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JI reschedules sit-in plan against exorbitant Power bills



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE: Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeem Rehman postponed the planned sit-in against the government due to Ashura. Earlier, JI had announced to hold sit-in in Islamabad against the exorbitant electricity bills on July 12 (tomorrow). Addressing a press conference in Lahore, JI Emir said that they will now hold sit-in on July 26 instead of July 12. "We have a track record of holding sit-ins in the country. We have only rescheduled our plan in respect of Ashura," said Hafiz Naeem. He added that rallies will reach Islamabad on July 26 from all parts of the country. The JI Emir was of the view that the government has failed to provide relief to the masses. Hafiz Naeem announced that he will visit all the major cities of the country to hold meetings with the traders and lawyers. "If the government wants us to cancel our sit-in then it should provide relief to the people," said JI Emir.

Government decision of allowing phone tapping by ISI challenged in IHC



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD: The federal government's notification mandating ISI and other agencies to intercept and record calls and messages of citizens has been challenged in the Islamabad High Court (IHC). Pakistan Bar Council's six members challenged the notification by filing the plea in the IHC, making IT secretary, Defence secretary, Interior secretary and PTA secretary respondents. The petitioners include Shafiqat Mehmood Chohan, Abid Zuberi, Chaudhry Ishtiaq, Munir Ahmed Kakar, Tahir Faraz Abbasi and Abid Saqi. The petition implied that the notification issued under Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Act section 54 is illegal and the Fair Trial Act 2013 has complete mechanism for this matter. Petitioners request the court to annul the notification of phone tapping by ISI and agencies declaring it illegal.

Verdicts pronounced in anger lead to travesty of justice: IHC CJ Aamer Farooq



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Islamabad High Court, Justice Aamer Farooq said on Thursday that decisions announced by judges out of anger did not meet the standards of justice. The IHC CJ was speaking at a ceremony organised by the Islamabad High Court Bar Association. Expressing concerns over young lawyers' lack of learning, the IHC CJ said that in the past, a new entrant in the field of law used to spend around six months in the chamber of a senior lawyer where he was groomed to meet grinding demands of legal practice. He conceded that he also flew off the handles at times for grooming people, insisting that people didn't usually understand if treated too politely. Justice Farooq deplored that idea of chamber institution was fast fading as lawyers spent more time in gossiping instead of learning, which he said was the nursery for producing the best legal minds. He said that our predecessors kept the chamber alive while it had been kept defunct for the last ten years.

Punjab govt starts distribution of e-bikes among students

M Maryam says her government is bringing more schemes for youth



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif inaugurated the Chief Minister's Youth Initiative, E-bike program by giving the symbolic key of the first E-bike to a college student of Jampur. CM Maryam Nawaz launched Vehicle Inspection Regime for Private Vehicle Project and also gave the first e-loader rickshaw manufacturing license in Punjab to the Nawawa Mobilizers Company. Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif made various mega announcements during making her address of E-Bike launching ceremony. She announced E-Bike project phase 2, establishing solarized charging stations in the colleges and universities and also announced to give bikes to those students who remained deprived of the affection of their

parents. A special scholarship worth Rs 25 billion was announced for the students along with early launching of a laptop scheme for the students was also announced and subsequently transferring Punjab to the electric transport under a "Green Vision" Programme. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif persuaded other provinces to launch E-Bike Scheme for the students by following Punjab Province. The CM said, "Today E-Bike Project has been launched and we will further increase its number in the next phase. The Punjab government will pay Rs 20 thousand out of Rs 40 thousand for making down payment of E-Bike." She added, "More than one lakh applications were submitted, 27200 students will be given E-Bike. All districts have equal representation in this scheme."

Justice Aalia Neelum takes oath as first woman chief justice of LHC

Punjab Governor Saleem Haider Khan administers oath to Justice Aalia Neelum

Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE: Justice Aalia Neelum on Thursday became the first woman chief justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC) when she took oath in a simple ceremony at the Governor House. Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan administered the oath to Justice Neelum. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, judges of the high court and other top officials attended the oath-taking ceremony.



It may be noted that Ayesha Malik is the first woman Supreme Court judge. Justice Syeda Tahira Saifur was the first woman to be elevated to the rank of chief justice in any court of Pakistan. She was sworn in as chief justice of the Balochistan High Court (BHC). Justice Musarrat Hilali was sworn in as the first woman chief justice of the Peshawar High Court (PHC). Chief Justice Neelum's appointment is a significant milestone in the history of the court

and a testament to her exceptional qualifications and dedication to the law profession. She is a distinguished jurist with a remarkable career spanning over two decades. The Judicial Commission of Pakistan (JCP) had unanimously approved her name in a meeting chaired by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa. The council also considered the names of Justice Shujaat Ali Khan and Justice Baqir Najafi for this post. She replaced Justice Malik Shahzad Ahmad Khan who has been elevated to the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Azm-e-Istehkam: Govt 'decides to initiate national dialogue' on new anti-terror operation

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad

Finalising its strategy regarding Operation Azm-e-Istehkam, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led government has decided to



initiate a national dialogue to root out terrorism and extremism in the country. PM Shehbaz, the sources added, has taken cabinet members into confidence over the new counter-terrorism operation's scope and the reason behind launching the new anti-terror drive. Last month, the federal cabinet approved the decisions taken by the National Action Plan's Central Apex Commission including the launch of Operation Azm-e-Istehkam.

The sources say that the security forces handed over the cleared areas from the terrorists to the provincial governments. "Due to the failure of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government, terrorists returned to the cleared areas," the added. The government's decision drew reservations from several political parties including the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI-F), the Awami National Party (ANP), Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) and others.

No talks planned with banned TTP, asserts FO

FO spox says Pakistan dedicated to implementing Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has no intention to engage in talks with the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, the Foreign Office asserted on Thursday. During the weekly press briefing, FO Spokesperson Muneer Zahra Baloch added that "this terrorist group is responsible for the deaths of Pakistani and foreign citizens within Pakistan". She said that terrorist groups had established sanctuaries in Afghanistan, using the territory to

launch attacks against Pakistan. Baloch stressed Pakistan's commitment to respecting Afghanistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and called for reciprocal actions from Kabul. Addressing a query, Baloch affirmed Pakistan's dedication to implementing the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan, noting that the first phase was nearing completion. She clarified that Pakistan had not agreed to suspend this plan with the UNHCR, highlighting the

government's decision to extend the validity of Proof of Registration cards for Afghan refugees by one year. In response to another question, Baloch highlighted the multifaceted and robust partnership between Pakistan and the United States. She underscored the importance of advancing this relationship based on mutual respect, sovereign equality and non-interference in internal affairs.

IHC reserves decision on admissibility of plea Calling judge's credentials into question



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court has reserved its decision on a petition raising questions over Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri's education credentials. IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq took up the plea where the petitioner, advocate Mian Dawood, requested verification of Justice Jahangiri's educational credentials and urged to halt his judicial activities. During the proceedings, Justice Farooq questioned the admissibility

of challenging the Judicial Commission and queried why it was included as a party in the case. The petitioner responded that he sought to summon records from all parties except Justice Jahangiri, emphasising that no writ was sought against the Judicial Commission or the federation. The chief justice questioned if a writ against a high court judge was indeed admissible, in light of the Registrar's objections. The petitioner reiterated his plea for an inquiry into the eligibility of the honorable judges, citing the 1998 Supreme Court decision in the Sajjad Ali Shah case and referring to ongoing public debate fuelled by university letters circulating on social and mainstream media. Justice Farooq redirected the focus to arguments on admissibility rather than merits.

ECP issues arrest warrant of Fawad Chaudhry in contempt case



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has issued a bailable arrest warrant to former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry in the (ECP) contempt case. A four-member commission, headed by ECP member Nisar Durani, heard the contempt of ECP case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan and Fawad Chaudhry's counsel absent. Imran Khan's counsel Shoab Shaheen's assistant counsel appeared before the court during the hearing and informed the court about Shoab Shaheen's presence in the Islamabad High Court (IHC). ECP member Khyber Pakhtunkhwa inquired from assistant counsel that wasn't this case was crucial and did he possess legal licence. ECP deputy director law stated that the last hearing of this case was held in January but the high court prohibited it from issuing final verdict on this case, however, proceedings could be done. PTI founder's counsel said the ECP could allow virtual appearance of respondents during the hearing. ECP inquired about the virtual appearance of the respondent through video link. ECP members remarked that respondent appearance was necessary in criminal cases but not in civil cases. Court can allow virtual appearance of respondents



Monsoon's Effects on Agriculture in Pakistan

The monsoon season in Pakistan has a profound impact on the country's agriculture sector. The season brings with it both blessings and challenges for farmers. On one hand, the rains bring much-needed water to the crops, replenishing the soil and rejuvenating the fields. This leads to increased crop yields and better crop quality, which is a boon for farmers. The replenishment of water sources such as reservoirs, lakes, and groundwater also provides

a reliable source of irrigation, reducing the dependence on alternative sources. On the other hand, the monsoon rains can be destructive, causing flooding that damages crops, especially those that are close to harvesting. Strong winds and hailstorms that accompany the rains can also damage crops, while soil erosion can lead to soil degradation and reduced fertility. Furthermore, the rains can lead to an increase in pests and diseases that affect crops,

requiring additional pest and disease management measures. Despite these challenges, Pakistani farmers have learned to adapt to the monsoon season, developing strategies to mitigate its negative effects. For example, they plant crops that are resistant to flooding and diseases, and use innovative irrigation methods to conserve water. Additionally, the government has implemented initiatives to support farmers, such as crop insurance programs and training

on sustainable agricultural practices. In conclusion, the monsoon season has a significant impact on Pakistan's agriculture sector, bringing both opportunities and challenges. While it can be destructive, it also provides much-needed water and rejuvenates the soil. By adopting innovative strategies and with government support, farmers can thrive during this season and contribute to the country's food security.

Our Teaching Method & Modern world



Ifikhar Uddin Anjum

collaborate with peers. Teachers act as facilitators, guiding students to explore, inquire and develop a deeper understanding of subjects. Modern education emphasizes critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Students are encouraged to question, analyze, and synthesize information. This approach prepares them to tackle complex problems in various fields and adapt to the rapidly changing global landscape. Project-based learning, case studies and real-world applications are integral to this method. Technology plays a pivotal role in modern education. Interactive digital tools, online resources and virtual classrooms enhance the learning experience. Technology enables personalized learning, where educational content can be tailored to individual student's needs, pace and learning styles. It also fosters global connectivity, allowing students to collaborate and learn from diverse cultures and perspectives. The over-reliance on rote learning hampers the development of critical thinking skills among Pakistani students. They often find it challenging to engage in analytical reasoning, problem-solving and creative thinking. This limitation affects their ability to excel in higher education and professional environments, where these skills are crucial. The outdated teaching methods contribute to the reduced global competitiveness of Pakistani graduates. In a world that increasingly values innovation, creativity and technological proficiency, Pakistani students lag behind their peers from countries with more progressive educational systems. This disparity affects their employability and ability to contribute to the global economy. The focus on theoretical knowledge with little practical application leaves students ill-prepared for real-world challenges. Practical skills, hands-on experience and exposure to contemporary technologies are essential for success in today's job market. Pakistani students often face a steep learning curve when transitioning from academic settings to professional environments. Updating the curriculum to reflect current knowledge and skills is crucial. Incorporating STEM subjects, digital literacy and contemporary issues will provide students with a more relevant and comprehensive education. The curriculum should also emphasize the development of critical thinking, creativity and problem-solving

skills. Investing in teacher training and professional development is essential for improving the quality of education. Teachers should be equipped with modern pedagogical techniques, digital tools, and strategies for fostering student-centered learning. Continuous professional development will ensure that teachers stay updated with the latest educational trends and practices. Integrating technology into the education system can transform teaching and learning processes. Providing access to digital tools, online resources and interactive platforms will enhance the learning experience. Technology can also facilitate personalized learning, allowing students to learn at their own pace and according to their individual needs. Shifting from a teacher-centered to a student-centered approach requires encouraging active learning. This involves promoting classroom discussions, collaborative projects and experiential learning. Students should be encouraged to ask questions, engage in critical thinking and apply their knowledge in practical contexts. Reforming assessment methods is crucial for moving away from rote learning. Instead of solely relying on traditional exams, assessments should evaluate students' understanding, analytical abilities and practical skills. Project-based assessments, presentations and real-world problem-solving tasks can provide a more holistic evaluation of student performance. The contrast between the traditional teaching methods in Pakistan and modern educational practices worldwide highlights the need for comprehensive educational reform in Pakistan. The old methods, characterized by rote learning, teacher-centered classrooms, and outdated curricula, limit students' potential and hinder their global competitiveness. In contrast, modern educational systems prioritize student-centered learning, critical thinking, and the integration of technology. For Pakistan to equip its students with the skills and knowledge required in the 21st century, it must modernize its education system. This involves updating the curriculum, investing in teacher training, integrating technology, promoting active learning and reforming assessment methods. By embracing these changes, Pakistan can provide its students with a more relevant, engaging, and effective education, preparing them to thrive in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

Rs 3.2 trillion Borrowed by Govt Amid Spending Surges



Amjad Rana

The government's borrowing of Rs3.2 trillion from scheduled banks between May 15 and June 28 of the fiscal year 2023-24, despite a 30% increase in revenue generation, is noteworthy. The latest State Bank data shows that the government borrowed Rs71.8bn per day during the period, reflecting the government's massive spending. For the fiscal year 2024-25, the government aims to generate 40% more revenue compared to the previous year, primarily through increased taxation. Despite these measures to enhance revenue, there appears to be a minimal action towards reducing spending to avoid further borrowing. The government borrows heavily from both domestic banks and international institutions like the IMF, and the repayment burden falls on the public through various taxes. The perception that the borrowed funds are not used for public benefit but rather misappropriated and transferred illegally abroad further exacerbates public frustration. Controlling government borrowing requires a multi-faceted approach that balances revenue generation, expenditure management, and strategic financial planning. Implementing progressive tax policies, closing tax loopholes, and ensuring efficient tax collection can boost revenue. Reducing exemptions and bringing more entities and individuals into the tax net. Developing non-tax revenue streams such as fees, fines, and state-owned enterprise dividends. Identifying and eliminating unnecessary expenditures through regular audits and monitoring. Streamlining government operations to improve efficiency and reduce costs. Targeting subsidies more effectively to avoid blanket subsidies that benefit those who don't need them. Developing a comprehensive debt management strategy that prioritizes low-cost borrowing and refinancing of high-interest debt. Creating contingency funds to manage unexpected expenses without resorting to borrowing. Developing long-term fiscal plans that align spending with revenue projections and economic growth. Focusing on infrastructure projects that spur economic growth and eventually increase tax revenue. Providing support and incentives for small and

medium-sized enterprises to foster economic activity and job creation. Implementing and adhering to fiscal responsibility laws that set limits on borrowing and mandate balanced budgets. Enhancing transparency and accountability in public financial management to build trust and ensure prudent use of funds. Leveraging private sector investment for public projects to reduce the financial burden on the government. Engaging civil society and the private sector in the budgeting process to ensure more effective and equitable allocation of resources. Coordinating with the central bank to ensure that monetary policy supports fiscal objectives without leading to excessive inflation or crowding out private sector investment. Implementing a combination of these strategies can help the government control borrowing, ensuring sustainable economic growth and financial stability. To effectively control government borrowing, a comprehensive strategy encompassing both revenue generation and expenditure management is crucial. Implement a more progressive tax structure where higher income brackets pay a higher percentage of their income. Invest in modernizing tax collection systems to reduce evasion and improve compliance. Identify and eliminate tax loopholes that allow individuals and corporations to reduce their tax liability. Limit tax exemptions and concessions to broaden the tax base. Integrate the informal sector into the formal economy to increase tax collection. Increase non-tax revenue through fees, fines, and charges for government services. Conduct regular audits of government departments and projects to identify and eliminate wasteful expenditures. Reduce bureaucratic red tape and streamline government operations to enhance efficiency and reduce costs. Replace blanket subsidies with targeted subsidies aimed at the most vulnerable populations. Use conditional cash transfers to provide direct support to those in need, reducing the overall cost of subsidies. Prioritize borrowing from low-cost sources, implement a debt ceiling to limit the amount the government can borrow. Establish contingency funds to manage unexpected expenses without additional borrowing. Conduct regular risk assessments to anticipate and plan for financial shocks. Implement and adhere to fiscal responsibility laws that mandate balanced budgets and limit borrowing. To use accurate economic forecasting to plan expenditures based on realistic revenue projections. Engage in PPPs to leverage private investment for public infrastructure projects. Provide incentives and support for small and medium-sized

enterprises (SMEs) to stimulate economic activity and job creation. Improve access to finance for SMEs to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation. Establish an independent fiscal council to monitor and advise on fiscal policy. Ensure transparency in the budgeting process to build public trust and accountability. Implement strong anti-corruption measures to ensure prudent use of public funds. Invest in capacity building for government officials to improve financial management and governance. Create a favourable environment for private investment in public projects through PPPs. Develop frameworks for risk-sharing between the government and private sector in PPPs. Engage civil society and local communities in the budgeting process to ensure effective and equitable allocation of resources. Work with the central bank to manage inflation and avoid crowding out private investment. By balancing revenue generation with prudent expenditure management, the government can reduce its reliance on borrowing and ensure long-term financial stability. Implement an open budget process where budget proposals, expenditures and audits are publicly available for scrutiny. Require public officials to regularly declare their assets and income, subject to verification and public disclosure. Direct borrowed funds towards infrastructure projects that benefit the public, such as roads, hospitals, and schools. Establish independent oversight bodies to monitor the implementation of projects funded by loans. Conduct performance audits of major projects to ensure funds are used effectively and goals are achieved. Minimize reliance on regressive taxes such as sales taxes that disproportionately affect lower-income individuals. Work to include the informal economy and reduce tax exemptions that benefit the wealthy. Strengthen measures to prevent illegal transfer of funds abroad. Work with international bodies to trace and recover illicit financial flows. Improve oversight of the banking sector to prevent misallocation of funds and ensure that loans are used for productive purposes. Strengthen risk management practices within banks to ensure they are lending responsibly. Ensure that any international aid or loans are used effectively and transparently for development purposes. Seek technical assistance from international organizations to improve governance, financial management, and anti-corruption practices. Launch public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about government finances and their rights to hold the government accountable. Encourage community involvement in monitoring local projects and expenditures.

NAAC Blooming Treasures of Biodiversity in Pothwar, Pakistan

Dragon fruit is a device for promoting biodiversity and a way to lessen the challenges the intricate global food system places on smallholder farmers



Hafiz Azhar Rasool

high temperatures because it doesn't absorb as much water and adores the sun. The fruit is a good source of vitamins, dietary fiber, glucose, fructose, and minerals. Dragon fruit has approximately 1.1g of protein, 0.4g of fat, 30g of fiber, 110g of carbohydrates, and 1.9mg of iron per 100 grams. For smallholders who wish to promote social sustainability while having minimal impact on the environment, they are predominantly ideal. The effects of global warming and the growing number of diabetics are Pakistan's two main problems. In Pakistan, one in three people have diabetes. We must come up with creative ideas to address these problems.

The goal of Namal University's (NU) Nisar Aziz AgriTech Center (NAAC) in Mianwali is to cultivate climate-resistant plants that are advantageous for the local economy, ecology, and public health. Thus, at the Namal AgriTech Park, which is near to Namal University's faculty houses in Mianwali, Pothwar, NAAC planted 130 dragon fruit plants in cooperation with S&Y Metals (Chinese Co.), Alveena Bashier and Noor E Saher, two final-year BBA Agribusiness students from the Business Studies Department (DBS) chose to focus their final-year project (FYP) on the viability of dragon fruit in the Pothwar region. The market survey, the fruit's viability in the

Pothwar region, and the smallholders' cost-benefit-ratio (CBR) were the three primary emphases of the dragon fruit FYP's research. Market survey reflects what consumers in Pakistan's major cities, such as Lahore and Islamabad, prefer and there is higher demand for dragon fruit. As a result of their increased curiosity about novel cuisines and health concerns, the poll revealed that consumers are growing more interested in exotic fruits. The Namal AgriTech Park's dragon fruit plantation initiative contributed to the feasibility and growth methods of the fruit for smallholders in Pothwar. The experiential learnings

investigated its pruning techniques and insect control methods. Furthermore, the soil type of the Pothwar region is sandy loam with a pH of 6 to 7.5, which is suitable for the cultivation of dragon fruit, according to the agricultural analysis report from the Department of Agriculture of the Punjab Government. As the primary goal of Namal AgriTech Park, NAAC is committed to bringing dragon fruiting technology to smallholders in the Pothwar region. To evaluate the smallholders' CBR analysis, Pothwar. The FYP team S&Y Metals, Lahore to have the firsthand knowledge of the fruit plantation, which absolutely proved very beneficial and answered many

queries of the students. The team looked into the way of doings, the expenditure and earnings from their dragon fruit farming a four-year period. According to the CBR analysis, the smallholders will receive 1.40, 3.10, and 3.64 returns on a one-unit investment after the second, third, and fourth years of the plantation, respectively. During the "Open House Day" event, a third party from the industry selected the dragon fruits' FYP as the best BBA project for the year 2024 in the NU, Mianwali. In addition, team on behalf of DBS and NAAC presented their FYP at the 11th Applied Business Research Conference held at the Capital University of Science & Technology.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization emphasizes that biodiversity is essential to ensure the diversity of our food supply and that it must play a major role in modernizing our food production systems. Dragon fruit is one of the nocturnal plants which contribute to biodiversity and sustainable agriculture. It can tolerate



Sustainable growth rates are linked to effective population control: DC Aurangzeb Haider



awareness campaigns. Population management is not only the responsibility of the government but also the social responsibility. Sustainable growth rates are linked to effective population control. District Welfare Officer Malik Aftab Awan said that innovation is being brought in population control. All reproductive health facilities including liquid pregnancy medicines are being provided absolutely free in Punjab. He said that awareness is being given in the society through scholars. The DC also distributed prizes to the field staff of the Population Welfare Department, NGO representatives and others. Later, under his leadership an awareness rally was also taken out from Arts Council Complex on the occasion of World Population Day.

Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha:

Deputy Commissioner Captain retired Aurangzeb Haider Khan has said that increasing population has created big challenges for us. We also face environmental pollution along with shortage of resources. He was addressing a seminar organized by District Welfare

Office at Arts Council Complex on the occasion of World Population Day. Apart from district officer Malik Aftab Awan, other officers, field staff, representatives of NGOs and people from different walks of life participated in the seminar. The Deputy Commissioner said, understanding the serious challenge of increasing population, there is a need to conduct systematic



Commissioner & RPO inspect arrangements made by district administration for Ashura Muharram

Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha:

Commissioner Sargodha Division Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti and Regional Police Officer Sharif Kamal Siddiqui visited Khushab and Joharabad. They inspected the arrangements made by the district administration Khushab, the routes of the Muharram processions and the Imam Bargahs for Ashura Muharram. The Commissioner while talking said that during Muharram, people from all walks of life including the district administration, police, other institutions should succeed in the efforts to establish peace. RPO said that the love of

Aal-e-Rasool (PBUH) is an essential part of our faith. Therefore, any divisiveness or anarchy will not be tolerated under any circumstances. On this occasion Deputy Commissioner Khushab Zeeshan Shabbir Rama, DPO Touqeer Muhammad Naeem, ADC (G) Ahmed Sohaib, Assistant Commissioner Khushab Ejaz Malik besides Rescue 1122, MC, FESCO, officers of other concerned departments and members of peace committee etc. were also present. The commissioner appreciated the arrangements made by the district administration and police. Meanwhile, he also met the members of the peace committee.

Awan redressed public complaints in an open court



Office Sargodha Mushtaq Ahmad Awan held an open court yesterday 11-07-2024 Thursday at 9:00 am in District Council Hall Joharabad. After listening to the complaints of the people against the federal departments in the open court, the people's problems were solved by providing relief on the spot. Many people from Mianwali, Kala Bagh and Khushab came to Kachheri for their problems. Most of the complaints were about FESCO, Sui Gas, Post Office, Passport and Benazir Income Support Programme. Press and media representatives including district heads of most departments were also present there. Due to the awareness program by the media, the people had reached from distant areas. Most of the complaints by claimants were redressed on the spot.

Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha:

In-charge Federal Ombudsman Regional

Food crisis looms large as flour millers go on strike across country



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE

A number of flour mills were eventually shut down on Thursday for an indefinite period in various parts of the country after the government failed to redress concerns of the Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) regarding imposition of withholding tax on the commodity. According to the PFMA, more than 1,500 flour mills across country have halted wheat washing and flour supply after the recent announcement of observing strike. The PFMA demands withdrawal of withholding tax on the flour. It further said small scale flour dealers were also joining the chorus of millers in lodging their protest against the government. In line with PFMA's orders, as many as 73 flour mills in Gujranwala and more than 60 mills in Multan ceased their operations. The PFMA spokesperson said the closure of flour mills would result in suspension of supply of 200,000 flour bags a day. Besides, millers in Faisalabad, Khushab, Peshawar and Quetta complied with

instructions of the PFMA by locking their mills. **FOOD CRISIS IN THE OFFING** The Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA) on Wednesday announced strike against imposition of withholding tax by shutting down the mills for an indefinite period. PFMA Punjab Chairman Asim Raza announced the decision of closure of flour mills, saying imposing tax on flour was unaffordable and unacceptable as it was an essential edible item used in every household of the country. He said the flour millers would never become tax agents for the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). PFMA Central Chairman Chaudhry Amir Abdullah had announced suspension of flour mills' operations after deadlock with the government for not withdrawing the withholding tax on the flour. "Instead of taxing the common man's bread, the government should announce withdrawal of this unnecessary withholding tax," he said. He lambasted the FBR for being unable to meet grinding tax targets and leaving the masses burdened with excessive taxes.

Citizens face water crisis due to negligence of Cantonment Board

Soon Times Correspondent Rawalpindi:

Residents of Quaid-e-Azam Colony have been deprived of basic blessing like water for a long time which is a question mark on the performance of the local political leadership. Despite the laying of multi-core funded pipeline (which has no obstacles in being operational), the public

has not been provided with water supply for the past several years. The elected members could not even once during their tenure listen to the problems of the people of Quaid-e-Azam Colony or formulate any strategy to solve them. People are forced to buy water tankers for 4000 to 4500 rupees. On the contrary, in the surroundings of Quaid-e-Azam Colony, excess water

supply is provided, which is mostly wasted. The wallmen of the area receive extortion and supply water to these areas for more than required time. The people of Quaid-e-Azam Colony, have demanded from Executive Officer Cantonment Board, concerned officers and specially the Chief Minister of Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif to solve this matter on emergency basis.

Naqvi takes Bohra Community leader into confidence as govt bolsters Muharram security



Soon Times Correspondent KARACHI

Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Thursday said that the federal government

was fulfilling all demands of the provinces during Muharram-ul-Haram. He was on a visit to Karachi to check security arrangements for Muharram-ul-

Haram. Interior Minister visited Imam Bargah Shah Shaheedan and Burhani Palace. In Burhani Palace, he met the head of the Bohra community, Syedna Mufazzal Saiful Din. Minister Naqvi expressed best wishes for Syedna Mufazzal, saying that the government welcome him in Pakistan. Duo also thanked each other for taking time out for the meeting. During his visit to the Imam Bargah Shah Shaheedan, Naqvi met Allama Aqeel Gharawi who was on a brief visit to Pakistan for Muharram-ul-Haram. The meeting was also accompanied by Former Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Maqbool Baqar. Allama Gharawi and Baqar expressed gratitude to Naqvi for devising better security plan for Muharram-ul-Haram and

IESCO Power Schedules for Today and Tomorrow

Soon Times Report 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: Today, From 07:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Rawalpindi City Circle, Range Road, E-Block Feeders, From 05:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Attock Circle, Chitab, Mahfooz Shaheed, Muslim Town Feeders, On 13th July 2024, From 06:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Rawalpindi City Circle,

Lakho, 6th Road, Gulzar Qaid, Khanna Road, Gangal, Rata, Noon, Baghsardaran, Eid Gah, Dhok Najo, Ahi Market, Khayban Sir Syed, Raja Sultan Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, NPF-II, Morgah, Fujii Foundation, Mehboob Shaheed, Dhawal, UC Lakhnan, Gulshan Saeed feeders, From 08:00 am to 12:00 pm, Chakwal Circle, Dhoda feeder and surrounding areas will remain closed. IESCO management apologizes to its esteemed customers for the power outage. If the work is completed ahead of time, the power supply can be restored even before the scheduled time.

SNGPL disconnected 43 connections & imposed fine of Rs 0.7 million

Soon Times Correspondent Lahore:

During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad. It disconnected 43 connections and imposed fine of Rs 0.7 million. In Lahore, the team disconnected 10 connections on illegal use of gas and

imposed a fine of Rs 0.18 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 05 connections on illegal use of gas and booked Rs 0.06 million against gas theft cases. In Bahawalpur, the team disconnected 04 connections on

illegal use of gas and 03 on use of compressor. The regional team of Gujranwala disconnected 02 connections on illegal use of gas and imposed a fine of Rs 0.45 million against gas theft cases. In Sahiwal, the team disconnected 02 connections on the illegal use of gas. In Sheikhupura the team imposed a fine of Rs 0.02 million against gas theft cases.



Kagame expected to cruise to fourth term in Rwanda election

KIGALI Rwandan President Paul Kagame is expected to cruise to a fourth term in office in an election on Monday against two opposition candidates who were cleared to run against him but have only modest expectations. Kagame, 66, helped lead the rebel movement that ended the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and has served as president since 2000. He faces only two rivals because six other potential candidates were not cleared to run by the state-run electoral commission. Kagame won nearly 99% of the vote in the last election in 2017, which followed a constitutional change removing term limits that would have barred him from standing again.



Starmer makes international debut, offers strong support for Ukraine

Newly elected British Prime Minister Keir Starmer made his maiden appearance on the international stage with a strong signal of support for Ukraine and a pat on the back from President Joe Biden as they met on the sidelines of the Nato summit in Washington. After a full day of meetings — interrupted briefly to watch part of the soccer match in which England triumphed over the Netherlands — Starmer met Biden at the White House, where the leaders extolled the US-British special relationship. Biden said he sees the UK as the "most important transatlantic alliance together." He praised Starmer for "seeking closer ties with Europe," saying it would be good for the entire NATO alliance. "The special relationship is so important," replied Starmer, who was elected July 4 in a landslide over the Conservative Party, which had been in power since 2010. Besides the coveted one-on-one with the US president, Starmer jumped into major meetings with congressional leaders, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy — where the two men embraced — before joining other Nato leaders at a dinner at the White House. But Starmer also found time to watch a portion of European Championship semifinal. England will face Germany in the finals on Sunday. "Picked the right moment to pop out from NATO meetings and check the score," he wrote on the social platform X. "What a game @England and what a winner," he said in a separate post. "Berlin here we come!" Starmer also got a taste of the US political turmoil so soon after his own election. Biden's disastrous debate performance against former President Donald Trump last month has led to growing calls for him not to run in November's election.

UK premier meets Biden on the sidelines of Nato summit in Washington

Libya's High State Council rejects Parliament budget

TRIPOLI Libya's Tripoli-based High State Council (HSC) on Thursday rejected a budget approved by the eastern-based parliament, warning of more partition and wasting of public money. The rejection came in a letter from Council head Mohamed Takala to the House of Representatives speaker Agula Saleh in Benghazi. It was sent by the Council media office to journalists. The House approved the budget in two different sessions, one at the end of April worth 90 billion Libyan dinars (\$18.5 billion) and another one on Wednesday called it an additional budget of \$8 billion Libyan dinars. The budget is for the Benghazi-based government of Osama Hamad, who came to power in March 2023 and is allied with the military commander Khalifa Haftar, who controls the east and large parts of the southern region of Libya. The Council warned of what it described as "the House of representatives' persistence in its transgressions and managing public affairs by its sole will only lead to more division". A budget of about 179 billion Libyan dinars "is an unprecedented amount of money," the Council said.

Ukrainian drones and missiles kill 3 in Russia and Crimea, after bombing of Kharkiv leaves 3 dead



AL-ARISH, Egypt His right leg heavily bandaged because of a gunshot wound, Palestinian Tamer Ossama Salem al-Hafy lies in an Egyptian hospital recalling his ordeal in Gaza, where Israel accused him of being a terrorist. A paramedic at the Indonesian Hospital in northern Gaza, 40-year-old al-Hafy said he was shot below the knee by Israeli forces as he helped the injured onto stretchers after an Israeli airstrike last November. He briefly became a patient at the same hospital before fleeing on Nov. 20 when it came under attack. His father, Ossama, had to carry him over his back as they headed for another medical centre in southern Gaza. At an Israeli military checkpoint, al-Hafy said, soldiers accused him of being a "terrorist" and took him to a detention facility where he was blindfolded. He said he was held for 35 days and released without charge. While in detention, he was cuffed by his arms and legs to a bed inside a tent, he added. Reuters could not independently verify al-Hafy's account. Israeli authorities did not respond to a request for comment on his account. Al-Hafy said he was blindfolded except during interrogations and received only "liquid vitamins" through a straw every three or four days as nourishment. "I was in a prison. I had no idea where it was located," he told Reuters at a makeshift hospital aboard a cargo ship docked in al-Arish, an Egyptian city on the Sinai Peninsula near Gaza. "They would uncover my eyes and put it (the blindfold) back after I didn't see the sun until I was released," he said. Al-Hafy said he was beaten and humiliated and did not receive medical care while in detention, and believes his job as a paramedic made him a target. "The words 'medical personnel' and working at a hospital, that was enough for them to treat you as a suspect," he said.



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Sports & Showbiz

PCB chalks out new formula for selection committee formation



KARACHI: After making notable changes in the national side's management, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has chalked out a new formula for the constitution of the selection committee. The selection committee, the sources claimed, will now include coaches for white-ball and red-ball formats as well as the captain of the relevant format along with ex-cricketers Mohammad Yousuf, and Asad Shafiq. The PCB's move comes against the backdrop of the aftermath of Green

Shirts' dismal performance and elimination from the T20 World Cup 2024 which has prompted Mohsin Naqvi-led board to make changes in the team management. A day earlier, the board confirmed sacking former pacer Wahab Riaz and seven-member selection committee while retaining Yousuf, Shafiq and Bilal Afzal. Wahab was a member of the men's selection committee, whereas Razaq was part of the selection committees for both men's and women's teams.

Emotional Vingegaard edges Pogacar in Tour de France battle

LELIORAN (France) Jonas Vingegaard edged overall leader Tadeo Pogacar in a battle between the four Tour de France favourites played out over a series of hills in the central Cantal region. Defending champion Vingegaard reeled in Slovenian Pogacar's ferocious attacks before a razor's edge final dash to the line. Belgian Remco Evenepoel finished third at 25sec while Pogacar's compatriot Primož Roglic was fourth at 55sec despite a late accident. Race officials later accorded Roglic the same time as Evenepoel. In the overall yellow jersey standings, Pogacar leads Evenepoel by 1min 06sec, Vingegaard is in third place at 1min 14sec, and Roglic is fourth at 2min 15sec. Pogacar, 25, would normally be a first-year sprinter than Vingegaard, but sportingly reached out a hand to his rival at the end of their struggle after a 211km ride. Vingegaard, 27, cried after coming off from his bike, as the spindly-framed rider proved he had overcome life-threatening injuries in March at the Tour of the Basque Country. "I called my wife, she's been a big part of me coming back. I'm deeply moved by this win," Vingegaard said. "It's only a few months ago my loved ones feared I was going to die. I never thought I'd be back at this level. I had many doubts about myself," he added.

HSY reveals shocking details about prevalent plastic surgery culture in showbiz

(Web Desk) Well-known fashion designer Hasan Shehryar Yasin aka HSY shockingly said that practically all Pakistani actors and celebrities had undergone plastic surgery to enhance their looks. HSY recently appeared on Ahmed Ali Butt's YouTube program, where he shared his thoughts on a variety of topics, including the attractiveness of Pakistani celebrities. HSY said, "All male actors in Pakistan look the same." "Their hairstyles, beards, cheeks, and noses are identical because they've all had fillers." He added on a lighter note that all Pakistani stars look better after returning from vacations to Turkey or Dubai.

Super-sub Watkins sends England past Netherlands and into Euro 2024 final



DORTMUND (Germany) Ollie Watkins struck a stunning injury-time winner as England beat the Netherlands 2-1 on Wednesday to set up a Euro 2024 final showdown with Spain in Berlin. It was an incredible finish to an evening that began badly for England, as Xavi Simons gave the Netherlands an early lead in the semi-final in Dortmund. However, England were soon level through a Harry Kane penalty following a contentious VAR call by German referee Felix Zwayer, and the match looked set for extra time until Watkins struck. On for Kane, Watkins received a pass from fellow substitute Cole Palmer with his back to goal in the first minute of stoppage time, turned and fired low into the far corner to leave the Netherlands bewildered. "I'm lost for words really," said Watkins, the Aston Villa striker. "I don't think I've hit a ball that soft before, and obviously in such a special moment." It has rarely been a convincing campaign from Gareth Southgate's England side, but they are

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2024-25 سال کے میچوں کی تاریخیں اور مقامات

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