



Daily SOON TIMES

Chief Editor
Shah Muhammad Awan

Friday
July 19, 2024
Page: 4 Rs: 20
Vol: 4 Issue: 198
Sargodha
www.soontimes.pk

ABC Certified

Simultaneously Publishing from Islamabad, Sargodha & Karachi

+92 321 888 1135

Ad hoc judges can and should be appointed, says Azam Tarar



Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD

Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar says the constitution allows appointment of ad hoc judges and they must be appointed.

Expressing his view during a TV show, he said the ad hoc judges were not appointed by the chief justice but by the Judicial Commission of Pakistan.

He expressed his willingness to discuss constitutional as well as judicial reforms.

Clarifying the matter of extension of tenure of Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, he said the rumours or perception were baseless.

Talking about extension in employees' service length, he said retirement age of employees was being increased to avoid the rising burden of pension on the national exchequer. The proposal was under consideration, he added.

As for the status of PTI, the minister stated mode of imposition of Article 6 on the PTI leaders could be brought in parliament.

Read more: CJ convenes judicial commission meeting to appoint ad hoc judges Eight judges rewrite the constitution in the case of reserved seats to provide an opportunity to a party, he concluded.

Suspended MPs to file petition against SC verdict on reserved seats

Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD

The lawmakers who had earlier taken oath on reserved seats, have decided to move the court in personal capacities. The membership of these MPs were later suspended following the verdict of Supreme Court on reserved seats. The apex court had overturned the Peshawar High Court's verdict of depriving the PTI of reserved seats of non-Muslim and women candidates in assemblies last week.

The apex court, in its majority 8-5 decision, announced that the conduct of the Election Commission regarding reserved seats was 'unconstitutional', adding that the PTI would remain intact as a political party even without being assigned an election symbol.

According to sources, the suspended parliamentarians will file a petition against the verdict of apex court. The former MPs said that they were not heard in this case by the Supreme Court.

Azam Khan records statement in 190m pound case



Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD

Former prime minister Imran Khan's principal secretary Azam Khan has submitted his statement to the court in the 190 million pound reference.

According to the statement, he served as principal secretary to the prime minister from August 2018 to April 2022. He said that the PM's advisor Shahzad Akbar brought a signed note for the cabinet's approval. According to the statement, Shahzad Akbar said that the then PM had instructed to present this secret deed to the cabinet for approval.

The file was sent to the cabinet secretary so that the matter could be presented to the cabinet for approval. He said that he did not participate in the cabinet meeting because it was an 'in-camera session'. The NAB also presented the statement in the court and Azam Khan confirmed he signed it.

'Pakistan-China relations are exceptional,' says COAS at PLA's 97th founding anniversary

Pakistani military has always been at the forefront of countering terrorism,' says Chinese envoy



RAWALPINDI
Chief of Army Staff (COAS) said Pakistan-China relations are exceptional and have always weathered the vicissitudes of strategic environment with mutual trust and unwavering belief in each other's support.

Army Chief expressed it at the 97th Anniversary of the founding of People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China hosted at GHQ on Thursday.

Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Pakistan Jang Zaidong was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Major General Wang Zhong, Defence Attache, Chinese Embassy officials & Officers from tri-services of Pakistan attended the event.

COAS Munir while welcoming the Chinese guests, congratulated the PLA and praised PLA's contribution to Chinese defence, security and nation development.

"Relations between Pakistan Army and Peoples Liberation Army are strong and both militaries continue to engage in bilateral military cooperation, demonstrating the iron clad brotherhood between the two countries", COAS concluded.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chinese Ambassador thanked COAS for hosting the event for the 97th anniversary of the founding of the PLA.

"Pakistan military has always been at the forefront of countering terrorism and has made great sacrifices for the peace and stability of Pakistan and the region".

PTI to move SJC against 'arbitrary' appointment of ad hoc judges

Omar Ayub urges CJP to recuse himself, like-minded ad-hoc judges from PTI's cases



ISLAMABAD
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar said on Thursday that banning the PTI would result in the ouster of this government.

Speaking to media alongside PTI leaders Omar Ayub Khan, Shibli Faraz and Asad Qaiser after attending joint parliamentary party meeting of the PTI and Sunni-Ithad Council (SIC), the PTI chief said that they would move the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) against appointment of ad-hoc judges in

the apex court. He said that the PTI was a party of 70% Pakistanis as it is present in every nook and corner of the country, adding that it should not be meted out a treatment like this in all forums.

Slamming the decision of appointment of ad-hoc judges in the apex court, the PTI chief said that simultaneous appointment of four ad-hoc judges was tantamount to deny the freedom of judiciary.

"This decision is based on mala fide intentions. This is not the time to take such decisions rather a time for listening to SC verdicts. We demand the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to immediately issue our notifications," he emphasised.

Besides, Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan criticised Chief Justice of Pakistan to bring like-minded judges, urging the CJP not to give the PTI's cases to ad-hoc judges.

merely on the filing of a case, the petition said.

It is further stated in the petition that there was an investigation involving Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi and that there was no need to arrest the PTI founder, Bushra Bibi immediately after the release in the Iddat case. There is also a violation of the orders of the High Court.

It should be noted that after the acquittal in the Iddat Nikah case on July 13, the National Accountability Bureau arrested the former PM and his wife in the new reference of Toshakhana.

requested to issue orders for their release and to make the arrest subject to the orders of the High Court in the future.

According to the petition, Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi were arrested without warrant in fake cases for political revenge.

The political opponents are using NAB for political revenge, it said. The high courts have emphasized in their judgments that an arrest cannot be made

Interior Minister approves national drug survey

Soon Times Correspondent
LAHORE

Federal Minister for Interior and Anti-Narcotics Mohsin Naqvi has approved the national drug survey, which will be conducted after 11 years.

The interior minister presided over a meeting of the national drug survey committee which took this decision.

Addressing the meeting, the minister said precise data of drug addicts across the country will be collected through a comprehensive and effective survey.

"Besides houses and katchi abadis, data of drug addicts will also be gathered from educational institutions," Mohsin Naqvi said.

He said correct data of drug addicts is a vital to decision making as such, there will be no compromise on anti-drug drive.

The interior minister required the departments to finalise the matters relevant to the survey within 15 days.

"The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) and Pakistan Bureau of Statistics will jointly work out the procedure of the survey, the nature of the required material, and the time line," the minister instructed.

The interior minister also directed for seeking help of the international development institutions to conduct the survey from all aspects.

Retired Justice Maqbool Baqir also declines ad hoc judge offer amid 'wrangling'



Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD

Retired Justice Maqbool Baqir has declined to be part of the Supreme Court as an ad hoc judge.

In his statement on Thursday, he stated, "I am not joining SC as an ad hoc judge due to personal reasons."

He is the second judge to have declined the position of ad hoc judge in country's highest court. Earlier, retired Supreme Court judge, retired Justice Mushir Alam, refused to accept the ad hoc judge offer.

working with honesty and pure intentions. CJP's decision to appoint ad hoc judges in the apex court is purely legal and constitutional."

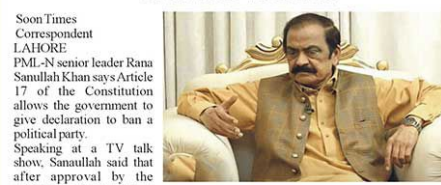
He disclosed that "Qazi Faez Isa had discussed this matter with him as SC is being overloaded with political cases.

Baqir stated that thousands of cases were pending with the SC and appointment of ad hoc judges at this juncture was meant to sort out the issue of backlog.

He said Justices Tariq Masood Khosa and Mazhar Alam Miankhal were very competent and honest.

Justices Tariq Masood Khosa, Mazhar Alam Miankhal, Maqbool Baqir and Mushir Alam were named for appointment in the apex court as ad hoc judges but Baqir and Alam declined the offer.

Govt can declare a party banned under Article 17: Rana Sana



Soon Times Correspondent
LAHORE

PML-N senior leader Rana Sanaullah Khan says Article 17 of the Constitution allows the government to give declaration to ban a political party.

Speaking at a TV talk show, Sanaullah said that after approval by the cabinet the declaration to ban a political party is referred to the Supreme Court within 15 days.

"If the apex court agrees to the declaration, a ban is imposed on that party," Sanaullah said, adding the government had only expressed its intentions (with regard to banning the PTI) so far.

He said once the government takes a decision, the constitutional procedure will be followed.

The former minister said like the PTI, the government also has the right to present its point of view and strive for its success.

"There is no harm in making efforts if the government has an option to get the reserved seats through constitutional means," he added.

Green Revolution in Pakistan

The Green Revolution in Pakistan was a transformative period in the country's agricultural history, marked by the adoption of high-yielding crop varieties, fertilizers, and irrigation. The initiative, which began in the 1960s, aimed to increase food production and reduce Pakistan's reliance on imports. Initially, the Green Revolution was a resounding success. Wheat production, in particular, surged by 79% in the first few years, making Pakistan

self-sufficient in food grains and even enabling the country to export surplus crops. The agricultural boom contributed significantly to economic growth, with per capita income increasing by 27% between 1963 and 1972. However, despite the initial success, the Green Revolution's productivity declined over time. Factors such as resource degradation, poor farming techniques, and the inability to adopt genetically modified crops contributed to this decline. Furthermore, the

Pakistan government's lack of effective policies and investment in infrastructure hindered the initiative's long-term sustainability. The impact of the Green Revolution on income distribution is also a topic of debate. While some argue that the initiative primarily benefited landowners, others suggest that small farmers and laborers also gained from the increased food production and economic growth. In conclusion, the Green Revolution in Pakistan was a

complex and multifaceted initiative that had both positive and negative consequences. While it initially boosted food production and economic growth, its legacy is also marked by environmental degradation and unequal distribution of benefits. As Pakistan continues to grapple with food security challenges, it is essential to learn from the Green Revolution's successes and shortcomings to develop more sustainable and equitable agricultural practices.

Alternative Dispute resolution is an effective tool to settle the compared to court proceedings.



Ahmed Jawad Butt

operations or shutting down altogether. In contrast, ADR methods focus on quick resolutions that are beneficial to both parties. Confidentiality - Confidentiality is another critical advantage of ADR. It is a private process that protects the company's reputation and confidentiality. Court proceedings are conducted in public, meaning that sensitive information is exposed to the public, which could ultimately harm the company's reputation. ADR ensures that the dispute remains confidential.

Flexibility - ADR methods have a higher degree of flexibility compared to court proceedings. Companies can tailor the process to their individual needs and preferences, which is more challenging to do in the court system. Parties can also choose the mediator or arbitrator based on their experience, skills, or reputation in the industry.

Mutual Agreement - ADR methods encourage parties to work together to resolve disputes. Unlike court proceedings where the decision-making process is exclusively in the hands of the court, ADR methods enable companies to come to a mutual agreement that is beneficial to both sides. Businesses can maintain relationships while also resolving disputes in a way that is acceptable to all parties involved. In conclusion, alternative dispute resolution (ADR) has been recognized as an extremely effective means of settling disputes, particularly in the

business world.

It is a more cost-effective, confidential, and flexible approach to resolving conflicts between parties. It even fosters and encourages mutual agreement that is more beneficial to all parties involved. Which these many benefits, businesses should consider opting for ADR instead of court proceedings in settling their disputes swiftly, privately, and efficiently while maintaining healthy business relationships with other companies.

This tool was effectively adopted during the era of Mr. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah then chief Justice of Lahore High Court and now an honorable Judge of Supreme court of Pakistan and ADR centers were opened in the court premises of Punjab Judiciary, but after his elevation to supreme court this step became an undone crave. In the critical economic conditions of Pakistan, a business friendly policy in the Judicial system of Pakistan is the need of the hour. The recoveries of business money has become a core issue in the failure of building confidence in the business community to invest more in order to strengthen economy and our adjudication process lingers the cases to a fatal level which demotivates the local and foreign investor. We hope our judiciary will certainly play a constructive role by implementing the effective ADR policy like Mr. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah did in the past for a prosperous Pakistan.

Tribute to the devotional journey of Karbala

Khadija Tahir

Imam Hussain lived a life dedicated to preserving the true teachings of Islam. His unwavering commitment to justice and equality earned him the admiration of people far and wide. However, he faced numerous challenges and opposition from those who sought to manipulate the principles of Islam for personal gain. Despite these hardships, he continued to spread the message of peace, tolerance, and social justice, urging people to stand against oppression and tyranny. A lot of Muslim and non-Muslim scholars pay tribute to Imam Hussain and his followers because of the life and martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain teaches all the Muslims lessons of sacrifice, selflessness, patience and seeking the pleasure of Allah, glorified and exalted is He. His brave followers were cut down beside him to the last man but he never wavered. Anas ibn Harith narrates: One day the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) ascended the pulpit to deliver a sermon to his associates while Hussain ibn Ali and Hasan ibn Ali were sitting before him. When address was over, he put his left hand on Hussain ibn Ali and raising his head towards Heaven, said: "O my lord! I am Muhammad Your slave and Your Prophet, and these two are the distinguished and pious members of my family who would fortify my cause after me. O my Lord! Gabriel has informed me that the son Hussain would be killed. O my Lord! Bless my cause in recompense for Hussain's martyrdom, make him the leader of the martyrs, be You be his helper and guardian and do not bless his murderers." The sufi writer of Kashf-ul-Mahjub wrote about Imam Hussain "So long as the

truth was apparent, he followed it. But when it was lost, he drew the sword and never rested until he sacrificed his dear life for Allah's sake. Allah's Messenger (may Allah send greetings and salutations on him) distinguished him by many signs of favour: "Khawaja Muin-ud-Din Chishti Ajmeri pays warm tributes to Imam Hussain "He gave his head but did not put his hand into the hands of Yazid. Verily, Hussain is the foundation of la ilaha il Allah. Imam Hussain is the lord and the lord of lords. Hussain himself is Islam and the shield of Islam" Allama Iqbal philosopher, poet, and political thinker writes "Imam Hussain unrooted despotism forever till the Day of Resurrection. He watered the dry garden of freedom with the surging wave of his blood, and indeed he awakened the sleeping Muslim nation. If Imam Hussain had aimed at acquiring a worldly empire, he would not have travelled the way he did (from Medina to Karbala). Hussain weltered in blood and dust for the sake of truth, Verily he, therefore, became the bed-rock (foundation) of the Muslim creed. La ilaha illa Allah (There is no God but Allah)." Famous British historian Thomas Carlyle says about Karbala "The best lesson which we get from the tragedy of Karbala is that Hussain and his companions were the rigid believers of God. They illustrated that numerical superiority does not count when it comes to truth and falsehood. The victory of Hussain despite his minority marvels me!" Obert Durey Osborn who is Major of the Bengal Staff Corps wrote about the bravery and contribution of Imam Hussain's family His son accompanied his father in this terrible march.

Touched by his cries, he took the infant in his arms and wept. At that instant, a shaft from the hostile ranks pierced the child's ear, and it expired in his father's arms. Hussain placed the little corpse upon the ground. "We come from God, and we return to Him!" he cried; "O Lord, give me strength to bear these misfortunes!" ... Faint with thirst, and exhausted with wounds, he fought with desperate courage, slaying several of his antagonists. At last he was cut down from behind; at the same instance a lance was thrust through his back and bore him to the ground; as the dealer of this last blow withdrew his weapon, the ill-fated son of Ali rolled over a corpse. The head was severed from the trunk; the trunk was trampled under the hoofs of the victors' horses; and the next morning the women and a surviving infant son were carried away to Kufa. (Islam Under the Arabs, Delaware) Scottish scholar Sir William Muir says "The tragedy of Karbala decided not only the fate of the caliphate, but of the Mohammedan kingdoms long after the Caliphate had waned and disappeared." (Annals of the Early Caliphate, London) The life of Hazrat Imam Hussain stands as an eternal testament to the values of sacrifice, justice, and compassion. His martyrdom in Karbala serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of upholding truth, regardless of the challenges that lie ahead. His message transcends time, guiding humanity towards a path of righteousness and empathy for one another. As we remember and reflect on his life, let us strive to embody the principles he stood for, fostering a world that embraces peace, harmony, and love for all.

Imagination having a Personalized AI Sidekick

Dr. Mantashah Zia (MS, PhD AI)



One Body, Two Minds. Imagine a future where every human has a personalized AI sidekick, seamlessly integrated into their daily life. This AI mind would learn, adapt, and evolve with its human mate, basically becoming an extension of their thoughts, emotions, and experiences. Elon Musk has hinted at this possibility, saying we might not need our phones anymore. With brain-computer tech advancing fast, it's easy to picture a future where our minds are directly connected to the digital world. This AI companion would be tailored to each person's unique personality, interests, and preferences, acting as a personal assistant, mentor, and confidant all in one. It would have access to loads of data, providing valuable insights and predictions to boost decision-making and problem-solving skills. The possibilities for this tech are huge, with potential applications in healthcare, education, and various

industries. But, it also raises important ethical and philosophical questions about the boundaries between human and artificial intelligence, privacy, and the potential consequences of merging our minds with machines. As we get closer to making this vision a reality, it's crucial we address these concerns and ensure this powerful tech is used for the betterment of humanity, not its downfall. As a Data Scientist with a Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence and post-doctoral research experience, I've had the privilege of exploring the possibilities of AI in various

industries. And, let me tell you, it's mind-blowing! The potential for AI to revolutionize healthcare, education, and many other sectors is vast. And, with neural interfaces and brain-computer technologies advancing rapidly, it's not hard to imagine a future where our minds are directly connected to the digital realm. Elon Musk has also hinted at this possibility, suggesting that we might not need our phones anymore. And, with neural implants, we might not even need to speak or type to communicate! The possibilities are endless, and it's exciting to think about the potential applications of this tech. However, as with any powerful technology, there are also concerns about privacy, security, and the potential consequences of merging our minds with machines. As we move closer to realizing this vision, it's essential we address these concerns and ensure that this technology is harnessed for the betterment of humanity, not its downfall.

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics launches Detailed Results of 7th Population & Housing Census-2023

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad

Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, inaugurated the Seventh Agricultural Census 2024 at a ceremony held by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In his address, he congratulated PBS for significant achievement of conducting a highly transparent 7th Population & Housing Census, the first ever Digital Census with the consensus of all provinces using advanced technology. Now the detailed results and insights on various socio-economic indicators are being disseminated for wider use in research, policy and planning to ensure evidence based decision making and capitalize census data utilization. The data will help to improve better understanding of demand-supply equilibrium in various sectors to



improve service delivery particularly in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and economic opportunities for all citizens. Pakistan conducted its 7th Population & Housing Census (first-ever Digital), notable as the region's largest digitization effort, costing Rs. 34 billion and involving 250,000 personnel. This historic census digitally geo-tagged almost 38 million structures, enumerated 250 million people across 20 demographic variables, and documented 38 million households. Using 126,000 secure

tablets and satellite imagery over 915,860 square kilometers, enabled real-time monitoring via GIS. The initiative included an indigenous self-enumeration portal, advanced 495 Census Coordination Centres, and a seamless data synchronization, poised to inform policy, economic planning, disaster management, and infrastructure development in Pakistan. The launch of the results of the 7th Population and Housing Census-2023, held on July 18, 2024, at Islamabad Marriott Hotel, featured Professor Ahsan Iqbal, Minister of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, as a Chief Guest. The event also saw the presence of Chief Census Commissioner Dr. Naem Zafar, and other dignitaries including stakeholders.



Provincial Secretary Health Punjab visits DHQ Hospital & Trauma Center Hafizabad



trauma centers. On this, the patients and their families expressed satisfaction over the provision of free medicines from the hospital. Secretary Health also visited the Emergency Department, Nursery Ward, Medical Ward, Surgical Ward, Main Medical Store and Nursing School of DHQ Hospital. He visited the CT scan section and emergency department in the trauma center and reviewed the availability of medicines and provision of treatment to the patients. Secretary Health instructed CEO Health Dr. Umar Sharif Rathore and MS Dr. Masood Zafar that providing medicines to patients is the responsibility and top priority of the Health Department. In this regard, any kind of negligence or carelessness will not be tolerated at all.

Soon Times Correspondent Hafizabad.

Provincial Secretary Health Punjab Ali Jan visited DHQ Hospital and Trauma Center along with Deputy Commissioner Hafizabad Sandus Irshad. There he reviewed the treatment facilities and other arrangements available to the patients. He said, under the special vision of Chief Minister Punjab

Maryam Nawaz, providing better treatment facilities to the people is the first priority of the health department. Considering the shortage of medicines in the hospital, a large consignment of medicines will reach Hafizabad immediately tomorrow. He spoke about better treatment facilities and provision of free medicines to patients undergoing treatment in hospitals and



Provincial Minister of Communications personally supervised the Ashura processions

Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha:

Provincial Minister of Communications and In-charge Muharram Duty Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bharath personally supervised the Ashura processions across the division. He visited the central control room set up in the commissioner's office and was briefed about the CCTV monitoring of processions across the division. He along with Commissioner Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti, RPO Shariq Kamal Siddiqui, Deputy Commissioner Captain Retired Aurangzeb Haider Khan and DPO Dr. Assad Ijaz Malhi participated in the main procession of Ashura and reviewed the security and arrangements made for the mourners in detail. On this occasion, it was informed that 214 Ashura processions were held in Sargodha district and 224 congregations were held. The processions

across the district were monitored with 1,047 cameras. 328 cameras were installed on the main procession route of Sargodha, 73 on the Bhera procession route, 87 on the Shahpur procession route and 30 cameras on the Bhalwal procession route. Similarly, 362 cameras were installed on Sahiwal procession route, 82 on Kot Momin procession route and 85 on Salamali procession route. Apart from the video recording of all the processions, it was also watched live in the Home Department Aerial surveillance of A category processions was also conducted. Malik Sohaib Ahmed Bharath met the mourners and informed them about the security measures. On the routes of the processions, the chief minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif also arranged for Sabels and Niaz. All government hospitals were on high alert and best medical cover was provided to the mourners.

DC applauds the services of Civil Defense volunteers in Ashra Muharram



Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: Deputy Commissioner and Controllor Civil Defense Captain Retired

Aurangzeb Haider Khan has said that the services of Civil Defense volunteers in Ashra Muharram are exemplary. Those who rise above themselves and work for

others, their name lives forever in history. He expressed this while addressing a gathering of volunteers on the occasion of the final procession of Ashura. ADCR Mohsin Salahuddin, ADC (G) Muhammad Umar Farooq, Assistant Commissioner Anna Tarar and other officers were also with him. The Deputy Commissioner said that the civil defense organization performs equal services in peacetime and wartime. The Sargodha organization is active and strong. I hope that its men will continue to serve in this way. He congratulated Civil Defense Officer Saira Rafique Khan under whose patronage the volunteers of the organization worked for Ashura. Chief Warden Dr. Haroon-ul-Rashid Tabassum gave a briefing about the selfless spirit of the men and women of Civil Defence.

Notice for illegal Pakistani Residents in Iraq

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad: The Ministry of Interior, Iraq, has announced a scheme for all foreign nationals residing illegally in Iraq. Under this scheme, they can legalize their status. This scheme applies to all illegal residents employed by Iraqi citizens in any company and who entered

Iraq on any visa. The last date for registration is August 13. For more information and registration, please visit the following link: <https://service.ur.gov.iq/customer/apply/service/10669>. Pakistanis residing in Iraq are urged to take full advantage of this scheme to avoid any legal actions by the Iraqi government after August 13.

Providing modern medical facilities to public is our first priority: Ali Jan



Soon Times Correspondent Bhera: Providing modern medical facilities to the people is our first priority under the

direction of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. For this purpose, every medical center is being equipped with

modern facilities, this was said by Secretary Health Punjab Ali Jan while talking to the media on the occasion of a surprise visit to Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Bhera. He inspected the revamping of the hospital and inquired about the well-being of patients in various wards. Secretary Health Punjab appreciated the efforts of Medical Superintendent Dr. Hafiz Muhammad Ismail for the best arrangements in the hospital and providing facilities to the patients. He said that the shortage of medical staff in the hospital would be filled soon. Talking to the medical staff, Secretary Health Ali Jan directed them to perform their duties honestly.

IESCO Power Suspension Schedules for Today & Tomorrow

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 19th July 2024, From 06:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Rawalpindi City Circle, Ameer Hamza Colony, Noon, Range Road, F-Block Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, PWD-II Feeder, Chakwal Circle, Karsal Feeder, From 05:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Attock Circle, Chhab, Mahfuz, Shaheed Feeders. On 20th July 2024, From 06:00 AM to 10:00 PM, Islamabad Circle, Isolation Hospital, Rahara, CM Pak

Zong Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Bagh Sardaran, Eid Gah, Dhok Najo, Ali Market, Khayaban Sir Syed, Raja Sultan, Mohammadi Chowk, Lakho, Raja Sultan Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Mehboob Shaheed, Park View, Pindi Board, Jail Park, Car Chowk, Morgah, Fujj Foundation, Mohra Nagyal, Wilayat Complex, X-Liar, AOWHS, Dhanyial, UC Lakhana, Gulshan Saeed, Jail Park-I Feeders From 08:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, 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.

Women will participate in elections of Sargodha Chamber of Commerce: Shamim Aftab



Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: Women will participate in elections of Sargodha Chamber of Commerce. In

this regard, a meeting of the executive body of Sargodha Women's Chamber of Commerce and Industry was held under

the chairmanship of Mrs. Shamim Aftab. Sadia Khan, Dr. Humera Azhar, Miss Shazia Bangash, Mrs. Rubina Mukhtar, Miss Tahseen Fatima, Dr. Atigja Lohani and Miss Saira Lohan participated in the meeting. They said that we will participate fully in the elections of central chamber to be held on September 2024. In this regard, Miss Shazia Bangash, Mrs. Rubina Mukhtar and Dr. Humera Azhar have been nominated who will perform their duties regarding the Chamber. Mrs. Shamim Aftab said that women have always played an important role in the development of the society and will continue to do so in the future. The most important issue at the moment is to increase the representation of women in the chamber elections.

IESCO Has Taken Another Customer-Friendly Initiative, Open Kacharies Are Being Held On Daily Basis At SDO Offices

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad: The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) administration and field formations have always strived to prioritize the resolution of esteemed consumers' electricity-related problems and ensure the provision of the best services. In keeping with this commitment and a sense of professional responsibility, IESCO, under the guidance of the Ministry of Energy (Power Division) and the supervision of CEO Muhammad Naeem Jan, is organizing Open Kacharies in all IESCO operation subdivisions/SDO offices on daily basis from 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM, starting from July 15, 2024. CEO Muhammad Naeem Jan stated that these forums aim to promptly address consumer issues, including billing problems, power outages, installation of new

transformers/meters, replacement of old and faulty transformers/meters, non-receipt of electricity bills, and other electricity-related complaints. He emphasized that to ensure the benefits of the Open Kacharies directly reach the consumers, responsibilities have been assigned to officers at the Chief Engineers' level. The IESCO Chief also requested electricity consumers to ensure their participation in these open forums for the registration and prompt resolution of their electricity-related complaints. For more information, consumers can contact the numbers of their respective subdivision offices listed on their electricity bills or the Chief Executive Complaint and Monitoring Cell, IESCO Head Office, Islamabad at 051-9252933-34.



Malaysia's former PM Mahathir hospitalised over coughing

KUALA LUMPUR
 Malaysia's 99-year-old former prime minister of two decades, Mahathir Mohamad, has been admitted to hospital for coughing, his spokesman said on Thursday.
 Mahathir has been at the National Heart Institute since Monday and will remain in hospital for a few days, his spokesman said, without providing further details on his condition.
 The former premier has a history of heart problems and was last admitted to the institute in January for an unspecified infection. He was discharged nearly three months later. Mahathir had two stints as prime minister, his first ending in 2003 after 22 years in the job.



US military pier for carrying aid to Gaza will be dismantled

WASHINGTON
 The US military-built pier to carry humanitarian aid to Gaza will be dismantled and brought home, ending a mission that has been fraught with repeated weather and security problems that limited how much food and other supplies could get to starving Palestinians.
 Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, deputy commander at US Central Command, told reporters in a Pentagon briefing on Wednesday that the pier achieved its intended effect in what he called an "unprecedented operation."
 As the US military steps away from the sea route for humanitarian aid, questions swirl about Israel's new plan to use port at Ashdod as a substitute. There are few details on how it will work and lingering concerns about whether and groups will have enough viable land crossings to get assistance into the territory besieged by war between Israel and Hamas.



Spain and Germany arrest 4 people for supplying Hezbollah with parts for drones used against Israel

Spain and Germany arrest 4 people for supplying Hezbollah with parts for drones used against Israel

MADRID
 Three people were arrested in Spain and one more in Germany on suspicion of belonging to a network that supplied the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah with parts to build kamikaze drones that would have been used in attacks in northern Israel, Spanish authorities said Thursday.
 The investigation began in Spain when the Guardia Civil detected "suspicious operations" by Spanish companies run by Lebanese nationals involving large quantities of materials and components to manufacture drones capable of carrying explosive charges of several kilograms, the statement said.
 Authorities believe Hezbollah may have built several hundred drones with these components.

The Spanish companies, as others in Europe and around the world, purchased items including electronic guidance components, propulsion propellers, gasoline engines, more than 200 electric motors and materials for the fuselage, wings and other drone parts, according to investigators.
 The parts acquired by the network, which has now been dismantled, were identified in drones used by Hezbollah militants in attacks against Israel after the start of the Gaza war, which was triggered by the Hamas attack on Israel on Oct. 7.
 Since then, Israeli air strikes on Lebanon have killed more than 450 people, mostly Hezbollah fighters, but also more than 80 civilians and non-combatants. On the Israeli side, 21 soldiers and 13 civilians have been killed.

Spain warns workers of heat risks as summer's first heatwave looms

MADRID
 Spain will suffer its first heatwave of the summer starting on Thursday, the meteorology service AEMET said, as the government kicked off on Wednesday a heat risk awareness campaign for people working mostly outside.
 After the Iberian Peninsula saw cooler than usual weather so far this summer, AEMET expects temperatures to exceed 38 degrees Celsius in most of the country on Thursday, reaching as much as 42-44 C in the southern Guadalquivir Valley. The peak of this episode will be on Friday, when most areas will warm up to 40 C.
 AEMET has issued a heatwave warning for a large part of Spain, including the Balearic islands in the Mediterranean.
 The National Institute for Safety and Health at Work launched the campaign "With sun it's time for caution" on Wednesday to address the risks such as heat stroke and solar radiation.
 AEMET's orange-level severe heat alert



in parts of the country will also trigger a ban on some outdoor working in the afternoon under a government decree approved last year to cope with more and more frequent heatwaves as a result of fossil fuel-driven climate change.
 The measure affects outdoors working such as street cleaning and agriculture. "There are people who are highly affected by such high temperatures, by exposure over many hours and no proper hydration... so my main advice is don't underestimate them because the body is not prepared to withstand those conditions too long."

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



Web Desk
 US President Joe Biden tested positive for Covid-19 while traveling in Las Vegas and is experiencing "mild symptoms" from the virus, the White House said.
 Press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden will fly to his home in Delaware to "self-isolate".
 Biden is under pressure to abandon his reelection bid due to concerns about his age following a poor debate performance at the end of June.
 He was diagnosed as having Covid-19 shortly after conceding he would consider dropping his reelection bid if doctors diagnosed him with a serious medical condition.

The 81-year-old Democrat gave reporters the thumbs up and said "I feel good" as he cut short a trip to Las Vegas and flew to his beach home in Delaware to go into isolation, which will take him off the campaign trail for days.
 Biden thanked well-wishers on X, adding that "I will be isolating as I recover, and during this time I will continue to work to get the job done for the American people."

The infection comes at a critical moment for Biden's campaign, with the president seeking to show he is up to the job after a disastrous debate performance against rival Donald Trump sparked concerns about his health and calls from some Democrats for him to step aside.
 It is also the latest development in a tumultuous few days in an already frenetic White House race that saw Trump survive an assassination attempt at a campaign rally.

Biden was forced to cancel a speech to a union representing Latino workers who will be crucial for his election bid, having attended a campaign event earlier in the day and given a radio interview.
 His spokeswoman Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden was vaccinated and boosted, was now taking the Covid medication Paxlovid and "continues to carry out the full duties of the office while in isolation."

Sports & Showbiz

Shaheens set for red-ball challenge against Bangladesh A in Darwin



DARWIN
 Shaheens will take on Bangladesh 'A' in first of the two four-day matches in Darwin, Australia, on Friday.
 The second four-day match will commence next Friday (26 July), which will be followed by two One-Day matches on 4 and 6 August, and then the three-day Top End T20 series from 9-18 August. This is the first time since 2008 the two development sides of Pakistan and Bangladesh will play against each other. Sixteen years ago, the Pakistan Academy side had toured

Bangladesh and won both matches by eight wickets against Bangladesh Academy.
 Pakistan Shaheens arrived in Darwin on 15 July after undergoing a six-day intensive training camp at the Hamif Mohammad High-Performance Centre in Karachi under the supervision of Pakistan men's red-ball head coach Jason Gillespie.
 This will be Pakistan Shaheens' third red-ball series in as many years, having toured Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe for a two four-day matches each in 2021 and 2023, respectively.

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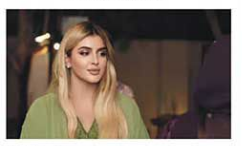


Nadal sweeps past Borg in Bastad

BASTAD (Sweden)
 Rafael Nadal swept past Leo Borg, son of tennis great Bjorn Borg, to advance to the second round of the Bastad Open as he builds towards the Paris Olympics.
 It was Nadal's first singles match since the 38-year-old fell in the

opening round at Roland Garros on May 27, and he eased to a 6-3, 6-4 win in wet conditions.
 Both Nadal and the 21-year-old Borg, currently ranked 461 in the world, were wild card entries to the Swedish clay-court tournament.

Dubai princess divorces husband in dramatic manner



(Web Desk)
 Dubai princess Shaikha Manal Mohammed Rashed Al Maktoum divorced her husband Sheikh Mana bin Mohammed bin Rashid bin Mansour Al Maktoum via a social media post in a dramatic manner.
 The announcement came two months after the birth of their first child.
 The princess took to her Instagram and wrote: "Dear Husband, as you are occupied with other companions, I hereby declare our divorce. I divorce you, I divorce you, and I divorce you. Take care. Your ex-wife."
 Last year in May, Princess married industrialist Sheikh Mana bin Mohammed bin Rashid bin Mansour Al Maktoum.

Asad Jadoon Leads Pindi Boys to Victory Over Raising Star

Rawalpindi:
 In the ongoing T-10 Taps Ball Cricket Match tournament, the Pindi Boys delivered a stellar performance, defeating Raising Star by 64 runs. The highlight of the match was Asad Jadoon's extraordinary innings. Asad Jadoon scored an unbeaten 154 runs off just 41 balls, showcasing his exceptional batting skills. His explosive performance was the cornerstone of Pindi Boys' total of 177 runs in 10 overs. In response, Raising Star managed to score 113 runs for the loss of 7 wickets in their allotted 10 overs. Another notable achievement in the match was by Wasim Akram, the left-handed batsman of Pindi Boys, who reached the milestone of 4000 career runs with an impressive average of 56.4. His record score remains 172 not out.



To celebrate this achievement, Wasim Akram was awarded a cash prize and a trophy by Nomi Railway and Asad Jadoon. This match not only highlighted the exceptional talent within the Pindi Boys team but also underscored the thrilling nature of the T-10 Taps Ball Cricket tournament.

"CORRIGENDUM"

(Tender Notice No. PC-1/06/2024-25 Uploaded on PPRa 08-07-2024) UNIVERSITY OF SARGODHA

With reference to the advertisement published in newspapers "with IPL No. 6404 on 06-07-2024, 08-07-2024 & 09-07-2024 & uploaded on PPRa Punjab website on 08-07-2024 regarding purchase of 300000Nos. of Answer Books for University of Sargodha, wherein the date of submission & opening of tender is 25-07-2024 at 11:00AM & 11:30 AM respectively.

Following correction is made in the bidding document page number (31) having the title "10. Financial Bid Form/Pricing Schedule".

Pages of Answer Books may be corrected as "40" instead of "44". The required Answer Book pages are "40".

The time of submission and opening of bids & all others terms & conditions of tender notice/bidding document shall remain same.

Chairman, Purchase Committee,
 Directorate of Procurement & Stores
 University of Sargodha
 Office Contact No. 048-9230110, 048-9230111-Ext: 505

IPL-6730