

Socio-Economic Registry project kicks off across Punjab

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Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE
The 'socio-economic registry' project on the direction of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has been initiated across the province. Punjab CM chaired a session and reviewed the project and handed over the monitoring task of the project to deputy commissioners. The residents' economic status will be registered under the project. The livestock in the villages will also be included in the socio-economic registry. Around five thousand registration centres have been established across the province. Only registered citizens will be eligible for social protection projects. The registered individuals will be eligible for e-bikes, Roshan Solar

Program, Himmat Card, Kisan Card and other social protection programs. The registered citizens will also be eligible to apply for health card, livestock card and scholarship program. Citizens can register themselves through an online web portal www.pser.punjab.gov.pk and calling on the helpline 0800-02345. Punjab CM stated that only deserving citizens would be eligible for the project in the light of authentic data. She asserted that this project will resolve the public crisis and they have made the registration system quite easy for eligible candidates. Maryam Nawaz directed commissioners and deputy commissioners to facilitate citizens for registration.

Justices Tariq Masood, Mazhar Alam to take oath Today



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
Justice (red) Sardar Tariq Masood and Justice (R) Mazhar Alam Mian Khel will take oath as Supreme Court ad hoc judge tomorrow (Monday). Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa will administer oath to the newly appointed ad hoc judges in a ceremony that will be held in the judges block committee room in the Supreme Court building at 11 am. Justice (red) Masood and Justice (red) Mian Khel have been appointed ad hoc judge for one year. President Asif Ali Zardari approved the appointment of ad hoc judges on Friday.

Physical remand of Raof Hassan extended, Arooba sent on judicial remand



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
A district and session's court on Sunday extended physical remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) spokesperson Raof Hassan for two days and sent Arooba Kanwal to jail on judicial remand. FIA prosecutor argued that the transcripts of anti-state video content have been presented to the court. He requested the court to extend the remand to complete the forensic of the videos. It was also brought to the knowledge of court that a visa from India has arrived for Raof upon which Judge Mureed Abbas inquired whether he had any relations with person named Rahul in India. Raof told the court that he runs a think tank, and Rahul, who resides in England, had called him as a guest speaker before in custody for another eight days. PTI social media activist Arooba Kanwal, who was arrested on Saturday by the FIA, was also produced before the court to seek her physical remand.

Azma Bokhari berates KP government's call for judicial commission on May 9

● Says one cannot become a Che Guevara or Nelson Mandela by using judicial cover.



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE
Provincial Information Minister Azma Bokhari has criticised the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government's demand for a judicial commission regarding the May 9 incident. In her response, Bokhari stated that the KP government's letter to the Peshawar High Court, requesting

the formation of a judicial commission was an unsuccessful attempt to hide behind judicial protection. She likened it to a coward running towards the city when facing imminent death. Information minister emphasised that judicial commissions were usually formed for obscure and clarification-seeking matters. She argued that the evidence of the failed insurrection on May 9, including videos, photographs and audios, were already available. She labelled the May 9 events as a conspiracy against the country and claimed that the identities of those involved including facilitators and masterminds have already been exposed. The PML-N leader also commented that the KP government's move to seek a judicial commission was tantamount to admitting their own crimes. She noted that the "miscreant" has a ready acknowledgment of his involvement in the May 9 riots, with Salman Akram Raja also confirming this. Bokhari further challenged the perpetrators by stating, "Run, miscreant, run, how far will you run? May 9 will chase you. One cannot become a Che Guevara or Nelson Mandela by using judicial cover."

Talks best option to resolve issues, Khurshheed Shah tells Imran



Soon Times Correspondent QUETTA
Confrontation is not the solution to any problem. Dialogue is the only panacea for any crisis. PTI founder Imran Khan should go for talks, said PPP central leader Khurshheed Shah while talking to a question. The PPP leader said he did not know about any agreement between the PPP and PML-N to run government turn by turn for two years and five months each. He said there is news that Imran Khan wants to have dialogue, adding, "It is good sign and he should come forward for talks." Khurshheed Shah said PPP always believes in dialogue and Asif Ali Zardari stress that the solution to any problem should be found in talks.

PM Shehbaz announces nationwide campaign to eradicate Hepatitis C

● Prime minister reassures that every citizen will have free access to screening, treatment facilities for Hepatitis C



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
Announcing a nationwide campaign to eradicate the disease, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday called for united efforts to raise awareness and work towards a hepatitis-free future, as the international community observed World Hepatitis Day. "I am pleased to announce a nationwide campaign aimed at eradicating Hepatitis C. As a part of this noble endeavour, our focus will be on decentralising testing and treatment centres, ensuring that the services provided are tailored to the needs of our citizens, in alignment with the global strategy," PM Shehbaz said. The prime minister reassured that every citizen would have free access to screening and treatment facilities for Hepatitis C. Meanwhile, the World Hepatitis Day is being observed worldwide today with the theme 'It's Time for Action'. The theme highlights the urgent need for swift and decisive measures to tackle hepatitis on a global scale. This call to action is reinforced by the alarming statistic that in every 30 seconds someone dies of a hepatitis-related illness globally, as per the World Health Organisation. On this day, the prime minister said, let us stand united in our efforts to raise awareness, support those affected by viral hepatitis, and work towards a future free from the burden of this disease. "Together, we can make a difference and build a healthier and more prosperous nation," he said in his message to the nation. He said the day was dedicated to raising awareness about hepatitis and its impact on individuals and communities worldwide. Shehbaz said this year's theme was a reminder for urgent actions to prevent.

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb on Sunday stressed on importance of economic cooperation of China saying that Beijing supported Pakistan for the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Addressing a press conference here, he claimed that China would back Islamabad during the IMF board's meeting for a new loan agreement. The minister said that Pakistan has friendly and fraternal relations with China. Detailed discussions on energy projects were held with China. Panda Bond and transfer of coal power plants to local coal were discussed during the visit to China, he added. Minister Aurangzeb said robust measures are being taken to improve country's economy. He said reforms are being done in the FBR and in this regard weekly meetings are held under the chair of

one billion rupees has been recovered so far. In customs, through misclassification, tax worth around 50 to 200 billion rupees has been identified. He urged media to start a campaign against under tax and non-tax paying community. He said the government is also working on the simplification of the tax processes to facilitate the business and salaried persons. Through this simplified process, they will be able to respond to our system in a very simple and easy manner without the involvement of any tax consultant. Stressing the importance of right-sizing, the minister said five ministries, including Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan, SAFRON, Industries and Production, IT and Telecom and Health have been short-listed in this regard. He said Prime Minister Shehbaz will take the final decision to this effect.

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events. The PTI had been demanding a judicial inquiry into the May 9 protests which broke out in the country when party founder Imran Khan was arrested last year. During the protests, the PTI supporters allegedly damaged public and private properties and also attacked military installations in various cities of the country. PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan reiterated his party's demand in May 2024 to hold a judicial inquiry into the violence. KP Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur had also demanded to form a judicial commission to

Robust measures being taken to improve economy: Aurangzeb

● He said reforms are being done in the FBR and relief to lower middle class is top priority

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He said that putting less burden on lower income class is the government's top priority. Expressing gratitude to the chief ministers of all four provinces for supporting government's tax reforms agenda, he expressed hope that they will introduce tax legislations for inclusion of Agricultural sector in the taxation regime. He said without including untaxed and under tax community into tax regime, we cannot achieve certainty and ease of collection that is vital for economic stability. Regarding facilitation to the business

community, Muhammad Aurangzeb said claims worth 68 billion rupees have so far been now refunded. The minister said notices will be sent through a centralized system, while field formations will be authorized to collect taxes accordingly. Mentioning the details of tax evasions and frauds, he said we have identified a tax potential worth 600 billion rupees that was not collected, out of which

one billion rupees has been recovered so far. In customs, through misclassification, tax worth around 50 to 200 billion rupees has been identified. He urged media to start a campaign against under tax and non-tax paying community. He said the government is also working on the simplification of the tax processes to facilitate the business and salaried persons. Through this simplified process, they will be able to respond to our system in a very simple and easy manner without the involvement of any tax consultant. Stressing the importance of right-sizing, the minister said five ministries, including Kashmir and Gilgit Baltistan, SAFRON, Industries and Production, IT and Telecom and Health have been short-listed in this regard. He said Prime Minister Shehbaz will take the final decision to this effect.

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KP government moves PHC for judicial inquiry of May 9 incident



Soon Times Correspondent PESHAWAR
The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has approached the Peshawar High Court for constitution of a judicial commission to probe the May 9 incidents. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Law Minister Ahab Afridi said that he has written a letter to the Peshawar High Court chief justice for judicial commission. The minister approached the high court after the provincial cabinet gave approval for the purpose. Afridi said that the chief justice would announce the names of the commission members that would be headed by a high court judge. It may be recalled that the KP cabinet approved on Saturday the establishment of a judicial commission to probe the May 9



Hepatitis-free Pakistan

President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday called for carrying out awareness and large-scale screening for timely diagnosis of hepatitis to reduce the burden on the healthcare system and rid the country of the disease. The president, in a message to the nation on World Hepatitis Day, annually observed on July 28, said hepatitis, being a

silent killer, was a great challenge for the world because the lack of symptoms increased the risk of its spread, thus leading to a huge number of deaths globally. He noted that Pakistan's public health sector faced serious threats from the disease as a huge number of patients put a serious burden on the healthcare system. President

Zardari warned that any failure to take timely steps could multiply the hepatitis cases in the country, therefore decisive measures to protect the citizens' health were inevitable. He called for public awareness on promoting precautionary measures to ensure prevention, large-scale screening and testing, besides highlighting the

significance of treatment and increasing the number of facilities. The president also stressed the need for collective efforts for prevention and eradication of hepatitis and urged the media, educational institutions, teachers and civil society to educate people on hepatitis to achieve a hepatitis-free Pakistan.

Leaders Arrested Amidst Charges

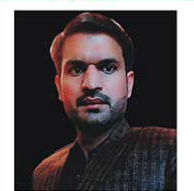


Amjad Rana

The recurring cycle of political arrests and incomplete terms of prime ministers in Pakistan highlights deep-rooted issues in its political system. Structural reforms, strengthening democratic institutions, ensuring judicial independence, and promoting political tolerance are essential steps toward achieving stable and effective governance in Pakistan. Frequent interruptions in democratic processes weaken institutions and erode public trust in democracy. Arrests and disqualifications often lead to increased political polarization and instability. Political instability hampers effective governance and long-term policy implementation. Recurrent political crises affect Pakistan's international standing and its ability to attract foreign investment. Stopping the victimization of political leaders in Pakistan requires a multifaceted approach that addresses the structural weaknesses in the political system. By strengthening institutions, promoting the rule of law, encouraging dialogue, and engaging civil society, Pakistan can move towards a more stable and fairer political environment. This would help create a culture where political disagreements are resolved through democratic means rather than through victimization and repression. Stopping the victimization of political leaders in Pakistan requires addressing the underlying issues that contribute to political instability and misuse of power. Here are several steps that can be taken to mitigate this problem. Ensuring the judiciary is free from political influence is crucial. Judges should be appointed based on merit and protected from political pressure. Empowering the parliament to act as an effective check on the executive branch can prevent the misuse of power. Ensuring free, fair, and transparent elections can help

legitimate governments and reduce political tensions. Legal proceedings against political leaders should be transparent, fair, and free from political motivations. Bodies like the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) should operate independently and be free from political interference. Implementing robust anti-corruption measures that apply to all, regardless of political affiliation, can help build trust in the system. Encouraging dialogue among political parties can help resolve conflicts and build consensus on key issues. Promoting a political culture that values peaceful coexistence and respects opposition parties can reduce the tendency for political victimization. A free and independent press can act as a watchdog, holding all parties accountable and exposing abuses of power. Ensuring the media reports responsibly and accurately, avoiding sensationalism that can exacerbate political tensions. Encouraging the involvement of civil society organizations in monitoring government actions and advocating for accountability can create pressure for fair treatment. Educating the public on their rights and the importance of democratic principles can build a culture of accountability. International organizations and foreign governments can play a role by advocating for democratic norms and applying pressure on the government to respect the rule of law. Providing technical assistance and support to strengthen democratic institutions can help create a more stable political environment. Political parties should adopt internal democratic practices, such as transparent leadership elections and accountability mechanisms. Establishing and adhering to a code of conduct for political parties can promote respect and reduce animosity between rivals. During the current political turmoil and the crackdown on PTI (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf) leaders, several key figures have been arrested. Some of the notable arrests include Former Prime Minister and Chairman of PTI, Sheeran Mazari - Ali Muhammad Khan, Hamid Azhar - Murad Saeed - Perviz Khattak - Shandana Gulzar - Azam Swati. These arrests were often in relation to various charges, including corruption, sedition, and other allegations levelled by the authorities during periods of political instability. While During the tenure of

the previous government in Pakistan, several opposition leaders were arrested. The most notable arrests included Nawaz Sharif - Former Prime Minister (PML-N), Maryam Nawaz - Shahbaz Sharif - Asif Ali Zardari (PPP), Faray Talpur - Rana Saunallah - Khawaja Saad Rafique - Hamza Shahbaz - Syed Khurshed Shah - Ahsan Iqbal - These arrests were often related to various corruption charges. Earlier this month, former premier Imran Khan stated he was considering going on a hunger strike if justice continued to be denied. Recently, the police and the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) raided PTI's Central Office on suspicion of alleged "anti-state digital campaigns" and arrested the party's information secretary, Raouf Hasan. PTI also claimed that its lawmakers were being swayed with offers of bribes or threatened with legal proceedings. To protest, PTI leaders, including Qaiser, Barrister Gohar Ali Khan, and Ali Muhammad Khan, were sitting outside Parliament yesterday. Qaiser told the media that the party had initiated a "local protest" against its victimization. "We don't want to create any unfavourable law and order situation in the country," Qaiser said. "But given what is happening to us — the ongoing campaign, the pressure on our MNAs, the cases against them, and the offers to sway their loyalties — what other option do we have? We have, therefore, decided to hold this protest." Barrister Gohar added that lawmakers did not need permission to stage a protest within Parliament. "This is our right; we are parliamentarians, and we are entitled to conduct ourselves as we wish within the premises of Parliament," he said. "We can express our opinions here however we want." He stated the protest would eye the party's stance against the "injustice, unfairness, and the illegal and unconstitutional actions" taken against them. He added that PTI parliamentarians were staging a sit-in to uphold the law and the constitution, despite having reservations about some "strangers" occupying parliamentary positions. Meanwhile, Judicial Magistrate Muhammad Shabbir granted the FIA a two-day physical remand of PTI spokesperson Raouf Hasan and other arrested PTI leaders to "facilitate" the investigation. Hasan was apprehended by Islamabad police as an internal ministry accused the party of peddling,



Sajid Ali

As the world navigates through the complexities of the 21st century, the relationship between Pakistan and Malaysia stands as a testament to enduring friendship and mutual cooperation. Both countries, sharing common goals and interests, are well-positioned to explore new horizons in their bilateral relations. Here's a look at the future prospects that can further strengthen the Pakistan-Malaysia bond. Economic Growth and Trade Expansion One of the most promising areas for future collaboration is economic growth and trade expansion. With the Pakistan-Malaysia Free Trade Agreement (FTA) already in place, there is a solid foundation to build upon. Future endeavors could focus on diversifying trade portfolios and exploring untapped markets. Both nations can benefit from investing in each other's emerging sectors such as renewable energy, technology, and infrastructure development. Encouraging joint ventures and investment opportunities can also play a pivotal role in fostering economic ties. Malaysian businesses can explore opportunities in Pakistan's burgeoning market, particularly

The Future of Pakistan-Malaysia Relations: Opportunities and Prospects

in sectors like telecommunications, banking, and real estate. Conversely, Pakistani enterprises can benefit from Malaysia's advanced manufacturing capabilities and robust tourism industry. Tourism and Cultural Exchange Tourism is another sector ripe with potential. Malaysia's well-established tourism industry can offer valuable insights and investment opportunities for Pakistan, which is aiming to boost its own tourism sector. Joint marketing initiatives, cultural festivals, and streamlined visa processes can enhance tourist flows between the two countries, fostering people-to-people connections and economic benefits. Cultural exchange programs, including student exchanges, art exhibitions, and film festivals, can further strengthen bilateral ties. These exchanges not only promote mutual understanding and respect but also pave the way for long-term relationships and collaborations. Educational and Technological Collaboration Education and technology represent critical areas for future cooperation. Strengthening educational partnerships through joint research projects, faculty exchanges, and collaborative academic programs can elevate the quality of education in both countries. Pakistani students already flock to Malaysian universities for higher education, and expanding these opportunities can benefit both nations. In the realm of technology, both countries can collaborate on initiatives in digital economy, cybersecurity, and innovation. Sharing

expertise and resources in these areas can drive technological advancements and foster a knowledge-based economy. Healthcare Partnerships Healthcare is another promising avenue for future collaboration. Both countries can benefit from sharing knowledge and resources in medical research, telemedicine, and public health strategies. Joint initiatives in healthcare can address common health challenges, improve healthcare delivery, and enhance overall health outcomes. Agricultural Innovation and Food Security Agriculture remains a vital sector for both Pakistan and Malaysia. Future cooperation can focus on agricultural innovation, sustainable practices, and food security. Joint ventures in agricultural research and technology can boost productivity, enhance food security, and promote sustainable farming practices. Conclusion The future prospects for Pakistan-Malaysia relations are bright, with numerous opportunities for collaboration across various sectors. By leveraging their historical ties and exploring new avenues of cooperation, both countries can build a robust and dynamic partnership. The potential for economic growth, cultural exchange, educational collaboration, technological advancement, and healthcare innovation is immense. As Pakistan and Malaysia continue to navigate the challenges and opportunities of the modern world, their relationship stands as a beacon of mutual respect and shared prosperity.

The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) A Lifeline and Game Changer for Pakistan



Jitkhar Uddin Anjum

There is a well known proverb, "Best friend made the Good time better and bad time easier." China proved it for Pakistan. If we wanna calculate strength of any friendship, China and Pakistan will be best parameters to measure it. Friendship worth more than anything and if it come from your neighborhood then it becomes blessings of God. In the realm of geopolitical strategies and economic development, few initiatives have garnered as much attention and debate as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Conceived as a comprehensive framework for bilateral cooperation between China and Pakistan, CPEC aims to transform Pakistan's economic landscape through infrastructure development, energy projects, industrial cooperation

and trade facilitation. Since its inception, CPEC has been hailed as a potential game-changer for Pakistan, promising to alleviate infrastructure bottlenecks, spur economic growth, create employment opportunities and enhance regional connectivity. CPEC emerged from a confluence of strategic interests between China and Pakistan. Officially launched in 2015, it is part of China's broader Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which seeks to revive ancient trade routes and create new economic corridors across Asia and beyond. For Pakistan, CPEC represents a significant opportunity to address critical development challenges, including infrastructure deficits, energy shortages, and unemployment. Although CPEC was neglected or paused for few years by previous Imran Khan's government but just after his removal from office PM Shahbaz Sharif again re-launched this important life-changing project and we saw different rapid actions and initiatives by him. As we all know Infrastructure is the backbone of any economy, facilitating trade, commerce and social development. In Pakistan, inadequate infrastructure has long hindered economic progress and connectivity both domestically and internationally. CPEC aims to bridge these gaps by developing a network of roads, railways and ports that will

connect China's western regions to Pakistan's Gwadar Port on the Arabian Sea. The flagship infrastructure projects under CPEC include the development of the Gwadar Port, construction of highways such as the Karakoram Highway (KHH) and Lahore-Karachi Motorway, and establishment of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) along the corridor. These projects not only promise to enhance Pakistan's connectivity with China but also improve domestic transport links, reduce transportation cost and promote regional integration. Energy shortages have been a chronic problem in Pakistan, stifling industrial growth and affecting daily life. CPEC includes a portfolio of energy projects aimed at addressing Pakistan's energy deficit through the construction of power plants including coal, hydro, solar and wind energy projects. These initiatives are expected to add thousands of megawatts to Pakistan's national grid, reducing load shedding and providing affordable electricity to industries and households alike. The Sahiwal and Port Qasim coal-fired power plants, the Karot and Kohala hydroelectric projects, and the Qaid-e-Azam solar park are notable examples of CPEC's energy initiatives. By enhancing energy security and promoting renewable energy sources, CPEC not only supports sustainable development

but also lays the foundation for a more resilient and diversified economy. Beyond infrastructure and energy, CPEC promises wide-ranging socio-economic benefits for Pakistan. The project is expected to stimulate economic growth by attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), boosting industrial productivity, and creating employment opportunities across various sectors. The development of SEZs under CPEC is particularly significant as it aims to attract local and foreign investors, promote export-oriented manufacturing, and generate millions of jobs for the youth bulge in Pakistan. Moreover, CPEC has the potential to transform Pakistan's agricultural sector through modern irrigation techniques, improved water management, and agro-processing facilities. By enhancing agricultural productivity and value addition, CPEC seeks to uplift rural communities and reduce poverty levels in Pakistan's heartland. From a geopolitical standpoint, CPEC holds strategic importance for both China and Pakistan. For China, CPEC provides a shorter and more secure route for energy imports from the Middle East and Africa, bypassing the vulnerable Strait of Malacca. It also enhances China's geopolitical influence in the region by strengthening ties with Pakistan, a key ally in South Asia. For

Pakistan, CPEC offers strategic leverage against traditional rivalries and enhances its geopolitical importance as a gateway to Central Asia and beyond. The development of Gwadar Port as a deep-sea port under CPEC not only facilitates maritime trade but also positions Pakistan as a key player in regional connectivity initiatives such as the China-Central Asia-West Asia Economic Corridor. Despite its transformative potential, CPEC has not been without challenges and controversies. Critics have raised concerns about transparency, debt sustainability, environmental impacts, and the unequal distribution of benefits among provinces in Pakistan. Addressing these concerns is crucial to ensuring that CPEC delivers inclusive and sustainable development for all stakeholders involved. Transparency remains a contentious issue surrounding CPEC, with critics calling for greater public disclosure of project details, financing terms, and contractual agreements between China and Pakistan. Enhancing transparency and strengthening institutional governance mechanisms can help build trust among stakeholders and mitigate concerns related to corruption and mismanagement. Pakistan's growing external debt burden has raised concerns about the country's

ability to repay loans obtained for CPEC projects. While Chinese financing offers concessional loans and investment opportunities, careful debt management and project evaluation are essential to avoid a debt trap scenario and ensure long-term sustainability. The construction of infrastructure projects under CPEC, such as dams, highways, and power plants, has raised environmental concerns regarding habitat destruction, water scarcity, and air pollution. Implementing rigorous environmental impact assessments (EIAs) and adopting sustainable development practices are imperative to mitigate adverse effects and promote environmentally friendly infrastructure development. Unequal distribution of benefits among Pakistan's provinces has been a recurring issue in CPEC's implementation. Balancing regional development priorities, promoting inclusive growth, and addressing socio-economic disparities are critical for ensuring that all provinces benefit equitably from CPEC's dividends. In conclusion, the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) represents a transformative initiative with the potential to reshape Pakistan's economy, infrastructure, and strategic outlook. By addressing critical development challenges, enhancing connectivity,

It Is Our Moral Duty To Ensure Immediate Justice To Citizens: DPO Khushab



Soon Times Correspondent
Nowshera Soon Sakasar:
DPO Khushab Tauqeer Muhammad
Naem conducted a Khuli Kachehri in Nowshera. In Khuli Kachehri applicants informed him of the problems and

complaints. DPO Khushab issued orders to the local police officers to resolve the issues. He told the participants that public safety is the top priority of the police. Citizens' justice and provision of justice will be ensured in all cases. The doors of offices of all police officers, including me, are always open to the public. It is our basic and moral duty to ensure immediate justice to every citizen who comes to police stations and offices. DSP Khatib ur Rehman, SHO Inspector Malik Ijaz Ahmed and investigation officers were present on this occasion.

Scarcity Of Medicines In THQ Hospital Nowshera Leads To Public Outrage

Soon Times Correspondent
Nowshera Soon Sakasar:
Free treatment of poor patients of the health department has become impossible due to scarcity of medicines in government hospitals. Supply of free medicines in OPD is limited to claims only. There is a shortage of medicines in Tehsil Hospital Nowshera of Soon

Valley. Diabetic patients are forced to take expensive insulin. Citizens reacted by saying that the present government has also taken away free government treatment from the poor after expensive diagnostic tests in government hospitals. For poor patients, government treatment has become impossible. Due to scarcity of medicines in THQ Hospital Nowshera,

poor patients have been deprived of government facilities. The representatives of the social organizations have demanded from the top officials of the health department to provide free medicines in the government hospital so that the poor patients can benefit from the free treatment of the government.

China greenlights running of three power plants on local coal in Pakistan



Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD
The key developments have emerged regarding imported coal-fired power plants, during the recent visit of Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb and Energy Minister Owais Lehgari to China.

According to sources, China has given the green light to convert three imported coal-run power plants to use local coal. This decision comes as these plants are among the most expensive in terms of electricity production in Pakistan. The 1320-megawatt power plants in question include Sahival Coal Power

Plant, Hub Power Plant and Port Qasim Power Plant. All of these currently operate on imported coal and generating costly electricity within Pakistan's energy basket. Sources indicated that China has also responded positively to the Pakistani delegation regarding the re-profiling of these three coal power plants. It has been confirmed that a procedural framework for advancing the issues related to the imported coal-run power plants has been devised. Chinese authorities have assured the Pakistani delegation of their full support concerning Panda Bonds. This visit comes at a critical time when Pakistan is facing a severe electricity crisis exacerbated by capacity payments to Independent Power Producers (IPPs). Ongoing meetings between Pakistani and Chinese officials will address the conversion, re-profiling, and other related issues of the three power plants.

Heavy rain lashes Lahore, turns weather pleasant



Soon Times Correspondent
LAHORE
Heavy monsoon rain lashed Lahore and its adjoining areas in the wee hours of Sunday which inundated low-lying areas and disrupted the power supply. The rain was reported from different parts of the city including Shimla

Pahari, Lakshmi Chowk, Abbot Road, Canal Road, Qartaba Chowk, Davies Road, Upper Mall and several other localities. The spell of rain in several parts of Lahore and adjoining areas provided relief to the weather-beaten people. Rain caused disruption of electricity in

parts of Lahore as dozens of feeders of the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) tripped, plunging most parts of the city into darkness. A heavy downpour in several areas of the inundated roads and streets in the provincial capital and motorists faced immense difficulties while trying to carry on with their routines. Rain caused disruption of electricity in parts of Lahore as dozens of feeders of the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) tripped. The Met Office has predicted more rain in the city during next 24 hours. The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has predicted more rain across the country from today till Wednesday. As the rains proclaim the onset of monsoon, the PMD has warned that torrential rains may cause flash floods, urban flooding and landslides in the vulnerable areas.

Sahil Adeem is an ignorant person, that person fills the minds of young people with poison, Jaseem Ahmed Bhutto, Allah Nawaz Yousafani,

Soon Times Correspondent
Islamabad
Sahil Adeem is an ignorant person, that person fills the minds of young people with poison. Talking about Sahil Adeem on behalf of Sindh Lok Saath in Islamabad, Sahil Adeem said that Sindh is used to hand over their girls to Chaudhris. This person has attacked the beautiful and ancient culture of the world. This ignorant person has attacked the honor of Sindh. Sindh People will send a legal notice to Sahil Adeem if we don't free ourselves from fanatical people, this ignorant person will throw lies and mud in front of the people of



every province. The Sindh government should file an FIR in Karachi on Sahil Adeem. Sindh Government should become a party and take legal action against this person. Sahil Adeem has made a false propaganda about a civilization that is

5,000 years old. Sahil Adeem does not know who is Sindh. Your village was protected by the Sindh Sahil Adeem has no right to make false accusations against the entire nation. Sahil Adeem has become a so-called religious scholar. He is a mental patient. He was not given a rein. The friends of Sindh Lok Saath have appealed to the Sindh government to take legal action against this person. Among the friends who participated in Sindh Lok Saath Islamabad are Jaseem Ahmed Bhutto, Allah Nawaz Yousafani, Ali Hasan Abbasi Zulfikar Ali Mullah Shah Muhammad Dathu Sanaullah Mangi Salahuddin Bhutto Arshad Ali Bhiyo Ali Bakhsish Junjani



PTI to protest nationwide on Aug 5 for Imran's release, inflation relief

Soon Times Correspondent
Islamabad
The country is bracing for a fresh round of protests as Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has announced to take to streets across Pakistan on August 5, demanding the release of its founder Imran Khan and a relief for inflation-broken masses. The former ruling party has been calling for Imran's release, who has been behind bars for over a year. The deposed prime minister was arrested from Lahore on August 5, 2023, after a court sentenced him to three years in prison for illegally selling state gifts. The protest call was made by PTI stalwart Asad Qaiser during a press conference on Sunday, jointly addressed by the party's Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan and others in Islamabad. "August 5 marks the day of PTI founder's arrest, we will stage protests on that day," Qaiser said while referring to the deposed prime minister's arrest in the Toshakhana case. PTI members facing a vicious witch-hunt' Lamenting the indiscriminate crackdown against the party, the former National Assembly speaker alleged that the PTI lawmakers and social media activists were currently facing a vicious witch-hunt. "This crackdown is being done after the

Supreme Court's verdict [on the reserved seats]," he said, urging the apex court to take a suo motu notice on the matter. The Supreme Court, in its short order on July 12, allowed the PTI to receive seats in the assemblies reserved for women and minorities. 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. However, the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) filed a revision petition against the SC ruling declaring the PTI eligible for the reserved seats. As the authorities continue to round up PTI leaders and activists in different cases, Qaiser said that "baseless cases" against them should be stopped. He alleged that "41 MNAs are being forced to quit the party". He ensured that the parliament would lose its superior status if parliamentarians were being insulted in such a way. "We also invite all political parties to sit with us against the imposition of a 'fake and mandate-less government'".

SNGPL Intensifies Gas Theft Crackdown: Disconnects 79 Connections

Soon Times Correspondent
Lahore
In an ongoing effort to curb gas theft, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has conducted multiple raids across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad, resulting in the disconnection of 79 illegal gas connections and the imposition of Rs 1.6 million in fines. In Lahore, SNGPL teams disconnected 02 connections due to illegal gas usage and another for the use of a compressor. In Multan, 05 connections were cut off for illegal gas usage. Faisalabad's regional team disconnected 16 connections, booking Rs 0.2 million in fines. Bahawalpur saw 02 disconnections due to compressor use. In Gujranwala, 04 connections were terminated

for illegal use, with fines totaling Rs 0.13 million. Sheikhpura had 01 disconnection, accompanied by a Rs 0.19 million fine. In Rawalpindi and Islamabad, 02 and 01 connections, respectively, were disconnected for illegal usage. Sialkot's team cut off 03 connections, including 02 for compressor use, imposing Rs 0.02 million in fines. In Sardodha, 03 connections were disconnected for illegal gas use. In Sahival, 02 for compressor use. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mardan's team disconnected 08 connections for illegal use and fined offenders Rs 0.66 million. Peshawar recorded 26 disconnections, including 01 for compressor use, with fines amounting to Rs 0.64 million.

Chief Executive IESCO Will Listen To Complaints Tomorrow Via FB Live & Telephone: IESCO Spokesman

Soon Times Correspondent
Islamabad:
Chief Executive IESCO Muhammad Naem Jan will conduct Facebook live E Kachary on Tuesday 30th July, 2024 From 01:00 PM to 03:00 PM. Consumers can contact Chief Executive IESCO via Facebook ID CEO-

IESCO E-Kachery or call at Tel No. 051-9253105 according to above given scheduled to register and resolve their electricity-related issues. While registering complaints, customers are required to provide their name, bill reference number, and contact number.

IESCO Power Suspension Schedules For Today

Soon Times Correspondent
Islamabad:
According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 29th July 2024, From 06:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Islamabad Circle, Comst, Chatta Bakhtawar, Park Enclosure, Kandarigaan, Tramri, ISI, Rahara, PHA I&II, Kurry Road, CM Pak Zong, Isolation Hospital, Fazahia, I&II, Bajinval, Top City, Mumtaz City, F-17/I&2, Nogzi, Athal, Shahpur, Tret, Bhara Kaho I&II, NIH, Golf Colony, FSH, I-8/4, I-11/1, I-11/3, METRO, PHA-II, I-10/1 Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Ratta, Pandhaon, Ghosia Colony, P&T

Winy, Jhangi, EME Complex Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, NPTI, Mehboob Shaheed, Park View, Pindi Board, Jail Park, Car Chowk, Qureshiabad, Garja, I, Haya, Gulshan Fatima, Ranyal, Moort Feeders, Attock Circle, Manser, Haji Shah, Kamra Rural, Hamed Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Dhadial Express Feeder. From 08:00 AM to 12:00 Noon, Islamabad Circle, PC, TDCP, MCM, Gharial, Kohala, Sunny Bank Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Dhoda Feeder. From 09:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Attock Circle, Chhab, Mahfuz Shaheed 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.

Divers attempt to reach sunken Philippine oil tanker



Manila
Divers will attempt to inspect the hull of a Philippine tanker carry 1.4 million litres of industrial fuel oil that sank off Manila as authorities race to avert an ecological catastrophe, the coast guard said.

The MT Terra Nova sank in bad weather in the busy waterway early Thursday, killing one crew member and leaving the country potentially facing its worst oil spill disaster.

"The weather is still bad but that is their goal for today, to conduct diving operations to determine the position of the ship and to check if there is a leak," Coast Guard spokesman Rear Admiral Armando Balilo.

US to announce military command revamp in Japan, official says



TOKYO
The United States will unveil a major revamp of its military command structure in Japan and other measures to deepen defence ties with its Asian ally at high-level security talks in Tokyo on Sunday, a US official said.

The overhaul comes as Tokyo looks to establish a new joint headquarters to oversee its armed forces by March to coordinate better with Washington on growing regional threats they see emanating from China and North Korea.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin will hold talks with their Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa and Defence Minister Minoru Kihara later.



At least 30 dead, over 100 injured in Gaza school air strike, Israel says targeted militants

Media said 15 children and 8 women were among those killed in the strike in Deir Al-Balah town

CAIRO/JERUSALEM GAZA
Web Desk
At least 30 Palestinians were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a school housing displaced people in Gaza. Palestinian health officials said, an attack that Israel said targeted militants who were using the compound.

The Hamas-run government media office said 15 children and eight women were among those killed in the strike in the central town of Deir Al-Balah. More than 100 people were wounded, the media office and the Gaza health ministry said.

Israel's military said it had targeted militants operating there and that it had taken steps to reduce the risk to civilians. At Al-Aqsa Hospital in Deir Al-Balah, ambulances rushed the wounded in for treatment. Some people arrived on foot, their clothes stained with blood.

Reuters footage showed people returning to the site of the bombing to check on their belongings, and fires burning in the area. Walls were blasted and debris scattered in the schoolyard, where some cars were damaged.

Russian shelling kills five in Ukrainian regions, one dead on Russian side of border

KYIV
Russian shelling killed at least five civilians in separate regions of Ukraine, officials said.

In the Kherson region, in Ukraine's south, officials said three people were killed, one in the administrative centre also called Kherson, one outside the city and one near the city of Dnysivka to the north.

Kherson region was occupied in the first days



of Russia's February 2022 invasion, but Ukrainian troops recaptured large swathes of it later in the year.

Russian troops continue to shell Ukrainian-held areas from new positions.

In the northeastern Sumy region, a boy shot at frequently under Russian attack, a 14-year-old boy was killed and 12 other people wounded in a rocket attack on the small town of Hlukhiv, the Ukraine prosecutor's office said.

11 killed in rocket attack in Israeli-occupied Golan Heights



(Web Desk)
At least 11 people have been killed and 19 others wounded in a rocket attack on a football pitch in the town of the Majdal Shams in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, Israeli authorities said.

Israel's military spokesman Daniel Hagari said children were among those killed and accused the Lebanese group Hezbollah of carrying out the attack on but the group denied any involvement.

"Our intelligence is clear. Hezbollah is responsible for the killing of innocent children," Hagari said.

"We will prepare for a response against Hezbollah... we will act," he said.

Hezbollah swiftly denied responsibility for the attack on Saturday. The group said in a statement it "categorically denies the allegations reported by certain enemy media and various media platforms concerning the targeting of Majdal Shams".

"The Islamic Resistance has no connection to this incident," it said, referring to its military wing.

The Iran-aligned group has been exchanging fire with Israeli forces in areas near the Israel-Lebanon border since October 8, when Israel launched its war on Gaza. The cross-border attacks, which Hezbollah said it launched in solidarity with the Palestinian people amid Israel's war on Gaza, have led to fears of a larger regional conflagration.

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said he would fly home early from his trip to the United States, where he met several senior US officials.

"Immediately upon learning of the disaster in Majdal Shams, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu directed that his return to Israel be brought forward as quickly as possible," Netanyahu's office said in a post on X.

Sports & Showbiz

Pakistan to tour South Africa in December for T20I, ODI, Test series



Why Aamina Sheikh took long break from acting

(Web Desk)
Renowned Pakistani actor Aamina Sheikh is planning for a grand comeback to the big screen in the much awaited 'Jo Bachay Hain Sang Samait Lo' series on Netflix.

She is a dedicated mother to two children: a boy from her present marriage and a daughter, Meisahl, from her previous marriage to actor Mohib Mirza.

She is well-known for her outstanding performances and commitment to advancing the arts and culture.

The actor has always played a helping role in raising her kids, including reading stories to them during the COVID-19 pandemic and participating in other enriching activities.

PALLEKELE
New head coach Gantam Gambhir and T20 captain Suryakumar Yadav enjoyed a winning start as India secured a 43-run victory over hosts Sri Lanka to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match Twenty20 series.

With batting stalwart Virat Kohli, tests and One-Day International skipper Rohit Sharma and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja quitting T20 internationals after India's T20 World Cup triumph last month, Yashviji Jaiswal and new T20 vice-captain Shubman Gill opened the innings for the visitors in Pallekele.

Put into bat after Sri Lanka won the toss, India got off to a lightning start in the powerplay with a 74-run opening stand between Jaiswal (40) and Gill (34). But they lost the pair as Dilshan Madushanka and Wanindu Hasaranga took two wickets in two balls.

Suryakumar (58), who was appointed India's T20 captain last week ahead of all-rounder Hardik Pandya, led from the front, notching his 20th T20 fifty in just 22 deliveries before being trapped lbw by pacer Matheesha Pathirana.

Pathirana then struck in quick succession to dismiss Pandya (9) and Riyan Parag (7) with a searing yorker and lbw, respectively.

Pathirana continued to shine with the ball as he sent Rishabh Pant packing when the wicketkeeper-batter was just one run shy of a half-century, to restrict India to a total of 213.

Sri Lanka's chase was off to a flier with an 84-run opening partnership between Pathum Nissanka (79) and Kusal Mendis (45). Arshdeep Singh provided India with a much-needed breakthrough by taking out Kusal.

Emotional Dressel spearheads US to first Olympic gold in



PARIS
A formidable United States spearheaded by an emotional Caleb Dressel stormed to the men's 4x100m Olympic freestyle relay title on Saturday for the country's first gold in Paris.

The quartet of Jack Aley, Chris Guiliano, Hunter Armstrong and Dressel came home in 3min 09.28sec with Australia taking silver in 3:10.35 and Italy bronze in 3:10.70.

The Americans, who are reigning champions, had their work cut out after the opening leg with Chinese 100m world record holder Pan Zhanle putting in a scorching two laps.

But the US hauled themselves back into contention with Dressel powering them to the finish line.

Kyle Chalmers put in a cracking final leg to hand Australia silver, with his 46:59 the fastest split of any swimmer.

China, who are competing under a doping cloud, finished out of the medals in fourth.

The United States have long dominated the event, winning 10 of the 14 times it has been on the Olympic programme before Paris.

For Dressel, 27, it was his eighth gold medal from three Olympics, and he was tearful in the celebrations.

"I mean, you can't help it. You can't explain this moment. So you're on the podium watching the flag go up, Hunter (crying) actually happened before the flag went up. So it's really special seeing that," he said.

Dressel won five golds in Tokyo three years ago but took time out from the sport before coming back in time to qualify.

He appreciated seeing his younger team-mates Guiliano and Aley win their first Olympic golds.

"I remember how it was for me with my first gold. I mean, I lost it."

"No-one can take that away from me," he added.

There was more emotion for Dressel when he was able to celebrate with his wife Megan and their

Osaka looking to turbo-charge comeback at Paris Olympics

PARIS
Japan's Naomi Osaka lit the Olympic cauldron in Tokyo three years ago but she has it all to prove in Paris as she continues her slow-burning return to tennis.

The four-time Grand Slam champion begins her Paris Games campaign against Germany's Angelique Kerber on

Saturday and she will be hoping for a change of fortunes after a difficult few months.

Osaka returned to tennis late last year after taking 15 months out for the birth of her daughter Shai, and her comeback has not yet lived up to her earlier high standards.

TENDER NOTICE / INVITATION TO BIDS

Sealed tenders/Bids are required from well reputed Companies/ Firms/ Pharmacies/ Authorized Distributors and Suppliers having experience with Public sectors as Contractor registered with relevant Tax departments (Active Status) for the Fume work Contracts of following items for Financial Year 2024-25 (Extendable for 03 Months) under Punjab Procurement Rules 2014 (Amended till date).

SR. NO.	NAME OF TENDER	BID SECURITY (PKR)	BID ESTIMATED PRICE	BID SUBMISSION DATE AND TIME	BID OPENING DATE AND TIME
1	Local Purchase of Medicines/ Surgical Disposables etc. (Day to Day Basis) Hospital Regular LP/Secular School Program (SSP) LP Medicines (Zakat Medicines)	2% of Estimated Price		13.08.2024 Till 12:00 PM	13.08.2024 At 12:30 PM
2	Supply and Services of Medical Gases	2% of Estimated Price		13.08.2024 Till 12:00 PM	13.08.2024 At 12:30 PM
3	General store items	2% of Estimated Price		13.08.2024 Till 12:00 PM	13.08.2024 At 12:30 PM
4	Printing items	2% of Estimated Price		13.08.2024 Till 12:00 PM	13.08.2024 At 12:30 PM
5	Bedding & Clothing items	2% of Estimated Price		13.08.2024 Till 12:00 PM	13.08.2024 At 12:30 PM
6	X-Ray Films and Fixers/ Developers	2% of Estimated Price		13.08.2024 Till 12:00 PM	13.08.2024 At 12:30 PM
7	Diagnostics and Surgical Items	2% of Estimated Price		13.08.2024 Till 12:00 PM	13.08.2024 At 12:30 PM
8	Lab Chemicals & Kits	2% of Estimated Price		13.08.2024 Till 12:00 PM	13.08.2024 At 12:30 PM
9	Blood Bank items	2% of Estimated Price		13.08.2024 Till 12:00 PM	13.08.2024 At 12:30 PM
10	Office Stationery & Computer Stationery items	2% of Estimated Price		13.08.2024 Till 12:00 PM	13.08.2024 At 12:30 PM

- Bidding documents containing the detailed specifications, eligibility criteria of bidders, technical and financial evaluation criteria, estimated price along with other necessary documents, shall be available at Punjab Procurement Rules 2014 (Amended till date) from the office of MS THO Hospital Pajjan or may be obtained on payment of Rs. 1000/- (Non-refundable) from the office of MS THO Hospital Pajjan or 25 days before the closing date of submission of bids.
- Sealed bids along with samples as required under PPRR Rule 38-(2a) must be drop in the tender box placed at office of undersigned till 11th August, 2024 up to 12:00 P.M. The bids received till the stipulated date & time shall be opened on the same day at office of undersigned at 12:30 P.M in the presence of the bidders and their authorized representatives.
- Single Stage - Two Envelopes bidding procedure shall be applied as per Punjab Procurement Rules, 2014 amended till date.
- The Procuring agency reserves the right to reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of bid or proposal under PPRR rule 35.
- In case of finalization of contract contracts of any of above-mentioned packages by primary & Secondary Health care Department, Contract (s) may be cancelled through notification and shall be challengeable in a court of law. The contractors or bidders shall be bound to accept and abide by any latest declassification, Guidelines/policies issued by relevant authorities from time to time will be followed by both (Procuring Agency and successful bidders).
- The Procuring agency has the due right to disqualify a supplier or contractor if it finds at any stage that information submitted by him was false/inaccurate/incomplete under PPRR rule 19.
- In an event where the last date for submission of bids is declared a public holiday the due date for submission and opening of bids shall be the same appointed timings and venue.

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT
TEHSIL HEADQUARTER HOSPITAL PIPLAN
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