



Daily SOON TIMES

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Monday
July 22, 2024
Page: 4 Rs: 20
Vol: 4 Issue: 201
Sargodha

www.soontimes.pk

ABC Certified

Simultaneously Publishing from Islamabad, Sargodha & Karachi

+92 321 888 1135

PTI leader Shafqat Mehmood bids farewell to politics



Soon Times Correspondent
LAHORE

Former federal education minister and ex-Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader has announced his retirement from politics.

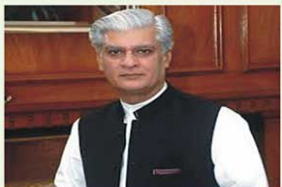
He made the announcement of his retirement from politics on social media site X, stating, 'I landed into politics after resigning from my government job and now I have decided to retire from politics after deliberation.'

He disclosed to devote his life into writing and teaching, clarifying that this decision wasn't taken under any pressure or plan to join any other political party instead in the wake of age and time commitments.

He agreed on a viewpoint of inclusion of young people in politics and recalled his journey into politics as member of National Assembly and Senate and federal and provincial minister, witnessing ups and downs.

Shafqat Mehmood asserted that he served his duty with honesty and obligation and was never accused of any illegal and unethical conduct.

Nawaz's ex-political secretary parts ways with PML-N



Soon Times Correspondent

ISLAMABAD
Dr Syed Asif Kirmani, former political secretary of ex-prime minister Nawaz Sharif, announced quitting the PML-N.

Kirmani in a statement said he has distanced himself from the political affairs of the PML-N.

He said people were dying due to inflated power bills and inflation owing to ineffective governance of the rulers, adding, 'Nawaz Sharif/Sahib! all is not well.' However, he did not give a clue about joining another party. Kirmani added that he will soon issue a detailed statement about his decision to quit the party.

Kirmani was appointed by former prime minister Nawaz as his political secretary in 2013. He was considered a close associate of the ex-premier and played an active role during the PML-N's election campaign before the party came to power in 2013. Kirmani became the latest PML-N leader who quit the party over differences with the top party leadership's style of politics and its decision to form the government following the February 8 elections despite rigging allegations.

Disruption in WhatsApp services across Pakistan



(Web Desk)

Users in Pakistan are facing issues in accessing Meta owned messaging service, WhatsApp from Saturday. Users accessing WhatsApp through mobile internet are facing difficulty in sending and downloading files and data.

However, users are facing no disruption on Wi-Fi connections, they can easily send and receive large data.

The telecom regulator, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and cellular mobile operators (CMOs) issued no statement on the issue. Some experts have linked this inaccessibility to installation of firewall to curb upload of malicious and fake content on the internet against government, state and institutions.

Maryam Nawaz approves courses, trainings for skills development under TEVTA

Punjab CM approved the building of 45 welding workshops in nine cities of Punjab.



Soon Times Correspondent

LAHORE/

Punjab CM chaired a session where suggestions on the mapping plan of Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) were considered.

It was decided to teach the latest courses according to market demands as well as introduction of language courses including Arabic, Korean, Japanese, Chinese in TEVTA centres was approved.

Establishment of Punjab Overseas Employment Promoting Authority for skilled jobs in international market was agreed upon.

Outsourcing of heavy machinery

driving and operator course with the collaboration of large scale construction developers was approved.

Punjab CM approved the building of 45 welding workshops in nine cities of Punjab.

Establishment of the latest lab for welding and construction course in Gujranwala, Sahiwal, Bahawalpur, Multan, Attock, Taxila, Layyah, and Mianwali also granted approval.

The recruitment of one thousand employees to reduce the lack of human resource in TEVTA was also suggested.

During the meeting, it was proposed to increase the budget for purchase of training material for practical training.

Afghan citizens attack Pakistan consulate in Germany, pull down flag



Soon Times Correspondent
FRANKFURT

The citizens of Afghanistan pelted stones on the Pakistani consulate and pulled down flag atop the building in Germany's city Frankfurt.

The Pakistani diplomatic officials have protested to the German Foreign Ministry in Berlin and demanded an investigation into the tragic incident.

The foreign media reported that German

authorities have arrested several people after the video of the attack went viral on social media.

According to media, the German authorities had allowed Afghan citizens to hold a peaceful protest outside the consulate. But the protesters went berserk and tried to enter the consulate building. They also tried to set the Pakistani flag to fire.

Pakistani diplomatic officials said that it was the responsibility of the German government to ensure security of foreign diplomatic installations.

Meanwhile, the German authorities have assured the diplomatic officials of security and a thorough investigation into the incident.

The Pakistan Foreign Office in Islamabad has decided to summon German ambassador to lodge an official protest.

NA speaker declines provision of new vehicles to chairmen of standing committees

Soon Times Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

National Assembly

Speaker Ayaz Sadiq

has turned down a request from

chairmen of

Standing

Committees

for new vehicles, citing

budgetary constraints and

government policy.

According to sources within

the National Assembly, the

committee chairs had

requested new vehicles

despite already having

vehicles in good condition.

Sadiq refused the demand,

explaining that current fiscal

limitations and a government

directive against purchasing

new vehicles, to prevent

economic strain, made it

impossible to fulfill their

request.



Sources revealed that several committee chairs had voiced dissatisfaction with the condition and efficiency of their assigned vehicles.

In response, Speaker Ayaz Sadiq pointed out that the vehicles in question were from 2017 and 2019 models, emphasizing that even his own vehicle was a 2015 model.

The Finance Ministry reportedly declined to allocate funds for new vehicles, reinforcing the Speaker's decision.

Delay in fixing review petition against verdict on reserved seats to be unjust, unfair: CJP

SC released minutes of July 18 meeting of the three-judge Practice and Procedure Committee



Soon Times Correspondent

ISLAMABAD

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa has said it would be unjust and unfair if the review petitions against the

Supreme Court's reserved seats

case ruling were not fixed

urgently.

Pakistan's Supreme Court on

Saturday released minutes of the

July 18 meeting of the three-judge

Practice and Procedure Committee,

during which Chief Justice Qazi

Faez Isa called for urgently

scheduling the ruling Pakistan

Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N)

review petition against the reserved

seats verdict for a hearing.

However, Justices Syed Mansoor Ali Shah and Munib Akhtar opposed it, citing that many judges from the original 13-member bench were on vacation and awaiting a detailed order.

"It would be unjust and unfair if the review petitions against the Supreme Court's reserved seats case ruling were not fixed urgently," CJP Isa was quoted as highlighting in the minutes of the meeting.

The committee, mandated under the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023, included

Justice Munib Akhtar, who is on vacation and participated via video link from Karachi.

According to the minutes, the registrar highlighted two urgent applications filed alongside the review petitions, arguing that a 15-day timeline imposed by the order under review could render the petitions infructuous if implemented.

Review petitions have been filed by the ruling party PML-N and its members against the July 13 ruling, which allocated additional parliamentary seats to Imran Khan's PTT.

Funeral prayer of father of PIO offered; Governor KP attends



PESHAWAR.

Funeral prayer of Ghulam Sabir, the father of Principal Information Officer (PIO), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Mubashir Hassan was offered here on Friday.

Besides others, the funeral prayer of the deceased was attended by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi, officers of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, media persons, civil officers, journalists and elites of the city in large number.

Later, the deceased was laid to rest at his ancestral graveyard. The Qul of the deceased would be offered on Monday at Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BISE), Peshawar's colony at Jamrud Road Peshawar.

Late Ghulam Sabir was also the father of retired senior bureaucrat Ahmad Hassan and senior officer of BISE Peshawar Aftab Hassan.

The people and well wishers are coming to the residence of PIO Mubashir Hassan and are offering فاتحہ for eternal peace of his father who passed away due to protracted illness.

Unrest in Dhaka, Future of Pakistani Students

Pakistan's mission in Dhaka, Bangladesh was in contact with all the Pakistani students who were safe and accommodated at safe locations. "DHM has visited Chittagong to meet the students there as well. All students are safe," the Foreign Office spokesperson on Saturday posted on X account. The High Commission had accommodated students at safe locations which included the High Commission premises, Ambassador's residence and some other safe locations, it was further added.

"Public Outcry Against USA Interference"



Amjad Rana

political stability of Pakistan is more effectively achieved through domestic reforms, adherence to democratic principles, and the needs and concerns of its citizens. The sentiment towards USA influence in Pakistan is mixed and varies across different segments of the population. Some Pakistanis view USA involvement positively, seeing it as beneficial for economic aid, military support, and diplomatic backing. However, a significant portion of the population is critical of USA influence, often viewing it as overbearing and detrimental to Pakistan's sovereignty. The term "slavery" is a strong and emotionally charged term when used to describe the influence of the United States in Pakistan. It reflects deep-seated concerns about sovereignty, autonomy, and the perceived overreach of foreign powers in domestic affairs. This term is often used to express a sense of frustration and powerlessness among certain segments of the population. The term "slavery" can be traced back to Pakistan's colonial history and the struggle for independence. This historical context makes the notion of external control or influence particularly sensitive. The reliance on foreign aid and military support can be seen as compromising national autonomy, leading some to describe the relationship in such stark terms. For the many Pakistanis, national pride and the desire for sovereignty are paramount. Any perceived infringement on these values can evoke strong reactions. USA aid often comes with conditions that some Pakistanis view as compromising their country's independence in making policy decisions. Perceptions of USA interference in Pakistan's internal politics, including support for specific leaders or parties, can fuel resentment. Differences in cultural values and policies can exacerbate feelings of alienation and resentment toward perceived USA dominance. Building a relationship based on mutual respect and understanding can help alleviate some of these strong sentiments. Both countries need to acknowledge and address each other's concerns. Clear and transparent communication about the nature and objectives of aid and cooperation can help reduce mistrust. Strengthening Pakistan's own democratic institutions, economy, and governance can reduce dependence on foreign aid and influence. Engaging more deeply with regional partners and diversifying foreign relations can provide Pakistan with more leverage and options in its international dealings. While the term "slavery" is a strong and emotive way to describe the influence of the USA in Pakistan, it underscores the importance of sovereignty, autonomy, and mutual

respect in international relations. Addressing these concerns through balanced engagement, transparent policies, and domestic reforms can help foster a more positive and equitable relationship between Pakistan and the USA. Pakistan's colonial past under British rule left a legacy of resistance against foreign domination. This historical memory is potent and informs contemporary attitudes toward any perceived external control. Pakistan's national identity is closely tied to its independence movement. The notion of "slavery" resonates with fears of compromising this hard-won sovereignty. Political leaders and parties may use strong anti-USA rhetoric to mobilize support and appeal to nationalist sentiments, especially during elections or political crises. Surveys and public opinion polls often reflect significant distrust of USA motives in Pakistan, fuelled by specific incidents and broader geopolitical narratives. Economic aid, while beneficial in many ways, often comes with conditions that can be perceived as undermining national autonomy. This includes IMF loans and USA bilateral aid packages. Trade relationships where one partner is significantly more powerful can create dependencies that are viewed unfavorably. The collaboration in counterterrorism, especially post-9/11 has had mixed impacts. While it has brought military aid and training, it has also led to controversial actions like drone strikes. Coverage of drone strikes, military operations, and political scandals involving the USA can fuel negative sentiments. There are broader concerns about cultural influence and the imposition of Western values, which can be perceived as eroding local traditions and societal norms. Investing in local industries, education, and healthcare to build self-sufficiency and reduce economic dependencies. Engaging with a wider range of international partners to balance foreign influence and reduce over-reliance on any single country. Strengthening democratic institutions and ensuring transparent governance to build public trust and reduce the appeal of anti-foreign rhetoric. Establishing regular, high-level dialogues between the USA and Pakistan to address mutual concerns, clarify intentions, and build trust. Pakistan's growing relationship with China, especially through initiatives like the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), offers an alternative to USA influence and can help balance geopolitical dynamics. Working towards regional stability with neighbors like India and Afghanistan can reduce external dependencies and create a more autonomous foreign policy framework.

Request to Dignities, CM Sindh, Minister School Education & Secretary School Education Sindh for the establishment of Govt Girls Degree College or Govt Girls Model Higher Secondary School for Kazi Ahmed city.



Mushtaqe Ahmed Rahu

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and high spirits. I am writing to you on behalf of the residents of Kazi Ahmed City District Shaheed Benazirabad with a heartfelt request for the establishment of a Government Girls Degree College or Government Girls Model Higher Secondary School in Kazi Ahmed City. This request stems from our deep concern for the future of our young girls generation and their educational opportunities. The Need for a Girls' School or College Kazi Ahmed: The City is a place filled with potential and talent, specially among our young girls. Unfortunately, the lack of a dedicated Govt Girls Higher secondary school or Govt Degree college for girls poses a significant barrier to their educational advancement. Many parents are eager to educate their daughters but are constrained by the absence of suitable institutions within the city. The establishment of a girls' higher secondary school or Girls College would be a monumental step towards unlocking the full potential of our girls' students. Advantages of a Separate Girls' Institution Security and Comfort: A separate educational institution for girls would provide a secure and comfortable environment for them to learn and grow. In a dedicated girls' school or college, they can focus entirely on their studies without any distractions or concerns about their safety. Encouraging Talent: Our city is brimming with talented girls who excel in various fields. A separate institution would provide them with the resources and support they need to hone their skills and

compete on a larger scale. It would inspire them to reach new heights and achieve their dreams. Boosting Competition: Having a dedicated school or college for girls would foster a healthy competitive spirit among them. They would strive to outperform each other in academics, sports, and extracurricular activities, leading to overall personal growth and development. Increased Awareness and Acceptance: The current societal trends show a growing awareness and acceptance of girls' education. By establishing a girls' school or girls college, the government would be acknowledging and supporting this positive change, encouraging more families to prioritize their daughters' education. Benefits to the Community: The establishment of a Government Girls Model Higher Secondary School or a Government Girls Degree College would bring numerous benefits to the entire community of Kazi Ahmed City. Educational Upliftment: With better access to quality education, the overall educational standards of the city would rise. Educated girls would contribute positively to the community, leading to its social and economic development. Empowerment of Women: Educating girls is a powerful tool for empowering women. It would enable them to pursue higher education, secure better job opportunities, and become financially independent. Educated women are more likely to participate in community and civic activities, making informed decisions that benefit society. Role Models for Future Generations: The presence of a girls' school or college would create role models for future generations. Young girls would be inspired by the achievements of their peers, motivating them to pursue their education with determination and dedication. Family Support: With a local

institution, families would be more inclined to support their daughters' education. Parents would feel more comfortable sending their daughters to a nearby school or college, knowing that they are safe and receiving a quality education. Female Staff only: To ensure the success and smooth functioning of the proposed institution, we request that all staff members, from lower to higher positions, should be female. This would create a supportive and nurturing environment for the female students, encouraging them to feel at ease and perform to the best of their abilities. So Please, the establishment of a Government Girl's Model Higher Secondary School or a Government Girls' Degree College in Kazi Ahmed City is not just a necessity but a dream for many families. It is an investment in the future of our female students, our community, our city and our society at large. By providing them with the opportunity to receive quality education in a secure and encouraging environment, we can ensure a brighter and more prosperous future for all. We, the residents of Kazi Ahmed City, humbly request you, Honorable Chief Minister Sindh, Minister of Education, and Secretary of Education to consider our plea and take the necessary steps to establish this much-needed institution immediately. Your kind support in this matter would be immensely appreciated and would go a long way in transforming the lives of countless young girls in our city. Thank you for your attention and consideration. Hope for Positive Favour. We all will pray for your Long lives and prosperity.

The Importance of Women's Education.



Iftikhar uddin Anjum

Let's try to understand why women's education is crucial, what are its impact on various aspects of society and the challenges that still need to be addressed. Women's education encompasses not just literacy and numeracy but also includes skills development, critical thinking and exposure to various disciplines such as science, technology, engineering arts and mathematics (STEAM). When women are educated, they gain the knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions about their lives, health and future. Education enables women to participate more fully in economic activities, politics and social interactions, thereby challenging traditional gender roles and stereotypes. Educated women are more likely to secure better jobs, earn higher incomes, and contribute to their families' financial stability. Studies consistently show that investing in women's education yields high returns in terms of

economic growth and poverty reduction. Education correlates with improved health outcomes for women and their families. Educated women are more likely to seek healthcare services, have healthier children, and make informed decisions about nutrition and disease prevention. Education fosters social cohesion and reduces inequalities by promoting gender equality and challenging discriminatory practices. Educated women are more likely to advocate for their rights and participate in community development initiatives. For individual women, education serves as a pathway to independence and self-sufficiency. It equips them with skills to navigate life's challenges, pursue their aspirations, and contribute meaningfully to society. Education provides women with the tools to break free from cycles of poverty and vulnerability, offering opportunities for personal growth

and fulfillment. The benefits of women's education extend beyond individual empowerment to encompass entire communities. Educated women often reinvest their income in their families' well-being, prioritizing healthcare, nutrition, and education for their children. This creates a positive cycle of intergenerational improvement, where each generation benefits from increased opportunities and resources. Communities with higher levels of female education also experience enhanced social stability and cohesion. Educated women are more likely to participate in civic activities, advocate for community needs, and contribute to local development projects. Their leadership and decision-making abilities help foster inclusive and equitable growth. At the national level, investing in women's education is crucial for sustainable development and economic

competitiveness. Countries that prioritize gender parity in education see higher productivity, innovation, and overall economic growth. Educated women contribute to diverse sectors of the economy, from agriculture to technology, driving innovation and entrepreneurship. Moreover, women's education is linked to political stability and good governance. Educated women are more likely to engage in political processes, advocate for policy reforms, and hold leaders accountable for addressing gender inequalities. Their presence in leadership roles strengthens democratic institutions and promotes inclusive policymaking. Despite the undeniable benefits of women's education, significant challenges persist globally. Many girls still lack access to quality education due to factors such as poverty, cultural norms, geographic isolation, and

inadequate school facilities. Girls often drop out of school due to early marriage, domestic responsibilities, gender-based violence, and lack of support for menstrual hygiene management. Even when girls attend school, the quality of education they receive can vary widely. Gender-responsive teaching methods, curriculum reforms, and teacher training are essential to ensure that girls receive a relevant and empowering education. Deep-seated stereotypes and patriarchal attitudes continue to limit girls' educational opportunities, reinforcing traditional roles that prioritize boys' education over girls'. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated efforts from governments, civil society organizations, communities, and international partners. Governments should prioritize gender equality in education policies, allocate sufficient resources for girls' education, and

Napoleon said, " Give me an educated mother I'll give you an educated nation." Education has long been recognized as a fundamental human right and a powerful driver of personal, social and economic development of any nation and country. However, throughout history, access to education has not been equitable, with women often facing significant barriers to learning. The empowerment of women through education is not merely a slogan but a transformative force that can uplift entire communities and nations



Buchal Kalan Welfare Group to be established soon



Soon Times Correspondent
Buchal Kalan:
It has been decided to establish the Buchal Kalan Welfare Group. In this

regard, the first meeting was held at the residence of Imran Ehsan Sher Dastal, Central General Secretary of Tanzeem Ul Awan International. In the meeting, all

aspects regarding the establishment of welfare group were discussed. Chief Organizer of Welfare Group Prof. Azmat Awan Jogi, Former Principal Government Degree College Buchal Kalan and Prof. Fayyaz Awan Principal Government Degree College Buchal Kalan highlighted the establishment of Welfare Group at the beginning of the meeting. They discussed in detail the objectives of the welfare group. It was formally decided in the meeting that very soon Buchal Kalan Welfare Group will be established and regular work will be started.

Some IPPs being paid Rs 750 per unit for electricity: Gohar Ejaz

LAHORE:
The government buying electricity from some power plants at the rate of Rs 750 per unit, former caretaker minister Gohar Ejaz said in a social media statement on Sunday. The government purchasing Rs 200 per unit electricity in average from the coal power plants, he further said. "The wind and solar power units being paid above 50 rupees per unit," he said. The most expensive IPPs have been paid Rs. 1.95 trillion, he said in a tweet. "The government is paying 140 billion rupees to a power plant on 15 pet load factor," former minister said.



"Another plant being paid 120 billion rupees over 17 pet load factor and the third power plant being paid 100 billion over on 22 pet load factor," he added. "These are only three power plants, getting 370 billion rupees," Gohar Ejaz

said. The IPPs given big capacity amounts without generating electricity, he disclosed. "These plants 52% owned by the government and 28 percent by the private sector," he said. "The electricity being sold to us on 60 rupees per unit owing to these corrupt contracts," he said. "It is the duty of everyone to raise voice against these contracts with 40 families, to save the country," he said. Former minister said that he is now leaving it to the nation to take decision on the IPPs. "There is a clause of 'capacity payments' in all these contracts that allows inflated profits."

SWCCI passes a resolution to terminate the IPP agreements With Govt

Soon Times Correspondent
Sargodha:
An emergency executive committee meeting was held by Sargodha Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The meeting immediately passed a resolution to terminate the IPP agreements with the government. The meeting was held on Zoom and was chaired by Shamim Aftab President SWCCI who strongly supported the resolution. Sadia Khan Senior Vice President, Tanzeela Riaz Vice President, Executive Member and MD Khan Medicare 32 Block Sargodha Dr.

Humera, Dr. Nusrat Javed Awan, Shazia Bangash, Rubina Mukhtar, Tahseen Fatima, Dr. Atiqah Lohani and Secretary SWCCI Miss Saira Rehman were present in the meeting. Addressing the meeting, Dr. Humera said that this post-Covid energy crisis is a huge challenge for businessmen and especially women entrepreneurs. Dr. Nusrat Manzoor said that energy is the backbone of every business. So it is difficult to set up a business without controlling its prices. Save 40 IPPs or 240 million people of Pakistan.

District Officer Rescue Khushab reports of road accident resulting in injuries of 05

Soon Times Correspondent
Nowshera Soon Sakasari:
District Officer Rescue Khushab Engineer Hafiz Abdul Rasheed told reporters about the Kanhati Bagh accident that the Rescue Control Room Khushab received an emergency call of a road traffic accident around 4 o'clock that a mini

truck loaded with vegetables on Kanhati Bagh Road Nowshera turned while crossing a U-Turn. There were 5 people in it. As soon as the accident was reported, the team of Rescue 1122 Nowshera responded to the accident site in time and provided first aid to 5 injured and shifted them to THQ Hospital Nowshera. Among them Faizan aged 38

years resident of Khabeki, Hasnain aged 26 years resident of Khabeki, Irfan aged 29 years resident of Khabeki, Nadeem aged 32 years resident of Mianwali Muhammad Sultan age 24 resident of Mianwali are among the injured. Three seriously injured have been shifted to DHQ Hospital Joharabad while the condition of others is out of danger.



Pakistan's first air ambulance transfers patient

Soon Times Correspondent
LAHORE:
A rescue air ambulance, an initiative undertaken by the Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, successfully transferred a patient for the first time in Pakistan. The patient, identified as Halima Bibi - a 40-year-old woman from Mianwali, suffered paralysis after falling from a roof two days ago. She was initially treated at Mianwali's District Headquarters Hospital, where surgeons referred her to Rawalpindi for further treatment. Following CM Maryam Nawaz's directive, Halima Bibi was shifted from Mianwali to Rawalpindi within the critical "golden hour" in an air ambulance. The patient's family expressed gratitude to Maryam Nawaz, calling her an "angel" for facilitating the transfer. Punjab Chief Minister emphasised that quality and timely medical

treatment is the right of every citizen and will be ensured. She also announced the commencement of Pakistan's first air ambulance operations while appealing to the nation to pray for Bibi's recovery. First female Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz had made an announcement of launch of the air ambulance service within weeks in her maiden address at the Punjab Assembly. Earlier in March, the Punjab cabinet approved the project, marking a significant step forward in emergency medical services. Under this initiative, there is a plan to initially get two aircraft on lease. These ambulances will be equipped to transport doctors, paramedics, and essential medical equipment, along with life-saving medicines. The air machines are designed to operate from short runways. They will also have the capability to land and take off from national highways and motorways.

SNGPL Intensifies Gas Theft Crackdown: 61 Connections Disconnected & Rs 1.29 Million in Fines Imposed

Soon Times Correspondent
Lahore:
Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has intensified its ongoing campaign against gas theft, conducting extensive raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad. The latest operations resulted in the disconnection of 61 illegal gas connections and the

imposition of fines totaling Rs 1.29 million. In Lahore, SNGPL teams disconnected one connection for illegal gas use and two for compressor misuse. In Islamabad, three connections were severed for illegal gas consumption. The Peshawar regional team disconnected 26 illegal connections, imposing fines amounting to Rs 0.64 million. In

Mardan, 18 illegal connections were cut off, resulting in fines of Rs 0.65 million. Additionally, the Gujranwala team disconnected three illegal connections, while the Sahiwal team cut off three more. In Bahawalpur, four connections were severed due to compressor use. The Sargodha team also disconnected three illegal connections.

PTI to 'move' Supreme Judicial Council against CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja



Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has decided to file a reference against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja and the four members of the Election Commission (ECP) in Supreme Judicial Council (SJC). According to sources, the PTI founder Imran Khan has given Barrister Ali Zafar the responsibility of filing the reference against the Election Commission. The reference will demand the Supreme Judicial Council removal of the CEC and members from the Supreme Judicial Council. The reference will cite reasons such as taking the electoral system from PTI, failure to provide a level playing field, changes made to the Islamabad Election

Tribunal and not holding elections on time. The reference will also mention the misinterpretation of the Supreme Court's verdict and highlight certain points from the court's decision on reserved seats. Earlier, PTI slammed the ECP statement regarding the Supreme Court's verdict declaring Imran Khan-founded party eligible for reserved seats and called it an attempt to nullify the court's order. In a statement, the PTI said that the election commissioner's statement is a collection of "contradictions and an attempt to render the court's order ineffective". PTI warned that attempts to deviate from the Supreme Court's verdict will have severe negative consequences. "The party will not allow the Election Commission to disrespect the court's order after the public

mandate," it noted. PTI demanded that the Chief Election Commissioner and members should resign in light of the Supreme Court's verdict. The party also called for the reins of the Election Commission to be handed over to individuals who uphold the Constitution and law. It is important to note here that, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) said it has decided to implement the Supreme Court (SC) verdict declaring PTI eligible for reserved seats. The commission has issued instructions to its legal team to ensure the implementation of the Supreme Court decision. SC reserved seats verdict A 13-member bench of the top court, headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, ruled that the PTI is eligible for the allocation of reserved seats, dealing a major setback to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's ruling coalition. Justice Mansoor Ali Shah announced the 8-5 majority verdict, setting aside the Peshawar High Court's (PHC) order wherein it had upheld the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) decision denying the reserved seats to the SIC. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Jamal Mandokhail, Justice Naecem Afghani, Justice Yalya Afridi, and Justice Ameenuddin Khan opposed the majority decision

We will make digital elections possible: Eng. Sheeda Muhammad

Soon Times Correspondent
Islamabad:
Executive body member of All Pakistan Association of Government Engineers (APAGE) and candidate for Chairman of Pakistan Engineering Council in 2024, Engineer Sheeda Muhammad has said that digital elections will be made possible. We will give representation to Pakistani engineers outside the country in the presence of engineers in the projects so that employment can be provided. Young and women engineers will be included in the governing body of the council. We want to fix allowance for engineers on the pattern of

other government officers. Engineering service should be included in CSS. Engineer Sheeda Muhammad expressed these views at the National Press Club Islamabad in a press conference with his colleagues and candidates for Vice Chairman Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Zargul Khan and others. He further said that the elected body did not play a significant role for the engineers. Earlier, envelopes used to come to the house of engineers and they used to cast votes from there. But for the last ten to twelve years, the current election procedure has been implemented. Digital elections will be made possible. We hope to win against elite club in council.

IESCO Power Suspension Schedules for Today

Soon Times Correspondent
Islamabad:
According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) 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 22nd July 2024, From 06:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Islamabad Circle, COMSAT, Chhata Bakhtar, Park Enclave, Kand Raigson, Kamtrave, ISI, Rahra, PHA-I&II, Kurry Road, CM Pak Zong, Isolation Hospital, Sohndran Road, Ghori Garden, Sharifabad, Burma, Khanna Dock, I-11/1, I-11/3, Metro, PHA-II, I-10/1 Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Faghazia, I & II, Bjanyaal, Top City, Mumtaz City, F-17/1&2, Nozgi, Pindhoun, Commercial Centre, Gulzar Quaid, Khanna Road, Gangal, Airport, Dhok Chaudhary Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle,

Rahmatnabad-I, NPF-II, Melbhoob Shaheed, Park View, Pindi Board, Jail Park, Car Chowk, Mergah, Fuji Foundation, Mohra Nagyal, Wilayat Complex, X-Liar, AOWHS, Dhanyal, UC Lakhna, Gulshan Saheed Feeders, Attock Circle, NASTP, Qaziabad, GBHP Colony, Chhab, Malfozua Shaheed, Muslim Town Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Kursal, Bilalabad, Akwal, GPO Chowk Main Bazar Feeders, From 08:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Chakwal Circle, Dhoda Feeder, Islamabad Circle, F-11/4 Feeder, From 08:00 AM to 17:00 PM, GSO Circle, Soddan Gali, Bagh No.2, Numanpura, Harjial, Numanpura-3, Dhali No-1 & 2, Bagh No-1, Numanpura-2, Kharal feeders 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

Donald Trump says he 'took bullet for democracy'



(Web Desk)
In his first campaign rally since a shooter made an attempt on his life, Donald Trump has declared he "took a bullet for democracy".

The Republican presidential candidate held an event in Grand Rapids, Michigan, just seven days after surviving an assassination attempt at another rally in Pennsylvania.

He was joined by his newly minted running mate JD Vance, who along with Mr Trump was officially nominated by the party at this week's Republican National Convention (RNC).

Supporters began lining up outside the Van Andel arena from 6am local time, forming lines that snaked around 10 city blocks.

In an almost two-hour speech, Mr Trump revisited the attempt on his life, criticised President Joe Biden, and attempted to distance himself from "extremists" on the far-right.

And he made his pitch to the voters of Michigan, a swing state that could be crucial to the outcome of the election.

In 2016, Mr Trump won the state by a slim margin of 10,000, Mr Biden flipped it back in 2020, winning 154,000 votes on his way to the presidency.

Taking a less sombre tone than in his acceptance speech at the RNC, Mr Trump spoke about the assassination attempt, again crediting a sign for saving his life. "It was exactly one week ago, even to the hour, even to the minute," he began his speech.

Mr Trump told his supporters on Thursday night (local time) that he would only recount what had happened once, as it was "too painful" to revisit.

He explained that in the seconds before a bullet grazed his ear, he had turned his head to the right to look at a chart titled "illegal immigration into the US".

In front of the Grand Rapids crowd, he brought up that chart again, declaring: "I owe immigration my life."



Israeli military says it shot down missile fired from Yemen

Most of the injured suffered burns in air strikes that targeted oil facilities and a power station

JERUSALEM

Israeli air defences intercepted a surface-to-surface missile fired from Yemen on Sunday, the military said. It said its Arrow 3 missile defence system had shot down the projectile before it crossed into Israeli territory.

Before the interception, air raid sirens had sounded in the Red Sea port city of Eilat in southern Israel, sending residents running for shelter.

A day earlier, Israeli fighter jets struck Houthi military targets near Yemen's Hodeidah port in response to a drone launched by the Iranian-backed group that hit Tel Aviv. Israeli fighter jets struck Houthi military targets near Yemen's Hodeidah port on Saturday, killing at least three people and wounding 87, a day after a drone launched by the Iranian-backed group hit Israeli economic hub Tel Aviv.

Most of the wounded suffered severe burns in air strikes that targeted oil facilities and a power station, Al-Masirah TV, the main television news outlet run by Yemen's Houthi movement, quoted the health ministry as saying.

Hodeidah residents told Reuters by phone that explosions were heard throughout the city during an intensive bombardment, and Al-Masirah TV said civil defence forces and firefighters were trying to extinguish fires in the port's oil tanks. Israel's military spokesperson said the port had been used by the Houthis to receive weapons shipments from Iran. The targets, more than 1,700 km (1,056 miles) from Israel, included dual-use sites such as energy infrastructure, he said.

US urges people to reconsider travel to Bangladesh amid 'civil unrest'

WASHINGTON

The US State Department said on Saturday it has raised Bangladesh's travel advisory to level three, which urges people to reconsider travel to the Asian country due to what Washington described as "civil unrest" amid ongoing protests.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT
Massive protests have broken out in Bangladesh over student anger against quotas that set aside 30% of government jobs for the families of those who fought for independence from Pakistan.

Police have fired tear gas to scatter protesters in some areas while the government has banned public gatherings, imposed communications restrictions, deployed the army in some parts and imposed a curfew. Dozens have been killed in the past week.

KEY QUOTES

"Travelers should reconsider travel due to civil unrest in Dhaka. Ongoing demonstrations and violent clashes have



been reported throughout the city of Dhaka, its neighboring areas, and throughout Bangladesh," the US State Department said in a statement on Saturday.

"Due to the security situation, there may be a delay in provision of routine consular services," it added. The State Department also said that due to security concerns, US Embassy personnel in Bangladesh are subject to some movement and travel restrictions, which could limit their ability to provide emergency services to US citizens in Bangladesh.

Sports & Showbiz

PCB confirms denying NOCs to Babar, Rizwan, Shaheen to play Global T20



LAHORE:

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has confirmed rejecting skipper Babar Azam, pacer Shaheen Shah Afridi and wicketkeeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan's request for a no-objection certificate (NOC) to feature in the upcoming league Global T20.

"The PCB had received NOC requests from Babar, Rizwan and Shaheen for the Global T20 event. Following consultations with the three players as well as the national selection committee, it has been decided to decline their requests," the PCB said in a press

release on Friday.

The board's confirmation comes after sources have told Geo News that the trio were unlikely to get the PCB's nod to participate in the said tournament which is scheduled from July 25 to August 11 in Canada.

The sources had said that the PCB wasn't in favour of issuing NOCs to all-format players due to the busy international schedule. This has now been confirmed by the board which has said that the decision to reject the players' request for the NOCs has been made in light of the team's "packed cricket calendar."



No false hope for Verstappen as McLaren set pole pace

BUDAPEST

Formula One leader Max Verstappen said Red Bull needed to do more work on their car after McLaren locked out the front row in an eventful Hungarian Grand Prix qualifying.

The triple world champion, winner of seven races so far this season, will start third on Sunday at a track where overtaking can be tricky.

"I mean, for sure they (upgrades) introduced in Hungary) work, but we're still not first, right? So we need more. It's as simple as that," the Dutch driver told reporters.

He admitted his frustration, saying he was "not happy" with his qualifying. "I feel like I probably push harder than I did last year, but it's just not coming any more to have these great lap times. So I guess it just means that we are a bit slower. So we have to work to do. Simple as that."

Verstappen won 19 races last year as

Red Bull won all but one of the 22 in the most dominant season on record.

This season Ferrari, Mercedes and McLaren have all won and a total of six different drivers have stood on top of the podium in 12 races.

McLaren now appear to have the quickest car. "We'll try our very best. Try to have a good, stable balance with the car. And I hope if I find that, that I can follow them," Verstappen said of the McLaren's, with Lando Norris on pole and Oscar Piastri second.

"But I don't know, I mean, honestly, my long runs have been OK, but nothing fantastic or special. I think it's better to be realistic than sitting here and spreading false hope."

Verstappen did not take part in the last two minutes, after the pitlane reopened following Yuki Tsunoda's crash in the R15, and the champion explained that there had been no point going out again.

"I didn't want to drive anymore. I had no tyres, so they were used, so I was never going to improve. So there was no point for me to be in the pit lane waiting."

Juggan Kazim opens up about domestic abuse during first



Web Desk)
Pakistani actor Juggan Kazim also revealed that she suffered from the severe domestic violence from her former husband. She made these remarks while pointing out to the painful chapter of domestic abuse during her first marriage.

She said despite the love marriage, her husband started beating her in the first month and the violent behavior continued till the one and half year.

The famous TV host also cited the alarm bells which a woman should not ignore: it all starts with profanities and then to physical assaults. A woman, she said, should decide quickly about her future when she comes under attack by her husband for the first time.

Pleasantly tired Krejčíková counts post-Wimbledon blessings

PRAGUE

Tired but elated, Wimbledon champion Barbora Krejčíková the post-tournament duties were an enjoyable experience as she looked back on encounters with Pink, Tom Cruise and the royal family.

The 28-year-old Czech beat Italy's Jasmine Paolini in three sets last Saturday to add a second Grand Slam title to her 2021 French Open trophy.

"I haven't held the racket since then," Krejčíková told reporters in Prague as she picked up her outfit for the Paris Olympics where she will defend the doubles title with Katerina Siniakova.

Krejčíková had the obligatory dance with men's singles winner Carlos Alcaraz at the Wimbledon Champions' Dinner on Sunday, but that was far from her only social encounter.

"He (Cruise) asked to meet me, which was fantastic. He asked to meet me!" Krejčíková said.

The "Top Gun," "Rain Man" and "Mission: Impossible" star was in the stands for the women's singles final.

"I congratulated me, he said it was great, and we talked about sports because we are both passionate athletes," said Krejčíková, who is now ranked 10th in the world.



"Ah yes, the royal family," Krejčíková said dreamily before pausing to take a deep breath. "That was wonderful."

"I have really enjoyed the past few days, I have so many new experiences I would never have dreamt of. I find it easy to fall asleep because I'm totally worn out in the evening. There are many duties now, and I haven't slept much, but all the duties are really pleasant," she added.

NEVER PERSONAL
Krejčíková will now start getting ready for the Paris Olympics, starting on July 26.

She will team up with Siniakova, with whom she won seven Grand Slam titles before they split late last year, for a WTA tournament in Prague next week to get ready.