



Daily SOON TIMES

Chief Editor
Shah Muhammad Awan
Saturday
July 6, 2024
Page: 4 Rs: 20
Vol: 4 Issue: 186
Sargodha
www.soontimes.pk

Simultaneously Publishing from Islamabad, Sargodha & Karachi

+92 321 888 1135

Govt disallows suspension of social media apps during Muharram



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

The federal government on Friday disallowed suspension social media applications and switching off mobile phone signals during Muharram "to maintain peace."

The Punjab government has a day ago requested the centre to suspend social media apps Facebook, Tik Tok, X (Twitter) and WhatsApp from Muharram 6 to 11 after receiving information of subversive activities from across the border.

According to sources, the federal government has turned down the request and directed the authorities concerned to make foolproof security arrangements during Muharram. However, it allowed to turn off mobile phone signals only in those places where processions and gatherings are held.

The Punjab government has recommended to the federal interior secretary to ban social media from 6th to 11th Muharram to control spread of hate material and misinformation to avoid sectarian violence.

PTI founder may go on hunger strike: Ali Muhammad



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ali Muhammad Khan says that the PTI founder may go on hunger strike after consulting his colleagues.

Talking to the media, Ali Muhammad Khan said that the trial of the PTI founder in the Al-Qadri Trust case was held in Adiala Jail.

He said that the founder of PTI had said that if the cruelty against him does not stop, he will observe a hunger strike in the jail.

The PTI leader further questioned why there is no political solution to these issues.

The PTI founder said that he would not bow PTI founder while giving a message to the workers about the Islamabad rally said that his message was true freedom. The PTI founder further said that there will be no compromise on real freedom.

ATC cancels arrest warrants for CM Gandapur



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

An anti-terrorism court on Friday withdrew arrest warrants for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur in a case related to violent protests and violation of Section 144.

The ATC court held a hearing on the application to suspend the arrest warrants issued in the case registered against Gandapur at the I-9 Police Station.

Ali Amin Gandapur, while surrendering before the court, explained that he was unable to appear earlier due to official engagements.

During the hearing, the KP chief minister requested the cancellation of the arrest warrants, which the court accepted.

Gandapur had filed request to suspend the warrants issued in the case registered at Islamabad's I-9 Police Station.

No split in party: Gandapur Speaking to the media, Gandapur says that there is no disagreement within the party, and minor issues are often exaggerated.

CM Maryam seeks record of illegal Housing schemes in maiden LDA visit

The beautification and remodeling of M.M.Alam road was also approved



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Friday sought list of illegal housing societies being established in Lahore.

The chief minister visited Lahore Development Authority (LDA) headquarter on Friday where she was warmly welcomed by DG LDA Tahir Farooq.

The CM also chaired a meeting regarding the ongoing projects of LDA.

Senior Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb, Special Assistant to Chief Minister Zeeshan Malik, Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary to CM and other officials also attended the meeting.

DG LDA Tahir Farooq gave a detailed briefing to CM and said that the LDA would collect more revenue in the ongoing fiscal year. The online service

is being started to pass the residential maps of the citizens.

It was also decided in the meeting to establish the Punjab Development Authority in the province.

The chief minister also sought the complete record of illegal housing societies in Lahore.

The beautification and remodeling of M.M.Alam road was also approved in the meeting.

A signal-free corridor was also approved in the meeting from Karim Block to Motorway.

The chief minister also directed the officials to ensure early completion of sports complex in Minar-e-Pakistan and China Scheme.

General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) presided over 265th Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held at GHQ.

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

Forum paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhadas of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies and the citizens who have laid their lives for peace and stability in the country. The forum undertook a comprehensive review of internal and external security situation of the country and had detailed discussion on various aspects of "Azam-e-Istehkam", which is aimed at harnessing the national counter terrorism efforts in a synchronised manner to dismantle the nexus of terrorism and illegal spectrum in the country for enduring stability and economic prosperity. Forum noted with concern the unwarranted criticism by some quarters and deliberate misrepresentation of the vision, only for furthering their vested interests. The forum also deliberated upon regional security situation,



especially Afghanistan and reaffirmed its commitment to regional peace and security. The forum expressed solidarity with the people of Kashmir and Palestine. Forum condemned serious human rights violations, war crimes and genocide being perpetrated in Kashmir and Gaza. The forum affirmed that military leadership is cognizant of the full spectrum of the challenges and resolved to shoulder its constitutionally mandated responsibilities with support of the resilient people of Pakistan.

Bushra Bibi audio leak case: Federal govt challenges IHC order in apex court

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

The federal government has challenged the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) order in the Bushra Bibi audio leak case.

The federal government has filed a petition in the Supreme Court against IHC's order.

The plea contended that summoning heads of state institutions and seeking reports from them was equivalent to fact-finding, which was against the court's jurisdiction.

It argued that Najam Saqib's petition was against the parliamentary committee's summons, and that matter had been resolved.

The federal government's plea also mentioned that the IHC was proceeding against points of inadmissible application. It was added that the IHC had no right to take suo moto notice.



IHC's Babar Sattar remarked during the hearing of Bushra Bibi audio leak case: "There is no law regarding phone tapping in the country and what is currently taking place is illegal."

Also read: Phone tapping currently taking place in country is illegal, observes IHC

The court ordered the telecommunication companies to refrain from recording phone calls for surveillance purposes.

Meanwhile, the IHC also issued a contempt of court notice to the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) chairman and its members.

Imran nods PTI's participation in APC on Operation Azm-e-Istehkam

Khan warns against aggravation of security situation without thaw in Pak-Afghan ties



Soon Times Correspondent Rawalpindi

Former Prime Minister and founding chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Khan, announced his participation in the government's All Parties Conference (APC) on Operation Azm-e-Istehkam.

During a media interaction at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail on Friday, the former premier stated that PTI members would attend the conference only as

"observers", emphasising that the decision to participate was made solely for the benefit of Pakistan.

During his talk, the incarcerated PTI chief expressed distrust in the government's All Parties Conference (APC) on Operation Azm-e-Istehkam.

"I will announce the final date for the hunger strike after consulting with my lawyers," he said.

The government decided to call the APC to address

concerns from coalition and opposition parties regarding Operation Azm-e-Istehkam.

The conference aims to build political consensus and ensure all parties are on board with the operation's objectives.

On June 22, the Apex Committee of National Action Plan, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, approved "Operation Azm-e-Istehkam" to eliminate terrorism and extremism across the country.

Yasmin Rashid demands judiciary to take notice against oppression on PTI

Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and former provincial minister Dr. Yasmin Rashid has demanded the judiciary to take notice of oppression against the PTI party.

PTI leader Yasmin Rashid handed a letter to journalists outside the anti-terrorism court, demanding notice of the courts against injustice to PTI.

She asserted that democracy was being strangled and people were being silenced.

She added that the public's affection and support for Imran Khan would not be suppressed by cruelty and the tyranny would destroy Pakistan.

The PTI leader commended the determination and courage of party leaders, saying, there was no example of the oppression found in the



history that PTI workers faced.

Yasmin Rashid acclaimed the victory in the February 8 polls, saying, the public made it clear in the election that Imran Khan was their leader.

The PTI leader stressed, Imran Khan was their leader and would stand behind him for real freedom.

Three killed in IED blast targeting police van in Mardan

Soon Times Correspondent MARDAN

At least three people were killed and seven others injured in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast near a police van adjacent to Lalala bridge in the Takhtibhai area of Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on Friday.

Rescue teams, police and security forces immediately reached the site following the blast which killed the injured to nearby hospital.

As per details, nearly 11 people were injured when the blast occurred. The wounded were rushed to the hospital, where three of them succumbed to their injuries.

Mardan District Police Officer



(DPO) Zahoor Barbar Afridi confirmed the number of casualties of the bomb blast that targeted police. He said that two cops travelling in the van were among the injured.

The official said that the explosive material was planted by the road, which blew off as soon as the law enforcers' van passed by.

He said that a rickshaw present nearby was hit by the blast. One of the deceased was a passenger of this rickshaw.

Unflinching support for minorities

Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Chairperson Senator Rubina Khalid, in a meeting with Deputy Speaker of the Sindh Provincial Assembly Anthony Naveed Friday, assured her

unflinching support for the minority communities. The two sides discussed the recent BISP survey, which identified the special needs of deserving Christian families. The BISP chairperson said BISP's core

initiatives were designed to provide substantial benefits to the minority community, ensuring they receive the necessary support and relief. Senator Rubina reassured Anthony Naveed of the

Programme's dedication to assist the minority community, reinforcing its commitment to inclusivity and equitable support for all underprivileged groups in Pakistan.

Is Immigration Good for any State?



IQRA ASHRA

be a game changer in the fortune of any counties people in terms of economic stability , prosperity as it eradicates poverty , crimes , and unemployment by providing the employment opportunities for the skilled and educated workforce

Every coin has two sides if immigration can be a game changer it can also play role as worst thing or incident for any state whether it is developed or it is developing. In case of Pakistan, in the recent past Pakistan has faced critical crises due to war in her neighbor country. The people who migrated toward Pakistan due to intense condition in their own land but it burdened the Pakistan's decrepit economy in terms of overpopulation , environmental issues , pollution in the northern areas which caused troubles for the tourists, resource shortage in terms of education quality, healthcare facilities, land disputes, ethnic and lingual issues, terrorism, suicidal attacks, proxies and insurgencies by extremist groups .

overpopulation and resource shortage was the biggest challenge while Pakistan dealing with the immigrants because Pakistan is a developing state which is currently working to stable its weak economy , in these conditions the state was unable to provide the basic facilities of education , employment, health justice , somehow the security to the immigrants due to acute shortage of resources . The lack of resources , environmental crises and other ethnic and lingual issues between the public and the immigrants heated the scene which was also a biggest challenge to deal with .

Certain terrorists came in the country by pretending themselves the immigrants these terrorist networks harmed the peace and prosperity on the biggest scale by terrorist attacks, smuggling and by warring the fire on the name of religion . Therefore, as Pakistan faced many challenges due to immigrants on the other side many people are leaving Pakistan due to economic instability, and mostly for the sake of higher education and better future .

Over 700,000 people left Pakistan in 2024 for better employment opportunities and for the sake of higher education .

(According to the document of the bureau of immigration and overseas employment).

As many Pakistanis are leaving Pakistan it can also be game changer for the mentioned developing state as it will attract the foreign investors to invest in the country which can pave the way to economic stability and can provide the employment to the skilled and educated people . The people leaving Pakistan is also promoting the peace among the international arena by cultural exchange and providing there unique and innovative services throughout the globe which is a positive step to improve the image of the country in front of the global community and will also promote tourism which will generate more revenue. The emigrants who left temporarily Pakistan for the sake of higher education or researches are assets because they can give their innovative services back to the people directly by transferring their knowledge and techniques.

In spite of emigrants are attracting FDI's, promoting peace and healthy relations with the global community, introducing innovative ideas and most important giving support to the crumbled economy of the country there are certain drawbacks such as Pakistan is losing the skillful and educated youth and many country landlords now prefer to invest in the developed states instead of their own country due to lack of security and ease of doing business there .

The people moves to their neighbor states or mostly population moving towards Europe, USA , Russia and to china it is crystal clear reality that people moving from developing states to developed states and these people are assets for the developed states and in that case immigration is good for state .

Undoubtedly, immigrants are the bedrock to the economy but there are certain contrary points which are harmful for the peace and prosperity of any state , however it is not unbridled horse it can be controlled by specific measures and proper check and balance . As opposed to Pakistan can control rapid emigration by enhancing their industrial sector which can provide employment to the youth and by improving the standard of higher education with advanced and innovative scientific researches

In a nutshell, immigration can be a good for any state depending on the economic, geographic, environmental and political situation of the country

The Era of GAI



Iftikhar Uddin Anjum

The field of artificial intelligence (AI) has long been driven by the aspiration to create machines that can mimic human intelligence across a wide range of tasks. Recent advancements have brought us closer than ever to achieving this goal with the development of General Artificial Intelligence (GAI). Unlike narrow AI, which excels in specific tasks, GAI possesses the ability to understand, learn and apply knowledge across diverse domains, much like a human being. This article explores the latest breakthroughs in GAI, their potential applications, and the profound implications for society. General Artificial Intelligence, also known as Strong AI or Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), refers to a form of AI that can perform any intellectual task that a human can. This contrasts with narrow AI, which is designed for specific applications such as image recognition, language translation, or playing chess. GAI is characterized by its ability to reason, plan, solve problems, comprehend complex ideas, learn quickly, and learn from experience. In 2023, a consortium of leading AI research institutions and technology companies announced the development of a GAI system capable of performing at or above human-level intelligence in a variety of tasks. This achievement marks a significant milestone in the pursuit of GAI and has far-reaching implications for numerous fields. One of the critical advancements has been the creation of unified learning models that can process and integrate information from multiple domains. These models, built on the principles of deep learning and reinforcement learning, allow GAI systems to generalize knowledge and apply it to new and diverse tasks without extensive retraining. Researchers have developed innovative neural network architectures that more closely mimic the human brain's functionality. These architectures, such as transformers and attention mechanisms, enable GAI systems to understand context, recognize patterns, and make connections across vast amounts of data. The availability of scalable and powerful computing resources, including quantum computing and advanced GPUs, has been instrumental in training and running GAI systems. These resources allow for the processing of enormous datasets and the execution of complex algorithms that are essential for achieving general intelligence. Significant progress in natural language processing (NLP) has enabled GAI systems to understand and generate

human language with remarkable accuracy. This capability allows for more natural and intuitive interactions between humans and AI, facilitating better communication and collaboration. The advent of GAI opens up a plethora of applications across various industries, potentially transforming the way we live and work. In healthcare, GAI can revolutionize diagnostics, treatment planning, and personalized medicine. GAI systems can analyze complex medical data, including patient histories, genetic information, and imaging results, to provide accurate diagnoses and recommend tailored treatment plans. Additionally, GAI can facilitate the discovery of new drugs by simulating biological processes and predicting the effects of different compounds. GAI has the potential to transform education by providing personalized learning experiences for students. GAI-powered educational platforms can assess individual learning styles, strengths, and weaknesses to create customized curricula. These systems can also provide real-time feedback and support, helping students to learn more effectively and efficiently. In the finance sector, GAI can enhance risk assessment, fraud detection, and investment strategies. By analyzing vast amounts of financial data, GAI systems can identify patterns and trends that human analysts might miss. This can lead to more informed decision-making and improved financial outcomes for businesses and individuals. GAI is poised to drive the next generation of autonomous systems, including self-driving cars, drones, and robotics. These systems can operate more safely and efficiently by understanding and adapting to complex environments. For example, autonomous vehicles powered by GAI can navigate city streets, anticipate potential hazards, and make split-second decisions to ensure passenger safety. GAI can also impact creative industries such as art, music, and entertainment. GAI systems can generate original content, including music compositions, artwork, and storytelling, pushing the boundaries of creativity and providing new tools for artists and creators. This can lead to novel forms of artistic expression and entertainment experiences. While the potential benefits of GAI are immense, its development also raises significant ethical and societal questions that must be carefully considered. One of the primary ethical concerns is ensuring that GAI systems are aligned with human values and operate transparently. This involves developing robust frameworks for the ethical use of GAI, including guidelines for decision-making, accountability, and fairness. Additionally, there is a need to address issues related to privacy, security, and the potential misuse of GAI technology. The widespread adoption of GAI has the potential to disrupt job markets

and economies. While GAI can enhance productivity and create new job opportunities, it may also lead to the displacement of workers in certain sectors. It is essential to develop strategies for workforce transition, including education and training programs to equip individuals with the skills needed for a GAI-driven economy. Ensuring equitable access to the benefits of GAI is another critical consideration. There is a risk that the advantages of GAI could be concentrated among a small group of individuals or organizations, exacerbating existing inequalities. Policymakers and stakeholders must work together to ensure that the benefits of GAI are distributed fairly and inclusively. The journey towards fully realizing the potential of GAI is ongoing, with several key areas of focus for future research and development. Developing GAI systems that are robust and reliable is essential for their safe and effective deployment. This involves addressing challenges related to system stability, error handling, and the ability to operate in dynamic and unpredictable environments. Enhancing the collaboration between humans and GAI systems is a critical area of research. This includes developing intuitive interfaces, improving communication and trust, and ensuring that GAI systems can augment human capabilities rather than replace them. Establishing governance frameworks and regulatory standards for GAI is vital to ensure its responsible development and use. This includes creating policies that address ethical considerations, safety, and societal impact while fostering innovation and progress. The recent breakthroughs in General Artificial Intelligence represent a significant milestone in the evolution of AI. With the development of GAI systems capable of performing at or above human-level intelligence across diverse tasks, we are on the cusp of a new era of technological advancement. The potential applications of GAI are vast, offering transformative possibilities for healthcare, education, finance, autonomous systems, and creative industries. However, the development of GAI also raises important ethical, societal, and economic questions that must be addressed to ensure that its benefits are realized responsibly and equitably. As we move forward, it is crucial to foster collaboration between researchers, policymakers,

and stakeholders to navigate the challenges and opportunities presented by GAI. The advent of General Artificial Intelligence has the potential to revolutionize our world, offering unprecedented opportunities for innovation, productivity, and human flourishing. As we harness the power of GAI, we must do so with a commitment to ethical principles, social equity, and the common good, ensuring that this remarkable achievement serves the best interests of all humanity.



Commissioner suspends the supervisor of Block 31, 32 on non-drainage of rain water



Soan Times Correspondent
Sargodha:
According to the details, after the rain on Yesterday morning, Commissioner and Administrator Municipal Corporation visited

other areas including inner block number 27, 31, 28, 35. Even after 10 hours, water was still there in most places. Due to which the residents of the area were facing severe problems. The commissioner summoned CO

MC Tariq Paroya and the concerned supervisor to the spot and reprimanded. He also met the citizens and took details and suspended the supervisor of the area Mehr Mohsin for neglecting the duties while ordering to issue warnings to others. He directed the CO MC to clear all areas in two days. He also made a surprise visit to Muhammadi Colony Disposal and found that the operator Aamir was absent since morning, on which he was also suspended. Commissioner ordered to take further departmental action against him. He said that Monsoon has started and abnormal rains have been predicted this year. So all the machinery of MC should be functional and all MC officers and staff should be seen in cleaning field after rain.

Pashtun Community Welfare Association will strive to solve the problems of Pashtuns: Tikka Khan



Soan Times Correspondent
Miani:
Pashtun Community Welfare Association Miani has been established. Ghulam Rasool Khan, dedicated to the welfare of his nation, promoting Pashtun culture and helping the poor and sick people, the Pashtun tribes living in Miani and suburbs, organized a convention of the Pashtun nation at his residence. Pashtuns from all over the region

participated in this convention. They unanimously elected Rasool Khan as the president of the organization, Ramzan Khan as the vice president, and Abbas Khan as the general secretary. Other officials include Muhammad Khan Zahir Khan and Sadiq Khan. Explaining the aims and objectives of establishing the Pashtun Community Welfare Association, Maulana Tikka Khan said that the purpose of establishing this

organization is only to serve the people. This organization will strive to solve the problems of Pashtuns throughout the region and to establish peace in the society. Apart from this, it will help orphans, widows, the poor and the sick in every possible way. Sheikh Waqas Arshad, President of Miani Press Club, General Secretary Iqbal Bhanthana and other officials and members also participated in the convention.

All parties to participate in APC: Ata Tarar

Soan Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD
Federal Information Minister Ata Tarar said all parties would participate in the All Parties Conference (APC). Tarar while holding a press conference in Islamabad said that the prime minister's visits to Tajikistan and Kazakhstan will bring good results. He said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif spoke on the Palestine issue and Islamophobia at the global level. The PM said that Israel is committing war crimes. He also talked about a peaceful and stable Afghanistan.



More to read: PM Shehbaz convenes APC to bring consensus on Operation Azm-e-Istehkam Tarar said that the work is also going on regarding the privatization of the institutions. He said that consultations are

being held with the allies regarding the APC. The statement of the PTI founder regarding APC has also surfaced. The Federal Minister said that there was also a discussion regarding tax evasion in the meeting. The PM chaired. Those involved in tax evasion and the officials aiding in the crime will also be punished. Having a salary of Rs 100000 will have to pay Rs 24000 in tax. Ata Tarar further said that the Bajaur attack is a matter of great regret. He said that the end of terrorism and extremism will bring stability to Pakistan.

Punjab seeks Army, Rangers' assistance for Muharram security



Soan Times Correspondent
LAHORE:
The Punjab government has sought assistance of Pakistan Army and Rangers to ensure 'peace and security' during the holy month of Muharram. "Law enforcement agencies (LEAs) will render their services for the peaceful observance of Muharram," said a

statement issued by the Punjab Home Department's spokesperson. According to the statement, the Punjab government has sought deployment of 150 contingents of the Army and Rangers following the requirements of different districts. "The Punjab police sent a letter to the home department, requesting the deployment of 69 contingents of the Army

and 81 squads of Rangers across Punjab to assist in providing security during Muharram," it added. The assistance of the security forces have been sought from the 1st to the 12th of Muharram, depending on the needs of each district. The request for assistance was made in a letter written by the Home Department to the Pakistan Army and Rangers, in response to a request from the Punjab Police for additional security measures. Pakistan has witnessed a surge in terrorist activities across the country, especially in KP and Balochistan, since the outlawed militant group Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan ended its ceasefire with the government in November 2022. It is pertinent to mention here that militants have targeted Muharram processions several times, including a bomb blast that killed more than 40 people attending the main Ashura procession on Karachi's M. A. Jinnah Road in December

IESCO Power Suspension Schedules For Today, Tomorrow & Day After Tomorrow

Soan 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 Dated 06th July 2024 From 07:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Doda, Lakho Road, Commercial Market Feeder From 06:00 AM to 10:00

AM, Isolation Hospital, Raha, CM Pak Zong D-12/1&2, Zaraj 1,2, IST, Dhok Awan, Morra Nagval. On Dated 07th July 2024 From 07:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Muzamal Town, Flour Mill, Sohan Feeder. On Dated 08th July 2024 From 07:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Doda, Pindhori, Raja Sultan, Swan Garden/River, Garden, FECHIS Feeder. From 06:00 AM to 10:00 AM PUNY, TDCP, MCM, Gharial, Kohala, Sunny Bank, Bagh Sardaran, Eid Gah, Dhok Najo,

Ali Market, Khayaban Sirsyed, Raja Sultan, Mehboob Shaheed, Park View, Pindi Board, Jail Park, Car Chowk, Morgah, Fauji Foundation. From 05:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Mahfooz, 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.

THIS city to get British-era famous tram service

Soan Times Correspondent
LAHORE:
Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Friday visited the Lahore Development Authority (LDA) Headquarters where she announced various new projects. Chairing a meeting, the chief minister ordered the establishment of Punjab Development Authority (PDA) and remodeling and beautification of MMA Alam Road.



She also issued instruction to launch crackdown against illegal housing societies. The Punjab CM also okayed plan to make signal-free corridor from Kareem Block to Motorway. Maryam Nawaz also announced to run tram service in different areas of the provincial capital. The areas include Liberty, Mini Market and Hali Road areas. Previously in 2019, the Buzdar government also announce similar plans related to tram service. In this connection, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was also signed

between the Transport Department, a Chinese company, CRSC International and Inkon Group of Czech Republic. Under the MoU, both companies pledged work together with the Lahore Transport Company for the betterment of the public transport sector in Lahore. Under the first phase, 50 trams had to run on 35km long track on Canal Road. As per the proposed plan, which never fulfilled during the 4-year PTI govt tenure, the trams have had to be operated through electricity and batteries whereas two tram depots proposed to be set up at two points.

Punjab to announce matric exam results on July 9



Soan Times Correspondent
LAHORE
All nine educational boards of Punjab would announce the matric examination result on July 9 (Tuesday) at 10:00 am. Students can check their result on their relevant board's website where they would enter their roll no and required information to get their result. For those lacking the connection of internet,

mobile SMS option would also be available. The students would sent a particular board code to a designated number.
• Faisalabad: 800240
• Dera Ghazi Khan: 800295
• Gujranwala: 800299
• Rawalpindi: 800296
• Lahore: 800291
• Bahawalpur: 800298
• Sargodha: 800290

The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) has successfully completed and inaugurated a series of advanced laboratories across Pakistan,



Soan Times Correspondent
The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) has successfully completed and inaugurated a series of advanced laboratories across Pakistan, enhancing the country's scientific, healthcare, and educational infrastructure. In Islamabad, the observatory at the Horticultural Research Institute (HRI) of the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) was inaugurated by H.E. Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey Dr. Mehmet Paçacı, TIKA Vice President Dr. Umit Naci Yorulmaz, and Chairman MRC Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, featuring cutting-edge technology to monitor climatic conditions, pest behavior, and plant health. In Rawalpindi, the Zoological Diversity Lab and Animal Shelter at Rawalpindi Women University (RWU) was opened by TIKA Vice President Dr. Umit Naci Yorulmaz and RWU Rector Prof. Dr. Anila Kamal, providing a platform for pioneering research in species conservation and ecological interactions. The National Tea and High Value Crops Research

Institute (NTHRI) in Mansehra saw the establishment of a Molecular Laboratory, inaugurated by Dr. Umit Naci Yorulmaz and NTHRI Chairman MRC Dr. Ghulam, aimed at enhancing the genetics research of tea and high-value crops. Hazara University in Mansehra now hosts a Building Information Modeling (BIM) Lab in its Department of Architecture, inaugurated by Dr. Umit Naci Yorulmaz and Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Mohsin Nawaz Khan, to advance architectural education. In Mutafarabad, AJK, a Ceramics & Prosthesis Lab at Jinnah Dental Hospital was inaugurated by Dr. Umit Naci Yorulmaz, Health Minister of AJK Dr. Nisar Ansar Abdali, and senior government officials, significantly improving the production of dental prosthetics and ceramic restorations. These initiatives reflect the strong partnership between Turkey and Pakistan, aiming to uplift the scientific, healthcare, and educational sectors, contributing to the country's development and prosperity.



Kenya's Ruto pledges government changes after nationwide protests

NAIROBI
Kenyan President William Ruto said on Friday that he would make changes to the government soon, after weeks of nationwide protests that started as online anger over tax hikes and culminated in the violent storming of parliament. The protests prompted Ruto to withdraw the finance bill that contained the proposed tax hikes, leaving a 346 billion shilling (\$2.7 billion) hole in the budget for the fiscal year that started on July 1. Ruto said in an address to the nation on Friday that his government would cut spending by 177 billion shillings in the fiscal year that started in July, with the additional amount that needs to be raised covered by increased



UK Labour's Starmer arrives at Buckingham Palace to be appointed PM

LONDON
Britain's Keir Starmer arrived at Buckingham Palace on Friday for King Charles to formally appoint him prime minister, after his Labour Party won on a landslide election victory. Earlier, Keir Starmer vowed to rebuild Britain as its next prime minister after his Labour Party on Friday surged to a landslide victory in a parliamentary election, ending 14 years of often tumultuous Conservative government. The centre-left Labour won a massive majority in the 650-seat parliament. Rishi Sunak's Conservatives suffered the worst performance in the party's long history as voters punished them for a cost of living crisis, failing public services, and a series of scandals. "We did it," Starmer said in a victory speech. "Change begins now... We said we would end the chaos, and we will, we said we would turn the page



Polls open in Iran presidential election runoff amid declining voter turnout

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei cast his ballot when the polls opened at 08:00 am

Web Desk
Iranians began voting on Friday in a runoff election to replace the late president Ebrahim Raisi, killed in a helicopter crash last month. Reformist candidate Masoud Pezeshkian, a 69-year-old heart surgeon, faces ultraconservative Saeed Jalili, a former nuclear negotiator, after a first round marred by a record-low turnout. Polls opened on Friday for Iran's runoff presidential election, the interior ministry said. The Islamic republic's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has final say in all state matters, cast his ballot when the polls opened at 08:00 am (04:30 GMT), state TV showed. "We are starting the second round of the 14th presidential election to choose the future president from among the two candidates across 58,638 polling stations in the country and all stations abroad," Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi said, according to state TV. The vote comes against the backdrop of heightened regional tensions over the war in Gaza, Iran's dispute with the West over its nuclear programme and popular discontent at the state of the country's sanctions-hit economy. In last week's first round, Pezeshkian, who was the only reformist permitted to stand, won the largest number of ballots, around 42 percent, while the former nuclear negotiator Jalili came in second place with 39 percent, according to figures from Iran's elections authority. Only 40 percent of Iran's 61 million eligible voters cast their ballot - the lowest turnout in any presidential election since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Rishi Sunak resigns after historic loss in UK elections

LONDON
Web Desk
British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak departed for Buckingham Palace following his resignation as prime minister Friday morning, after the Conservative Party suffered staggering losses in the general election. He left 10 Downing Street after giving his final speech as prime minister, hours suffering a landslide defeat by the left-of-center Labour Party, which will form a government for the first time in 14 years. Rishi Sunak said he would step aside as Conservative leader once arrangements were made to select his successor, as the party sought to rebuild. Earlier, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak conceded defeat in the national election, saying the opposition Labour Party had won. "The Labour Party has won this general election and I have called Sir Keir Starmer to congratulate him on his victory," Sunak said after winning his parliamentary seat in northern England. "Today, power will change hands in a peaceful and orderly manner, with goodwill on all sides. That is something that should give us all confidence in our country's stability and future."

Israel tells Gaza ceasefire negotiators to resume work



GAZA (Agencies) - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has decided to send a team of negotiators to discuss a hostage release deal with Hamas. US President Joe Biden welcomed the development, which comes a day after Hamas responded to a Gaza ceasefire plan he outlined in late May. The last indirect talks took place in Cairo earlier that month. Details of Hamas's latest response have not been made public, but a Palestinian official said that the group was no longer demanding a full ceasefire at the outset of the plan presented by Mr Biden. A senior US administration official said Hamas had agreed to "pretty significant adjustments" to its position. "We've had a breakthrough on a critical impasse," the US official said, although he stressed that "this does not mean this deal is going to be closed in the period of days". President Biden and Prime Minister Netanyahu held a phone call on Thursday, which focused on the hostages and ceasefire negotiations, the official said. On Wednesday, Hamas's political leadership said it had contacted mediators from Egypt and Qatar about ideas it had been discussing with the aim of reaching an agreement. Up to now Hamas has demanded an end to the war and a full withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza. Israel says it will accept only temporary pauses in the fighting, until it eliminates Hamas. When he announced the plan on 31 May, President Biden said it was based on a more detailed Israeli proposal, and that it involved three phases. The first would include a "full and complete ceasefire" lasting six weeks, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from populated areas of Gaza, and the exchange of some of the hostages - including women, the elderly and the sick or wounded - for Palestinian prisoners held in Israel. The second phase would involve the release of all other living hostages and a "permanent end to hostilities".

Martinez saves Messi blushes as Argentina beat Ecuador to reach



HOUSTON
Goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez was the hero, saving two penalties and Lionel Messi's blushes as holders Argentina defeated Ecuador in a penalty shoot-out to book their place in the Copa America semi-finals. Lisandro Martinez headed up world champions Argentina 1-0 up ten minutes before half-time but Kevin Rodriguez headed in a stoppage-time leveller for Ecuador, who had risen to the occasion in front of 69,456 fans at Houston's NRG Stadium. Messi missed the opening penalty, chipping against the bar, but thanks to heroes from Martinez, Argentina recovered to win the shoot-out 4-2 and progress into the semi-finals where they will face the winner of Friday's match between Venezuela and Canada. Messi's botched 'panenka' brought back memories of his miss in the shoot-out loss to Chile in the 2016 Copa final but luckily for him goalkeeper Martinez was in the mood.



PAKISTAN MEN'S 2024-25 HOME INTERNATIONAL SEASON

PCB unveils details of 2024-25 home international season

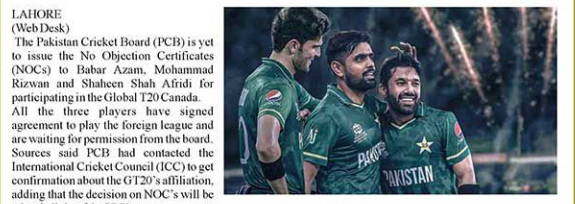
LAHORE
The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Friday announced the details of men's 2024-25 home international cricket season. The national team will compete in three Test series and participate in the first ODI tri-series in 21 years in the lead up to the eight-team ICC Champions Trophy 2025 on home turf. In the curtain-raiser series of the 2024-25 home international season, Bangladesh will play two Tests in Rawalpindi (21-25 August) and Karachi (30 August-3 September). The international season will culminate with the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 final, proposed for 9 March. In between, Pakistan will host England for three Tests in Multan (7-11 October), Karachi (15-19 October) and Rawalpindi (24-28 October), and the West Indies will visit for two Tests in Karachi (16-20 January) and Multan (24-28 January). Additionally, New Zealand and South Africa will participate in an ODI tri-series in Multan from 8-14 February. Bangladesh last played a Test in Pakistan in February 2020, while England swept the three-Test series in December 2022. The 2025 series will also mark the West Indies' first Test tour to Pakistan since November 2006 when Brian Lara explained the side against Inzamam-ul-Haq men. Pakistan last hosted the West Indies for a Test series in October 2016 in the United Arab Emirates. Apart from the home international fixtures, the men's team will tour Australia, Zimbabwe and South Africa from 4 November to 7 January, playing two Tests, nine ODIs and nine T20Is. In the period from August 2024 to March 2025, the Pakistan men's cricket team will play nine Tests, nine T20Is and, at least, 14 ODIs. The number of ODIs may increase based on their performance in the ODI tri-series and the ICC Champions Trophy 2025. Alongside international cricket, the PCB will be involved in planning and delivering an expanded and more competitive PCB Domestic Cricket Season 2024-25, as well as women's domestic and international cricket events and competitions. The HBL Pakistan Super League 2025 is also being planned for April/May 2025. The nine Tests against Bangladesh, England, South Africa and the West Indies will be part of the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25. To date, Pakistan has played five Tests in two series against Sri Lanka and Australia, winning two and losing three.

Are Tamil actor Sunaina, YouTuber Khalid Al Ameri



(Web Desk) - Social media has been abuzz with the speculation of Tamil actress Sunaina and Dubai-based YouTuber Khalid Al Ameri's engagement after their cryptic posts. Tamil actress Sunaina, known for her roles in the web series Inspector Rishi and the anthology film Sila Karupatti, has reportedly got engaged to YouTuber Khalid Al Ameri, one of the most popular content creators in the Middle East. Their latest photos are creating a buzz online. Ameri was earlier married to Salama Mohamed, who confirmed that the former couple got divorced in February this year. A few weeks back on June 5, Sunaina posted a monochrome picture in which she held hands with a mystery guy.

Babar, Rizwan and Shaheen await NOC for foreign league



LAHORE
(Web Desk)
The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is yet to issue the No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi for participating in the Global T20 Canada. All the three players have signed agreement to play the foreign league and are waiting for permission from the board. Sources said PCB had contacted the International Cricket Council (ICC) to get confirmation about the GT20's affiliation, adding that the decision on NOC's will be taken in light of the ICC's response. Earlier, PCB has issued no-objection certificates (NOC) to Fakhar Zaman, Harris Rauf, Mohammad Amir and other players to participate in cricket leagues. The development comes days after Pakistan players reached back from West Indies as they faced early elimination from the T20 World Cup 2024. The board has issued NOCs to the following cricketers: Abrar Ahmed - Major League Cricket - 4 to 28 July Fakhar Zaman - Caribbean Premier League - 29 August to 6 October Harris Rauf - Major League Cricket - 5 to 28 July Mohammad Amir - County Cricket - 4 to 20 July Mohammad Harris - Lanka Premier League - 1 to 21 July Mohammad Harris - Lanka Premier League - 1 to 21 July Salman Ali Agha - Lanka Premier League - 1 to 21 July Shadab Khan - Lanka Premier League - 1 to 21 July Sharjeel Khan - World Championship of Legends - 3 to 13 July Sohail Maqsood - World Championship of Legends - 3 to 13 July Usama Mir - The Hundred - 23 July to 20 August Zaman Khan - Major League Cricket - 4 to 28 July