



# Daily SOON TIMES

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## Maryam advocates Punjab Defamation Act amid misuse of social, mainstream media

### Says initiative mandatory to check the practice of levelling unfounded allegations



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Thursday described the recently-introduced defamation law as a need of the hour and wondered how one could oppose the initiative amid an unchecked trend of levelling baseless accusations against others. She promised not to allow anyone to take law into their own hands, as she expressed serious concerns over a recent mob lynching in Swat and other similar incidents in the country. Citing the trend of mob justice where people within minutes assemble and don't hesitate killing the others without

checking the facts, the chief minister warned that the practice would endanger the lives of everyone and said there was an urgent need to stop the practice. GIVE PROOF TO PROVE ALLEGATION Maryam, who was addressing an Itchad Ban ul Mistsmeem Conference, cited the misuse of mainstream and social media as the reason for introducing the Punjab Defamation Act. The chief minister said she was unable to understand those opposing the legislation, meaning that they were against the law but won't stop defaming others. She said no one should experience politically-

motivated character assassination and added that the issue would be settled in case of providing a proof to substantiate an allegation. One would be punished if the purpose of hurling accusation is just to blame the other, the chief minister said, urging to provide evidence if any allegation is made. The chief minister listed the practice as a disease which, she said, spread due to a complete absence of accountability. Maryam cited the situation faced by the Sharif family for settling political score in 2018 as an example and narrated how a political party—as she avoided naming the PTI—used some individuals for the purpose.

## Interior secretary, others issued notice on Imran Khan's plea for his meetings in jail

Soon Times Correspondent



ISLAMABAD Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued notice to interior secretary, defence secretary, Adiala jail superintendent, and Punjab Home Department on Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's plea for meeting with party leaders in Adiala jail without interference. IHC's Justice Aamer Farooq heard the Imran Khan's petition requesting meeting in Adiala jail without interference. The court has also sought the response from all the parties until next week. Imran Khan's counsel Shoaib Shaheen requested the court to allow PTI founder Imran Khan meeting with party leaders in Adiala jail without any interference.

## Response sought on plea challenging Nawaz Sharif's victory in the general



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE Lahore High Court's (LHC) election tribunal has sought response on a plea challenging Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) President Mian Nawaz Sharif's victory in the general election. LHC's election tribunal judge Anwar Hussain heard the petition of Yasmin Rashid challenging Nawaz Sharif's victory in the NA-130 constituency in the general election. The election tribunal inquired about the notice issuance on arguments on the petition challenging Nawaz Sharif's victory in NA-130 in the general elections. It is pertinent to note that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Dr. Yasmin Rashid has challenged the victory of her political opponent PML-N President Mian Nawaz Sharif in National Assembly constituency NA-130. The petitioned filed by Dr. Yasmin Rashid contended that Mian Nawaz Sharif clinched the success in Lahore constituency NA-130 in the general elections through rigging.

## Afghan soil must not be used to export terrorism: Shehbaz Sharif



Soon Times Correspondent ASTANA Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday pointed to the latest challenges and contemporary realities, including the trend of reversing the globalisation process, as he stressed the need for regional connectivity and economic interconnectivity. While noting that regional peace is directly linked to a stable and peaceful Afghanistan, Shehbaz also called for ensuring that Afghanistan wasn't used for exporting terrorism to other parts of the world and said the interim Afghan government must be

pressed that no terrorist entity could use its soil against any other country. The prime minister said terrorism and extremism needed to be tackled through comprehensive actions, adding that divisive politics and incitement to hate must be condemned. He was addressing the 24th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State (SCO Summit) in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan where Belarus is to be inducted as its 10th member. The bloc—Shanghai Cooperation Council (SCO)—was founded in 2001, comprising China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Later, Pakistan and India joined the regional organisation in 2017, followed by Iran in 2023.

## PTI's Islamabad president Amir Mughal arrested



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) Islamabad chapter president Amir Mughal has been apprehended by police today. PTI's Islamabad president has been arrested outside the DC office Islamabad. PTI counsel Asim Bang has verified the news of Asim Mughal's arrest. The reasons behind the arrest of PTI's Islamabad presidents haven't been disclosed yet. It is pertinent to note that PTI leader Amir Mughal was arrested by Islamabad police in May on the accusation of attack on CIA and police officials. However, Islamabad's ATC accepted the post-arrest bail of Amir Mughal and ordered his release. It is pertinent to note that PTI was set to hold a public rally tomorrow at Tarnol chowk of Islamabad after the Islamabad administration's approval.

## All parties to be taken on board on 'Azm-e-Istekham' operation: Sanaulah



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD Advisor to Prime Minister on Political Affairs Rana Sanaulah on Wednesday said that all the political parties would be taken on board before launching 'Azm-e-Istekham' operation. Keeping in view the wave of terrorism in KPK and other parts, "Operation Azm-e-Istekham is need of the hour", he said while talking to a private television channel. Opposition parties should bring their point of view regarding operation at the forum of Parliament, he said. We hope that all the political parties including opposition would have the same opinion on launching the operation, he added. Commenting on dialogue with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), he said that the Prime Minister on the floor of the house had given clear statement.

## 'Enough is enough': Tensions flare up between CJ Qazi Faez Isa and PTI lawyer

### The latest flare up during the Supreme Court hearing on the formation of election tribunals not an isolated incident.



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) hearing on the formation of election tribunals commenced with a heated exchange between Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawyer Niazullah Niaz. Niazullah Niaz objected on Thursday to the inclusion of the Chief Justice in the bench, a motion swiftly dismissed by Chief Justice Isa. "Why not refer Niazullah Niaz's case to the Pakistan Bar Council? Are we

here to be insulted? Enough is enough," CJ Isa remarked adding that, "We are aware of your political affiliations and will not tolerate continued contempt of the judiciary. This must end." CJ Isa emphasised that the authority to form benches now lies with the Practice and Procedure Committee, marking an end to the era when the CJ had that prerogative. Niaz, alluding to Imran Khan, stated, "The one in jail objects that his election symbol was taken away."

In response, CJ remarked, "We provided video link facilities from jail, and no objections were raised at that time. Ali Zafar did not raise any objections in the intra-party election case either. This defamation of institutions must stop. Headlines in newspapers question how the bench was formed. The era of popular decisions is over, now, the committee has the authority to form benches." Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail further added, "Courts do not operate based on public wishes."

CJ Isa then asked the ECP lawyer regarding how many tribunals were needed. The lawyer replied, "We need nine judges. We have no objection to consultations, but there should be a balance between dictation and consultation." Justice Aqeel Abbasi inquired about the meaning of balance, suggesting that two judges could be chosen by the ECP and two by the High Court.

## Pakistan rejects US religious freedom report, says it lacks transparency

### The report listed 17 countries, including Pakistan in countries of particular concern

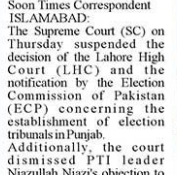


Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD Foreign Office Spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch on Thursday declared Pakistan's rejection of the US report on religious freedom, criticising it for lacking transparency. During the weekly media briefing, the spokesperson emphasized that the report overlooks Pakistan's efforts to ensure religious freedom and does not aid in promoting human rights. The report recommended that the US State Department designate 17 countries, including Pakistan, as Countries of Particular Concern (CPC) due to severe violations of religious freedom, criticizing the country for systemic issues like the enforcement of blasphemy laws and the failure to protect religious minorities from forced conversions. The other recommended countries include Afghanistan,

Azerbaijan, Burma, China, Cuba, Eritrea, India, Iran, Nicaragua, Nigeria, North Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Vietnam. Muntaz also announced that the government has approved Gaza's medical students to complete their education in Pakistan. These students will soon join Pakistani medical colleges to pursue studies in cardiology, surgery, and other fields. Regarding Afghanistan, the spokesperson mentioned that Asif Durrani represented Pakistan at the Afghan conference in Doha. A meeting between Afghan and Pakistani officials took place on July 1, where Durrani highlighted concerns about terrorists receiving support from within Afghanistan. Both nations are actively discussing these concerns. Pakistan has serious reservations about the support for terrorists originating from Afghanistan, and these issues were addressed

## SC suspends ECP notification, LHC decision on election tribunals

### Top court adjourns hearing in election tribunal case for an infinite period



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Thursday suspended the decision of the Lahore High Court (LHC) and the notification by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) concerning the establishment of election tribunals in Punjab. Additionally, the court dismissed PTI leader Niazullah Niaz's objection to the inclusion of Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa in the larger bench in the election tribunal case. A five-member larger bench, headed by Chief Justice Isa, convened to hear the Election Commission's appeal against the Lahore High Court's decision on forming election tribunals. The hearing, however, commenced with a heated exchange between CJ Isa and PTI lawyer Niazullah Niaz. Niaz objected to the inclusion of the CJ in the bench, a motion swiftly dismissed by Chief Justice Isa. "Why not refer Niazullah Niaz's case to the Pakistan Bar Council? Are we here to be insulted? Enough is enough," CJ Isa remarked adding, "We are aware of your political affiliations and will not tolerate continued contempt of the judiciary. This must end."



authority to form benches now lies with the Practice and Procedure Committee, marking an end to the era when the CJ had that prerogative. Niaz, alluding to Imran Khan, stated, "The one in jail objects that his election symbol was taken away." Read Election tribunal case: PTI objects CJ's inclusion on larger bench. In response, CJ remarked, "We provided video link facilities

from jail, and no objections were raised at that time. Ali Zafar did not raise any objections in the intra-party election case either. This defamation of institutions must stop. Headlines in newspapers question how the bench was formed. The era of popular decisions is over, now, the committee has the authority to form benches." Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail further added, "Courts do not operate based on public wishes." CJ Isa then asked the ECP lawyer regarding how many tribunals were needed. The lawyer replied, "We need nine judges. We have no objection to consultations, but there should be a balance between dictation and consultation." Justice Aqeel Abbasi inquired about the meaning of balance, suggesting that two judges could be chosen by the ECP and two by the High Court.



## Pakistan, Belarus trade economic ties

Pakistan and Belarus on Thursday noting positive growth in all aspects of their bilateral relations over the past decade reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation and economic and trade relations. The bilateral relations were discussed in

a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President of the Republic of Belarus Aleksandr Lukashenko on the sidelines of the SCO Summit here. A wide range of topics, including political relationship, trade and investment, military cooperation and regional issues, were discussed.

Prime Minister Shehbaz congratulated President Lukashenko on Belarus' membership of the SCO underlining that this would further strengthen the organization. He highlighted Pakistan's policy of economic revival through export-led growth, strengthening of public finances, and attracting

investment from friendly countries. The two leaders also discussed global and regional developments and reviewed progress on various aspects of work under the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The prime minister shared Pakistan's efforts and desire for a peaceful and stable region.

### The Dawn of a New Energy Era



Iftikhar uddin Anjum

Energy is now considered part and parcel for modern life, after oxygen and food, energy is third most important thing for human being in this planet. In the quest for sustainable and limitless energy, scientists have long looked to the stars for inspiration. The sun, with its boundless energy, operates on the principle of nuclear fusion a process that has the potential to revolutionize how we power our world. Recently, a significant breakthrough in fusion research has brought us closer to replicating this stellar process on Earth. This achievement, marked by the first successful net energy gain from a controlled fusion reaction, heralds a new era in energy production, promising a future of clean, virtually limitless power. Nuclear fusion is the process that powers the sun and other stars. It involves the merging of two light atomic nuclei to form a heavier nucleus, releasing a tremendous amount of energy in the process. This is the opposite of nuclear fission, where heavy atomic nuclei are split to release energy, a process currently used in nuclear power plants. The primary fuel for fusion reactions is isotopes of hydrogen, such as deuterium and tritium. When these isotopes collide at extremely high temperatures and pressures, they fuse to form helium and release a neutron. The energy released in this reaction is millions of times more than that produced by chemical reactions, making fusion a highly attractive energy source. For decades, the challenge of achieving controlled nuclear fusion has been to create the extreme conditions necessary for the reaction and to sustain it long enough to produce more energy than it consumes. This is known as achieving "net energy gain." In December 2022, researchers at the National Ignition Facility (NIF) in the United States announced a historic milestone, they had successfully achieved a net energy gain in a controlled fusion reaction for the first time. The NIF uses a method called inertial confinement fusion (ICF), where 192 powerful lasers are focused onto a small pellet of deuterium-tritium fuel. The intense energy from the lasers compresses and heats the fuel to the point where nuclear fusion occurs. In this groundbreaking experiment, the energy produced by the fusion reaction exceeded the energy input from the lasers, a critical step toward practical fusion energy. This achievement demonstrates the viability of controlled fusion as a future energy source. It shows

that it is possible to create and sustain the conditions necessary for fusion on Earth, bringing us closer to harnessing the same process that powers the sun. The breakthrough at NIF is a pivotal moment in fusion research, providing a strong foundation for future advancements and larger-scale experiments. The successful demonstration of net energy gain from fusion has profound implications for energy production and environmental sustainability. Fusion produces minimal radioactive waste compared to nuclear fission and does not emit greenhouse gases. The primary byproduct of fusion is helium, an inert and non-toxic gas. This makes fusion an environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuels and traditional nuclear power, contributing significantly to efforts to combat climate change. The fuel for fusion reaction hydrogen isotopes deuterium and tritium are abundant. Deuterium can be extracted from seawater, and tritium can be bred from lithium, which is also widely available. This contrasts sharply with the finite and geopolitically sensitive supplies of fossil fuels and uranium, ensuring a more stable and sustainable energy future. Fusion is inherently safer than fission. The reaction requires precise conditions of temperature and pressure; if these conditions are disrupted, the reaction simply stops. This eliminates the risk of runaway reactions or meltdowns, providing a safer alternative to current nuclear power technologies. While the recent breakthrough is a significant step forward, several challenges remain before fusion can become a practical and widespread energy source. Achieving net energy gain in a laboratory setting is an important milestone, but sustaining this reaction over long periods is essential for practical energy production. Researchers must develop methods to maintain the extreme conditions necessary for fusion continuously and reliably. The overall energy efficiency of the fusion process must be improved. This involves not only the fusion reaction itself but also the efficiency of the systems that generate the extreme conditions required for fusion. Advances in laser technology, magnetic confinement, and other supporting systems are crucial. Building and operating fusion reactors must be economically competitive with existing energy sources. This includes the costs of construction, fuel, maintenance, and energy production. Ongoing research and development are necessary to optimize the design and operation of fusion reactors to achieve cost-effectiveness. The recent success at NIF is a catalyst for further research and development in fusion energy. Several promising approaches are being pursued to

overcome the remaining challenges and accelerate the deployment of fusion power. The tokamak is one of the most advanced and promising designs for fusion reactors. It uses powerful magnetic fields to confine the hot plasma in a toroidal (doughnut-shaped) chamber. The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER), currently under construction in France, is the world's largest tokamak project and aims to demonstrate the feasibility of fusion power on a large scale. ITER is expected to achieve its first plasma in the late 2020s and will be a critical step towards commercial fusion reactors. Another approach to magnetic confinement is the stellarator, which uses a more complex arrangement of magnets to achieve stable plasma confinement. The Wendelstein 7-X in Germany is the world's most advanced stellarator and has achieved significant milestones in plasma confinement and stability. Stellarators offer potential advantages in steady-state operation and reduced plasma instabilities compared to tokamaks. Building on the success of the NIF, inertial confinement fusion research continues to advance. Improvements in laser technology, target design, and energy coupling efficiency are essential for scaling up this approach to practical energy production. Advances in high-powered laser systems and more efficient energy delivery methods are critical areas of ongoing research. The private sector is increasingly involved in fusion research, with numerous startups exploring innovative approaches to achieve practical fusion energy. Companies like Commonwealth Fusion Systems, TAE Technologies, and Helion Energy are developing novel reactor designs and technologies, leveraging advances in materials science, superconductors and plasma physics. The involvement of private industry brings additional resources, expertise, and competition to the fusion research landscape. The realization of practical fusion energy has the potential to transform societies and economies on a global scale. It could provide a virtually limitless and clean energy source, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and mitigating the impact of climate change. Access to abundant and sustainable energy can drive economic growth, improve quality of life, and support technological advancements across various sectors. Fusion energy can enhance energy security by providing a stable and reliable energy source that is not subject to geopolitical tensions or supply chain disruptions. Countries with access to fusion technology can achieve greater energy independence and reduce their vulnerability to energy market fluctuations.

### People Reject CM Maryam Nawaz's 100-Day Progress Over High Power Bills



Amjad Rana

The people of Punjab have expressed their dissatisfaction with Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's performance after 100 days in office. A significant source of their frustration stems from the sharp increase in power bills, which contrasts sharply with her pre-election promises to alleviate the financial burden of electricity costs on households. During her campaign, Maryam Nawaz Sharif pledged to reduce power bills and provide substantial relief to the people of Punjab. However, the reality post-election has been starkly different. Instead of the promised reductions, residents have faced skyrocketing power costs, exacerbating their financial woes and eroding trust in her administration. Public discontent is palpable, with many feelings betrayed by the unfulfilled promises. This growing dissatisfaction has overshadowed other aspects of her governance and achievements within the first 100 days, casting a long shadow over her tenure as Chief Minister. The backlash serves as a stark reminder of the importance of keeping electoral promises and the potential political fallout when leaders fail to meet public expectations. Electronic, print, and social media have widely protested the high-power bills, particularly highlighting the struggles of the middle and Labor classes, who cannot afford the increased costs. The people of Punjab have openly criticized Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif for her poor policy and failure to fulfill her promises. The nation continues to demand relief from the power hikes. The protest high power bills have gained widespread coverage across electronic, print, and social media platforms. The increase in power bills has particularly impacted the middle and Labor classes, who are struggling to cope with the financial burden. This issue has led to open criticism of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz

Sharif's policies, with many accusing her of failing to keep her promises. The dissatisfaction is not limited to Punjab alone; the outcry has resonated across the nation. People are united in their demand for relief from the escalating power costs, calling for immediate action from the government to address their concerns. The mounting pressure highlights the urgent need for policy changes to alleviate the financial strain on the population and restore public trust. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif had promised to provide relief in power bills as part of her election campaign. She pledged to reduce electricity costs for households, aiming to alleviate the financial burden on the residents of Punjab. This policy was intended to make electricity more affordable, especially for the middle and Labor classes, who are most affected by high utility costs. However, despite these promises, the reality has been starkly different, with power bills increasing significantly, leading to public outrage and criticism of her administration. Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif has detailed several additional initiatives and projects undertaken during the Punjab government's first 100 days. These initiatives aim to address various sectors, including health, education, infrastructure, and social welfare. The project aims to deliver free medicines to patients with chronic illnesses like hepatitis, tuberculosis, and cardiac conditions. It includes a comprehensive distribution system to ensure medicines reach patients directly at their homes. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif personally visited patients to deliver medicines, emphasizing the importance of accessibility and convenience in healthcare. Field Hospitals and Mobile Clinics. Establishment of 32 field hospitals to provide medical services in rural and underserved areas. Launch of the "Clinic on Wheels" project to offer mobile healthcare services to remote regions. Cancer Hospital, plans to establish the first official state-of-the-art cancer hospital in Lahore, providing free treatment for cancer patients. The outdoor wing of the cancer hospital is to be operationalized

soon, ensuring comprehensive cancer care. Air Ambulance Service, Introduction of an air ambulance service to provide emergency medical transport for patients in need, particularly those from remote areas. Education and Skills Development, Skills Development Program, Training 4,000 youths annually in advanced IT courses at 35 TEVTA institutes, covering fields like cloud computing, cybersecurity, data analytics, graphic design, and artificial intelligence. Plans to expand the program to train 40,000 students annually, with certifications from international organizations such as Microsoft, Adobe, Cisco, and Unity. Laptop Distribution, Distribution of laptops to students completing advanced IT courses, enhancing their digital literacy and employability. Revamping Technical Education: Restructuring of TEVTA to adopt modern curricula aligned with market demands, ensuring students are job-ready upon graduation. Infrastructure and Renewable Energy, Roshan Gharana Program: Provision of 50,000 solar systems to low-income households, promoting renewable energy and reducing electricity bills. Suthra Punjab Program: Overhaul of Lahore's infrastructure, including roads, sanitation systems, and public facilities, with a focus on cleanliness and community involvement. Law and Order, Police and Law Enforcement Reforms, Modernization of the police force and improvements in law enforcement efficiency. Addressing incidents of violence and ensuring justice for affected officers and civilians. Public Engagement, Community Involvement: CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif actively engages with the public, visiting communities, and listening to their concerns. Initiatives like providing bicycles to schoolchildren to encourage education and prevent idleness. These initiatives demonstrate the Punjab government's commitment to improving public services, healthcare, education, infrastructure, and social welfare. CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's efforts reflect a focus on accessibility, modernization, and community involvement. For more details, you can refer to the full reports from the and other sources.



# EC issues notification of delimitation committees at district level

**Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha:**  
The Election Commission has directed the administration of the whole province including Sargodha to make new delimitations of local bodies in connection with the expected local body elections. Notification of delimitation

committees at district level has also been issued. District Election Commissioner Officer and Assistant Commissioner Sargodha are included in the committee of District Sargodha. While Deputy Director Local Government Babar Shahzad Ranjha has been nominated as the focal person. The committee will

delimit the union councils as per the 2023 census population and Punjab Local Government 2022. The number of union councils is likely to increase in the new demarcations. The notification of new limits will be issued by the Election Commission on September 1.

# CPO applauds Police on arresting armed robbers

**Soon Times Correspondent Rawalpindi:**

Two motorcycle-borne robbers opened fire on the police party in the area of Westridge police station last night. According to reports, Raja Adeel and Raja Qasim stopped the motorcycle riders on the signal while performing their duties during the night. As a result the two robbers started firing on them. Raja Adeel and his companion Raja Qasim fought with them for half an hour with full courage and succeeded in capturing both the robbers without any loss of life. On the information of the incident, senior police officers reached the spot. CPO Syed Khalid Hamdani congratulated SP Pothohar, SHO Westridge and the police team for bravely fighting the robbers despite firing. CPO Syed Khalid Hamdani said that those who attack the lives and property of citizens and the police cannot escape from the grip of the law.



# PTI to take action against members absent in 'Awami Assembly' session

**Members absent in the protest will not be awarded party ticket**



**LAHORE**  
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) have decided to take disciplinary action against party ticket holders and assembly members absent in the

'Awami Assembly' session. PTI and SIC have organised the mock session 'awami assembly' outside Punjab Assembly against the suspension of opposition members on hurting during Punjab CM speech in the Punjab

Assembly. According to sources, SIC has decided to take strict disciplinary action against those winning ticket holders absent in the awami assembly session. It is pertinent to note that more than 70 PTI ticket holders are winners in the Punjab Assembly, however, only few attended the awami assembly session. PTI founder Imran Khan has taken the notice of the matter demanding the list of absent ticket holders in the awami session. Imran Khan has also announced to not give tickets to those who will not attend the session. PTI sources disclosed that awami assembly sessions will be organised regularly and reports of every session will be devised. The assembly members and party ticket holders who will not participate in the protest and attend the session will not be awarded a party ticket next time.

# JDW Dispels Impressions of Favoritism in Allocation of Sugar Export Quota

**Soon Times Correspondent Lodhran:**

JDW Sugar Mills dispelled the impressions of favoritism in the allocation of sugar export quotas. The spokesperson for JDW Sugar Mills clarified that the allocation of export quotas is strictly production-based and conforms to the formula devised by the federal government. It has come to our attention that misleading news is being circulated, alleging that JDW Sugar Mills has received the largest export quota due to favoritism from the government. This claim

is entirely baseless and inaccurate. The spokesperson for JDW Sugar Mills has clarified that All 41 sugar mills in the country have agreed to this allocation method without raising any objections. As JDW Sugar Mills is the largest producer of sugar in Pakistan, it naturally receives a proportionate quota in accordance with its production levels. This formula was devised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industries, and the figures used for production are certified by the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association.

# No tolerance for any gang and no-go area across Punjab, asserts Maryam Nawaz

**Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE**

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has asserted that there would be no tolerance of any gang and no-go area across Punjab. Punjab CM met police officers across the province and fixed 'performance indicators' to monitor the performance of police officers. She has taken effective measures to improve the police performance and control crime across the province. Police personnel and officers will be



granted marks for performing excellent duties in sorting out matters related to public complaints, FIRs, search operations and no-go areas.

Police officers will get additional marks for innovative and exemplary measures. Police officers who will not perform duties, their marks will be deducted. Punjab CM asserted on this occasion that there would be no tolerance for any black sheep, gangs and no-go areas in Punjab. She stressed the need for a strong law enforcement system so criminals must not dare to commit crime and be accountable to penalties. She insisted that political interference create problems and vowed to end political interference in the police department.

# New electricity tariff for residential consumers revealed



**Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD:**

The federal cabinet approved significant increase in the electricity tariff for residential consumers using 100 to 500 units per month. According to the details, the new basic tariff is fixed at Rs 48.84 per unit, which will increase to Rs 57.63 per unit after sales tax. With adjustments and other taxes, the maximum electricity tariff will exceed Rs 65 per unit. As per the decision taken by the federal cabinet, the monthly tariff for consumers using 1 to 100 units is proposed to Rs 23.59, while those using 101 to 200 units will have to pay Rs 30.07 per unit. Similarly, the tariff for those consumers using 201 to 300 units will increase to Rs 34.26, and those using 301 to 400 units will have to pay Rs 39.15 per unit. The consumers using 401 to 500 units will

be charged the most as they will have to pay Rs 41.36 per unit. Pakistan's power sector caused a Rs403 billion loss in FY2022-23, revealed the National Electronic Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) report earlier. The progress report of the power distribution companies including K-Electric was released by the NEPRA, indicating nine distribution companies including K-Electric failed to achieve 100pc recovery. The line losses and low recoveries caused a loss of Rs403 bn to the national kitty, the report said. The report highlighted that the companies did not buy the electricity as per the assigned quota. The companies carrying out loadshedding 'deliberately' as they are not buying electricity as per their quotas, the report said.

# Govt has imposed additional taxes in electricity bills: Shamim Aftab

**Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha:**

With ending the subsidy in electricity bills per unit given by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, the current government has imposed additional taxes. People are forced to cut their meters after seeing the electricity bills. Electricity is not supplied but electricity bills are increasing day by day. These views were expressed by former member of provincial assembly



Shamim Aftab. She said that people are missing Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government. The present government belongs to a veterans who have bankrupted the country. Electricity, gas, petrol are getting out of reach of people. The bill of poor who consumes 200 units has crossed 12000 rupees due to which people are suffering. Shamim Aftab said that the government has become a chastisement for the people. If this situation continues, the situation in the country may worsen.

# Turkish Ambassador & PARC Chairman Inaugurated Green House for Fruit Plant Germplasm Handling and Bee Hive Production Lab at NARC.

**Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad:**

His Excellency Prof. Dr. Mehmet Paçaci, Ambassador of Turkey to Pakistan, Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Chairman PARC, Vice president of Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA). Dr. Umit Naci YORULMA, Country head TIKA Pakistan Muhsin BALCI, Inaugurated the Bee Hive Products Laboratory at the Honey Bee Research Institute (HBRI), and Green House for Fruit Plants Germplasm Handling at Horticultural Research Institute (HRI), National Agricultural Research Centre (NARC), Islamabad. These laboratories are established in collaboration and support from TIKA. Dr. Mehmet Paçaci said that these labs will serve as a center for training and capacity building, equipping



beekeepers, researchers, and students with the knowledge and skills they need to excel. Chairman PARC extended heartfelt gratitude to the Government of Turkey TIKA for their invaluable contribution and unwavering commitment to strengthening our agricultural research capabilities. He further stated that this state-of-the-art laboratory marks a significant milestone in country's ongoing efforts to advance

Honeybee research and development in Pakistan. Already TIKA has established an artificial queen insemination Laboratory at HBRI which is of great importance for quality queen production. Dr. Umit Naci YORULMA said that through cooperation and collective efforts, we can build a vibrant and sustainable apiculture industry that benefits all stakeholders. The inauguration of the labs marks a significant advancement for Pakistan's apiculture and Horticulture sectors. The Bee Products Laboratory demonstrates our commitment to enhancing the quality and productivity of bee products. This facility will help ensure these products meet the international standards, paving way for increased exports and economic growth. Meanwhile,

# SNGPL disconnected 36 connections & imposed fine of Rs 1.4 million on gas pilferers

**Soon Times Correspondent Lahore:**

During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad. It disconnected 36 connections and imposed fine of Rs 1.4 million. In Lahore, the team disconnected 10 connections on illegal use of gas, 01 on use of the compressor and lodged 1 FIR against gas pilferer. In Multan, the team disconnected 08 connections on illegal use of gas and 02 on use of compressor. The regional team of Faisalabad disconnected

02 connections and booked Rs 0.04 million against gas theft cases. In Sahiwal, the team disconnected 01 connection on illegal use of gas. The regional team of Gujranwala disconnected 02 connections on the illegal use of gas, 01 on the use of the compressor and imposed a fine of Rs 1.0 million against gas theft cases. In Mardan, the team disconnected 03 connections on illegal use of gas and imposed a fine of Rs 0.36 million against gas theft cases. The regional team of Bahawalpur disconnected 04 connections on the illegal use of gas and 02 on the use of the compressor.



### India, China foreign ministers agree to resolve border issues at earliest



**NEW DELHI**  
India's Foreign Minister Subrahmanyan Jaishankar met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on Thursday in Kazakhstan where the two agreed to step up talks to resolve issues along their border at the earliest, New Delhi said in a statement.

India and China share a long Himalayan border, much of it poorly demarcated, and relations between the two countries have been sour since a military standoff in July 2020 when at least 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese troops were killed.

India said Jaishankar met Yi on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Astana where they agreed that "prolongation of the current situation in the border areas is not in the interest of either side."

The two leaders agreed to enhance meetings between their diplomatic and military officials "to resolve the remaining issues at the earliest," India's

### Kenya president spoke to IMF chief after pulling tax hikes, sources say



**NAIROBI**  
Kenyan President William Ruto spoke by phone with International Monetary Fund Chief Kristalina Georgieva in the days after he withdrew \$2.7 billion in proposed tax hikes in response to deadly protests, two diplomatic sources told Reuters.

The finance bill containing the tax increases was central to policy reforms agreed by Kenya with the IMF as part of a lending programme worth \$3.6 billion.



## Iran candidates hold final rallies before presidential runoff

### The two candidates held their final campaign rallies

**TEHRAN**  
In a bustling Tehran prayer hall, ultraconservative Saeed Jalili has rallied fervent supporters ahead of Friday's runoff presidential vote, while his reformist rival Masoud Pezeshkian stirred up a crowd in a nearby stadium.

The two candidates held their final campaign rallies late Wednesday, after leading the first-round vote in snap elections to succeed president Ebrahim Raisi who died in a May helicopter crash.

Chants of "All Iran says Jalili" echoed as thousands of supporters of the hardline former nuclear negotiator gathered at the Grand Mosalla mosque in central Tehran, buzzing with excitement.

Jalili promised "strength and progress" if elected, as posters of the late ultraconservative Raisi adorned the walls, bearing the slogan: "A world of opportunities, Iran leaps forward."

At an open-air stadium elsewhere in the capital, Pezeshkian made the case for "unity and cohesion", his supporters chanting invoking another former president—the reformist Mohammad Khatami who has endorsed their candidate. "Long live Khatami, long live Pezeshkian!" called the spirited crowd, waving green flags adorned with the reformist candidate's "For Iran" slogan.

"Follow Raisi's path"

At the prayer hall, women draped in black chadors sat in a designated section, separated from the men. But all burst into rapturous applause as Jalili made his entrance.

### Pakistan Ambassador to Iraq Meets Iraqi Commerce Leader to Strengthen Trade Ties



**Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad,**  
Sajid Ali, a respected correspondent, reported on a notable meeting between Pakistan's Ambassador to Iraq, Muhammad Zeeshan Ahmed, and Mr. Abdul Razzaq Al-Zheri, President of the Federation of Iraqi Chambers of Commerce.

The discussions revolved around mutual interests and the highly anticipated visit of a Pakistani trade delegation to Iraq in July 2024. Ambassador Ahmed and President Al-Zheri explored ways to enhance bilateral trade and economic cooperation. They discussed potential strategies to boost investment and business partnerships between the two countries.

The upcoming trade delegation visit is expected to play a crucial role in strengthening commercial ties and fostering economic growth for both nations. This meeting highlights the ongoing efforts to solidify the economic relationship between Pakistan and Iraq, aiming for shared prosperity and a robust trade partnership.

### Southeast Asian group Jemaah Islamiyah to be disbanded, say its senior leaders



**JAKARTA**  
Senior members of Jemaah Islamiyah, the Southeast Asian militant network blamed for the deadly Bali bombings, have announced they are disbanding the group, according to a report by a Jakarta-based think tank on Thursday.

The report from the Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict (IPAC), confirmed the authenticity of a June 30 video statement by sixteen Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) leaders announcing they were dissolving the extremist network.

In the statement, captured on video and shared online, the leaders confirmed their

commitment to the Indonesian state and law, and said all material taught in JI-affiliated boarding schools would be in line with orthodox Islam.

"It is too early to say what the consequences are, but the men who signed the statement have enough respect and credibility within the organisation to ensure widespread acceptance," said Sidney Jones, who authored IPAC's preliminary analysis.

The Al-Qaeda linked militant group is accused of orchestrating some of the deadliest attacks in Indonesia, including the 2002 bombing of Bali nightclubs that killed more than 200 people.

Indonesia's National Counter Terrorism Agency (BNPT) declined to comment on the development, but said it planned to soon hold a press conference.

The decision to disband the organisation, said Jones, was likely driven by several factors, including the influence of intellectuals within JI who were less interested in violent jihad, and a cost-

## Sports & Showbiz

### Surgery is the only option but not in haste, says Mohsin Naqvi



**Sports Reporter LAHORE**  
Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Mohsin Naqvi said on Thursday the cricket affairs were in a mess and major decisions needed to be taken to set the house in order.

Speaking to media, he highlighted several issues one of which was related to possible measures after Pakistan's dismal performance in the T20 World Cup.

**WILL BABAR STAY?**  
He made it clear that he would not take any action in haste and Babar Azam's future as captain would be discussed and determined by former cricketers (who have proper cricket knowledge).

He said major decisions would not be in the hands of armchair critics - a reference to detractors who criticise the players and management on TV channels and social media.

"No decision should be taken in haste and desperation," he said, adding that he was in contact with former cricketers who wanted to see Pakistan regain their lost glory in cricket.

**PCB WILL NOT RUN ON TWITTER**  
A visibly annoyed Naqvi said he would not allow the all-important PCB to be run on Twitter. He said he was not bothered about the barrage of criticism against him on Twitter.

### JUNE NOMINEES



### ICC Women's Player of the Month nominees for June 2024 revealed

(Web Desk) - An established performer and two rising stars are in the run for the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for June.

Maia Bouchier (England)  
In the running for her second ICC Women's Player of the Month award in 2024, the middle-order batter turned opener Maia Bouchier put up a stellar performance in June.

In her two outings against the White Ferns, Bouchier was dismissed only once while scoring her 167 runs at a stunning strike rate of 121. A 67 from merely 50 balls in a stand of 137 along with Tammy Beaumont then helped England cruise to a comfortable nine-wicket win in the first ODI in Chester-le-Street.

She went one better in the next ODI, slamming an unbeaten 100 off 88 balls in a chase of 142. She won the Player of the Match award for her efforts.

Smriti Mandhana (India)  
Smriti Mandhana enjoyed an Indian summer when she took on the South African attack in the three-game ODI series in Bengaluru and the one-off Test in Chennai.

Mandhana played a role in each contest, scoring back-to-back hundreds in the first two ODIs (117 and 136), before missing out on a ton in the third ODI by just 10 runs. Her contributions (349 runs at an average of 114.33 and a strike-rate of 103.95) helped India to a 3-0 series win against the Proteas. She also pitched in with the ball, picking up one wicket.

Continuing her exceptional run in the red-ball format, Mandhana hit 149 to guide India to the highest-ever total in Women's Tests. Based on a solid first innings effort, India won the game by 10 wickets.

Vishmi Gunaratne (Sri Lanka)  
The Sri Lanka skipper in the 2023 ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup continues to scale new heights at the senior level, with the latest showcase of her skills coming in a home series against West Indies.

Gunaratne was the Player of the Series for her 134 runs at 44.66 (Strike rate 83.22), with her crucial contributions of 40, 50 and 44 helping Sri Lanka lay a strong foundation in each of their three wins in the ODIs. It was Sri Lanka's first whitewash of West Indies since 2008.

### Why Khalilur Rehman Qamar would not like to work with Saba Qamar



(Web Desk)  
To a question whom he would not like to work, Khalilur Rehman Qamar said Saba Qamar would no more be her choice for her explicit and daring dressing, which he believes is against his culture and norms.

The acclaimed writer was speaking at a podcast. He said Saba Qamar was talented actor and she collaborated with him in a dram serial, but her skimpy dress was against his culture and norms, due to which he would not to cast her in his venture.

### ICC Men's Player of the Month nominees for June 2024 named



(Web Desk)  
Two ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 winners and a rising Afghanistan star are in the race to be ICC Men's Player of the Month.

Rahmanullah Gurbaz (Afghanistan)  
Afghanistan opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz was the lynchpin of his side's batting effort in a campaign where they reached the tournament's semi-final, a first for the country.

His 281 runs, the most by any batter in the tournament and the first time an Afghan has topped the list, came at a steady strike rate of 124.33 with an average of 35.12.

Along with Ibrahim Zadran, he provided solid starts to the Asian side and helped them to competitive totals in both the opening Group and the Super Eight stage.

Among his standout knocks were his 80 against New Zealand and 60 against Australia, both innings helping in historic wins.

Rohit Sharma (India)  
The fact that Rohit Sharma led his side with aplomb on the field and guided them to an ICC trophy for the first time in 11 years should not let one overlook his stellar effort as an India opener.

The batter was the second-highest run-scorer in the tournament, with 257 runs at an average of 36.71 and an brilliant strike rate of 156.7.

When the going got tough, Rohit got going, showcasing his best against Australia (92 off 41) in India's final Super Eight game and England (57 from 39) in the all-important semi-final.

His inspirational leadership then helped India in the second innings of the tournament final against South Africa, with the side holding out to a seven-run win.

Jasprit Bumrah (India)