



# Daily SOON TIMES

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## ISI mandated to trace, intercept phone calls, messages



**Web Desk ISLAMABAD**  
The country's premier spy agency, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), has been mandated by the federal government to intercept and trace phone calls and messages due to perceived threats to national security. This development coincides with ongoing court proceedings concerning petitioners challenging alleged audio leaks involving former prime minister Imran Khan's spouse Bushra Bibi, and Najam Saqib, the son of retired chief justice of Pakistan Saqib Nisar. On June 25, the Islamabad High Court noted the absence of legislation in the country governing phone tapping, implying that current practices are illegal. The move is also being seen as a precursor to stricter social media regulations, especially since the popular platform X remains banned. Nevertheless, the federal cabinet went on with legalising phone tapping, empowering the ISI to intercept calls and messages in the interest of national security under Section 54 of the Telecommunication (Re-organization) Act 1999. "The federal government, in the interest of national security and in the apprehension of any offence, is pleased to authorise the officers... to be nominated from time to time by ISI to intercept calls and messages or to trace calls through any communication system," read a notification released by the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication on Monday.

## Captain martyred in exchange of fire with terrorists in North Waziristan



**Soon Times Correspondent RAWALPINDI**  
A Pakistan Army captain was martyred and two terrorists were killed during a fire exchange in North Waziristan district. During the fierce engagement, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, as result of which two terrorists were killed, said Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) on Tuesday. However, during the intense exchange of fire, leading his troops from the front, Captain Muhammad Osama bin Arshad, 24, having fought gallantly, made the ultimate sacrifice and embraced martyrdom. Sanitization operation is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area, the military's media wing said.

## Economic is diplomacy vital in Pakistan's foreign policy: FM Dar



**Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD**  
Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister has said economic diplomacy is a major constituent of Pakistan's foreign policy. The FM remarked that Pakistan's economy has shown some positive signs over the past few months and it may come out of the woods soon. He said all the efforts to isolate Pakistan at the international stage have been failed and the country has been regaining its status internationally. The deputy premier added that inflation has come down to 11 percent from 38 percent and the country has been playing its active role to counter Islamophobia. Your next read: Pakistan to implement five-year roadmap for economic turnaround. On the Gaza war, he said Pakistan has played a crucial role to highlight the atrocities committed by Israel.

# CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif Chairs 11th Meeting of Provincial Cabinet

The Cabinet gave approval to extend the scope of Walled City of Lahore Authority to the entire Punjab

**Soon Times Correspondent Lahore**  
CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif Chairs 11th Meeting of Provincial Cabinet, Lahore, 09 July 2024: "We are bringing solar system for 45 lakh consumers who spend up to 500 units," said Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif while chairing the 11th meeting of the provincial cabinet. She added, "Due to increase in electricity bills, there is anxiety among the public, together with my team, have found a solution." The Cabinet paid tribute to Madam Chief Minister for fixing floor rates for the first time. She acknowledged, "Despite not buying what, it is not easy to control flour prices." She highlighted, "I called my team immediately when the price of



flour increased by Rs200." Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "Monitoring and implementation are necessary to keep flour cheap." She added, "Food Minister should spend 16 hours a day on controlling rates of essential commodities." She noted, "The individual performance of the Food Minister is heavy on that of the entire cabinet." Madam Chief Minister said, "Everyone has to move forward with hard work." She noted, "In 4 months, Punjab's young cabinet has shown excellent

performance." She highlighted, "Social Economic Registry of Punjab is starting work." Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "Tax withdrawal for the protected consumers is welcome." She noted, "The poor live in the country, it is very important to protect their interests." She highlighted, "It should not happen that the rich become richer and the poor find hard to make both ends meet." The Cabinet approved issuance of notification regarding a standard version of the Holy Quran, and accorded approval to hire University of Health Sciences for conducting MD CAT 2024 exam. A new method of appointment and posting of Divisional Directors of Education (Colleges) and Principals in Government Colleges was also approved by the Cabinet, besides the approval of abolition of two-year Pharmacy Assistant Course (Registration of Pharmacy Apprentices) under the Pharmacy Act, 1967.

## PTI confident of favourable outcome in reserved seats case



**Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD**  
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan on Tuesday expressed his party's expectation that the judiciary will allocate reserved seats according to the law. Interacting with media on the Supreme Court premises, Gohar underscored that Article 51 stipulated any political party could receive reserved seats proportionate to the general seats it won. Despite this provision, 67 seats reserved for women and 11 for minorities were not allocated to PTI-SIC (alliance), he noted. Gohar pointed out that Hamid Raza's nomination paper clearly stated Sunni Itehad Council, but the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) listed him as an independent due to PTI's alliance with SIC. He explained that the PTI had nomination papers for all its submitted candidates in December 2023 under stringent conditions, awarding tickets to 828 candidates across 859 constituencies. Gohar stated that successful PTI-backed candidates later joined Sunni Itehad Council under an alliance. "We submitted a 780-page document to the ECP, which they accepted. It was our right to receive reserved seats, but we were denied."

## Cash-strapped Pakistan to hammer out \$6.5bn deal with IMF soon, sources



**ISLAMABAD (Web Desk)**  
Almost a month after the 'IMF-dictated' budget, Pakistan is expected to enter a new loan programme after two weeks. According to the sources, the Prime Minister Office will contact the global lender for reaching a staff-level agreement worth \$6.8 billion. Sources say that Pakistan is trying hard to avail a deal of \$8 billion while the IMF has by far agreed to dole out \$6.5 billion, adding that the Pakistani authorities have been in contact with the IMF officials for the last three days. The authorities have said that Pakistan has strictly implemented the suggestions of the IMF in the budget 2024-25. Ergo, the IMF mission is not expected to come to Pakistan. It must be noted that the finance minister had confirmed on June 30 that Pakistan was negotiating a three-year loan programme valued at \$6.8 billion to stave off a debt default.

# PM announces 3-month relief package for protected electricity consumers

Consumers using up to 200 units per month will get relief from July to September



**Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD**  
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced a Rs50 billion package to provide a relief of up to Rs7 per unit to around 25 million domestic consumers falling in the protected category for three months till September. "Today, an amount of Rs50 billion has been allocated to provide a relief of Rs 4-7 per unit as a concession to our protected category consumers using up to 200 units a month for a three months period from July to September. This will benefit around 25 million domestic power consumers which constitute

around 94% of the total consumer base," the prime minister said addressing a ceremony held to discuss the prevailing issues related to electricity bills and reforms in the power sector. He said that the federal government had serped the said amount from its development budget to realise its commitment to public relief, contrary to the hollow claims of the previous governments. He also assured the people of further relief as the government got a fiscal space consequent to its ongoing measures of taxing the elite class, expanding the tax net, closing the

non-performing entities and plugging the holes causing financial leakages. He told the gathering of federal ministers and senior government officers that during its previous 16-month stint, the coalition government saved the country from default by putting its political act. Referring to the PTI-led government in the past, the prime minister recalled the tall claims of eliminating corruption within 90 days and repatriating \$300 billion from abroad. Instead, he said the sugar and wheat scams surfaced and the 190 million pounds coming from the UK through the ACoM had ended in the national kitty as was supposed.

# Supreme Court reserves verdict on SIC plea for reserved seats

The bench has to decide whether reserved seats will be given to the SIC, or to the other parties

**Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD**  
The Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved verdict on a petition filed by the Sunni Itehad Council (SIC) against the denial of allocation of reserved seats. Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa addressed the attendees after lawyers arguments that he would not say with certainty when the decision would be announced. "We [the bench members] would consult with each other on the time to announce the decision." Meanwhile, the court staff told media that the decision would not be pronounced today. A 13-member full court, led by Chief



Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa, heard the plea. Other judges on the bench were Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Aamir Khan, Justice Jamal Khan Amindokhail, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hassan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Wabeed, Justice Irfan Saadat Khan and Justice Naem Akhtar Afghan.

**TODAY'S PROCEEDINGS**  
SIC counsel Faisal Siddiqui submitted before the Supreme Court that he would prove that the Election Commission (ECP) had not fulfilled its responsibility. He stated this as soon as the court resumed hearings on the SIC's plea regarding reserved seats for women and minorities. "I will take 15 minutes to argue my point," he added. Advocate Siddiqui said that they [ECP] argued that the SIC did not

participate in the elections and did not submit the list of candidates for reserved seats. He argued that the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) did not win any seat in 2018 but got three reserved seats. The ECP submitted a prejudiced response regarding the BAP election. The issue was raised before the ECP before moving the Supreme Court. He submitted and added that the ECP claim was contrary to its own documents. Isn't it distortion of facts? Justice Mandokhail asked the lawyer was the ECP decision in accordance with the Constitution? He replied that [in 2018] it was in accordance with the law. Justice Minallah inquired him whether the ECP decision on the BAP reserved seats was challenged.

## Protect DeoSai's Ecosystem

The Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam has underscored the pressing need for robust waste management strategies to safeguard the delicate ecosystem of Deosai National Park. During a meeting with Ex-Senator and Ambassador (Honorary) Wildlife, Sardar Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari who called on her on Tuesday, the PM's Coordinator highlighted the critical issues affecting Deosai National Park, including solid waste generation from visitors, overgrazing by livestock, and inadequate resources for proper park management. She

emphasized that the park's ecosystem is under threat due to the lack of a comprehensive waste management plan. She urged the concerned authorities to implement a robust waste management strategy to address the challenges facing Deosai National Park. Alam stressed that a well-planned waste management system would not only protect the park's biodiversity but also promote sustainable tourism and support the local community. She suggested banning disposable plastic items in the park and raising awareness among visitors to address this environmental challenge. Sardar Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari briefed the

Coordinator about his recent visit to Deosai National Park, emphasizing the importance of addressing the issue of Bakkarwaals and their impact on the wildlife and ecosystem of Deosai National Park. He noted that the park generates substantial income from visitor footfall, with only 25% of the park's income at the disposal of the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO). To improve the management of the park, the DFO should be given more autonomy to rationalize expenditures and develop a yearly roadmap. Leghari recommended initiating road maintenance from Chhillam to Sadpara Check Post, providing special monthly ration

packages per post in Deosai, new uniforms suitable for both summers and winters, increasing the number of staff for the protection of wildlife in Deosai, provision of essential weapons, and POL support for effectively carrying out surveillance and anti-poaching efforts. He also suggested relocating the Chilm check post near Sheosar Lake and moving the Sadpara check post to Ali Malik Top to improve accessibility and convenience for visitors to Deosai National Park. Additionally, he recommended installing welcome gates at the entrance of Deosai National Park to enhance the tourist experience.

### Private Employees Worried About Layoffs



Amjad Rana

Private sector employees in Pakistan often face significant challenges regarding the enforcement of labor laws and the provision of benefits compared to their counterparts in the public sector. Private employees often face job insecurity due to the ease with which employers can terminate their contracts. There are no severance packages or adequate notice periods provided. Many private organizations do not comply with labor laws regarding minimum wage, working hours, and overtime compensation. Enforcement of labor laws is weak, leading to exploitation and poor working conditions. Private sector employees often do not receive benefits such as health insurance, retirement benefits, and paid leave that are more commonly provided to public sector employees. There is a significant disparity in salaries and benefits between public and private sector employees. Many private sector workers do not have access to social security benefits, including pension schemes, which are typically available to government employees, such as domestic workers and daily wage labourers, are particularly vulnerable. Poor working conditions are common with employees often working long hours without adequate rest or breaks. Occupational health and safety standards are frequently not met, leading to unsafe working environments. Government employees typically enjoy greater job security, with well-defined procedures for hiring, promotion, and termination. Public sector employees receive a wide range of benefits, including pensions, health insurance, housing allowances, and paid leave (sick leave, maternity leave, etc.). These benefits are standardized and enforced more rigorously. Government employees are entitled to pensions and other post-retirement benefits, providing financial security after retirement. The government needs to strengthen the enforcement of existing labor laws to ensure that private sector employees comply with regulations. This includes regular inspections and penalties for non-compliance. Workers should be educated about their rights under labor laws to empower them to demand fair treatment and benefits. Trade unions and worker organizations can play a

crucial role in advocating for employee rights. Reforms are needed to bridge the gap between the public and private sectors in terms of employee benefits and protections. Implementing policies that mandate minimum standards for benefits and working conditions in the private sector is essential. Expanding social security coverage to include more private sector workers, especially those in the informal sector, can provide greater financial security and benefits. Introducing schemes that offer health insurance, pensions, and unemployment benefits to private sector employees is crucial. These issues require a concerted effort from the government, employers, and civil society to ensure fair and equitable treatment for all workers, while Govt also never facilitates PT employees in current budget. The lack of facilitation and support for private sector employees in government budgets is indeed a significant issue. Government budgets often prioritize public sector employees and infrastructure projects, leaving little for the support and development of private sector workers. There is insufficient allocation of funds for programs that directly benefit private sector employees. Labor laws and regulations that protect private sector workers may be outdated or inadequately enforced. Many private sector employees lack access to social safety nets such as unemployment benefits, disability insurance, and old-age pensions. This leaves them vulnerable to economic shocks, job loss, and health emergencies. The government should allocate more resources in the budget to programs that benefit private sector employees. Updating labor laws to ensure better protection and benefits for private sector employees is crucial. Policies should be introduced to mandate minimum standards for wages, working conditions, and benefits in the private sector. Implementing universal health coverage and pension schemes that include private sector employees can provide much-needed financial security. Encouraging public-private partnerships can help develop programs that benefit private sector employees. Collaboration between the government and private sector can lead to the creation of job training programs, health and safety initiatives, and other employee benefits. Increasing the number of labor inspectors and enhancing their training can help ensure that private companies comply with labor laws. Penalties for non-compliance should be strictly enforced to deter violations. Supporting the formation and operation of trade unions and worker associations can help advocate for the rights of private sector employees. These organizations can play a crucial role in negotiating better working conditions and benefits for their members. Conducting awareness campaigns to educate private sector employees about their rights and

available benefits is important. Providing legal aid and support to help workers claim their rights can also be beneficial. The government can create a more balanced and fair labor market where private sector employees receive the support and benefits they deserve. Job security varies significantly in the private sector. Larger companies often provide health insurance, retirement plans, and other perks, while smaller companies might offer limited benefits. Employees may receive additional perks like company cars, government and private sector employment depends on individual priorities and career goals. Private sector jobs provide opportunities for higher earnings, career advancement, and dynamic work environments, appealing to those looking for professional growth and performance-based rewards. Labor departments and regulatory bodies may lack the resources and capacity to monitor and enforce compliance effectively. Corruption and bureaucratic inefficiencies can further weaken government. Private sector employees often lack strong representation through unions or worker associations, reducing their ability to negotiate for better terms and conditions. Fear of retaliation or job loss discourages employees from speaking out about rights violations. Increasing the frequency and rigor of labor inspections to ensure compliance with existing laws. Implementing stricter penalties for non-compliance to deter violations. Encouraging employers to formalize employment through incentives such as tax benefits or subsidies. Simplifying the process for registering employees and ensuring they receive formal contracts. Revising labor laws to address current challenges and include comprehensive protections for all workers, including those in non-traditional or gig economy roles. Introducing legislation that mandates regularization of long-term contract employees. Reducing corruption and increasing transparency within regulatory bodies. Protecting the rights of workers to organize and bargain collectively without fear of retaliation. Conducting campaigns to inform employees about their rights and the importance of formal employment contracts. Providing legal aid and support services to help workers claim their rights and address grievances. Encouraging collaboration between the government and private sector to develop programs that promote fair labor practices and employee regularization. Joint initiatives can focus on skill development, worker welfare, and adherence to labor standards. These issues through a combination of strengthened governance, updated legal frameworks, and enhanced support for workers, the situation for private sector employees in Pakistan can be significantly improved.

### Global Poverty and Hunger Initiatives



Iftikhar Uddin Anjum

Global poverty and hunger are two of the most pressing issues facing humanity today. Despite significant advancements in technology, medicine and agriculture, millions of people around the world continue to struggle with inadequate access to basic necessities. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach involving governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international bodies and the private sector. This article explores the current state of global poverty and hunger, the initiatives in place to combat these issues and the progress being made. Poverty and hunger are intertwined, with poverty often being the root cause of hunger. According to the World Bank, approximately 9.2% of the world's population lives on less than \$1.90 a day. This extreme poverty leaves individuals unable to afford sufficient food, clean water, healthcare and education. The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that as of 2022, nearly 690 million people were undernourished, a situation exacerbated by conflicts, climate change and economic downturns. The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in 2015, provide a comprehensive framework for addressing global challenges, including poverty and hunger. SDG 1 aims to "end poverty in all its forms everywhere," while SDG 2 seeks to "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture." These goals set specific targets, such as eradicating extreme poverty by 2030 and ensuring access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food for all people year-round. The World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security. In 2020, the WFP provided assistance to 115.5 million people in 84 countries. The organization's initiatives include emergency food assistance, school meal programs and projects that improve the resilience of communities to shocks and stresses. The WFP's efforts are crucial in conflict zones and regions affected by natural disasters. The World Bank plays a pivotal role in global poverty reduction. It provides financial and technical assistance to developing countries for development programs (e.g., bridges, roads, schools, etc.) that are expected to improve the economic prospects and quality of life for people in those countries. One notable initiative is the International Development Association (IDA),

which offers low-interest loans and grants to the world's poorest countries. IFAD is a specialized agency of the United Nations dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries. It focuses on empowering small-scale farmers and rural communities to increase agricultural productivity and improve their livelihoods. IFAD projects often include providing access to financial services, markets, technology, and land. Numerous NGOs are actively working to combat global poverty and hunger. Organizations such as Oxfam, CARE and Save the Children implement programs that provide food aid, improve agricultural practices and promote economic development. These NGOs often work at the grassroots level, ensuring that aid reaches the most vulnerable populations. Innovative approaches and technological advancements are playing an increasingly important role in addressing poverty and hunger. Advances in agricultural technology, such as drought-resistant crops, precision farming and sustainable farming practices, are helping to increase food production and reduce losses. For example, the development of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) has led to crops that are more resistant to pests and diseases, reducing the need for chemical pesticides and increasing yields. Mobile technology and digital platforms are revolutionizing the way assistance is delivered. Mobile banking, for instance, enables people in remote areas to access financial services, receive remittances and make payments. Digital platforms also facilitate better market access for farmers, allowing them to sell their produce at fair prices and reduce post-harvest losses. Blockchain technology is being used to enhance transparency and traceability in food supply chains. By providing a secure and transparent record of transactions, blockchain helps ensure that food aid reaches its intended recipients and reduces the risk of fraud and corruption. Despite the progress being made, significant challenges and barriers remain in the fight against global poverty and hunger. Conflict and political instability are major drivers of poverty and hunger. War and civil unrest disrupt food production and distribution, displace populations, and destroy infrastructure. Addressing these issues requires diplomatic efforts and peacebuilding initiatives. Climate change poses a significant threat to food security, particularly in vulnerable regions. Extreme weather events, changing precipitation patterns, and rising temperatures can reduce agricultural productivity and lead to food shortages. Mitigating and adapting to climate change is essential for ensuring long-term food security. Economic inequality exacerbates poverty and hunger. In many countries, wealth and resources are concentrated in the

hands of a few, leaving large segments of the population without access to basic necessities. Addressing inequality requires policy measures that promote inclusive economic growth and social protection. Scarcity of natural resources, such as water and arable land, poses a challenge to sustainable agriculture and food production. Efficient resource management and the development of sustainable practices are crucial for overcoming these challenges. To make significant strides in combating global poverty and hunger, a coordinated and sustained effort is required. Collaboration among governments, international organizations, NGOs and the private sector is essential for maximizing the impact of poverty and hunger initiatives. Strengthening partnerships can lead to better resource allocation, improved program implementation and increased innovation. Promoting sustainable agricultural practices, such as agroecology and climate-smart agriculture, can help increase food production while preserving natural resources and reducing environmental impact. Supporting small-scale farmers and investing in rural development are also critical. Enhancing social protection systems, such as cash transfers, food subsidies and employment programs, can provide a safety net for vulnerable populations and reduce poverty. Social protection measures should be designed to be inclusive and reach those most in need. Creating economic opportunities through education, skills training and entrepreneurship can empower individuals and communities to lift themselves out of poverty. Investing in infrastructure and promoting inclusive economic growth are key to fostering long-term development. Raising awareness about the issues of poverty and hunger and advocating for policy changes are crucial for driving action. Public support and political will are necessary for implementing effective solutions and achieving the SDGs. Global poverty and hunger are complex and multifaceted challenges that require a comprehensive and coordinated response. While significant progress has been made, much work remains to be done. By strengthening partnerships, promoting sustainable practices, enhancing social protection systems, fostering economic opportunities, and advocating for change, we can move closer to a world where everyone has access to the basic necessities of life. Addressing these issues is not only a moral imperative but also essential for ensuring global stability, peace and prosperity.



Mrs. Shabana Mehmood

Organizational Culture is influenced by various factors such as the founders' values and preferences, industry demands, and

### Organizational Culture

early values, goals, and assumptions. It is sustained through attraction-selection-attrition, new employee onboarding, leadership, and organizational reward systems. Organizational culture plays a significant role in the execution of all aspects of organizational performance. The establishment of an organization is synonymous with the establishment of its

culture. Organizational culture takes shape when the founder launches business operations, regardless of whether this is a conscious or intentional act. The founder's values, norms, ethics, approach to business, ideas, and decisions greatly influence the culture of the organization. Observers interpret the culture of the organization based on the actions, beliefs, and decisions of

the founder. My understanding of the link between organizational leaders and organizational culture was enhanced through my experiences in a multinational organization across various departments. Organizational culture is essential as it significantly impacts all aspects of organizational performance. Culture may also serve as a key competitive advantage as it is

challenging to replicate given that culture is difficult to replicate and has a pervasive impact on an organization, particularly in terms of employee engagement, retention, and other facets, it can be both a company's most valuable asset and its greatest challenge to cultivate and preserve. Many challenges that companies face, such as high turnover rates, lack of innovation, employee

disengagement, and poor decision-making can be attributed to culture. However, fostering a healthy, supportive organizational culture that values employees, promotes their ongoing development, encourages ownership, and inspires high performance can help address and overcome these obstacles.

## BISE Lahore announces matric results 2024

Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE

The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE) Lahore has announced the result of matric examination. The percentage of success stood at 69 percent as 174,500 studentsaced the exam.

Lahore board chairman Zaid bin Maqsood announced the names of position holders of BISE Lahore results. BISE Lahore exams controller Zahid Mian and BISE Lahore Secretary Bushra Bibi were present.

Aayan Kashif bagged the first position matric exam with a stellar score of 1190 marks out of 1200. He hailed from the Danish School and wants to study software engineering. Punjab Education Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat honoured him and other position holders by distributing medals and laptops among the top students.



"I got here because of the hard work of my mother and teachers," said Kashif. Kashif's mother, overwhelmed with joy, stated, "I cannot express my happiness in words." Moreover, Minister Rana Sikandar Hayat congratulated all the top position holders in various education boards of Punjab on Monday night. Posting on his X account, Hayat said he was overjoyed to see the results of the Lahore board where a student from Danish School, a PML-N flagship project, has topped the list.

## CASS Roundtable Recommends Strengthening Domestic Cyber Security Legislation & Indigenous Solutions

largely unregulated, underscoring the pressing need for enhanced international cooperation. Mr Jamal Aziz, Executive Director, Research Society of International Law (RSIL) expressed concern over the basic nature of agreed-upon cyber security norms and the complexity of cyber warfare, including issues of attributing cyber-attacks and managing non-state actors. Mr Khawaja Muhammad Ali, a Cyber Security, Data Privacy, and Digital Forensics Expert, was of the view that cyber warfare must be recognised as the fifth domain of warfare, highlighting its importance for national security. He expressed concerns that Pakistan's cyber security policy, currently under review in Parliament, does not address emerging technologies such as AI and cloud computing, emphasising the necessity of actionable policies rather than mere paper plans. Discussants Dr Zameer Jilil and Dr. Kashif Kafayat from Air University also shared their views on the subject. In his Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks, Air Marshal Javid Ahmed (Retd), President CASS, Islamabad highlighted that nowadays, decision-making is entirely data-dependent, hence, it is crucial to secure data. He urged government policymakers to acknowledge and invest in Pakistan's human resources to enhance national cybersecurity capabilities.



Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad

The Centre for Aerospace & Security Studies (CASS), Islamabad, conducted a roundtable on the "Cyber space as a Global Common: Formulation and Applicability of International Law." Air Marshal Zahid Mehmod (Retd), Director (National Security) at CASS, set the stage for the discussion by outlining critical issues surrounding the governance of cyber space. He highlighted the unique challenges and responsibilities faced in regulating cyber space as a "Global Common." He highlighted several international initiatives

working to establish norms for cyber space governance, including efforts of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the United Nations' Group of Governmental Experts (GGE), and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). He referenced legal frameworks like the Budapest Convention on Cyber crime, the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection, and NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE)'s Tallinn Manual 2.0 that are shaping the landscape of cyber law. He lamented that cyber space remains

## SNGPL disconnected 35 connections in crackdown against gas pilferers

Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE

During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad. It disconnected 35 connections and imposed fine of Rs 1.7 million. In Lahore, the team disconnected 08 connections on illegal use of gas and imposed a fine of Rs 1.05 million against the gas theft cases. In Multan, the team disconnected 17 connections on illegal use of gas and 02 on the use of compressor.

The regional team of Faisalabad disconnected 02 connections on illegal use of gas and booked Rs 0.03 million against gas theft cases. In Bahawalpur the team disconnected 01 connection on illegal use of gas and 02 on use of compressor. The regional team of Gujranwala disconnected 02 connections on illegal use of gas and imposed a fine of Rs 0.53 million. In Sheikhupura the team disconnected 01 connection on illegal use of gas and also imposed a fine of Rs 0.11 million against gas theft cases.

## UoS Fosters Research & Educational Partnerships with China



Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha:

A 12-member delegation, headed by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Sargodha, Prof. Dr. Qaiser Abbas has successfully concluded their visit to China to foster collaboration and investment in various sectors, with a specific focus on education, research, and technology. The delegation met with Tang International Education Group at their headquarters in

Beijing. The discussions led to several significant agreements. Key initiatives include Tang International Education Group Supporting Chinese language teaching at the UoS, launching a joint degree program in Traditional Chinese Medicine, establishing joint Associate Degree Programs (2+1 model), and assisting in finding Chinese investors to set up a Citrus Processing Unit. The delegation also attended a productive meeting with China Agriculture

University in Beijing. The discussions were led by Dr. Qaiser Abbas and Prof. Dr. Sun Qixin, President of China Agriculture University. Prof. Dr. Xin Xian, Vice President of China Agriculture University. The meeting resulted in several key agreements including joint research projects, joint degree programs, the establishment of a research center, joint conferences, and the exchange of students and faculty. The meetings concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two universities. Prof. Dr. Qaiser Abbas attended a valuable meeting with H.E. Mr. Khalil Hashmi, Pakistan's ambassador to China, in Beijing. The Vice-Chancellor briefed H.E on the outcomes of their visit to China. He assured the delegation of his full support. Pro Vice-Chancellor UoS Prof. Dr. Mian Gulam Yasir, Dean Faculty of Agriculture Prof. Dr. Athar Nadeem, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences and others were included in delegation

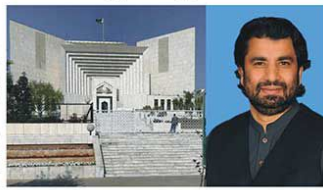
## SC seeks details of Qasim Suri's properties

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the federation, Balochistan government and FIA to provide details of properties of former National Assembly deputy speaker Qasim Suri.

A four-member bench headed by Chief Justice Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Issa heard appeal against the Election Tribunal's decision of de-selecting Qasim Suri.

The SC issued notices to the federal government, Balochistan government and FIA



to submit details of Suri's properties and explain how come Suri left for abroad.

## Director General Chairs All Project Progress Review meeting



Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad:

Under the chairmanship of Director General Captain (Retired) Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, an All Project Progress Review meeting was held in the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority Committee Room. The meeting

was attended by the Chief Engineer, Technical Director, and Project Directors who provided updates on the current status of the P-14/F-15 Housing Project, Green Enclave One/Sky Garden Housing Project, G-14, G-15 Housing Project, and Park Road Housing Project. During the meeting, directives were issued to resolve

the land possession issues in Sector G-15/3 and Sector G-14/1 and to ensure all necessary facilities are provided to the allottees during the development of apartments and sectors. The Director General commended the outstanding performance of all directors and emphasized the need to expedite the completion of delayed projects. Special attention was given to the Kashmir Avenue, Skyline Apartments, Kachlala, and Lifestyle Afro projects, urging immediate commencement of work in accordance with Executive Board decisions. Director General instructed all directors to finalize work on the new proposed business model to provide registered members with modern housing facilities as soon as possible. Directors were given specific targets and timelines for various projects, with a requirement to submit weekly progress reports.

## Govt announces two day Muharram holiday



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD:

The federal government on Tuesday announced a two-day public holiday for Muharram 9 and 10.

"[...] the Prime Minister is pleased to declare 10th and 11th July, 2024 (Tuesday and Wednesday) as public holidays on the occasion of Ashura (9th & 10th Moharram 1446 AH)," a notification issued by the Cabinet Division stated.

Muslims across the globe will observe the religious occasion with grief and sorrow.

In this regard, the government also approved the deployment of the Pakistan Army and Civil Armed Forces (CAF) across the country as a security measure during Muharram. The interior ministry notification states that the details of troop deployment, which will be

enforced for an indefinite period, will be finalised with the authorities concerned, including the government of Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Islamabad. Additionally, the notification stated: "The date of de-requisitioning of said deployment will be decided subsequently after mutual consultation among all stakeholders." It is pertinent to know that provincial governments, including Punjab, have requested the federal government to suspend social media platforms for one week to curb the spread of hate material on the internet. However, the federal government has not yet taken any decision to suspend internet services during Muharram and any decision in this regard will be taken with the consultation of provinces, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Interior earlier today.

## Students of BDS Society UoS & doctors visit Hilal-e-Ahmer Thalassemia, Hemophilia Blood Center.

Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha:

Students of BDS Society University of Sargodha and Awais Khan along with Dr. Amina Khan and Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim Khan who came from America visited the Hilal-e-Ahmer Thalassemia, Hemophilia Blood Center. They encouraged the patients and distributed chelation medicine pumps and gifts to the patients. Officials of Nasira Shah, Founder Shah Foundation visited Hilal-e-Ahmer Thalassemia, Hemophilia



Blood Center and distributed chelation medicine pumps and injections to Thalassemia patients. On this occasion, GM Mirza of Hilal-e-Ahmer Thalassemia

Center, Executive Member Sheikh Muhammad Ashraf and Khawaja Khadim Hussain said, we are extremely grateful to BDS Society and Shah Foundation. We encourage them to come to the Hilal-e-Ahmer Thalassemia Center and participate in this noble work and thank them on behalf of the patients and the management of the institution.

## UN 'appalled' By Israel evacuation orders as Gaza battles rage on



**Web Desk**  
The United Nations protested on Tuesday over the latest mass evacuation orders issued by Israel in Gaza as the army said it had killed dozens of militants in "close-quarters combat" in its latest offensive in Gaza City.

Israel extended its evacuation warning to cover most of Gaza's main city on Monday and intense fighting erupted. Israel has now issued three evacuation orders for Gaza City and one for the south of the Palestinian territory since June 27 in a new stepping up of its military operations. The UN says tens of thousands of civilians have fled.

## UK's Sunak 'Appears shadow' cabinet after historic Election loss



**LONDON**  
British opposition leader Rishi Sunak set out his shadow cabinet on Monday, with some senior ministers reprising the roles they held in government prior to last week's parliamentary election, while former Foreign Secretary David Cameron resigned. Andrew Mitchell will handle the foreign policy brief in the interim shadow cabinet, a team of senior spokespeople picked by the opposition party leader to mirror the cabinet in government. The Conservative Party suffered a historic election defeat last week with a record number of cabinet ministers, including former defence secretary Grant Shapps, losing their seats.



# Russian Missile Strikes Children Hospital, Kills 41

Parents holding babies walked outside the hospital, dazed and sobbing after the rare daylight aerial attack

**KYIV**  
Russia blasted the main children's hospital in Kyiv with a missile in broad daylight on Monday and rained missiles down on other cities across Ukraine, killing at least 41 civilians in the deadliest wave of air strikes for months. Parents holding babies walked in the street outside the hospital, dazed and sobbing after the rare daylight aerial attack. Windows had been smashed and panels ripped off, and hundreds of Kyiv residents were helping to clear debris. "It was scary. I couldn't breathe. I was trying to cover (my baby). I was trying to cover him with this cloth so that he could breathe," Svitlana Kravchenko, 33, told Reuters.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who stopped in Poland before heading off to Washington for a NATO summit, put the death toll at 37, including three children. More than 170 were injured. But tallies of casualties from the sites of attacks in different regions totalled at least 41. Writing on the Telegram messaging app, Zelenskyy said more than 100 buildings had been damaged, including the children's hospital and a maternity centre in Kyiv, children's nurseries and a business centre and homes. "The Russian terrorists must answer for this," he wrote. "Being concerned does not stop terror. Condolences are not a weapon." The Interior Ministry said there had also been damage in the central cities of Kryvyi Rih and Dnipro and two eastern cities.

## Gazans flee Israeli assault that Hamas warns could threaten ceasefire bid



**CAIRO**  
Gaza City residents fled under Israeli fire as tanks thrust deeper into the heart of the city on Tuesday, the second day of a stepped-up military offensive that Palestinian militant group Hamas said could jeopardise ceasefire talks. Qatari and Egyptian mediators, backed by the United States, have accelerated their efforts this week to seal a ceasefire deal aimed at ending the Gaza war and releasing Israeli hostages in the enclave in return for Palestinian prisoners jailed in Israel. On Tuesday, Israeli tanks deepened their incursion into some Gaza City districts including Shejia, Sabra and Tel Al-Hawa, where residents reported the previous day some of the most fierce fighting since the start of the war between Israel and the Islamist Hamas. Footage circulated on social media on Tuesday showed families packed onto donkey carts and in the backs of trucks piled with mattresses and other belongings racing through the city's streets to flee areas under Israeli

## Kyiv mourns as rescuers sift piles of rubble at a children's hospital hit by a Russian missile



**KYIV, Ukraine**  
Rescuers searched the rubble at a children's hospital Tuesday for more dead and wounded, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, a day after Russian missiles slammed into the facility and cities across the country in a massive daytime barrage. The death toll from the strikes rose to 42, officials said.

Zelenskyy said on the social platform X that 64 people were hospitalized in the capital, as well as 28 in Kryvyi Rih and six in Dnipro — both cities in central Ukraine. It was Russia's heaviest bombardment of Kyiv in almost four months and one of the deadliest of the war, hitting seven of the city's 10 districts. The strike on the Okhmatdyt children's hospital, which interrupted open-heart surgery and forced young cancer patients to leave their treatments outdoors, drew an international outcry.

The 10-story hospital, Ukraine's largest medical facility for children, was caring for some 670 patients at the time of the attack, Okhmatdyt's Director General, Volodymyr Zhovnir, said Tuesday. The missile hit a two-story wing of the hospital. "The building where we conducted dialysis for children with kidney failure or acute intoxication is ruined entirely," he told reporters, estimating the overall damage to the hospital at \$2.5 million. Danielle Bell, the head of a U.N. team tracking human rights violations in Ukraine, said at least two people were killed at the hospital and some 50 people were injured, including seven children. The casualty figure would have been much higher if patients hadn't been taken to a bunker when air raid sirens first sounded, she added. Zhovnir said one of the two killed at the hospital was a female doctor who took children to the shelter and then went back to check nobody had been left behind. Oleh Holubchenko, a pediatric surgeon at the hospital, was operating on a baby with congenital face defects.

# Sports & Showbiz

## Fitness sole criterion for selection, top PCB officials decide



**Sports Desk LAHORE**  
Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Mohsin Naqvi and coaching staff decided that fitness will be the sole criterion for selection while it also stressed upon maintaining the highest fitness standards at all levels. The decision was taken during a meeting between Mr Naqvi and Men's cricket team coaches including white-ball coach Gary Kirsten, red-ball coach Jason Gillespie and Assistant coach Azhar Mahmood during a meeting at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) Gaddafi stadium. Termed as significant by the PCB, the meeting centred around discussions on strategising for improvements in batting, bowling and fielding, with a decision to devise comprehensive plans in these areas. He expressed full confidence in the coaching staff's abilities and assured them of complete support in player development and coaching matters. Addressing concerns about team composition, PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi acknowledged the presence of talent but highlighted the need for optimal combinations.

As France went to the second round of a parliamentary election hundreds of thousands of cycling fans turned out for the Tour on this first holiday weekend. A shake up in the overall standings had been expected as the peloton tackled 14 rustic white gravel paths in the region's celebrated champagne vineyards that produce over 300 million bottles of bubbly a year. One of them was cracked open at the finish line by Turgis, who had been part of the long range breakaway from a group of one-day specialists. In the overall standings the Slovenian two-time champion Pogacar leads Tour rookie Evenepoel of Belgium by 33sec while defending champion Vingegaard of Denmark is still third at 1min 15sec.

**TROYES, France**  
Anthony Turgis emerged victorious from a long breakaway while Tadej Pogacar attacked several times on a novel run but could not gain time on his main rivals for the yellow jersey. Frenchman Anthony Turgis won stage nine of the Tour de France on the white gravel tracks through champagne vineyards after a long range escape. British rider Tom Pidcock was second after tailing Turgis but looked to be slightly blocked as he made a last-gasp bid for the line ahead of third-placed Derek Gee of Canada. "That was wonderful," Turgis said at the finish line in the city of Troyes. "I've been close to winning for ages and to get one here is just great," the 30-year-old added. Overnight leader Tadej Pogacar attacked several times on a novel run including the dusty gravel for a



## Keegan Bradley appointed US Ryder Cup captain after Tiger Woods turns down the job

**Web Desk**  
Keegan Bradley is assured of making another Ryder Cup team, this time as the U.S. captain. The PGA of America announced his selection on Monday after months of talking with Tiger Woods about taking the job. The PGA of America released the news on Instagram after word began to leak during the day that Bradley, who has played on only two Ryder Cup teams and never as an assistant captain, was chosen to lead the 2025 matches at Bethpage Black in New York. Bradley already was in New York going through media training, with a news conference to introduce him set for noon Tuesday at the NASDAQ building. At age 38, he will be the youngest American captain since Arnold Palmer was a playing captain in 1963 at East Lake. Sports Illustrated was first to report that Bradley would be the next captain. Woods was the first choice of the Ryder Cup committee and had been in negotiations for months about what the job would entail and whether he had time to fulfill the duties, many of them involving promotion of the event. While he plays only a limited schedule, Woods is the vice captain

## Javeria Abbasi opens up about her third marriage



**(Web Desk)**  
Javeria Abbasi on a TV show has revealed that she solemnized Nikah three months ago. This is her third marriage after the failure of previous two marriages. Javeria Abbasi is from a family of artists and she has been working since she was very young. She has been through a lot of ups and downs in her life and she has single-handedly raised her daughter Anzla Abbasi. Anzla is a successful artist herself and she recently got married in a beautiful ceremony. Javeria is also entering a new phase in her life and she announced it on a TV show. After Anzla's marriage she was alone so when she got this proposal, she took it seriously.

## Frenchman Turgis wins stage nine as Pogacar maintains Tour de France lead



**TROYES, France**  
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