean military said, according to the Yonhap news agency.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected the launch but gave no details, saying an analysis is underway.

The office of Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida confirmed on social media platform X that North Korea launched a suspected ballistic missile.

"The suspected ballistic missile from North Korea is not expected to reach Japan," it said of the projectile filed toward the East Sea, also known as the Sea of Japan.

This launch comes amid increased cross-border tension as the reclusive communist state has been sending balloons carrying garbage into South Korea.

North Korea's last missile launch prior to this one came on May 30, when Seoul accused Pyongyang of firing a volley of around 10 short-range ballistic missiles.

One day later, North Korean state media released images of leader Kim Jong Un supervising tests of a multiple rocket launcher system.

Analysts have suggested the nuclear-armed North could be testing and ramping up production of artillery and cruise missiles before sending them to Russia for use in Ukraine.

In a report last month, the Pentagon said it had confirmed this behaviour.

North Korea has sent more trash-filled balloons southward this week, Seoul's military said on Tuesday, the latest in a series of border barrages that have sparked a tit-for-tat propaganda campaign.

Macron warns voters against the far right and hard left ahead of crucial parliamentary elections

PARIS
French President Emmanuel Macron is warning voters against choosing the far right or the hard left, asserting that their divisive policies increase the risk of political conflict and civil war, ahead of Sunday's first round of crucial parliamentary elections.

Macron said both the far-right National Rally and hard-left France Unbowed had responded to "real problems" because they "respond in some way by increasing conflict and civil war." He spoke in an interview with French podcast "Generation Do It Yourself," released Monday.

Macron called snap elections following the defeat of his centrist alliance at European Union elections earlier this month. Voters will choose lawmakers for the National Assembly in two rounds on June 30 and July 7.

Macron said, "When you are fed up with everything, when daily life is hard, you can be tempted by extremes that have quicker solutions. But the solution will never lie in rejecting others," Macron said.

He asserted that the National Rally's policies, detailed by the party's president Jordan Bardella on Monday, would "lead to civil war" and are "an impoverishment program, because it's several thousand euros in hidden taxes every day and an impossibility of paying pensions and paying employees well."

The hard-left France Unbowed encourages tensions between communities for electoral purposes, he asserted, arguing it also means "civil war" because it "reduces people to their religious or ethnic group."



Sports & Showbiz

Raducanu eases past Stephens on Eastbourne grass



LONDON
Emma Raducanu brushed aside Sloane Stephens 6-4, 6-0 to advance to the second round of the Eastbourne International in a battle between former US Open champions.

British number one Katie Boulter, who defeated compatriot Raducanu on the way to retaining her Nottingham Open title this month, overcame Croatia's Petra Martic 6-1, 7-6(10/8).

Raducanu recovered from being broken twice in the first set before demolishing her opponent in the second set to set up a second-round match against world number five Jessica Pegula.

Raducanu, who won the US Open as a qualifier in 2021, has slipped to 168th in the world after an injury-plagued 2023 season.

The 21-year-old missed the French Open but returned to competition in Nottingham earlier this month, where she reached the semi-finals.

"I think for me it was the case of adapting to the court," said Raducanu.



Maignan mocks Lewandowski penalty style and IFAB rules

LEIPZIG, Germany
France conceded a late penalty against Poland on Tuesday which cost them top spot in Group C of Euro 2024, and keeper Mike Maignan did not appreciate Robert Lewandowski's stuttering technique, or the spot-kick rules in general.

Maignan was left aggrieved by Lewandowski's stop-start run-up after he saved the initial effort but was himself penalised for stepping off the line before the kick was taken, and the Pole made no mistake at the second attempt.

The first penalty was weak, and Maignan, who went the right way, had little trouble getting a hand to it, but while the French players rushed to congratulate their keeper, Lewandowski was appealing to the referee.

A VAR check confirmed that Maignan had left his line too early, perhaps not surprising given how long it took Lewandowski to arrive at the ball, but feinting in the run-up is allowed, while feinting to kick the ball is not.

Lewandowski usually makes two feints when approaching the ball but for the retake he appeared to take an extra, slight pause, and he struck the ball to the same side, a little stronger and into the corner, which Maignan could not reach.

"As the attacker begins his 87th feint in his run-up," Maignan titled his story posted on Instagram.

"New IFAB rules for penalties in 2026: Goalkeepers must have their backs turned at the time of the shot. In case of a save, an indirect free kick." Maignan is clearly unhappy with the International Football Association Board (IFAB) clamping down on keepers' antics during a penalty kick, also including in his latest story a post from 2023 when new rules came in to stop keepers distracting the penalty taker.

It may have taken him two attempts against Maignan, but Lewandowski's impressive record speaks for itself, having converted 80 penalties throughout his career while missing only nine, and is not about to change the technique he has perfected.

Sadia Faisal sees women's role in rising divorce rates

(Web Desk) – TikToker Jannat Mirza has garnered more followers than any popular Pakistani celebrity by amassing 25 million TikTok followers.

With this accomplishment, the 26-year-old TikToker becomes the only well-known Pakistani person to attain this level on any social media network.

Since its beginning in 2016, TikTok has had a rapid rise in popularity with over 1 billion users worldwide. Jannat posted a screenshot of her TikTok account on her official Instagram story to commemorate her accomplishment.

"Reaching 25 million followers on TikTok is a huge milestone for me. I am extremely happy," Jannat's post read.

South Africa to lock horns with Afghanistan in T20 World Cup semi-final

Web Desk
South Africa will take on Afghanistan in the first semi-final match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad and Tobago on Wednesday.

The match will start at 8:30pm local time.

South Africa finished the Super Eight stage at the top of Group 2 and the Proteas will look to maintain their unbeaten status at the tournament.

South Africa's bid to lift a first major cricket trophy could come down to whether they can finally shed the unwelcome tag of "chokers" when the lock horns with Afghanistan.

Afghanistan booked their place in the final four when they overcame Bangladesh's fight in the final game of the Super Eights in St Vincent. After scoring 115/5 in the first innings, Afghanistan bowled out Bangladesh for 105 in a rain-affected game, securing an 8-run win (DLS method).

Probable Squads



Afghanistan: Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wicketkeeper), Ibrahim Zadran, Azmatullah Omarzai, Gulbadin Naib, Mohammad Nabi, Karim Janat, Rashid Khan (captain), Nangevala Kharote, Noor Ahmad, Naveen-ul-Haq, Fazalhaq Farooqi

South Africa: Aiden Markram (captain), Quinton de Kock, Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, David Miller, Tristan Stubbs, Marco Jansen, Otneil Baartman, Anrich Nortje, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi