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FIA withdraws appeal against Sanam Javed's acquittal



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) on Tuesday withdrew its appeal against the acquittal of PTI worker Sanam Javed, leading to the conclusion of the case in the Islamabad District and Sessions Court.
The hearing, presided over by Judge Afzal Majoka, addressed the FIA's appeal to the duty magistrate's decision to discharge Javed from the case. During the court proceedings, FIA prosecutor Sheikh Amir appeared to present the agency's position.
Sanam Javed expressed her gratitude to the judge, stating, "Thank you for your kindness in this case." In response, Judge Majoka clarified, "I administered justice, not a favour. Lawyers presented their arguments, and I ruled according to the law."
The court subsequently dismissed the appeal based on the FIA's withdrawal, closing the matter.
Earlier, the Punjab Government, led by Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, had challenged the Lahore High Court's decision to discharge Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Sanam Javed from a Gujranwala case in the Supreme Court.

Apex committee meeting on Bannu incident to be held on July 25: Barrister Saif



Soon Times Correspondent PESHAWAR
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Advisor Barrister Saif said on Tuesday that provincial apex committee meeting regarding recent turmoil in Bannu would be called on July 25.
KP Information Minister stated that KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur talked at length with peace committee members on resurgence of terrorism in KP including unrest in Bannu.
Speaking about upcoming apex committee meeting, he said that policy would be carved out to combat terror threat in the province, adding that a symbolic sit-in would continue in Bannu and the KP CM would visit Bannu on the invitation of the committee.
He lauded all stakeholders who were involved to bring peace in Bannu following violent skirmishes erupted last week.

ECP grants time To PTI for submission of documents in Intra-party election case



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday extended deadline for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to submit its documents following intra-party elections case.
Three-member bench led by Sindh ECP member Nisar Durran conducted hearing on the PTI intra-party election case. The ECP member from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa asked who supervised the elections of the PTI as it was not an organisation.
"The ECP didn't raise any objection over recent election of the PTI. There are few legal as well as technical questions which we intend to answer if we are given time," responded PTI Chief Barrister Gohar.
He said that police confiscated everything which included important party documents, police didn't even leave 'water dispenser' during the raid it conducted on the PTI Central Secretariat.

Mastermind of May 9 unrest confesses to crimes: Punjab CM

She claimed that Zaman Park had been a training center for criminals.



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE:
Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said that the masterminds of the May 9 incidents have confessed to their crimes.
Without quoting the name of the political party, she said in her statement, that its not a party rather a group of people who aim to undermine the state through chaos.
She claimed that Zaman Park—residence of PTI founder Imran Khan—had been a training center for unscrupulous elements, where they were taught how to make petrol bombs and launch attacks on state establishments.
She questioned what kind of peaceful protest leads to attacks on more than 200 military installations. The participants set fire to Air Force planes and corps commanders' houses and showed disrespect to martyrs memorials.
The Punjab Chief Minister also claimed that a conspiracy was hatched to push Pakistan towards default. Sending letters to the International Monetary Fund and revealing the cipher were also part of the conspiracy.
She demanded strict action against those involved in unlawful activities.
ML-N leader and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, in a statement today, said the "mastermind" of May 9 incidents had finally confessed to the sin of architecting and facilitating them.
Maryam termed the PTI an anarchist group, saying its only aim was to harm the state through mischief. She also alleged that Khan's Zaman Park residence served as a hub for terrorists.
"Zaman Park remained the training headquarters for terrorists, where training was imparted to make petrol bombs and to attack the state," she said.
Referring to the PTI founder's injury following which his leg was plastered, she said the May 9 tragedy was planned during

CM Gandapur 'hints' at calling KP Apex Committee after meeting Bannu jirga

Soon Times Correspondent PESHAWAR:
Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur has hinted at summoning a meeting of the provincial Apex Committee — the top security body — in the next two days after the Bannu jirga put forth its demands.
Sources told Geo News in the wee hours of Tuesday that the chief minister would furnish the demands of the jirga before the top body, days after firing on the Bannu 'peace march' killed one and injured several others.
The jirga's delegation, which placed a 10-point agenda before Gandapur during a meeting at the CM House, has opposed the federal government's anti-terrorism campaign 'Azm-e-Istehkam', the sources said.
The people familiar with the meeting also said the jirga sought to dismantle armed groups, empower police and ensure their patrolling at night, allow CTD to conduct search operations or take action against terrorists instead of security forces, and present missing persons before courts.
Jirga chief Nasir Khan told journalists that the Bannu sit-in would continue despite the recent



violent episode and that the KP chief minister had heard all their demands.
"Ali Amin Gandapur will visit Bannu on Friday. The chief minister has also stated that he will call a meeting of the Apex Committee. Five members of the jirga will partake in the meeting of the Apex Committee."
During the protest in Bannu on July 19, people were fired upon, prompting the provincial government to form a body to investigate the incident. However, the federal government has said that it won't accept the findings as Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) people had weapons and used them in the rally, which caused chaos.

PPP files review appeal on Supreme Court's decision on reserved seats

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on Tuesday filed a review application in the Supreme Court seeking reversal of its decision on reserved seats.
Farooq H. Naek filed the application requesting the apex court to withdraw its July 12 decision "granting the PTI its quota of reserved seats."
The PPP submitted in its plea that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was given seats which it had not demanded.
The PPP is the second party in the ruling coalition which moved the Supreme Court after the Muslim League-Nawaz which filed the review plea on July 15.
PML-N PLEA
The Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) filed a review petition in the Supreme Court (SC) against the apex court verdict of July 12 granting reserved seats to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (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.

Premier Shehbaz Sharif sets exports target at \$60 bn a year

He stressed the need for research to make Pakistani products unique and enhance exports



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday set a target of \$60 billion per annum of country's exports for next three years.
Chairing a meeting of National Export Development Board here, he said the Ministry of Commerce should finalize the policy proposals in this regard in collaboration with the sectors having export potential.
He stressed the need for research

and development, innovation, and brand development to make Pakistani products unique and enhance exports.
Premier Shehbaz directed the Ministry of Power to present a comprehensive plan to reduce the power tariff for industries.
The Prime Minister also directed the trade officers in Pakistani embassies across the world to play their role in the promotion of exports.
The prime minister recalled the exports remained \$30 billion in the outgoing fiscal year. He said IT exports exceeded \$3.2 billion due to government's policies, terming it a welcome development.
He said the problems identified by the exporters should be solved and a report be submitted to him in the next two weeks.
Highlighting the significance of the private sector in the development of any country, he said they should be made part.

PTI's Raof Hassan handed over to FIA as court approves physical remand



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
The District and Sessions Court Islamabad handed over custody of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) General Secretary Raof Hassan to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) after approving his two-day physical remand.
The court also approved physical

remand of other PTI leaders including two women workers.
Islamabad police arrest PTI chief Barrister Gohar, Raof Hassan on the Islamabad police on Monday arrested Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar and Secretary General Raof Hassan on the allegation

Brazilian Navy's Chief of Staff calls on CJCSC Gen Sahir Shamshad



Soon Times Correspondent RAWALPINDI
Chief of Staff of the Brazilian Navy called on Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (C J C S C), General Sahir Shamshad Mirza at Joint Staff Headquarters in Rawalpindi.
Matters of bilateral interests including maritime security, emerging security environment and enhancement of security and defence cooperation between the two countries were discussed during the meeting, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The visiting dignitary commended the professionalism of Pakistan armed forces and acknowledged the sacrifices of Pakistan and Pakistan armed forces in the war against terrorism.
Earlier, upon arrival at Joint Staff Headquarters, a smartly turned-out tri-services contingent presented 'guard of honour' to the visiting dignitary.

Stable Sugar Prices

Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday directed chief secretaries to take all possible measures to ensure stable retail prices of sugar

across the country. The minister chaired the Sugar Advisory Board meeting to review the availability of sugar stocks and price trends, said a news release. The minister said

that Ex-mills prices of sugar have remained stable in recent months. He directed the provinces to strictly monitor retail sugar prices, as maintaining sugar prices is the

primary responsibility of the government. He warned that any increase will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Use of AI in livestock

Abdul Hanan Khan

The phrase "artificial intelligence", was coined by John McCarthy for the first time in 1956. AI technology is being extensively used nowadays in the administration of numerous farms (raising pigs, dairy, and poultry). But still, AI is among the least known subfields.

However, with the unparalleled assistance of artificial intelligence, farmers may reduce resource consumption. They can also enhance the sustainability of their feeding practices, and boost up the overall farm productivity—particularly in terms of carbon footprint

reduction. Agriculture with cattle is greatly impacted by artificial intelligence (AI). The preservation of ecological integrity and the maintenance of food security strongly depend on livestock. Livestock farming, both now and in the future, is impacted by artificial intelligence (AI).

Artificial intelligence (AI) is also regarded as a boon to dairy farmers, as it increases productivity and efficiency, while reducing the likelihood of human error. AI can mimic human decision-making and offer interpretations and solutions for the data collected by sensors and other hardware technologies. AI tools make it

simple to track animal movements and locations and gather information about behaviors, habitats, and health conditions.

Some of the areas where AI has been widely applied include animal identification, sex determination, vaccine delivery, and pasture evaluation. Other forms of automation that have been widely used in dairy farms include drones, robots, and blockchains.

However, the expense of development, which demands more infrastructure on the farm, and the potential for automation to replace them are the constraints of the technology.

Political Stability Key to Economic Growth



Salman Ahmed Qureshi

Political stability is essential for maintaining societal cohesion, ensuring state legitimacy, and fostering economic growth. It directly impacts nation-building and state-building processes. However, political instability has become a significant issue in many countries, from developed nations like the United States to underdeveloped ones like Pakistan. This instability hinders development and poses challenges to achieving global peace, especially in regions with complex issues like Kashmir, Afghanistan, Gaza, and Ukraine. In India, despite Narendra Modi's return to power, the government remains unstable. The United States faces deepening political divisions ahead of the elections. Pakistan, however, is in a particularly precarious situation. Following the February 8 elections, Moody's released a report highlighting the fragility of Pakistan's economy. The report indicated that Pakistan's external financing requirement for the current fiscal year is about \$21 billion, rising to \$23 billion in 2026-27. With foreign

exchange reserves at only \$904 million, the country faces a significant shortfall. Moody's expressed concerns about the government's ability to implement necessary reforms due to weak governance and social tensions exacerbated by inflation. The political instability in Pakistan is evident from the ongoing conflicts between the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the Shehbaz government, including attempts to ban PTI and numerous legal battles. This instability has led to worsening internal problems and has severely impacted the economy. The Fitch report predicted that the current Pakistan Muslim League (N) government would last for another 18 months, with a potential shift to a technocratic government if it fails. The report also warned that ongoing protests could disrupt economic activities and exacerbate external payment pressures. An unstable political system hampers governance and law enforcement, leading to adverse economic impacts. Political stability is crucial for economic prosperity and growth. Pakistan's political landscape is currently characterized by a power struggle between political parties, leading to economic turmoil. The Pakistan Muslim League (N) and PTI need to reach a political consensus to drive economic recovery, but both parties are entrenched in their

positions. The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) also plays a vital role in stabilizing the system, but its delayed decisions have added to the uncertainty. For Pakistan to achieve stability and economic growth, it needs long-term, sustainable policies rather than temporary, short-sighted measures. Political leaders must prioritize national interests over personal or party agendas. By ensuring the supremacy of public rights and fostering political consensus, Pakistan can overcome its challenges and build a stronger, more stable future. Political stability is indispensable for economic development, social integration, and the supremacy of law. The current political instability in Pakistan, marked by conflict between major political parties and weak governance, poses significant challenges to the nation's growth and stability. The economic reports from Moody's and Fitch highlight the critical need for robust reforms and political consensus to navigate the financial and social crises. To overcome these challenges, Pakistan's political leadership must prioritize national interests, foster cooperation, and implement sustainable policies. Ensuring the supremacy of public rights and achieving political stability is crucial for Pakistan to build a prosperous and secure future.

Journalistic Objectivity in the Third World Countries

Bashir Memon

Media academics since very long or beginning have been beating the drum of the notion of journalistic objectivity that is fairness, factuality, disinterestedness and non-partisanship in journalism. However, some call it 'fair but flawed idea'. As seeking pure objectivity in the profession of news media is tantamount like chasing a wild goose. Thus, the academics' emphasis on the concept of maintaining objectivity in journalism seems one-sided. Because every news organization decides what to cover and what not to cover. Or whose quote to print or whose voice to broadcast and whose quote and voice to be left out. Moreover, such feelings would also evoke further when one would step in the field of journalism practically. Because suppose by exercising fairly to news judgement and considering multiple sides of any newsworthy event the news-workers get success in staying objective while reporting and writing news, but then he has to face the fences of editorial lines and financial interests of the employer news media outlet. So the quality of objectivity in journalism seems tricky. Rather to say it is situational. Its barometer is very much varying region to region and continent to continent or between in the developing countries one and in the developed countries other. The common editorial lines on the part of news media outlets are reporting and writing or not

reporting and writing against some particular political and non-political entities in third world countries. Whereas, simple financial interests on the part of news media outlets may be reporting and writing in favor or not reporting and writing against such issues which may cause hindrance in seeking government advertisements by the media outlets. So by defying such editorial lines and financial interests the maximum loss journalists could suffer is that they just could lose their job without prior notice which is common practice particularly in third world countries like Pakistan. However, the news-worker's life would not be at great risk while defying the editorial lines and financial interests. However, for seeking pure objectivity in journalism the multi-prong danger the journalist of third world countries like Pakistan has to face with is existing in other various shapes and forms. Some of them like registration of fake cases and suffering through physical tortures when they report and write against drug mafia, corrupt police officers or government officials who do atrocities upon poor folks and inappropriate with public development funds. Added how one

can ignore the local influential-persons both political and apolitical. One can find and observe numerous such example that when journalists write and report some incidents and events objectively which shape the public opinion against

any local influential-person then those journalists have to go through hard sufferings at the hands of those influential-persons against whom negative public opinion is developed in the result of objective reporting. So to teach a bitter and an unforgettable lesson to the rule of objectivity follower journalists those local influential-persons use their personal security guards to beat physically to the journalists and also intimidate or harass to the journalists' families. Even to do so the local influential-persons manipulate and influence to the police officers and bureaucrats in their favor by using personal relations and bribery as the victim journalists could not be dispensed with justice if they complain to seek legal help. Then in result either they have to compromise upon the canons of their profession or other options either to leave the profession or do a long struggle to get justice. And that is also possible if international media highlights their case or journalist associations and organizations stand with them. In the end and in fact the journalists of third world countries are also flesh and blood like other common humans. Thus they are too delicate to bear the burden of lawlessness and other myriad physical atrocities prevailing with impunity in the third world countries for them if they think to chase the wild goose of pure journalistic objectivity which they were taught to walk upon in journalism schools or media trainings.

Imran Khan did not admit to anything about May 9: Salman Akram Raja

Islamabad Web Desk

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) legal counsel for beleaguered party founder Imran Khan, Salman Akram Raja, on Tuesday stated that

Khan has not admitted to any wrongdoing regarding the events of May 9. Raja noted that following the Rangers' action in Zaman Park, it was unanimously decided that protests would occur at designated locations, whether GHQ or any other office. After meeting with the PTI founder at Adiala Jail today, the lawyer spoke to the media, saying, "We are ready to discuss Pakistan's welfare. We want to move forward, ensuring that there is no chaos in the country and that the economy progresses, lifting people out of poverty and



inflation." He added, "The current environment being created will lead to disaster." PTI's legal counsel highlighted the importance of public involvement, saying, "You cannot achieve the welfare of the state by distancing it from the people. It is essential to move forward with the people and their elected leadership." He relayed the PTI founder's message, stating, "The news about an admission is completely false. The PTI founder has not admitted to anything regarding May 9." He maintained that Imran's stance

remains that the attacks on March 14 at Zaman Park and on March 18 at the judicial complex involved Rangers, police, and ISI personnel.

Last night, Senator Faisal Vawda accused PTI supremo Imran Khan of being responsible for Pakistan's current political instability, citing evidence provided by former director general Inter-Services Intelligence Lt Gen (ret'd) Faiz Hameed, linking Khan to the May 9 vandalism incident.

"I cannot champion law and democracy when multiple cases are pending against me in courts. Some time ago, I revealed that Imran Khan's close associate, Faiz Hameed, provided evidence of Khan's involvement in the May 9 vandalism," stated Vawda during an interview with a private TV channel.



Actions Against Power Theft & Defaulters Are Accelerated: Muhammad Naem Jan, Chief Executive IESCO



Soon Times Correspondent
 Islamabad.
 Chief Executive of IESCO, Muhammad Naem Jan has chaired the monthly performance meeting of the Islamabad Circle. During the meeting, he stated that rigorous actions are ongoing against electricity thieves and their facilitators, and the scope of the crackdown will be further

expanded to completely eliminate electricity theft across the region. For further improvement of stable supply of electricity, bifurcation of 11 KV feeders and balancing of overloaded transformers should be done. He further emphasized that providing the best customer services to consumers and promptly addressing their electricity-related issues is a priority. IESCO Chief also issued

departmental actions should be taken against those damaging the institution's reputation. General Manager Operations Muhammad Aslam Khan, Chief Commercial Officer Mahmood Sadozai, Director Commercial Waheed Akram, SE Islamabad Shehbaz Jaleel, and other officers participated in the meeting.

directives to the officers, ensuring that line losses are further reduced and 100% recovery of electricity dues is achieved without fail. Disciplinary actions will be taken against officers who show negligence or delay in achieving this goal. He also instructed that competent and professionally skilled officers and staff should be posted in the offices, and strict

Stone Crushing Industry Is The Backbone Of Our Economy: DC Sargodha

Soon Times Correspondent
 Sargodha: Deputy Commissioner Captain retired Aurangzeb Haider Khan has said that stone crushing industry is the backbone of our economy. Thousands of businesses are associated with it. This business can be stable only with the cooperation of stone crusher, supplier, transporters and workers. Any violation or exploitation of anyone's rights will not be allowed. He expressed these views in his office in a meeting with

representative delegation of stone suppliers and Ada owners. Director Labor and Mines Muhammad Humayun was also present on this occasion. The Deputy Commissioner was informed about the problems faced by the delegation. He directed the Director Labor and Mines to summon all the stakeholders of the stone industry and resolve the issues. He said that the implementation of the law will be ensured and no party's rights will be compromised under any circumstances.

LHC summons Lahore DC on PTI's plea for rally at Minar-i-Pakistan

Soon Times Correspondent
 LAHORE
 The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday summoned the Lahore deputy commissioner and other respondents in connection with the application filed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to hold a public rally at the Minar-i-Pakistan.



being politically victimised for the past couple of years. The court adjourned the hearing until next week. It must be remembered that the PTI had approached the LHC for permission to hold power show at the Minar-i-Pakistan.

LHC Justice Abid Aziz Sheikh conducted

PTI kicks off hunger strike to demand Imran Khan, other leaders' release

Hunger strike camp established outside Parliament House against injustices, says Barrister Gohar



Soon Times Correspondent
 ISLAMABAD:
 The embattled Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Tuesday established a hunger strike camp outside the Parliament House in Islamabad to demand release of the party founder Imran Khan and other leaders. The former ruling party has faced back-to-back setbacks in a few days as its central secretariat in the federal capital was sealed by the authorities earlier

today a day after the party's Information Secretary Raouf Hasan was nabbed along with the other party workers. A day earlier, Islamabad police took Hasan into custody from the party's Central Secretariat for heading a digital media cell and its alleged involvement in running anti-Pakistan propaganda. Speaking to journalists outside parliament, the party chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said that the hunger strike will be observed daily till 8pm as a token

protest against "injustice" and for the PTI founder's release and the supremacy of the parliament. He added that he conveyed his party's reservations to National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq over "illegal and unconstitutional actions". Gohar strongly condemned the sealing of the party's secretariat in the federal capital.

It is noteworthy to mention here that the Islamabad administration sealed the PTI's central office earlier today over "lack of fire and life safety arrangements". In a notice, which was obtained by Geo News, the administration said that the building lacked up-to-date fire extinguishers, emergency evacuation plan, an independent power source for the emergency system, and standard electric wiring. The PTI secretariat was sealed by the Capital Development Authority (CDA) two months ago during an anti-encroachment operation in which a portion of the party's central office was demolished. However, the party office reopened following the directives of the Islamabad High Court (IHC).

SNGPL Intensifies Gas Theft Crackdown: Disconnects 49 Illegal Connections, Imposes 0.58 Million Fines

Soon Times Correspondent
 Lahore:
 Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has ramped up its crackdown on gas theft, resulting in the disconnection of 49 illegal connections across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), and Islamabad. The crackdown has led to fines totaling Rs 0.58 million. In Lahore, 24 illegal connections were terminated. Multan saw 14 disconnections. The

Faisalabad team cut off 02 illegal connections and imposed Rs 0.04 million in fines. In Bahawalpur, 02 illegal connections and 01 compressor connection were terminated. The Gujranwala team disconnected 02 illegal connections and imposed fines of Rs 0.14 million. In Mardan, 03 illegal connections were cut off with Rs 0.03 million in fines. Sheikhupura had 01 illegal connection terminated, with fines amounting to Rs 0.37 million.

Morning shower ends prolonged mugginess in Lahore, adjacent areas

LAHORE
 Heavy rains in Lahore and adjacent areas put humidity to rest, bringing much needed relief to the heat-stricken residents of provincial capital. It was reported that Lakshmi Chowk, Abbott Road, Garhi Shahu, Mall Road, Canal Road, Garden Town received heavy rainfall in the morning, resulting in electricity disruption in these areas. Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has predicted rain-windstorm/thundershower in Kashmir, Islamabad, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, east and south Balochistan and lower Sindh during the next 24 hours. Isolated heavy rainfall is also expected during the forecast period. Hot and very humid weather is expected in other parts of the country.



The PMD has warned that heavy rainfalls may generate flash flooding in local nullahs and streams of Murree, Gallyat, Manshera, Kohistan, Malakand, Dir, Swat, Shangla, Buner, Kurram, Orakzai, Khyber, Mohmand, Nowshera, Swabi and Kashmir. Urban flooding also expected in low-lying areas of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on July 23 and 24. Landslides may disrupt road traffic at the vulnerable hilly areas of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, Murree, Gallyat, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan during the wet period. According to the synoptic situation, monsoon currents from Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal were penetrating upper and central parts of the country and likely to strengthen from tomorrow (evening/night). A trough of westerly wave was also present over upper parts of the country. During the last 24 hours, hot and humid weather prevailed over most parts of the country. However, rain-windstorm/thundershower occurred at isolated places in south Sindh, northeast Punjab, Potohar region, Kashmir and North Balochistan. Sibbi remained the hottest place in the country on Monday with temperature surging up to 47 degrees Celsius.

Bench, Bar should go hand in hand to dispense justice: Justice Jahangiri

Soon Times Correspondent
 ISLAMABAD
 Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) said on Tuesday that if "we don't dispense justice then there is also a court of the Almighty". During his address a ceremony organised by the Islamabad High Court Bar Association (IHCBA), he said that problems faced by the bar must be solved as he also belonged to the bar, adding that bench would also have to play its part. Criticising the lawyers for appearing late in hearings, Justice Jahangiri suggested that lawyers should prepare the case very well and come to the court on time.



He further reiterated that he 'recites the Holy Quran' daily for avoiding any injustice through his verdicts, adding that as much as 80% people expect us to give justice. "I have never gone against the merit, whoever commits travesty of justice is a criminal in the eyes of pleader and the Almighty," he added.

IESCO Operations Circles Incharge Will Conduct E-Kachary Via FB & Telephonically Today: IESCO Spokesperson

Soon Times Correspondent
 Islamabad:
 To provide suitable and proper forum to valuable IESCO Customers regarding redressal of their electricity issues, online E-Kacharies are being held in IESCO region regularly and same are creating friendly relationship among IESCO and Customers. By following same practice facebook E-Kacharies will hold on 24TH July, 2024 (Wednesday) From 09:30 AM to 11:30 AM in all 06 Operational Circles of IESCO. Operational Circles Incharge will attend customers complaints through Facebook live and telephone calls Islamabad Circle customers can participate in facebook live E-

Kachary by using face book ID SE IESCO Islamabad E-Kachary Phone No. 051-9260194. For Rawalpindi City Circle, SE IESCO Rawalpindi-City E-Kachary Phone No. 051-9292675. For Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, SE IESCO Rawalpindi-Cantt E-Kachary Phone No. 051-9292675. For Attock Circle, SE IESCO Attock E-Kachary Phone No. 051-4950343. For Chakwal Circle, SE IESCO Chakwal E-Kachary Phone No. 0543-668500. For Jhelum Circle, SE IESCO Jhelum E-Kachary Phone No. 0544-9270377. Valuable customers are requested to mention their name, bill reference No., Contact No and complete address while launching the complaint.

Political Parties To Submit Their Consolidated Statements Of Accounts (Form-D) For Financial Year 2023-2024 On Or Before 29th August

Soon Times Correspondent
 Islamabad:
 The Election Commission of Pakistan reminds all the heads of Political Parties, in terms of section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017 read with section 204 of the Act and rule 159 & 160 of the Election Rules, 2017, thereof, that they are required to file with Election Commission their Consolidated Statement of Accounts on (Form-D) for financial year, 2023-24 ended on 30th June, 2024 on or before 29th August, 2024.

It may be recalled that Section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides that a Political Party shall, in such a manner as may be prescribed, submit to the Commission, within sixty days from the close of a financial year, a consolidated statement of its accounts audited by a Chartered Accountant on Form-D containing:- (a) Annual income and expenses; (b) Sources of its funds; and (c) Assets and liabilities.

The Consolidated Statement of Accounts to be submitted to the Election Commission complete in all respect and shall accompany by report of a Chartered Accountant with regard to the audit of accounts of a political party and a certificate signed by an officer-bearer authorized by the party Head stating that:- i. No funds were received by the party from any source prohibited under the Elections Act, 2017. ii. The statement of accounts contains an accurate picture of the financial position of the party. iii. The information given above is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. iv. The above statement is audited by the Chartered Accountant and detailed report thereof is annexed.



Macron's political gamble casts shadow over Paris Olympics

PARIS French President Emmanuel Macron hoped the Paris Olympics would cement his legacy. But a failed bet on a snap legislative election has left him politically stunted, casting a lingering shadow over Macron's moment on the international stage.

As he prepares to welcome more than 100 heads of state and tens of thousands of spectators for Friday's opening ceremony along the Seine, Macron is a fragile force - an unpopular president presiding over a caretaker government as it hosts the world's largest sporting event amid heightened security fears.



Iraq eyes drawdown of US-led forces starting September, sources say

BAGHDAD Iraq wants troops from a US-led military coalition to begin withdrawing in September and to formally end the coalition's work by September 2025, four Iraq sources said, with some US forces likely to remain in a newly negotiated advisory capacity.

The Iraqi position is being discussed with US officials in Washington this week at a security summit and there is no formal agreement on ending the coalition or any associated timetable yet, the Iraqi sources and US officials said.

US State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told a news briefing that both sides were meeting in Washington this week to determine how to transition the US-led coalition's mission based on the threat posed by Islamic State, adding he had no further details.

US-led forces invaded Iraq in 2003, toppled former leader Saddam Hussein and then withdrew in 2011, only to return in 2014 to fight Islamic State at the head of the coalition.



Israel sends tanks back into Khan Younis area, 70 Martyred after new evacuation order

The Palestinians were killed by tank salvos in the town of Bani Suhaila and other towns

CAIRO/JERUSALEM/GAZA Israel sent tanks back into the greater Khan Younis area after ordering evacuations of some districts it said had been used for renewed attacks by militants and at least 70 Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire, Gaza medics said. The Palestinians were killed by tank salvos in the town of Bani Suhaila and other towns fringing the eastern side of Khan Younis, with the area also bombed from the air, they said.

Residents of the densely built-up area of southern Gaza said the tanks advanced for more than two kilometres (1.2 miles) into Bani Suhaila, forcing residents to flee under fire.

"It is like doomsday," one resident, who only identified himself as Abu Khaled, told Reuters via chat app. "People are fleeing under fire, many are dead and wounded on the roads."

The Gaza health ministry said the dead included several women and children and that at least 200 other people had been wounded. The Gaza ministry does not distinguish between militants and civilians in its death tallies.

The Israeli military said in a statement evacuation orders to the population in eastern Khan Younis resulted from intelligence information indicating militants were firing rockets from those areas and Hamas was attempting to regroup.

"Since this morning, the IAF and IDF artillery forces have struck more than 30 terror infrastructure sites in Khan Younis, including in the area from which a projectile was launched toward Nirim in southern Israel earlier today," the military said.

Around 400,000 people were living in the targeted areas and dozens of families had begun to leave their homes, Palestinian officials said, adding they were not given time to get out of harm's way before the Israeli strikes began.

Residents of eastern Canadian community menaced by wildfire can return home

TORONTO Thousands of people ordered from their homes in the face of a raging wildfire in a remote corner of eastern Canada can return home this week as the risk to their community diminished, authorities said over the weekend.

About 9,600 residents of Labrador City in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador had to evacuate the evening of July 12 after a wildfire burned out of control, expanding 16-fold in a day.

Many of them drove for hours in a slow procession, with about 3,000 staying temporarily in the 7,000-person town of Happy Valley-Goose Bay, the nearest community with requisite resources, about 500 kilometres (310 miles) away.

At first, only essential workers and their families could return, the provincial government said on Saturday, including people working with the local health centre, the municipal government, the grocery store and the mining company.

The evacuation order was officially lifted for all residents at midday on Monday. "We're breathing ... a big sigh of relief as the fire situation has come under control," Premier Andrew Furey told reporters.

Bangladesh to formally accept court ruling on job quotas after protests

DHAKA Bangladesh is expected to formally accept on Tuesday a court ruling to cut quotas for government jobs, media said, meeting a key demand of students whose protests sparked one of the worst outbreaks of violence in years that killed almost 150 people.

Calm prevailed in the capital, Dhaka and major cities for a second day amid a curfew and an Internet and telecoms shutdown the government imposed after the protests erupted last week.

However, the security situation is still not entirely under control, the army chief, who toured the capital by helicopter on Tuesday morning, told reporters.

Officials said curfew is to be relaxed for four hours in the afternoon, up from three on Monday, to allow people to buy essentials.

The protesters wanted authorities to overturn a high court decision last month that restricted a quota system setting aside nearly 60% of government jobs for some people, such as families of those who fought in Bangladesh's war of independence.

The quotas had been scrapped in 2018 by the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who accepted late on Monday a Supreme Court ruling to scrap most of the quotas.

The acceptance is expected to be published in the government's formal record on Tuesday, media said, meeting one demand made by protesters.

On Monday Hasina blamed her political opponents for violence and said the curfew, imposed on Friday, would be lifted "whenever the situation gets better".

The protesters have given the government 48 hours to meet eight demands, such as a public apology from Hasina and the reopening of university campuses shut when the violence began.

On Tuesday, Bangladesh called the late national flag to educate citizens from Bangladesh because of the violence, with the foreign ministry saying a flight bringing them home was set to arrive in Kuala Lumpur, the capital.

Sports & Showbiz

ICC confirm Women's T20 World Cup expansion to 16 teams in 2030



DUBAI (web Desk) - The ICC Board has approved an expansion of the Women's T20 World Cup to 16 teams in 2030, aligning with its ongoing commitment to equity between the men's and women's games.

The ICC Women's T20 World Cup has seen its participation grow from eight in the inaugural edition in 2009 to 10 in 2016. The number will grow to 12 in 2026 in the tournament set to be played in England before expanding to 16 teams in 2030.

Additionally, the Board confirmed that the qualification cut-off date for the 2026 edition will be 31 October 2024.

The Chief Executives' Committee (CEC) has also confirmed the allocation of eight regional qualifying spots for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026. Under this new structure, two teams each will qualify from Africa and Europe, one from the Americas, and three from a combined Asia and EAP regional final.

Previously, Asia was allocated two spots and EAP one. Excitement builds as the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 is set to illuminate Bangladesh in October.

In its statement, the committee also referenced the recent opinion by the UN's top court finding Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories illegal.

Ahead of the flight to France, Israel Olympic Committee President Yael Arad called it a "victory" that the team's 88 athletes were participating in the Games.

"Our first victory is that we are here and going, and that we didn't give up and have been competing in hundreds of competitions since October 7," Arad told journalists at Ben Gurion airport.

She was referring to the date of the unprecedented Hamas-led attacks on southern Israel that started the war, which has led to protests around the world.

French organisers have stepped up security in Paris where the Israeli delegation will be subject to strict security protocols.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER BHALWAL CANAL DIVISION

- Bids are invited under PPKA Rules 2014 (amended to date) based on Market Rates System 1* for Annual period 1st January 2024 to 30th June 2024 for the supply of water for the current financial year.
- The successful bidder shall be required to provide a performance security of Rs. 20,000,000/- (Twenty crore) to the competent authority from the approved contractors of the Irrigation Department who have got their names enrolled in relevant appropriate category for the current financial year 2024-25.
- In accordance with Administrative Department Notification No. 80 (EWA) 1041/17/2010 dated 22.01.2024 a complete set of Tender Documents can be purchased from the office of the Executive Engineer, Bhalwal Canal Division Bhalwal at Sardogha (Secretary, Tender Opening Committee Zone Level) on or before 07.08.2024 (Wednesday) by interested bidders on submitting a written application to the above mentioned office on payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs. 45000/- (Rupees: Thirty Five Thousand Only) up to 3.00 PM. No tender documents shall be sold on the date of receipt of tenders.
- The tender forms and documents will be received by the Tender Opening Committee on 08.08.2024 (Thursday) at 12.30 PM in the office of the Chief Engineer, Sardogha Irrigation Zone Level, Sardogha. The tender will be opened on the same day at 01.00 PM in the presence of contractors or their authorized representatives who care to remain present on the occasions. In case of non-attendance due to non-response by the contractor, the tender will be opened in the absence of the contractor and will be received and opened on next working day.
- The contractor's firm who desire to obtain tender documents shall have to furnish the original documents to the Executive Engineer, Bhalwal Canal Division Bhalwal at Sardogha (Secretary, Tender Opening Committee Zone Level) including Entitlement / Renewal of their names with Irrigation Department & Pakistan Engineering Council for the current financial year 2024-25, Government receipts for payment of Professional Tax, Entitlement / Renewal Fee Registration with the Punjab Revenue Authority (PRA) for the year 2024, and a copy of the Power of Attorney (valid) on appropriate stamp paper i.e. Rs. 1000/- issued by the BOP with date of issuance and validity along with photo copy of the contractor's firm. The above mentioned documents should also be provided at the time of getting tender form / tender documents. In case of missing documents, bidders will not be issued to the contractor firm. The Executive Engineer, Bhalwal Canal Division Bhalwal at Sardogha (Secretary, Tender Opening Committee Zone Level) will issue the tender form / tender documents after his site satisfaction and verification of all the documents.
- Only Contractor's authorized person having power of attorney can purchase attend bid opening. Contractors who are not present at the bid opening may pay the amount of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees: One Thousand) as a security for the documents.
- All the bidders must sign each page of bidding documents.
- All the bidders must fill and sign the Tender Form/ Application Form.
- The Procuring Agency Tender Opening Committee in sealed envelope or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal, the grounds for its rejection shall be communicated upon request to any contractor who submitted a bid or proposal, but it is not required to justify those grounds.
- Earnest money @ 5% of the estimated cost of work preferably bank guarantee (in the shape of Deposit Call, drawn in favor of the Executive Engineer, Bhalwal Canal Division Bhalwal at Sardogha from any scheduled bank must accompany the tender, failing which tender will not be considered for evaluation.
- All the bidders should satisfy themselves about site, location, conditions prevalent at site and its accessibility because immediate after issue of letter of acceptance from the Executive Engineer, Bhalwal Canal Division Bhalwal at Sardogha, (Secretary, Tender Opening Committee Zone Level) the contractor will have to mobilize to the site of work within seven days and to start the work at site.
- In case of tender rate less than 5% of the Technical Sanctioned amount, the lowest bidder will have to deposit additional performance security / quality assurance security as per Finance Department, Government of Punjab, Administrative Department Notification No. 206/2014 dated 06.04.2014, No.RO (Tech) FDI-2853/VI/19 dated 24.01.2006 and No.RO(Tech) FDI-29/10 dated 04.09.2012 prescribed therein.
- In accordance with Government of Punjab Engineering Department Notification No. RO(Tech) FDI-29/10 dated 04.09.2012 and Administrative Department Notification No. 206/2014 dated 06.04.2014, the contractor will have to pay or less than 5% of the approved estimated (DNIT) amount, the lowest bidder will have to deposit quality assurance security of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees: One Thousand) as a difference between approved DNIT amount and the quoted bid amount, within 15 days of issuance of notice or within expiry period of bid, whichever is earlier.
- The work will be executed according to specifications approved design / drawings approved by the competent authority and P.W.D specifications.
- The Contractor will have to submit the Construction Schedule for completion of work within stipulated period. In case of failure, the contractor will have to pay compensation as per relevant Clauses of Contract Agreement.
- The payment will be made as per actual work done after deduction as per departmental rules, subject to the clearance of work by the ADP Consultants, departmental committee or any other authority subject to availability of funds.
- No interest shall be paid to the contractor on account of any delay in making payment by the competent authority.
- The contractor has no right to claim any interest on account of delay in making the payment of the bill amount due to non-availability of funds in time.
- The Deposited at Calls 2nd & 3rd lowest bidders will be released after approval of tenders by the competent authority.
- If two or more contractors' firms become the lowest by quoting the same rates for this work, the decision of competent authority to accept the tenders for award of contract will be final.
- In case of any dispute, the matter shall be referred to the Hon'ble Secretary, Irrigation Punjab, Lahore whose decision will be final and binding for both parties.
- The successful bidder will have to execute an agreement with the Executive Engineer, Bhalwal Canal Division Bhalwal at Sardogha (Secretary, Tender Opening Committee Zone Level) within 07 days of issuance of acceptance letter.
- The potential bidders can lodge their complaint regarding transparency and fairness of all bidding process on or will help free/online by Email: gnanandp@punjab.gov.pk or by direct application: PNTI Irrigation Zone Level, Old Anarsak, Lahore.

Sr#	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Million)	Earnest Money 5% (Rs in Million)	Tender Fee (Rupees)	Time Limit	Sanction No. & Date
01	Rehabilitation / Construction of Offices / Residential Colony for the newly created Zones/ Divisions in Irrigation Zone Sardogha (Bhalwal Canal Division, Package A)	145,375	7,269	35,000/-	1st Feb 2026	CE (E) Sgd. No. 6200/01/09/2021 dated 05/05/2024

Executive Engineer
Bhalwal Canal Division
Bhalwal at Sardogha
IPL-6869

Javed Akhtar seeks warrant against Kangana in defamation case

(Web Desk) Bollywood lyricist Javed Akhtar filed an application seeking the issuance of a non-bailable warrant against actor and now BJP MP from Mandi, Kangana Ranaut, for her alleged persistent non-appearance in court.

Subsequently, Akhtar's lawyer Jay Bhardwaj moved a plea which pointed out that Ranaut had sought permanent exemption from appearance from court, which was rejected and the same was upheld by the Sessions Court as well as the Bombay High Court.

Israel heads to Olympics as Palestinian delegation calls for exclusion

TELAVIV Israel's Olympic delegation flew to Paris as the Palestinian contingent called for banning the Israeli athletes over the war in Gaza.

The Summer Games in the French capital open Friday against a backdrop of heightened security concerns and growing international outrage over the death toll and humanitarian crisis unfolding in Gaza.

In its statement, the committee also referenced the recent opinion by the UN's top court finding Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories illegal.

Ahead of the flight to France, Israel Olympic Committee President Yael Arad called it a "victory" that the team's 88 athletes were participating in the Games.