



# Daily SOONTIMES

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## Ambreen Jan appointed federal secretary information



Soon Times Correspondent  
**ISLAMABAD**  
The federal government on Friday appointed Ambreen Jan, a senior officer of the Information Group, Grade 21, as the Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting.  
The Cabinet Secretariat's Establishment Division issued a notification confirming Ambreen Jan's appointment to the position of Secretary for Information and Broadcasting.  
Prior to this appointment, Ambreen Jan served as the Executive Director General of the External Publicity Wing within the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.  
Her appointment was made under Section 10 of the Civil Servants Act, 1973, the notification added.

## CM Maryam approves agriculture tubewell solarisation project

Farmers will be provided solar panels to reduce cost of irrigation



Soon Times Correspondent  
**LAHORE**  
Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has granted approval of the agriculture tubewell solarisation project. The farmers owning 25-acre agriculture land will be eligible for the solarisation project.  
The 67 pc payment of the project will be paid by the government and farmers have to pay only 33 pc payment for the agriculture tubewell solarisation project.  
It was announced during the briefing that around seven thousand tubewells would be shifted to solar energy in the

first phase.  
With the collaboration of the federal government, about ten thousand tubewells would be shifted to solar energy in the second phase. The expenses of running a tubewell on diesel are around three thousand per acre while fifteen hundred rupees on electricity.  
Meanwhile, only Rs. 50 per acre would be spent to run tubewells on solar energy for irrigation.  
Punjab CM directed to devise special packages for vegetables farmers.  
Addressing the session, Maryam Nawaz instructed for a sustainable and effective system of supply management for onions, tomatoes and essential vegetables.  
She stressed on providing solar panels to farmers and resolving the crisis of expensive electricity.  
Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz emphasised that the crop yield expenses would be reduced by shifting from expensive electricity and diesel to solar energy.  
She insisted that Punjab's prosperity and development was associated with farmers' welfare.

## Legal action against those involved in deep fake video of Azma Bokhari



Soon Times Correspondent  
**ISLAMABAD**  
Minister of State for Information Technology, Shaiza Fatima asserted to expose individuals behind a deep fake video of Azma Bokhari.  
Shaiza Fatima along with Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) women leaders addressed a press conference today and announced to crack down on individuals involved in propaganda and making

fake videos of Azma Bokhari viral. Legal action would be taken against culprits who maligned Azma Bokhari by creating fake photos and videos using deep fake technology.  
PML-N leaders attributed the act of negative propaganda against Azma Bokhari to a specific political party.  
State minister for IT stressed that social media use for propaganda would not be allowed.  
A specific political party was missing Islam to meet its nefarious motives. PML-N women leaders voiced their concerns.  
PML-N leader Shaista Pervez stated that they were standing behind women affected by propaganda.  
She insisted that political propaganda shouldn't be used against women.

## Sanam Javed among candidates picked for reserved seats as PTI submits list to ECP

Soon Times Correspondent  
**Islamabad**



The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has submitted a list of the candidates for the reserved seats to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), picking Sanam Javed, Aliya Hamza Malik, Yasmin Rashid among others for the seats reserved in assemblies for women and minorities, party sources said on Friday.  
The development came after the Supreme Court, in its July 12 short order in the reserved seats case, allowed the former ruling party to have reserved seats in assemblies, paving the way for the party to potentially become the largest parliamentary party.  
In the landmark ruling, the apex court directed the PTI to submit a list of its eligible candidates for reserved seats to the electoral body within 15 days of the verdict. The ECP should then publish the list of reserved seats

of the candidates on its website within seven days, the SC ruling stated.  
Complying with the short order of the top court, the PTI today submitted the list of its candidates for the reserved in national, Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa assemblies, according to the sources.  
The list includes 67 names for seats reserved for women and 11 for minorities seats, sources said, adding the names of Javed, Hamza, Kanwal Shauzab, Rubina Shaheen and Seemabia Tahir have been chosen for the National Assembly reserved seats for women.

## PTI postpones Islamabad protest till Monday



Soon Times Correspondent  
**ISLAMABAD**  
The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has postponed its protest, initially scheduled for today, until Monday in Islamabad.

Amir Mughal, President PTI Islamabad chapter, said the court had allowed to hold protest on Monday therefore, the party would act according to the said direction.

It merits mention the federal government had imposed Section 144 in the capital and sealed the red zone after the PTI called off protest.

Earlier, the Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday reserved its verdict on the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) plea to stage protest against the government.

It had ordered the district administration and the PTI leaders to discuss the matter of the PTI's protest in Islamabad within two hours.

## Law minister rules out snap polls



Soon Times Correspondent  
**ISLAMABAD**  
Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar ruled out early elections in the country.  
Tarar said that early elections are the wish of the opposition leader. He said that the term of the assemblies is five years in the constitution, and there are no conditions for early elections.  
He further said that everything was going well. The assemblies will duly complete their five-year terms. He also lamented Omam Ayub on spreading hatred against Pakistan Muslim League-N.  
It should be cited that for a few days, the leaders of various parties, including PTI, have been talking about early elections.

## Multiple arrests as Islamabad police crackdown on JI sit-in

Routes leading to D-Chowk blocked with containers by police and administration



Soon Times Correspondent  
**ISLAMABAD**  
Capital police have arrested numerous participants of the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) sit-in at Islamabad's D-Chowk, with ongoing efforts to detain more.  
The arrested individuals have been transported in prisoner vans, and the routes leading to D-Chowk have been blocked with containers by the police and administration.  
Containers have also been placed

at the city's entry points, and major roads and intersections are also allowing one lane of traffic. This has resulted in long queues of vehicles and significant inconvenience for residents.  
Additional containers have been placed under the Zero Point Bridge too, leaving only two lanes open for traffic.  
A heavy police presence is deployed at Faizabad, equipped with water cannons and tear gas. Operational police units have been issued 10,000 tear gas shells from police lines to manage the protesters.  
Heads of three government hospitals have been instructed to keep their emergency departments on high alert until Monday to handle any potential emergencies arising from the situation.

## Hearing of 190 million pounds reference adjourned without proceedings until July 30



Soon Times Correspondent  
**RAWALPINDI**  
An accountability court has adjourned the case hearing of the 190 million pounds reference without proceeding against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi until July 30.  
Accountability court's judge

Muhammad Ali Warraich heard the 190 million pounds reference today. During the hearing, defendant lawyers and both accused, Imran Khan, Bushra Bibi couldn't appear before the court by 10 am, later on, the case hearing was postponed for one hour.  
The court gave the last warning to defendant lawyers on cross-examination. Consequently, the court adjourned the case hearing without proceeding until July 30.  
It is noteworthy that as many as 34 witnesses have recorded their statements while cross-examination of 33 witnesses has been concluded.  
A witness in the reference, former federal minister Pervez Khattak, recorded his testimony during the hearing on July 10.  
Pervez Khattak, in his statement, said "Shehzad Akbar informed that money from Pakistan was sent abroad illegally that was confiscated in Britain and that money would be returned to Pakistan."

## AI policy to be presented to cabinet for approval next month, says Ahsan Iqbal



Soon Times Correspondent  
**ISLAMABAD**  
Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal announced on Friday that the final draft of Pakistan's Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy will be presented to the Federal Cabinet for approval in August.  
Addressing a meeting of the Special Task Force on Artificial Intelligence, Iqbal urged relevant parties to expedite consultations with stakeholders. He emphasised AI's current role in global advancement, stating, "Artificial intelligence is not

the future but the present reality in the world."  
Iqbal highlighted the PML-N government's achievements in AI, noting the establishment of the National Center for Artificial Intelligence in 2017 and the National Task Force on Artificial Intelligence in 2023. He stressed that these initiatives were crucial for Pakistan's progress in this field.



## Preparations for Youm-e-Istehsal

Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit Baltistan & SAFRON Engr Amir Muqam Friday chaired a review meeting regarding preparations for Youm-e-Istehsal on August 5 and directed all the departments concerned to work in harmony to observe the day effectively. The representatives of federal ministries, provincial governments, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir Government and various departments briefed the minister regarding preparations for "Youm-e-Istehsal", said a press release. Addressing the

participants of the meeting, Amir Muqam said that India has forcibly occupied Jammu and Kashmir for over 76 years. After the illegal actions of August 5, 2019, after which the special status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK) was abolished against all UN resolutions and the will of the people of Kashmir. Pakistan will continue to extend its unwavering support to its Kashmiri brothers and sisters, he added. The minister said the voice of the Kashmiris will be conveyed to the entire world and the Pakistani nation will

continue to pursue the just settlement of Jammu & Kashmir dispute. Amir Muqam directed all the relevant institutions to work together in harmony to observe Youm-e-Istehsal in an effective manner. He also advised ensuring maximum participation of the public. The meeting was attended by Coordinator to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Shabir Ahmad Usmani, Ghulam Muhammad Safi Convener of All Parties Hurriyat Conference Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Senior Leader APHC Altaf

Hussain Wani, Joint Secretary Azad Jammu Kashmir Council Ali Akbar Khattak and Joint Secretary Hamid Khan. The meeting was also attended by representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Education and Information Technology and Telecom, PT, PBC, PEMRA, CDA, PTA, Commissioner's Office Islamabad, Commissioner's Office Rawalpindi and Islamabad Police.

### Pakistan and Malaysia: A Strategic Relationship Rooted in History and Shared Aspirations



Sajid Ali

The strategic relationship between Pakistan and Malaysia is a testament to the enduring bond between two nations that share common aspirations and mutual respect. This partnership, built on a foundation of historical ties, cultural affinity, and aligned strategic interests, has grown significantly over the decades, encompassing diverse fields from economic cooperation to defense collaboration. Historical Foundations and Diplomatic Ties The diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Malaysia date back to the early days of both countries' independence. Pakistan was among the first countries to recognize Malaysia after it gained independence in 1957. This early recognition laid the groundwork for a relationship characterized by mutual support and cooperation on international platforms. Both countries have consistently supported each other in various international forums, including the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the Non-Aligned Movement. This diplomatic camaraderie is reflective of their shared vision for peace, stability, and development in the region and beyond. Economic and Trade Relations Economic cooperation forms a cornerstone of the Pakistan-Malaysia relationship. Over the years, bilateral trade has

grown, with both countries striving to enhance economic ties through various agreements and initiatives. The Malaysia-Pakistan Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (MPCEPA), signed in 2007, has been instrumental in boosting trade and investment flows between the two nations. Malaysia's investment in Pakistan spans several sectors, including telecommunications, energy, and infrastructure. Notable Malaysian companies have made significant contributions to Pakistan's economy, reflecting the confidence and potential both nations see in each other's markets. Conversely, Pakistan's exports to Malaysia have included textiles, rice, and other agricultural products, highlighting the complementary nature of their economies. Defense and Security Cooperation In the realm of defense and security, Pakistan and Malaysia have established strong cooperation, marked by regular exchanges and joint military exercises. This collaboration is pivotal in addressing common security challenges and enhancing regional stability. The defense cooperation extends to training, technology transfer, and capacity building, reflecting a deep mutual trust and strategic alignment. Educational and Cultural Exchanges The cultural and educational ties between Pakistan and Malaysia are robust, further cementing their relationship. Thousands of Pakistani students pursue higher education in Malaysia, attracted by the quality of education and the welcoming environment. These students

act as cultural ambassadors, fostering a better understanding and appreciation of each other's cultures. Additionally, cultural exchanges, including visits by artists, scholars, and sports teams, have enriched the social and cultural fabric of both nations. These exchanges underscore the shared heritage and values, contributing to stronger people-to-people connections. Future Prospects and Strategic Vision Looking ahead, the strategic relationship between Pakistan and Malaysia is poised for further growth. Both countries are committed to exploring new avenues of cooperation, particularly in technology, renewable energy, and digital economy. The evolving geopolitical landscape presents opportunities for Pakistan and Malaysia to collaborate more closely on regional and global issues, including climate change, counterterrorism, and sustainable development. In conclusion, the strategic relations between Pakistan and Malaysia are a blend of historical ties, economic synergy, defense cooperation, and cultural affinity. As both nations navigate the complexities of the modern world, their partnership stands as a beacon of mutual respect and shared aspirations, promising a future of continued collaboration and mutual growth. Sajid Ali is an experienced journalist and a National Youth Leader of Pakistan at the Institute of International Peace Leaders. He specializes in educational administration, media coordination, and human rights advocacy.

### Bridging the Emotional Gap: Understanding and Supporting Each Other in Times of Frustration

Zainab Mustafa

In our fast-paced, interconnected world, moments of frustration and emotional turmoil are inevitable. Whether it's a friend confiding in you about a tough situation, a family member expressing dissatisfaction, or a colleague struggling with work pressures, knowing how to provide effective support during these times is crucial for maintaining healthy relationships and fostering emotional well-being. At the heart of supporting someone who is visibly frustrated lies the art of listening and validation. One of the most universally agreed-upon responses from contributors is the power of attentive listening. When someone is upset, allowing them the space to express their feelings without interruption or judgment is not just respectful but profoundly comforting. As one respondent wisely articulated, "Validation is paramount. It reassures the other person that their emotions are acknowledged and respected." Equally important are de-escalation techniques. Many contributors emphasized the importance of creating a calm and supportive environment. This may involve giving the person space if needed or engaging them in positive conversation to shift their focus away from what's troubling them. These approaches not only help diffuse immediate tension but also lay the groundwork for more constructive dialogue later on. For individuals who tend to shut down when frustrated, initiating conversations in a gentle and non-threatening manner is key. Starting with topics they enjoy or showing genuine interest in their hobbies

can help them feel more at ease and open to sharing their feelings. Building trust and rapport is essential in fostering open communication during vulnerable moments. Patience and empathy emerged as core qualities stressed by those who shared their insights. Supporting someone through frustration often requires being patient as they process their emotions. Offering empathetic responses, such as suggesting positive activities or simply being present without trying to immediately solve the problem, demonstrates understanding and support. Effective communication of empathy goes beyond mere words; it requires a genuine effort to understand the person's perspective. Reflecting on their personality, recalling shared positive experiences, or simply acknowledging their feelings can validate their emotional state and deepen the connection. These actions show that you are actively engaged and committed to supporting them through their challenges. Balancing the act of listening with offering practical solutions is another crucial aspect highlighted by contributors. While listening attentively is crucial for someone to feel understood, there may come a point where discussing potential solutions or next steps becomes appropriate. Timing and sensitivity play crucial roles in navigating this balance, ensuring that the person feels supported rather than pressured. Common pitfalls to avoid when supporting a frustrated person include maintaining a confrontational tone or insisting on proving a point. Instead, creating a non-judgmental space where they can freely

express themselves is essential. Actively listening without interrupting or dismissing their feelings helps maintain trust and encourages them to continue sharing. Handling situations where frustration is directed towards you requires maintaining composure and responding calmly. It's important not to take it personally but to focus on understanding the underlying emotions. Responding with empathy and seeking to resolve the issue constructively can help diffuse tension and strengthen the relationship. Recognizing signs that someone needs space versus immediate support is crucial in providing effective assistance. Respecting their boundaries and offering support when they are ready to engage again demonstrates sensitivity to their needs and strengthens trust. Managing your own emotions is equally important when supporting others through frustration. Being aware of your feelings and maintaining a positive outlook can prevent personal frustrations from interfering with your ability to provide meaningful support. In conclusion, the insights and experiences shared by individuals highlight the importance of empathy, patience, and active listening in supporting others through moments of frustration. By validating emotions, creating calm environments, and communicating effectively, we can bridge the emotional gap and foster stronger, more supportive relationships in our communities and beyond. Together, let's continue to cultivate empathy and understanding, one meaningful interaction at a time.

### Cleanliness in Lahore, beyond falls short of expectations, Punjab CM

Soon Times Correspondent Lahore

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said the cleanliness situation in Lahore, Sargodha and some other districts falls short of expectations. Chairing a meeting to review the outsourcing of solid waste management services, she said every nook and cranny in Punjab should put its best foot forward. She asked the officials to leave no stone unturned in ensuring the proper cleaning of urban, semi-urban and rural areas.



She expressed her frustration over the subpar cleaning conditions in Lahore, Sargodha and other districts. Moreover, she said negligence in

cleaning the drains would not be tolerated. During the briefing she was apprised that two solid waste management companies in Sargodha and Sahiwal would soon be up and running. The CM was briefed that at least 361 private companies have reached out to the Punjab government, expressing their interest in taking on the solid waste management affairs across Punjab.





## Agriculture Transformation Plan Of CM Puniab Is A Revolutionary Initiative: Commissioner

Soon Times Correspondent  
Sargodha:  
Commissioner Sargodha Division Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti has said that the Agriculture Transformation Plan of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif is a revolutionary initiative for the development of the agricultural sector. It will have far-reaching results for the development of the country's agriculture and the prosperity of the farmers. Administrative and agriculture officers should ensure that these important measures of the government for agriculture are fully communicated to the farmers. Internship program for agricultural graduates will provide the farmers with thorough guidance on modern farming

methods. He was addressing a meeting on various agenda items related to agriculture in the conference room of his office yesterday. Deputy Commissioner Sargodha Captain Retired Aurangzeb Haider Khan and Director Agriculture Shahid Hussain, besides ADCR, Amhar and Local Government Officers, Deputy Commissioners of Khushab, Mianwali and Bhakkar participated in the meeting through video link. The meeting was informed that the quota of placement of 136 agricultural graduates of Sargodha division has been allocated for the internship of fresh agricultural graduates and so far 106 graduates have applied while the last date for submission of applications has been fixed on August 5. A

report on cotton crop was also presented in the meeting. It was informed that 77% of the sowing target set in Sargodha division has been achieved. 10 Farmer Facilitation Centers have been established in Sargodha Division from where more than 2,000 farmers have benefited from agricultural medicines and fertilizers so far. The Commissioner directed the DCs to speed up the crackdown against those selling fake agricultural drugs and fertilizers. The meeting was held under the farmer-friendly initiative of Chief Minister Puniab, a quota of 150 thousand 720 farmers of the four districts of the division has been set for issuing farmer cards and so far more than 34 thousand farmers have registered for the card.

## Punjab Arts Council (PUCAR) Organize 2-Day Photo Exhibition



Soon Times Correspondent  
Sargodha:  
A two-day photo exhibition titled "Digital Illustration" based on the works of digital artist Syed Shehryar Shah organized by Punjab Arts Council (PUCAR) Sargodha Division was inaugurated by Executive

Director Punjab Arts Council Lahore Ghulam Sagheer Shahid, Sargodha Arts Council Director Asad Ahmed, Professor Dr. Haroon-ul-Rasheed Tabassum, President Board of Management Sargodha Arts Council were present on this occasion. Famous actor Inam Khan, educationist

Najma Mansoor, famous classical ghazal singer Dr. Ghalib Shah, famous anchor host Tariq Abuzar, officers and staff of Arts Council and a large number of people participated in the members board management.

## Faizabad interchange closed ahead of PTI, JI anticipated protest

Containers have been set up on both sides of the Faizabad bridge, blocking all routes to and from Islamabad



Soon Times Correspondent  
Islamabad:  
In response to the upcoming Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) protests, authorities have

closed the Faizabad interchange connecting Rawalpindi to Islamabad by placing heavy barriers. The opposition parties' protest targets

the hike in power tariffs, inflated electricity bills, and the release of PTI leader Imran Khan. On Sunday, PTI leader Asad Qaiser had said that people across the country would protest today for the release of all political prisoners, including party founder Imran Khan, to reclaim the mandate. Asad further said there would be three demands: the immediate release of incarcerated PTI leaders and supporters, peace in the country and to register a protest against growing inflation. Today, containers have been set up on both sides of the Faizabad bridge, blocking all routes to and from Islamabad. A significant police presence has been deployed on the Rawalpindi side to maintain order, while Punjab has also enforced Section 144 for three days ahead of the protests. Containers are also stationed along GT

## IHC orders Islamabad administration to engage with PTI amid protest call

Soon Times Correspondent  
Islamabad:  
The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has mandated the administration in the federal capital to consult with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) within two hours concerning their request to hold a protest in Islamabad today. Justice Saman Rafat Iftiaz presided over the hearing of a petition filed by Aamir Mughal, seeking approval for PTI's protest. Shoaib Shaheen represented the petitioner, while State Counsel Malik Abdul Rehman appeared for the district administration. The court ordered that the decision be communicated by the afternoon following the consultation. State Counsel informed the court that PTI's request had been received and an order was issued. Justice Iftiaz noted the potential presence of another protest in Islamabad, which the State Counsel denied knowledge of. The administration rejected all protest requests within

Islamabad citing public safety concerns. Shoaib Shaheen argued that PTI's initial NOC for a rally was revoked and that they are constitutionally entitled to peaceful protests outside the National Press Club. He referenced a high court decision supporting this right. The State Counsel countered that no order under Section 144 permits such gatherings, prompting the judge to question if the law prohibits large public gatherings outside the Press Club.

Shaheen proposed F-9 Park as an alternative if the Press Club location is not permitted. The court then permitted the hearing, directing the administration to consult and provide a decision by 12:30 PM on PTI's protest request. PTI cancelled July 6 rally. Earlier this month, PTI cancelled its rally on July 6, planned for Tarnol Chowk in Islamabad after getting embroiled in a legal dispute with local authorities over the revocation of the No Objection Certificate (NOC) that was granted earlier to party. PTI leader Omar Ayub criticised the Islamabad administration, stating, "The administration had initially granted permission for today's rally, but police sealed the area overnight. The DC Islamabad had signed the orders; were they under the influence when they granted the permission?"

## Overnight rainfall suspends flight operation in Lahore

Soon Times Correspondent  
LAHORE:  
The heavy rainfall and windstorms overnight in the provincial capital of Punjab, Lahore, suspended flight operations at Allama Iqbal International Airport for several hours. According to Aviation sources, the flight operation couldn't be operationalised from 3 to 4 am due to monsoon rain. The flights could land at the airport around 4 am in the morning. Three flights were landed at Multan and Peshawar while, foreign airlines flights were getting delayed. The flights from Abu Dhabi and Bahrain to be landed in Lahore were diverted to Multan Airport while flights from Riyadh were landed in Peshawar Airport. Qatar Airways' Doha flight arrived late by seven hours at Lahore. Arrival and departure of more than dozens of international flights is being delayed due to severe weather conditions.



Karachi: Syed Maqbool Hussain Shah Sahib, father of president of Tameer-e-Nau Literary Forum Pakistan, designer of the Literary Edition of Daily Manaqib Islamabad, poetess and fiction writer Ms. Ferishta Yazdan, has been shifted to operation theater in connection with liver transplant in Nishtar Hospital, Karachi. All friends are requested to make special prayers for his successful operation and full recovery.

## SNGPL Disconnected 30 Connections & Imposed Rs 1.9 Million Fine

Soon Times Correspondent  
Lahore:  
In an ongoing effort to combat gas theft, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has conducted multiple raids across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad, resulting in the disconnection of 30 illegal gas connections and the imposition of fines totaling Rs 1.9 million. In Lahore, the SNGPL team disconnected 06 illegal gas connections and imposed fines amounting to Rs 1.26 million. Additionally, 02 FIRs

were lodged against the offenders. In Multan, 13 illegal connections were terminated. The Faisalabad team disconnected 03 illegal connections and levied fines of Rs 0.04 million. In Bahawalpur, 02 connections were cut off due to illegal gas use and 02 more for the use of compressors. The Gujranwala team disconnected 02 illegal connections, imposing fines of Rs 0.29 million. In Sheikhupura, 02 connections were terminated with fines totaling Rs 0.36 million, and 01 FIR was lodged.

## Minhaj Welfare Foundation Conducted Free Medical Checkup Of 1130 Patients

Soon Times Correspondent  
Nowshera Soon Sakser:  
In the closing ceremony of Minhaj Welfare Foundation's ten-day free medical camping for women of Soon Valley, it was stated that in the medical camping, medical camps were organized in different areas of Soon Valley, Mardawal, Dhadar, Biakh, Khora, Siddiqueabad, Uchali, Jahler and Khabiki. Dr. Shamim Alam Awan, Dr. Ramsha Masood Malik, Dr. Amara Qudus Awan along with Malik Tariq Mehmood Awan, M. Hamad Shahzad in the paramedical staff and Muhammad Zeeshan Bashir, Wazir Ahmed Qadri in the administrative staff conducted



free medical checkup of 1130 patients. They provided 574 free ultrasounds, 357 free laboratory tests and 814 patients with additional medicines. The speakers appreciated the performance of Minhaj Welfare Foundation Soon Valley and asked to support Minhaj Welfare Foundation in this journey of public welfare.

## PTI activist Aneela Riaz sent on judicial remand

Soon Times Correspondent  
LAHORE:  
Lahore's Cantonment Katchery has sent Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) worker Aneela Riaz to jail on judicial remand. Police presented Aneela Riaz, who is also known as Neeli Pari, before the judicial magistrate and requested the physical remand of the PTI activist. The court sent Aneela Riaz to jail on judicial

remand by rejecting the police request of physical remand. Tahir Anjum submitted his written response to the SP Investigation questions and informed that the accused and her family had sought apology to him and he had accepted the apology. She will be released from jail after submitting an apology letter in the court by lawyer.

## IESCO Power Suspension Schedules for Today & Tomorrow

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 27th July 2024, From 06:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Islamabad Circle, Solhdan Road, Ghori Garden, Sharifabad, Burma, Khanna Duck, Athal, Shalpur, Treat, T&T, Bhara Kahu, 1&2, NIHL, Golf City, I-11/1, I-11/3, Metro, PHA-II, I-10/1 Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Askari-XI, Lakhro, F-Block, Katarian, Holy Family, Bani, Bhadana Feeders, Rawalpindi Canti Circle, PWD II, FECHS,

Mehboob Shaheed, Park View, Pindi Board, Jail Park, Car Chowk, Dhanyal, UC Lakhana, Gulshan Saad Feeder, Chakwal Circle, Chakral, Jund Awan Feeders From 08:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Chakwal Circle, Dhoda Feeder, From 06:00 AM to 11:00 AM 10 MW load management can be done at 132KV Circuit Rajjar & Mangala Right Bank of Power Station Mangala if required. On 28th July 2024, From 06:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Islamabad Circle, Isolation Hospital, Rahara, CM Pak Zong 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.





### Eurostar cancels a quarter of all services, urges against travel

LONDON Eurostar said it would cancel a quarter of all services on its network and asked passengers to postpone their travel where possible on Friday after its rail services between London and Paris were disrupted by acts of vandalism in France. Saboteurs struck France's TGV high-speed train network in a series of pre-dawn attacks that caused chaos on the country's busiest rail lines ahead of the Paris Olympics opening ceremony. "We encourage our customers to postpone their trip if possible," Eurostar said.



### Barack and Michelle Obama endorse Harris in video of live call

Web Desk Former President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle endorsed Kamala Harris' bid for president on Friday in a roughly one-minute long video that captured a private phone call between the couple and the current vice president. "We called to say Michelle and I couldn't be prouder to endorse you and to do everything we can to get you through this election and into the Oval Office," Obama told Harris. "I am proud of you. This is going to be historic," the former first lady told Harris. Talking into a cell phone and cracking a few smiles, Harris expressed her gratitude for the endorsement and their long friendship. "Thank you both. It means so much. And we're gonna have some fun with this too," Harris said. The campaign said the video was the actual call, not a reenactment. Harris' surprise bid against Republican rival Donald Trump continues to gain steam from supporters.



## North Korean hackers stealing military secrets, say US and allies

The hackers are believed to be part of North's intelligence agency, Reconnaissance General Bureau.

LONDON WASHINGTON Web Desk North Korean hackers have conducted a global cyber espionage campaign in efforts to steal classified military secrets to support Pyongyang's banned nuclear weapons programme, the United States, Britain and South Korea said in a joint advisory. The hackers, dubbed Anadriol or APT45 by cybersecurity researchers, are believed to be part of North Korea's intelligence agency known as the Reconnaissance General Bureau, an entity sanctioned by the US in 2015. The cyber unit has targeted or breached computer systems at a broad variety of defence or engineering firms, including manufacturers of tanks, submarines, naval vessels, fighter aircraft, and missile and radar systems, the advisory said. Victims in the US have also included the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Randolph Air Force Base in Texas and Robins Air Force Base in Georgia, FBI and US Justice Department officials. In the February 2022 targeting of NASA, the hackers used a malware script to gain unauthorized access to its computer system for three months, US prosecutors allege. Over 17 gigabytes of unclassified data were extracted. "The authoring agencies believe the group and the cyber techniques remain an ongoing threat to various industry sectors worldwide, including but not limited to entities in their respective countries, as well as in Japan and India," the advisory said. Internationally isolated North Korea, known formally as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), has a long history of using covert hacking teams to steal sensitive military information.

## China says relations with Japan at 'critical stage'

VIENTIANE Relations between China and Japan are at a critical stage, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his Japanese counterpart on Friday as the pair discussed thorny issues including Japanese nationals detained in China, food import bans and semiconductor curbs. Wang met Japan's Yoko Kamikawa on the sidelines of Saturday's East Asia Summit and security-focused ASEAN Regional Forum. Relations between the neighbours have been testy in recent years over issues including territorial claims, trade tensions and Beijing's anger over Tokyo's decision to release treated water from the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant into the sea. But over the last few months, Chinese and Japanese officials have moved to resume several consultative talks for the first time in years, signalling ties may be on a steadier footing. "China-Japan relations are currently at a critical point; advance or be left behind," Wang told Kamikawa, according to a readout of the talks issued by the Chinese foreign ministry. "China's policy towards Japan has always maintained stability and continuity. It is hoped that the Japanese side will establish an objective and correct perception of China and pursue a positive and rational policy towards China."



## UN puts 4th century Gaza monastery on endangered site list



PARIS The Saint Hilarion complex, one of the oldest monasteries in the Middle East, has been put on the UNESCO list of World Heritage sites in danger due to the war in Gaza, the body said on Friday. UNESCO said the site, which dates back to the fourth century, had been put on the endangered list at the demand of Palestinian authorities and cited the "imminent threats" it faced. "It's the only recourse to protect the site from destruction in the current context," Lazare Eloundou Assomo, director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, told AFP, referring to the war sparked by Hamas's October 7 attack on Friday. In December, the UNESCO Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict decided to grant "provisional enhanced protection" – the highest level of immunity established by the 1954 Hague Convention – to the site. UNESCO had then said it was "already concerned about the state of conservation of sites, before October 7, due to the lack of adequate policies to protect heritage and culture" in Gaza. The Hamas attack on October 7 resulted in the deaths of 1,197 people in Israel, most of them civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures. Israel's retaliatory offensive against Hamas has killed at least 39,175 Palestinians in Gaza, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry, which does not give details of civilian and militant deaths.

# Sports & Showbiz

## Pak team triumphs in International Taekwondo Championship



ISLAMABAD Web Desk Pakistan has made a remarkable mark at the 11th SeongNam Open International Taekwondo Championship held in Korea from July 20 to 21, 2024. The Pakistani taekwondo team brought home one Gold and two Bronze medals, showcasing their exceptional skills on the international stage, said a press release. Zena Sheraz achieved a standout performance by winning the Gold medal in the Female Individual Recognised Poomsae category. Her

victory was complemented by Naila, who secured a Bronze medal in the same category, underscoring the strength of Pakistan's female taekwondo practitioners. In the Male Freestyle Individual Poomsae category, Ameer Hamza earned a Bronze medal, adding to the nation's proud haul. The Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) has extended its heartfelt congratulations to the athletes and expressed immense pride in their achievements. The PSB commended their dedication and skill, which contributed to these impressive results at the prestigious championship.

## Resham discloses her real name in 'Mazaq Raat'



LAHORE Resham, an actor whose career spanned many years in the Bollywood, has recently disclosed her real name during her guest appearance on the flagship prog 'Mazaq Raat'. She participated in the programme and talked candidly about her professional as well as personal aspects of life. She said her career started with the nominal appearances in the PTV dramas and she participated in many popular hits by doing some central characters in both movies and dramas. She said her real name is Saima which she changed before joining the industry because a talented actor was already performing with the same name.

## Pakistan declares 2025 as year Of sports' revival, says Rana Sanauluah at Paris huddle

PARIS Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Rana Sanauluah said the Pakistani government has declared 2025 as the year of revival of sports in Pakistan. He made the remarks while speaking at the 11th Commonwealth Sports Ministers Conference in Paris, adding the government is dedicated to promoting sports as a catalyst for social change. He said the "today's event reminds us of the power of sports to unite us, to inspire us, and to drive positive change in our societies". He added that as we discuss the theme "Building Inclusive and Resilient Societies through Sports," he was proud to share that Pakistan was fully committed to this vision. The Prime Minister's Youth Programme is driving this change by ensuring full participation and harnessing the full potential of Pakistan's Youth. "In Pakistan, we have taken significant strides in ensuring good governance and human rights in sports. We have introduced a code of conduct and equal opportunity principles, and launched initiatives to promote gender equality and inclusivity in sports," Sanauluah highlighted.



Recognizing the importance of collaboration across sectors to promote sports, he said Pakistan had established partnerships with the education, health, and youth development sectors to create a comprehensive sports ecosystem. "We are encouraging private sector and public-private partnership to stimulate investment in sports," the minister said. "Pakistan envisions a future where sports is a cornerstone of our nation's development. We are committed to making a valuable contribution to the Commonwealth Games and have already begun planning for the 2026 Games."



## Paris ready to host 2024 Olympic Games under enhanced security

France aims to wow the world on Friday with an extravagant Olympics opening ceremony through the heart of Paris, officially kicking off a Games fraught with security risks at a time of heightened geopolitical tensions. Some 45,000 police, 10,000 soldiers and 2,000 private security staff will ensure the safety of the parade along the river Seine, its banks and surrounding monuments, in an unprecedented display of security. A procession of barges will take nearly 7,000 athletes along the river past Paris's most famous landmarks, while more than 300,000 spectators will watch from the banks. Since the last Olympics in Beijing in 2022, wars have erupted in Ukraine and Gaza, providing a tense backdrop to the Games. France is at its highest level of security – though officials have repeatedly said there is no specific threat to the opening ceremony or the Games. As part of a vast security operation, authorities have turned to powers passed under an anti-terror law, placing 155 people under surveillance measures that strictly limit their movement, according to official data and a Reuters review of cases. Meanwhile, Israeli competitors are being escorted by elite tactical units to and from events and given 24-hour protection throughout the Olympics.

officials say. Scores of world leaders will be in Paris for the opening ceremony, which will be protected by snipers on rooftops. The Seine's riverbed has been swept for bombs, and Paris' airspace will be closed. "Everything is ready!" "Everything is ready," French President Emmanuel Macron said in a video he posted on X. "Even the (Olympics) rings are there," he said, overlooking the Eiffel tower. "Enjoy the Games!" Macron, who won a second mandate two years ago, had hoped the Olympics would cement his legacy. But his failed bet on a snap legislative election has weakened him and is casting a shadow over his moment on the international stage. High security also means much grumbling from locals, after police imposed a security zone along the river ahead of the opening ceremony, erecting metal barriers to fence off neighbourhoods and requiring authorisation to pass with QR codes – to enter.