



Daily

# SOON TIMES

ABC Certified

Simultaneously Publishing from Islamabad, Sargodha & Karachi

+92 321 888 1135

## SC verdict is an attempt to create instability, CM Maryam Nawaz

Maryam hit out at PTI founder Imran Khan for "disturbing peace and order".



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE  
 Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said on Friday the Supreme Court verdict (on reserved seats) was an attempt to create instability in the country. Maryam uttered these remarks while referring to the SC verdict allowing the PTI reserved seats during her address at inaugural ceremony of upgradation of the Township model bazar.

"PERSON SITTING IN ADIALA JAIL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COUNTRY'S DESTRUCTION"  
 The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader alleged that the Supreme Court's verdict provided relief to a certain party and projected it as innocent despite the fact that it created anarchy.

"A group of some individuals creates instability and takes the country towards destruction whenever the country progresses," alleged

Maryam Umar Atta Bandial revrote the constitution for the sake of one person and the PTI was given relief on a platter.  
 Maryam hit out at PTI founder Imran Khan for "disturbing peace and order".  
 She boasted the PML-N government made a record of governance in three tenures while a person having just four years of government contributed to destruction.

"The PML-N leader attributed the burden of loans on the masses to the PTI, saying the PTI founder revived the IMF loan programme to which Nawaz Sharif bade goodbye in his last tenure.  
 She requested SC judges to let the country run as they were trying to bring back the person who was guilty of offences against the nation.  
 She warned against the consequences of destabilising the law and order and development.  
 "These conspiracies will not work and our government will complete five years of its term and whoever tries to take law into hand, will be dealt with iron hand."

## PM consults AGP, law minister on reserved seats issue



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
 Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar and Attorney General Mansoor Usman Awan and discussed the Supreme Court decision on reserved seats and appointment of ad-hoc judges in the top court.  
 According to sources, PM Shehbaz Sharif was briefed on the decision of the Supreme Court during the meeting.  
 On this occasion, a briefing was also given regarding the ban on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the action under Article 6 against those who violated the constitution.  
 The Supreme Court of Pakistan set aside the decision of the Peshawar High Court and the order of the Election Commission of Pakistan. The apex court ordered to give the seats to the PTI.

## ECP announces to implement Supreme Court order on reserved seats



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
 The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has announced its decision to implement the Supreme Court's July 12 ruling which facilitates the PTI-backed MNAs to take part in the assembly's proceedings under the umbrella of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) rather than the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).  
 In a press release, the electoral watchdog confirmed its

## PM Shehbaz Sharif offers Pakistan's support to Oman in dealing with terrorism

The attack on Imam Bargah in Oman caused death of six people, including four Pakistanis

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
 Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday strongly condemned the dastardly terrorist attack on Imam Bargah Ali bin Abu Talib in Wadi Kabir district of Muscat took place on July 16, and offered Pakistan's support to Oman in the elimination of terrorism in all of its forms.  
 The prime minister, talking to Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman Fahad Sulaiman Khalaf Al Kharusi, who paid a courtesy call on him, appreciated Oman's swift response and cooperation with the Pakistan mission in the repatriation of the dead bodies and treatment of the injured.  
 The attack on Imam Bargah had resulted in the death of six people, including four Pakistani nationals, and over thirty injured, nearly all of whom were Pakistanis.  
 The prime minister said Pakistan had itself been the victim of terrorism for the past several



decades.  
 During the course of the meeting, Prime Minister Shehbaz conveyed his good wishes for Sultan Haitham bin Tariq while fondly recalling his telephone conversations with the Sultan on Eid ul Adha as well as Eid ul Fitr earlier in the year.  
 The prime minister reiterated his invitation to the Sultan of Oman to undertake an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience.  
 On the bilateral front, the prime minister stressed that Pakistan and Oman enjoyed close, brotherly ties with a shared history, faith and culture.  
 He expressed Pakistan's desire to further strengthen bilateral cooperation between the two countries, particularly in trade, investment, energy, and defense.

## KP Assembly demands immediate release of Imran Khan



Soon Times Correspondent PESHAWAR  
 The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Friday passed a resolution demanding the immediate release of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder Imran Khan.  
 Law Minister Altaf Alam tabled the resolution in which a report regarding the release of Imran Khan by the UNGA's human right committee was also highlighted.  
 According to the resolution, the cases against Imran Khan and other party workers were against the law. The resolution demanded the release of Imran Khan in light of the report by the UN.

## PML-N seeks President Zardari's blessing as it scrambles to ban PTI

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
 Struggling to take the edge off the pressure mounted by the apex court's verdict of allocating reserved seats to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and backlash received after its announcement of banning the PTI, the government on Friday decided to consult its ally, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP).  
 According to details, the President House is set to host the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leaders on the matter with President Asif Ali Zardari also taking part in the consultative meeting.  
 PML-N leaders Ishaq Dar, Azam Tarar, Atta Tarar, Irfan Qadir, Ahmad Cheema and Sardar Ayaz Sadiq would take part in the meeting where the Attorney General would brief the participants on the different legal aspects of the cases.

## Pakistan asks Afghan authorities to take action against terrorist groups

Pakistan has provided evidence of individuals and groups responsible for terrorist attacks



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
 Pakistan has once again asked the Afghan authorities to take immediate and effective action against terrorist groups including their sponsors and backers who are involved in act of terrorism inside the country.  
 Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in her weekly news briefing that Pakistan has provided evidence

of individuals and groups responsible for terrorist attacks.  
 She said Islamabad expect the Afghan authorities to disarm the TTP and Gul Bahadur Group, and hand over their leadership including those involved in terrorist incidents to Pakistan.  
 The spokesperson said the Afghan authorities know the whereabouts and actions of these individuals.  
 Responding to a question, Ms

Baloch said Pakistan is capable of defending itself against all terror groups and ensure the safety and security of its people.  
 Alluding to the Indian oppressive tactics in illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, the spokesperson said Pakistan will continue to extend moral, political and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people for the just and peaceful settlement of Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

## Government and TLP reach agreement to end Faizabad sit-in

Sanaulah announces gov't commitment to dispatch 'over 1,000 tons of food and other relief supplies' to Gaza



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
 The Federal Government announced on Friday that its negotiations with Tehreek-e-Labbak Pakistan (TLP) had been successful, bringing an end to the

On Saturday, TLP staged a sit-in at Faizabad Interchange, calling on the government to provide food and medical aid to Palestinians and to label Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a terrorist.  
 The protest began with a rally led by Hafiz Saad Rizvi at Liaquat Bagh. Following the rally, which was marked by participants waving TLP and Palestinian flags, the group marched to Faizabad.  
 Upon arrival, TLP leaders declared their intention to continue the sit-in indefinitely.  
 The rally attracted participants from various areas of Rawalpindi Division.  
 During the conference today, Sanaulah said, "Tehreek-e-Labbak is protesting against the oppression of Palestinian Muslims."  
 He added that Hafiz Saad Rizvi had

## Top Al-Qaeda terrorist linked to Osama Bin Laden arrested in Gujrat



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE  
 The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Punjab has arrested a close associate of former Al-Qaeda chief Osama Bin Laden in a major operation, a CTD spokesperson announced on Friday.  
 The spokesperson stated that the terrorist, Amin ul-Haq, was apprehended following an intelligence-based operation (IBO). Haq is a prominent Al-Qaeda terrorist, and his name is included on the United Nations' global terrorist list.  
 According to the spokesperson, arrested proceedings against the arrested militant have been initiated, and an investigation is underway.  
 CTD officials affirmed their commitment to a safe Punjab, emphasising their determination to uproot the scourge of terrorism. The

department remains steadfast in its mission to eliminate terrorism from its roots.  
 On May 12, the CTD killed a suspected sharpshooter and alleged member of the banned militant group Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Faizan Butt, who was involved in three attacks on police officers in Lahore within a week in an encounter in Karol Ghatti.  
 Faizan had shot dead a sub-inspector and a constable after following them when they were going home. He had also shot and injured a police constable.  
 The suspect had a knack for spotting unarmed police officers in uniform. He would occasionally venture out, roam the city, find a target, pursue them, and shoot when the moment was right.

## TLP-Govt Successful Dialogue

Adviser to the Prime Minister on Political and Public Affairs, Rana Sanaulah on Friday announced that over 1,000 tons of food and relief supplies will be sent to Palestine before July 31. Addressing a press conference along with Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar and Tehreek-e-Labbaik (TLP)

leaders, Sanaulah expressed solidarity with the Muslim community in Palestine. Sanaulah also commended TLP for their support and spirit of solidarity with Palestinian Muslims, acknowledging TLP leader Hafiz Saad Rizvi demands for aid and condemnation of Israel's actions. He reiterated the government's commitment for helping Palestinians, with TLP's support. The

Prime Minister has already condemned Israel's actions at the Shanghai conference, and the government will continue to raise its voice for Palestine on each and every platform, he said. Sanaulah also condemned Israel's attacks and war crimes on Palestine, terming it a terrorist country and called for United Nations' action against Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu. He said that there was a need for

global and Muslim unity to stop atrocities in Palestine. Rana Sanaulah announced plans to send medical aid, doctors and educational support to Palestine, as well as facilitating the treatment of injured Palestinians in Pakistani hospitals. The government will also boycott products from Israeli companies and those supporting them, with a committee formed to oversee this effort.

### AI & Humans



Shabana Mehmood

As technology continues to advance, there is an ongoing debate about the impact of automation on human jobs. The rise of robots and artificial intelligence has opened up new possibilities but has also raised concerns about the future of human employment. While there are valid arguments on both sides, it is crucial to strike a balance between human abilities and robot efficiency to ensure a prosperous future for all. One of the key arguments in favor of robots is their ability to perform tasks more efficiently and accurately than humans. Robots do not get tired or bored and can work without breaks or vacation time. They can also handle dangerous tasks that may be risky or harmful to humans. For example, in industries such as manufacturing or mining, robots can be used to handle heavy machinery or navigate hazardous environments, significantly decreasing the risk of accidents and improving overall safety. Robots also excel at working in extreme conditions that may be unsuitable or impossible for humans. For instance, robots are widely used in space exploration, where the environment is hostile and challenging for human beings. In

such situations, robots can collect data, perform experiments, and complete tasks that would be otherwise impossible for humans, making them invaluable in various scientific and exploratory missions. Moreover, automation through robots can lead to increased productivity and cost-effectiveness. Robots can work 24/7 without the need for rest, resulting in faster production and reduced labor costs. In industries such as agriculture, robots can accomplish tasks like crop harvesting at a rapid pace, ensuring the timely delivery of products to the market. By reducing the manual labor required, businesses can streamline their operations, leading to increased profitability and competitiveness. However, while robots bring numerous benefits, there are concerns about the potential impact on human jobs. Many argue that automation will lead to unemployment and a widening socioeconomic gap. With robots taking over manual and repetitive tasks, there is a fear that millions of workers will be left without employment opportunities, which could have dire consequences for the overall economy. To address these concerns, it is crucial to find a balance between human and robot collaboration. Rather than completely replacing human workers, robots should be viewed as tools to enhance productivity and efficiency. By automating repetitive and physically demanding tasks, humans can focus on more complex and meaningful work, creating new job opportunities that require

creativity, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence — skills that robots currently lack. Furthermore, the transition to a more automated workforce should be supported by implementing training programs and re-skilling initiatives. Governments, businesses, and educational institutions need to work together to ensure that workers are equipped with the necessary skills to adapt to the changing job market. This could involve providing training in areas such as programming, robotics, and artificial intelligence. By investing in human capital development, a harmonious coexistence with robots can be established. Additionally, it is important to explore ethical considerations surrounding robots and artificial intelligence. Laws and regulations should be put in place to govern the use of robots and protect human rights, including guidelines on data privacy, transparency in decision-making algorithms, and accountability for any harm caused by robotic actions. Moreover, there are risks associated with artificial intelligence such as automation-spurred job loss, deepfakes, privacy violations, algorithmic bias, socioeconomic inequality, market volatility, weapons automatization, and uncontrollable self-aware AI considerations. Whenever AI realizes that its capability is more powerful than a human brain, it could be the cause of the distraction of the human era. However, I do not agree with this theory. The most powerful object created by Allah Almighty is the human brain, and it's not possible to compete with Allah's creation."

### "Ruling Bloc Targets PTI with Ban Proposal"



Amjad Rana

The announcement by Information Minister Atta Tarar about the government's intention to move for a ban on PTI comes at a critical juncture for Pakistan's political landscape. The recent Supreme Court decisions in favor of PTI, particularly in the reserved seats case and the Iddat case, have strengthened PTI's position. These rulings have enhanced PTI's standing in the National Assembly and reinforced the party's legal standing, boosting its political clout. PTI, under the leadership of Imran Khan, has a significant support base and remains a popular political force. This popularity poses a challenge to the ruling coalition, as PTI's increased influence could potentially disrupt the coalition's control and policy agenda. The ruling coalition's move to seek a ban on PTI may be seen as a strategy to curb the growing influence and popularity of the party. By attempting to legally challenge and potentially dismantle PTI, the coalition aims to mitigate the threat PTI poses to their political dominance. Banning PTI could lead to political instability and public unrest, as PTI supporters may perceive this as an undemocratic move to suppress opposition. This could result in protests, legal battles, and a highly charged political environment. The judiciary's role in this process is crucial. Any move to ban PTI will be subjected to judicial scrutiny to ensure it adheres to legal standards and constitutional principles. The courts will examine the evidence and the legal basis for such a ban, ensuring that any decision is grounded in law. The ruling coalition's fear of PTI's popularity and the recent judicial relief granted to PTI have created a tense political environment. The government's move to seek a ban on PTI is a significant development that will have wide-reaching implications for Pakistan's political future. The outcome will depend on the judicial process and the reaction from the public and political stakeholders. The government's attempt to ban PTI hinges on several critical factors. The government must present strong, compelling evidence to justify the ban. This includes demonstrating that PTI has

engaged in illegal activities that threaten national security, public order, or violate other serious legal provisions. Without solid evidence, the case is unlikely to succeed in court. The judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court, will play a crucial role in evaluating the government's case. The court's independence and adherence to legal principles will determine whether the government's arguments hold up under scrutiny. Previous reliefs granted to PTI by the Supreme Court suggest that the judiciary may be cautious in approving any drastic measures against the party without clear and undeniable evidence. Public opinion and the reactions of other political parties will also influence the process. A strong backlash from PTI supporters and other segments of society could create political pressure on the government and the judiciary. The potential for widespread protests and political instability may also weigh on the decision-making process. The international community's reaction to a move to ban a major political party could impact the decision. Concerns about democratic principles and political freedoms might lead to international criticism, affecting Pakistan's diplomatic relations and reputation. The ruling coalition will have to consider the long-term political implications of banning PTI. Such a move could be seen as an attempt to suppress political opposition, potentially leading to greater division and instability in the country. The government's success in banning PTI is uncertain. It will largely depend on the strength of the legal case presented, the judiciary's assessment, and the broader political and public context. The government needs to provide concrete and incontrovertible evidence that PTI has engaged in activities warranting a ban, such as involvement in terrorism, sedition, or other illegal acts. The government must rely on relevant laws such as the Political Parties Order, the Anti-Terrorism Act, which outline specific conditions under which a political party can be banned. The legal argument must be meticulously crafted to align with these provisions. Past decisions indicate that the Supreme Court has been cautious and principled, emphasizing the need for substantial evidence and adherence to the rule of law. The independence of the judiciary is crucial. Any perception of judicial bias or pressure from the ruling coalition could undermine the legitimacy of the process and the final decision. PTI has a significant and dedicated support base that could react

strongly to any attempts to ban the party. Mass protests, demonstrations, and civil unrest are potential responses, leading to political instability. The broader public sentiment towards democracy and political freedoms will also play a role. Any move perceived as undemocratic could galvanize public opposition, not just from PTI supporters but from civil society and other political entities. Other opposition parties might view the ban as a precedent that could be used against them in the future. This could lead to alliances forming in support of PTI or broader opposition to the government's actions. Within the ruling coalition, there may be differing views on the desirability and feasibility of banning PTI. Unity within the coalition is essential for a concerted legal and political effort. International organizations, human rights groups, and foreign governments are likely to scrutinize the move. Any perceived violation of democratic norms could result in diplomatic pressure and potential sanctions. Political instability and international condemnation could affect Pakistan's economic relations and foreign investment, further complicating the domestic political scenario. Banning a major political party could set a dangerous precedent, potentially undermining the democratic fabric of Pakistan. It could lead to a cycle of repression and resistance, destabilizing the political landscape. The ruling coalition must weigh the immediate benefits of reducing PTI's influence against the long-term consequences of such an action. They must consider alternative strategies to address PTI's popularity without resorting to extreme measures. The ruling coalition may temporarily consolidate power and reduce immediate political competition. The potential for significant backlash, both domestically and internationally, could lead to prolonged instability and damage to the country's democratic institutions. The government's failure to ban PTI could be seen as a significant political setback, potentially weakening its standing. PTI might emerge stronger from the ordeal, with increased public sympathy and support, bolstered by the perception of being unjustly targeted. The attempt to ban PTI involves a complex interplay of legal, political, and international factors. The success of such a move is highly uncertain and fraught with risks that could reshape Pakistan's political landscape in unpredictable ways.

### Pakistan's Growing Poverty Ratio and Potential Solutions



Ifikhar Uddin Anjum

Pakistan, a nation with a rich cultural heritage and promising economic potential, is unfortunately grappling with a persistent challenge, the alarming increase in poverty rates. Despite efforts by successive governments and international interventions, poverty remains a pressing issue affecting millions across the country. In this article we will discuss factors contributing to Pakistan's growing poverty ratio and propose potential solutions to alleviate this critical issue. Pakistan, with its population of over 220 million people, faces a multifaceted poverty problem exacerbated by various factors. While Pakistan has experienced economic growth, the benefits have not been evenly distributed. Urban areas tend to prosper more than rural regions, widening the gap between the rich and poor. Rapid population growth strains resources and limits opportunities for sustainable

development, especially in sectors like education, healthcare, and employment. Certain regions, particularly in Balochistan and parts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, suffer from higher poverty rates due to inadequate infrastructure, limited access to education, and fewer economic opportunities. Pakistan is prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods, which can devastate communities and exacerbate poverty by destroying livelihoods and infrastructure. Political instability and inconsistent governance have hindered long-term planning and effective implementation of poverty alleviation strategies. According to recent estimates, approximately 24% of Pakistan's population lives below the poverty line. This means millions of Pakistanis struggle to afford basic necessities such as food, healthcare, and education. The poverty situation is more acute in rural areas, where around 30% of the population lives below the poverty line compared to about 10% in urban areas. Several interconnected factors contribute to the persistence and growth of poverty in Pakistan. High levels of unemployment and underemployment limit income opportunities for many Pakistanis, particularly youth and women. Poor educational infrastructure and limited access to quality education perpetuate intergenerational poverty by restricting opportunities for skills

development and better employment prospects. Inadequate healthcare infrastructure and services lead to higher healthcare costs for families, pushing many into poverty due to unexpected medical expenses. Women in Pakistan often face discrimination in access to education, healthcare, and employment, further exacerbating poverty among female-headed households. Corruption erodes public trust and diverts resources away from poverty alleviation programs, reducing their effectiveness. Addressing Pakistan's poverty challenge requires a holistic approach encompassing economic, social, and institutional reforms. Here are some potential solutions that could make a meaningful change. Improving infrastructure in rural areas can connect remote communities to markets, healthcare, and education, stimulating economic activities and reducing poverty. Facilitating access to finance and providing technical support can help SMEs grow, create jobs, and boost incomes for vulnerable populations. Reforming the education sector to ensure quality education for all, especially girls and marginalized groups, can break the cycle of poverty and improve long-term prospects. Investing in vocational training and technical education programs can equip youth with skills relevant to the job market.

# Regional Director Anti-Corruption will hear public complaints in Khuli Kachehri Today

**Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha:** On the instructions of Sohail Zafar Chatta, Director General Anti-Corruption Punjab, Hafiz Muhammad Imran, Regional Director Anti-Corruption Sargodha, started holding open court in Sargodha Division to educate the public about the anti-corruption department and listen to the direct complaints of the public. He will hold Khuli Kachehri today on Saturday 20th July 2024 at 11 AM at Regional Directorate Office, near Mela Mandi Ground, Sargodha. In this Khuli Kachehri he will hear the complaints of the people and give orders on occasion. He will also give awareness to the public about anti-corruption activities.

# Pakistan Navy Ship 'Yarmook' deployed on regional maritime security patrol

**ISLAMABAD Web Desk:** Pakistan Navy has deployed its warship PNS 'YARMOOK' with embarked helicopter in the Indian Ocean for safety and security of merchant ships bound to and from Pakistani Ports. During the deployment, the Pakistan Navy Ship will undertake independent operations as well as combined operations along with other friendly and partner nations to achieve common objectives of safe and secure maritime commons. The ship will also call on regional ports for Naval Diplomatic tasks in line with Pakistan's foreign policy objectives, a Pakistan Navy news release said.



Pakistan Navy is committed to ensure freedom of navigation on high seas and safety of international sea lanes of communication besides safeguarding national maritime interests and trade through sea. Pakistan Navy, cognizant of its national obligations to maintain rule based order at sea regularly deploys its warships on Regional Maritime Security Patrol (RMSP) and also contributes to collaborative maritime security efforts. RMSPs are conducted as PN initiative to contribute towards maritime security and to support international efforts against menace of maritime terrorism, piracy and narcotics smuggling.

# Iddat nikkah case: Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi's acquittal challenged



**ISLAMABAD Web Desk:** Khawar Maneka has challenged the acquittal of Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi in the iddat nikkah case in the Islamabad High Court (IHC). Khawar Maneka has filed the application in the IHC through his counsel Zahid Asif Chaudhry against acquittal of Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi.

July 13 on appeals against indictment in the iddat nikkah case null and void. It also requested to restore the trial court verdict of February 3 and restore the indictment of Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi in the iddat nikkah case. It is pertinent to note that the petitioner has made federal government, Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi respondents in the petition. Additional District and Sessions Judge Afzal Majoka acquitted Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi in the iddat nikkah (illegal marriage) case on July 13. The court also issued the release orders of Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi by accepting their pleas and said they could walk free immediately. It is worth noting that the PTI founder and Bushra Bibi were indicted on Feb 3 by senior civil judge Qudratullah who sentenced them to seven-year imprisonment and a fine of 500,000 each in the 'nikkah during iddat' case.

The application contended that appellate court annulled the Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi's indictment in the case overlooking key facts of the case. It was mentioned that the appellate court didn't consider the testimony of prosecution's witnesses. It was stated in the petition that the acquittal verdict for both accused couldn't stand legally. The petitioner pleaded to declare the additional session judge verdict issued on

# PTI submits list of 38 independent MNAs to ECP



**ISLAMABAD:** The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has submitted the list of 38 MNAs to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). This development came in the light of the Supreme Court verdict on reserved seats to PTI, as a result PTI submitted the list of MNAs to ECP. A PTI representative has submitted the list with additional documents. According to sources, three independent candidates including Sahabzada Mehboob Sultan, Moben Arif and Riya Fityana haven't submitted their affidavits yet as they are abroad. The party affiliation form of these three candidates would be submitted today as well. SC reserved seats verdict. Going against the grain of its previous decisions regarding the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in the run-up to Feb 8 election, the apex court on Friday overturned the Peshawar High Court's verdict of depriving the PTI of the reserved seats of non-Muslim and women candidates in assemblies. The apex court, in its majority 8-5 decision, announced that the conduct of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) regarding reserved seats was 'unconstitutional', adding that the PTI would remain intact as a political party even without being assigned an election symbol. The verdict was authored by Justice Mansoor Ali Shah.

It has been said in the SC verdict that the PTI could give list of the candidates of the reserved seats, adding that those 41 candidates could present their certificates to prove that they were members of the party. Government files review petition against the SC verdict. The Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) has filed a review petition in the SC against the apex court verdict on July 12 granting reserved seats to the PTI. The PML-N filed a petition, making Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) President Hamid Raza the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and 11 other political parties respondents. The review petition says the PML-N is the largest political party in parliament and requests the court to review and overturn the reserved seats verdict issued on July 12. The PML-N requests for a stay order on SC verdict announced on July 12. This development comes after the PML-N led coalition government has decided to ban the PTI and try former prime minister Imran Khan, former president Arif Alvi and ex-deputy speaker Qasim Suri under Article 6 for unconstitutionally dissolving the assembly. This announcement was made by Information Minister Atta Tarar, saying the government would file a reference to invoke Article 6 [high treason] in the Supreme Court.

# The salvation of Pakistan & the freedom of occupied Kashmir are intertwined: Shujauddin Shaikh

■ **Mariyum Aurangzeb shares initiatives to mitigate environmental risks**

**Soon Times Correspondent Lahore:** The salvation of Pakistan & the freedom of occupied Kashmir are intertwined. This was said by the Ameer of Tanzeem e Islami Shujauddin Shaikh in a statement. The Ameer said that on 19 July 1947, the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference unanimously passed the historic resolution for accession to Pakistan, in Srinagar. The ratification of this resolution demonstrated that the hearts of the Kashmiri people beat with Pakistan and its citizens. However, on 26 October 1947, Maharaja Hari Singh of Kashmir, contrary to the wishes of the Kashmiri Muslims and to appease global imperialist powers, declared accession to India. Since then, the Muslims of Kashmir have been continuously writing a great saga of sacrifices to fulfill the agenda of the establishment of Pakistan. The Ameer said that the designs of Narendra Modi, who has been elected as the Prime Minister of India for the third time, regarding occupied Kashmir, are extremely sinister. Therefore, there is a need for practical steps rather than merely celebrating "Pakistan Accession Day." The fact is that when India abrogated Articles 370 and 35-A of its constitution on 5 August 2019, and annexed occupied Kashmir into India, it was a direct challenge to Pakistan and the Kashmiri Muslims residing on both sides of the Line of Control. The Ameer remarked that it is a matter of great shame that most Muslim counties are siding with the oppressive Indian regime instead of the oppressed Kashmiri Muslims, due to petty economic and political benefits. The Ameer urged the government of Pakistan that no negotiations with India should be considered unless India revokes its actions of 5 August 2019.

# At least four killed in blast near hospital in South Waziristan

Sources say explosive device was reportedly planted on motorcycle to target a Taliban commander, who fled unhurt

**Soon Times Correspondent DERA ISMAIL KHAN:** government of Pakistan that no negotiations with India should be considered unless India reDERA ISMAIL KHAN: At least four people were killed in a bomb explosion near a hospital in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's South Waziristan on Friday. Sources reported that the blast occurred near City Hospital on Karokot Road in Wana, the main town of South Waziristan. Initial information from hospital authorities confirmed the death of four people in the explosion. The explosive device was reportedly planted on a motorcycle and targeted the vehicle of Taliban commander Amullah, who escaped unhurt, according to



enemies of humanity." On Wednesday, an explosion-triggered collapse of a large part of Jamshoro police station left five policemen and a suspect in the lockdown injured. The police officers believe that the simmering tension caused a blast in hand grenades placed in the station's maal khana [depository] that caved in. However, an inquiry has been initiated to ascertain the actual cause of the explosion. The injured include ASIs Muhammad Bux Dawach and Rasool Bux Narejo, head constable Abdul Lateef Panhwar, constables Ghulam Muhammad and Irshad Ali. Jamshed Sanjrani, an arrested suspect, was also hurt in the explosion. All of them were shifted to Liaquat University Hospital, Hyderabad. vokes its actions of 5 August 2019.

sources. Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) Faisal Karim Kundi condemned the motorcycle bomb attack, expressing his sorrow over the loss of lives. He extended his condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured. In a statement, Governor Kundi said, "Those who target innocent people are the



A delegation of the Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association, called on the Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research in Islamabad on July 19, 2024.

# SNGPL Intensifies Crackdown on Gas Theft: 33 Illegal Connections Disconnected, Rs 0.3 Million in Fines Imposed

**Soon Times Correspondent Lahore:** In a continued effort to combat gas theft, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has conducted extensive raids across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad, resulting in the disconnection of 33 illegal gas connections and the imposition of fines totaling Rs 0.3 million. In Lahore, SNGPL teams disconnected 08 illegal gas connections and filed 03 First Information Reports (FIRs) against offenders. In Multan, 18 illegal connections were cut off. The Faisalabad team disconnected 03 illegal connections and levied fines amounting to Rs 0.057 million for gas theft. In Sheikhupura, fines totaling Rs 0.157 million were imposed for gas theft. The team in Gujranwala disconnected one illegal connection and imposed fines of Rs 0.17 million. In Bahawalpur, 03 connections using compressors illegally were disconnected.

## Hungary says Ukraine halting Lukoil oil transit a threat to long-term supply



**BUDAPEST**  
Ukraine's decision to halt the transit of oil from Russia's Lukoil threatens the long-term security of supply for Slovakia and Hungary, Hungary's Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto told a news briefing on Friday.

Slovakia and Hungary said on Wednesday they had stopped receiving oil from Lukoil after Ukraine imposed a ban on the transit of oil from the company last month.

"We have been able to stabilise the situation with temporary solutions, but these will not be enough even for the near future," Szijarto said. "Ukrainian authorities showed a willingness to find a solution to the situation, but these attempts have faded since," he added.

Russia continues to supply natural gas and oil to landlocked Hungary and Slovakia via Ukraine despite the war, through the Druzhba pipeline's southern

## Trudeau appoints MacKinnon as new labour minister



**OTTAWA**  
Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Friday appointed Steven MacKinnon, a Liberal member of parliament from Quebec, as the new labour minister, filling a vacancy created when Seamus O'Regan stepped down for personal reasons. MacKinnon, who had been temporarily in charge of government business in the lower chamber since January, takes over the labour portfolio at a shaky time for Trudeau's government.



## Bangladesh security forces fire bullets and sound grenades as protests over government jobs escalate

**Bangladesh security forces fire bullets and sound grenades as protests over government jobs escalate**

**DHAKA, Bangladesh**  
Web Desk  
Police and security officials in Bangladesh fired bullets and tear gas at protesters and banned all gatherings in the capital on Friday, as internet and mobile services were cut off after days of deadly clashes over the allocation of government jobs.

The protests, which began weeks ago but escalated sharply on Monday, represent the biggest challenge to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina since she was won a fourth consecutive term in a January election that was boycotted by the main opposition parties. The latest clashes follow the bloodiest day of the protests to date, with local media reporting 22 people killed as protesting students attempted to impose a "complete shutdown" on the country. Sonny TR reported that more than 40 people were killed on Friday. Authorities were not reached to immediately confirm figures for the deaths. The chaos has highlighted cracks in Bangladesh's governance and economy and the frustration of young graduates who face a lack of good jobs. The government has deployed police and paramilitary forces across the capital to lock down campuses and break up protests. On Wednesday, universities including the country's largest suspended classes and closed dormitories, and on Friday Dhaka police said they were banning all gatherings and demonstrations in the capital.

## UAE president discusses peace efforts in Sudan with army's Burhan

**CAIRO**  
The United Arab Emirates president and the head of Sudan's army have discussed an offer from Ethiopia's leader to mediate in Sudan's 15-month-old war, diplomatic sources said.



and-forth at the UN Security Council in June. Emirati state news agency WAM reported on Thursday that in the call UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan "affirmed the UAE's keenness to support all solutions and initiatives aimed at halting escalation and ending the crisis in Sudan."

"Though some in Sudan felt the call was overdone, hawkish Islamists who form an important support base for the army have rejected mediation efforts and are wary of the UAE role, analysts say.

## Taiwan must rely on itself for defence, foreign minister responds to Trump



**TAIPEI**  
Taiwan must rely on itself for defence and is likely to keep increasing spending and modernising its military given the threat it faces from China, Foreign Minister Lin Chia-lung said on Friday, responding to criticism from Donald Trump.

US former President Trump, the Republican candidate in a rematch with President Joe Biden, said in an interview published this week that "Taiwan should pay us for defence", adding that the island had taken American semiconductor business.

The United States is the most important international backer and arms supplier of Taiwan, which China claims as its own. Despite the lack of formal diplomatic ties, Washington is bound by law to provide the means for the island's defence.

But Taiwan has no formal defence pact with the United States, as Asian neighbours Japan and South Korea do, since Washington terminated a previous treaty with Taipei in 1979 when it switched diplomatic recognition to Beijing. Biden angered China in 2022 by saying US forces would defend Taiwan in the event of a Chinese invasion, a deviation from a long-held US position of "strategic ambiguity". Asked about Trump's comments, Lin told foreign reporters in Taipei that "we pay great attention to" them, and Taiwan-US relations are built on the bipartisan support Taiwan enjoys in the United States. "I think everyone has a consensus on the main point, which is the China threat," said Lin, who took up his post on May 20 as part of the cabinet of newly elected President Lai Ching-te.

"In fact on national defence, we must rely on ourselves - this is the precondition. Since the start of Taiwan's democratisation over the past 30 years, we have stood alone against China's threat."

# Sports & Showbiz

## Babar, Shaheen, Rizwan 'unlikely' to get NOC for Canadian league



**LAHORE:**  
Pakistani skipper Babar Azam, pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi and wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan are unlikely to get a no-objection certificate (NOC) to participate in the upcoming league Global T20 Canada, sources told Geo News on Friday. The insiders revealed that the players will not get a NOC despite the Canadian league, which is scheduled from July 25 to August 11, not clashing with any series. This is because all-format players will not be issued the certificate as per the policy. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is not in favour of this due to busy international schedule, said the sources. The development comes days after the cricket body decided not to grant fast bowler Naseem Shah the NOC to play the Hundred cricket league due to being all-format player. However, the Global T20 Canada has not yet received an approval from the International Cricket Council (ICC) due to several issues, the sources said. They added that the NOC of the players will be formally decided only after the league gets an approval. Pacer Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Nawaz, Asif Ali and Iftikhar Ahmed also have contracts in the Global T20 Canada.



## Buoyant Hamilton seeking to keep momentum and more records

**BUDAPEST**  
A buoyant Lewis Hamilton heads into this weekend's Hungarian Grand Prix on the crest of a wave, seeking a record-increasing ninth Hungarian victory and Mercedes' third consecutive win of the season. After two years of struggles, Hamilton ended his long winless run at the British Grand Prix with a record ninth home triumph at Silverstone and hopes to repeat that feat in forecast intense heat at the track where last year he secured his most recent pole position. Following his emotional success in front of an adoring crowd in the English rain, Hamilton said he felt excited at the prospect of returning to a track where he has scored several memorable victories in his career. "I love Hungary," he said. "And so I am definitely looking forward to going there. The trajectory we're now on and the fact that the car is starting to really, really come alive and feel great. I can't wait." The 39-year-old seven-time world champion won at the Hungarian - a tight, twisty and often dusty circuit 22 kilometres north of Budapest - in his debut season for McLaren in 2007 and again in 2009 and 2012. After switching to Mercedes, he continued to relish the unique challenge of a track often described as Monaco without the walls' and won again in 2013, 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2020. If he secures a podium finish this Sunday, it will be the 200th of his career, a pole position would be a record-extending 10th, landmark achievements that set him apart as he bids to add to team-mate George Russell's victory in Austria and his own in Britain. He and Russell know, however, that they will not be favourites despite their recent successes as defending three-time champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull bids to complete a hat-trick of Hungarian wins after triumphs in 2022 and last year. "Last year was brilliant," said Verstappen. "I have good memories of racing here and last year achieved our 12th win in a row. So, hopefully, we can have a great race again."

## Cryptic post 'when love stops being easy' means



(Web Desk) - Looks like there is some truth in divorce rumours! Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai are headed for a divorce or so it seems after their last public appearance in which the two didn't attend a wedding together. While Abhishek posed with his family including father Amitabh, mother Jaya, sister and her family, Aishwarya Rai came later to the wedding with her daughter Aaradhya Bachchan. Post the separate public appearances, Abhishek fuelled divorce rumours as he liked an article on Instagram on rising divorce cases. The post was shared by a journalist on the social media platform.

## Pak Street Child Football team training camp from July 21



**ISLAMABAD**  
The final training camp of Pakistan Street Child Football team in preparations for the Norway Cup 2024 will continue from July 21 to 25 in which the selection of the squad for Norway Cup 2024 will be finalized. The national team will fly to Norway on July 25 to participate in the event, said a press release. Earlier thousands of youngsters participated trials organized by the administration of Pakistan Street Child Football team last month. Pakistan Street Child Team will be participating in the mega event for the fifth time in the Norway Cup to be held from July 27 to August 3 in Oslo. The national team finished second in Norway Cup 2015, third in 2016 and second in 2023. It may be mentioned that Pakistan Street Child Football team was the undefeated team of the event in Norway Cup last year. In the Street Child Football World Cup held in Doha (Qatar) in 2022, the national team was defeated in the group matches, but the Pakistan team had to face a 4-3 defeat against Egypt in the decisive match. Pakistan team was also the runner-up in the Street Child Football World Cup 2018 in Russia, while was ranked third in 2014 in Brazil.