



# Daily SOON TIMES

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Monday  
July 8, 2024  
Page: 4 Rs: 20  
Vol: 4 Issue: 188  
Sargodha

www.soontimes.pk

ABC Certified

Simultaneously Publishing from Islamabad, Sargodha & Karachi

+92 321 888 1135

## IHC declares keeping Bushra Bibi in solitary confinement a form of torture



Soon Times Correspondent  
MULTAN

In what appears to be a strong censure of the incumbent government over the skyrocketing price of electricity bills and fuel, Jamaat-e-Islami Emir Hafiz Naeemur Rehman said on Sunday the party would hold a historical sit-in on July 12 in Islamabad. He said the people have been forced to sell their precious savings to pay the ever-increasing power bills. He added the southern Punjab has not been awarded its deserving status of a separate electorate as successive governments have ignored the demands of the people. He said the incumbent government was the product of form 47 while urging the chief justice to form a judicial commission so that a real government would see the light of the day. If chief said more taxes have been imposed on the salaried class while the landlords and elites have been sidelined from paying any taxes with the perks and privileges of elites also increased. Related Topics

## President Zardari to reach Lahore on three-day visit tomorrow



Soon Times Correspondent  
LAHORE

President Asif Ali Zardari will reach Lahore on three-day visit tomorrow (Monday). According to sources, President Zardari is likely to attend a seminar in Lahore while he will also hold meeting with PPP's parliamentary party in Punjab Assembly. He will also chair a meeting regarding the reorganizational structure of PPP. The sources said that President Zardari will also hold meeting with Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider during his three-day visit of Lahore.

## Pakistan Railways To run trains under Public-Private Partnership



Soon Times Correspondent  
LAHORE

Pakistan Railways has decided to run its all trains under the public-private partnership mode, sources said. Citing railway officials' sources said that the decision has been taken to provide better facilities to railway passengers and bringing stability in the department's income. Several trains including Karakoram Express, Karachi Express, Avam Express, Green Line, Mahar, Chenab, Sunan Sarkar and Mohen-jo Daro passenger train will be run under the public-private partnership mode, officials said. Moreover, Pak Business, Bolan Mail, Thall, Sukkur Express, Marvi, Chaman and Hazara Express would also be operated by the private sector, officials said. Railway officials said that Shalimar Express, Bahaudin Zakaria, Kohat, Mehran Express, Attock, Jind and Rawalpindi passenger train also been run under this mechanism. Chief Executive Officer Amir Baloch has stated that the railways intend to provide the best travel experience to its passengers. Sources apprehended that the railway fares would skyrocket under the public-private partnership mode.

## CM Maryam Nawaz directs authorities to remain on high alert during monsoon

She also directed to completely implement standard operating procedures of provincial disaster management.



Soon Times Correspondent  
LAHORE

Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif has alerted administrations of different districts across the Punjab province in the wake of expected rains and directed authorities to take all the precautionary measures. The Chief Minister directed district commissioners, assistant commissioners and waza officials to remain in the field till the complete drainage of rain water and utilize all resources to ensure relief work on time in case of any flood-like situation. She also directed to completely implement standard operating procedures of provincial disaster management. Earlier, the National Emergencies

Operation Center (NEOC) of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) issued a comprehensive monsoon forecast, saying that moderate to very heavy rains may cause riverine and flash flooding, urban flooding, landslides in hilly areas, and potential GLOF events. The NEOC highlighted expected rainfall intensities and potential impacts across various regions of Pakistan for the month of July. As per the latest projections from the NEOC Mirpurkhas, Karachi, Hyderabad, Nawabshah, Larkana and Sukkur districts of Sindh will receive 30-75 mm rainfall in the month of July while in 2nd and 4th week of July heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected in these areas.

## Punjab Police raid house of Opposition Leader Omar Ayub

Mianwali police contingent raided PTI leader's residence in F-10 here in the federal capital

Soon Times Correspondent  
ISLAMABAD

Punjab Police on Sunday raided the house of Opposition Leader in the National Assembly Omar Ayub to arrest him.

A Mianwali police contingent, along with Islamabad police raided PTI leader's residence in F-10 here in the federal capital.

Omar wrote on social media website X, former Twitter, that a Sargodha ATC (Anti-terrorism Court) issued his bailable warrant. A Mianwali and Islamabad police posse raided his house some time ago to arrest him, he continued.

The federal and Punjab governments, created on the basis of Form-47, are eager to arrest the opposition leader of the National Assembly.



Omar wrote.

"The opposition leader said that the raid proved that there is no rule of law in the country. "Let me make it clear that our struggle will continue until Imran Khan becomes prime minister," he stated. It may be noted that Omar is wanted in an anti-terrorism case.

## Mohsin Naqvi takes notice of over-billing of electricity bills

Soon Times Correspondent  
ISLAMABAD

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi also took notice of the complaints of over-billing, even of protected customers, and ordered legal action against the officers and staff involved in malpractice. The minister on Sunday directed all the directors of FIA (Federal Investigation Agency) to redress the grievance of customers who used 200 units of electricity. He said that deliberately including protected consumers in non-protected category is a criminal act which cannot be allowed. FIA should investigate and take



action against the officials without discrimination. The Anti-Corruption Circle of the FIA has started an inquiry into the over-billing of protected customers by the Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO). Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Saturday directed to take stern action against the officials involved in the overbilling of electricity bills.

## PM Shehbaz Sharif calls for modernising Karachi ports to boost regional trade

Premier reaffirms govt's commitment to private sector growth, ease of doing business during Karachi visit



Soon Times Correspondent  
Karachi

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is in Karachi today for a day-long trip to review the city's port operations and to meet with key business leaders, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement.

During the visit, PM Shehbaz visited Karachi Port Trust (KPT) to receive detailed briefings on the operations of Pakistan's ports and the national flag carrier, Pakistan National Shipping Corporation (PNSC). During his visit, he emphasised

Putin and leaders of Central Asian countries during his visit to Kazakhstan. He noted the keen interest of Central Asian states in utilising Pakistan ports for their trade. The prime minister said, "With modern systems and improved access to our ports, Pakistan can earn billions in foreign exchange."

He emphasised the development of value-added industries to boost exports, particularly through the advancement of Karachi's ports. The PM directed the installation of modern

equipment and machinery at Port Qasim and Karachi Port Trust to reduce customs clearance times. He also called for the immediate installation of advanced scanning machinery at the ports to enhance operational efficiency. To ensure uninterrupted cargo delivery, he instructed that the Lyari Expressway remain open 24/7 for cargo traffic and proposed connecting the Malir Expressway to the port. He also emphasised increasing rail capacity for cargo transport and from Karachi Port.

## Pakistan Army rescues Samina Baig from K2 base camp



Soon Times Correspondent  
RAWALPINDI

The Pakistan Army on Sunday successfully rescued renowned mountaineer Samina Baig, who was on an expedition to summit the world's second highest peak K2, from the base camp after her health deteriorated. Samina became the first Pakistani woman to summit the world's highest peak, Mount Everest, in 2013 at the age of 21 and has since set off on a number of expeditions around the world. She has also claimed Nanga Parbat, and

the Seven Summits in seven continents. Currently, Samina Baig was part of an eight-member Pakistan-Italy joint women's K2 expedition team. She was forced to abandon her climb on July 5, 2024, due to severe health issues. She was shifted from the K2 base camp to Shigar's Askole area earlier in the day after undertaking a lengthy journey on horseback while in critical medical condition. Due to inclement weather, the Pakistan Army's rescue flight was unable to reach the base camp, and Baig was instead transported to Skardu by road early this morning. A team of Pakistani Army doctors is now ready to provide Baig with medical care at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Skardu. According to sources, Baig's health has improved slightly due to the decrease in altitude.

## IHC Bar condemns social media campaign against Justice Tariq Jahangiri

Soon Times Correspondent  
ISLAMABAD

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Bar Association has condemned the recent social media campaign targeting Justice Tariq Mahmood Jahangiri. In a statement, the IHC Bar described the campaign as malicious and harmful. In a response to the controversy, the Bar Association's Executive Committee has scheduled a meeting for July 9 to address the issue. According to the announcement, Justice Tariq Mahmood Jahangiri is recognized as a competent and diligent judge, with a distinguished career as a lawyer and Deputy Attorney General. The Bar Association praised his dedication and professional achievements. The Islamabad High Court Bar Association reaffirmed its commitment to judicial independence and autonomy in its statement, underscoring the



importance of supporting the judiciary against baseless attacks. In response to a letter circulating on social media purportedly from the Karachi University's (KU) controller of examinations regarding the law degree of Islamabad-bad High Court (IHC) judge Justice Tariq Mahmood Jahangiri, and the subsequent filing of a reference with the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), the IHC is expected to issue an official statement to the campaign against the judge.





# Refugees Filippo Grandi

Federal Minister for States and Frontier Regions & Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Engr Amir Muqam warmly received UNHCR's high level delegation led by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi on arrival at his

residence. The Federal Minister welcomed the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Pakistan. Federal Minister Engr Amir Muqam also presented a flower bouquet to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees on this occasion. During the

meeting, they discussed various issues pertaining to refugees. On this occasion, Federal Minister also presented Traditional 'Chadars' and gifts to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and other members of delegation. Later, the Federal

Minister for States and Frontier Regions & Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Engr Amir Muqam also hosted a luncheon reception in honour of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi in Peshawar at his residence.

## The Impact of Taxes on the Economy A Multifaceted Analysis

Syeda Sadia Amber Jilani



Taxes have a crucial role in every fiscal year's budget. Any government requires revenue to fulfill its national obligations. There are three main sources of gov't revenue. 1. Taxes, which are the mandatory payments made by citizens to the government, derived from their annual income, profits, and purchases of goods and services. 2. Surcharges: The additional fees imposed by the government on the basic costs of goods and services, which are included in the price of those goods and services. 3. Non-Tax Sources: The government has other revenue sources besides taxes, which are used as needed. For instance, foreign aid, loans, interest on loans, fines, fees and the privatization and sale of state owned properties, etc. The word "Tax" is derived from the Latin word "Taxare," which means to assess or estimate. Taxes are considered the most important source of government revenue. Taxes are payments made by the public to the government, for which they do not receive any direct benefit in return. However, the revenue generated from taxes is spent by the government for the welfare and development of society and the country as a whole. Taxes are considered a burden on taxpayers. In this regard, American economist R.A. Musgrave has categorized this burden into three types: 1. Specific Incidence (Burden): This refers to a situation where taxes are imposed on the public, but there is no corresponding change in government expenditures. 2. Differential incidence: This refers to the burden that arises when a new tax is imposed in place of an existing tax, resulting in a change in the distribution of the tax burden among different groups or sectors. In this burden, the effects of replacing one tax with another are analyzed, while keeping government expenditures constant. 3. Balanced Budget Burden: When the government imposes a new tax to increase its expenditures, the tax burden is referred to as a balanced budget burden. In this incidence, the distributive effects of the new tax and the changes in government expenditures are analyzed. This burden is only considered truly balanced if the additional spending benefits the people and the

economy, not just the government. According to a survey, in under developed countries with low per capita incomes, indirect taxes or consumption taxes accounted for two-thirds of total tax revenue, whereas in developed countries with high per capita incomes, this ratio was half. This is because in less developed countries, people's incomes are low, so they pay less income tax but they have to pay more indirect taxes/consumption taxes. On the other hand, in developed countries, people's incomes are higher, so they pay more income tax and profit tax. According to the Classical economists taxes are merely a significant source of government revenue. However, in modern economies, taxes are recognized as not only a means of generating government revenue but also as having multiplier effect on other important economic variables. Moreover, taxes are used as tools to control and regulate these economic and real variables. Taxation impacts various important sectors of the economy in following ways: 1. Effects of Taxation on Consumption: Taxes have significant effects on consumption. When taxes are imposed on individuals' income, it reduces their disposable income, leading to a decrease in their purchasing power. As a result, they reduce their consumption expenditures. Similarly, an increase in indirect taxes also reduces consumers' purchasing power, leading to a decrease in consumption. Taxes, whether direct or indirect, lead to a decrease in consumption. Therefore, when the government wants to reduce consumption of a particular item, it imposes a tax on it. 2. Effects of Taxation on Savings: When taxes go up, people have less money to meet their basic necessities. The increase in taxes severely affects savings,

having multiplier effect. As taxes rise, people's savings decrease, leading to less capital formation, less investment, lower production and lower income. This vicious cycle of decreasing incomes and savings continues until the govt increases its expenditures and takes steps to boost the economy and improve national welfare and development. 3. Effects of Taxation on investment and GDP: Economist J.M. Keynes termed taxes as 'Leakage' because they are a non-productive use of income. Higher taxes leads to less savings and capital formation, resulting in reduced investment. The imposition of taxes on profits discourages investors, and they reduce their investments due to the negative income effect and wealth effect. This reduction in investment leads to a decrease in national income, which has further negative multiplier effects. However, if the government increases its expenditures on improving national infrastructure and providing subsidies for industries, it can boost investment and economic growth. 4. Effects of Taxation on Employment and Standard Of Living: When taxes increase, investment decreases, leading to a decrease in employment and standard of living. However, the main objective of imposing taxes is to generate resources for national development and welfare. And if the government spends the revenue generated from taxes on national development and welfare, it is possible to increase employment and standard of living. 5. Effects of Taxation on Distribution Of Wealth: Taxation is the best means of achieving equal distribution of wealth in the economy. If their implementation is equitable. That is, the rich should be taxed at a higher rate and middle-income people should be taxed at a lower rate. Moreover, the poor should be exempted from tax.

Adam Smith, the father of economics, has formulated four important canons in this regard. Taxation has both positive and negative impacts. If the government utilizes tax revenue effectively to improve public services, infrastructure, and economic growth, then taxes can prove to be a "beneficial burden" for the society. Otherwise, they simply become a "painful burden" on the people.

## Awaam Pakistan Debuts Amid Political Turmoil



Anjad Rana

the establishment, a fact widely acknowledged given the history of political parties in the country. Previous successful parties like the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Pakistan Muslim League-Navaz (PML-N), and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have formed governments with establishment support. Despite multiple opportunities, both PPP and PML-N have failed to resolve Pakistan's crises during their tenures, leading to public dissatisfaction due to increasing inflation and human rights violations. PTI's government struggled to manage the political landscape dominated by PPP and PML-N, ultimately being ousted through a no-confidence motion. This led to a coalition government between PPP and PML-N, which currently holds power in both provincial and central governments. In this context, Awaam Pakistan aims to establish itself among the masses with a vision of providing equal economic opportunities for all Pakistanis. The party, led by former finance minister Ismail and former Prime Minister Abbasi, seeks to break away from traditional political practices. It rejects hereditary politics and personality cults, instead emphasizing meritocracy, economic equality, and adherence to the Constitution. The party's launch message focuses on addressing deep-rooted issues such as education, poverty, and governance, with a commitment to public service over personal gain. Awaam Pakistan's leaders criticize the current political class for their failures and highlight the urgent need for systemic reforms. They promise to release a detailed mission statement soon, outlining their goals and actionable solutions. Awaam Pakistan's launch marks a significant development in Pakistan's political landscape. The party's leaders, Ismail and Abbasi, advocate for a break from the entrenched political practices that have historically dominated the country. With a focus on equal economic opportunities, meritocracy, and constitutional

adherence, Awaam Pakistan aims to address the critical issues facing the nation. The party's commitment to genuine public service and systemic reform offers hope for a new era in Pakistani politics, where the welfare of the citizens is prioritized over political gains. The launch of Awaam Pakistan, a new political party, represents a bold attempt to address the longstanding issues plaguing Pakistan. Spearheaded by former finance minister Ismail, the party aims to provide equal economic opportunities to all Pakistanis while rejecting hereditary politics and personality cults. The party's vision, as articulated by Ismail, emphasizes meritocracy and the end of political dynasties. He highlighted Pakistan's severe socio-economic challenges, including its lagging status in South Asia and the alarming rates of poverty, malnutrition, and inadequate education. Ismail's speech at the launch event was a stark critique of the current political landscape, accusing the existing politicians of treating citizens as prey and formulating policies solely for their benefit. Awaam Pakistan's promise to limit senior party members to two terms and prevent their children from succeeding them marks a significant departure from traditional Pakistani politics. The party's focus on providing opportunities and rebuilding the nation reflects a commitment to addressing the root causes of the country's developmental stagnation. At the formal launch of Awaam Pakistan in Islamabad, former finance minister Ismail presented a comprehensive critique of the nation's current state and laid out his party's vision for the future. He lamented how Pakistan, once the wealthiest country in South Asia, has fallen behind its neighbours in almost every sector, including education, human development, and economic growth. Ismail highlighted several alarming statistics to underscore his points. Despite significant spending of Rs1.5 trillion to Rs2 trillion on education, Pakistan still ranks behind countries like Sudan, Yemen, and East Timor. The country has the highest number of out-of-school children in the world. Around 100 million Pakistanis live below the poverty line, with many children going to bed hungry. This widespread poverty has led to 40% of Pakistani children suffering from stunted physical and mental development due to malnutrition. The recently passed budget was criticized for being self-serving to

politicians, with increased taxes on those earning between Rs75,000 and Rs100,000, adding financial strain on ordinary citizens. Ismail passionately argued that Pakistan's politicians have failed the nation, treating its citizens not as constituents but as prey. The founding principles of Awaam Pakistan are grounded in the belief that every Pakistani deserves the right to progress and access opportunities. By emphasizing merit over inheritance, the party aims to dismantle the entrenched political dynasties that have long dominated the country's political scene. This includes a pledge that no senior party member will serve more than two terms, and their children will not be allowed to inherit their positions. The party aims to address the systemic issues that have hindered Pakistan's progress and provide a platform for genuine change. The launch of Awaam Pakistan signifies a pivotal moment in Pakistan's political landscape. The party aims to address the deep-rooted issues that have long impeded the country's development. Former finance minister Ismail's critique of the current state of affairs underscores the urgent need for systemic change. By emphasizing education, tackling poverty, and prioritizing the well-being of all citizens, Awaam Pakistan seeks to rebuild the nation on a foundation of fairness and opportunity. This new political entity offers hope for a future where every Pakistani has the chance to progress and thrive, free from the constraints of entrenched political dynasties and predatory governance. At the launch ceremony of Awaam Pakistan, former Prime Minister Abbasi echoed Ismail's sentiments, expressing regret over the state of politics in Pakistan, which he described as being more about retaining power than serving the public. Abbasi lamented that politicians often prioritize their positions over national welfare, questioning their moral authority to resolve the country's problems. However, he expressed optimism, noting that the public desires better governance and that the formation of Awaam Pakistan marks the first step in a challenging journey. Abbasi highlighted that Awaam Pakistan is an unconventional party, focused on presenting an idea rather than forming a traditional political structure. He emphasized that the party is not inviting members just yet but will seek individuals with ability and a good reputation.

## Carbon nanotubes

Hafsa Butt Adan

Until the last decade of the 20th century, carbon existed on earth in two material states: diamond and graphite. In 1991, a Japanese physicist, Sumio Iijima, was conducting an experiment in which his microscopic eye saw dark clouds forming. Curiosity piqued, his transmission electron microscope showed he had discovered a new type of carbon which he named carbon nanotubes. In fact, it was the hexagonal state of graphite but its extraordinary properties were not present in any other metal in the world. It is the world's hardest metal, as hard as diamond but extremely light in weight. Its use can reduce the weight of airplanes and spacecraft by more than thirty percent. This strongest metal is ten times harder than steel and flexible enough to be stretched 20% beyond its original strength without bending or breaking. It has better conduction ability than copper which is the best conductor commonly used in electric wires so that billions of amperes of electric energy can be carried through its wires. The heat absorption capacity is also twenty times higher than that of steel. In

summer, it can be used to build electric wires, bridges and railway tracks with no fear of rust. The tube can also be used in bulletproof jackets and vehicles. It has been found to be capable of stopping a 9mm bullet. As a biosensor, this is a wonderful discovery. It not only senses the large amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, but can also be installed at the waste outlet in industries to prevent it. CNTs can filter and absorb carbon dioxide, which can be used later. Scientists have done some research on the methods of its use but this is still in progress. The film used in a solar panel consists of an array of holes that are capable of absorbing light particles to generate electricity, but they become very hot and lose their efficiency. Students of King Abdullah University created a polymer of calcium chloride that would absorb moisture from the air and as a result expand. This function is reversed by combining carbon nanotubes with these polymers. When this resin-like substance was applied to the back of a solar panel, it absorbed moisture from the humid air at night and slowly released it during the scorching hours of the day. Thus, the temperature was reduced by ten degrees and the efficiency of

the panel increased by twenty percent. Rennyon Lee says: "We believe that by using this cooling technology, we can meet many needs because water vapours are ubiquitous and it is relatively easy to adapt to different scales." This invention of Iijima is a great boon to technology. A protective shell was needed to protect the environment. To some extent, carbon nanotubes can be used to control the largest greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide around us. Although developing countries have not been able to move out of bread, clothes and houses, but its use should be increased in developed countries. In America, China, Japan, South Korea, Germany, France, Great Britain, Brazil, India and Russia, research and work is going on rapidly on CNTs. In particular, companies in China, Japan and South Korea are making objects from CNTs. According to Saudi Arabia's plan for the mega city project "Neom" near the coast of the Red Sea, advanced technology will be used there. It seems highly unlikely that they will not use carbon nanotubes. In this case, this industry will get a boost and the demand of this metal is likely to increase in the global market.

## Soon Valley Literary Society organized a Urdu poetry recital (Mushaira) as part of The tree plantation campaign.

Soon Times Correspondent  
Soon Valley  
Literary Society organized a Urdu poetry recital (Mushaira) as part of the tree plantation campaign. The event was held under the patronage of Dr. Malik Muhammad Iniaz Sahil Awan. The program began with the planting of a sapling. The hosting duties were performed by Muntaz Sawan, while the responsibilities of the event were handled by the Soon Valley Literary Society's administration. The event featured a Quranic recitation by Qari Mullahmad Shahzaib and a Naat Shareef by Saqib ul Hassan Golari. The presidential address was delivered by Malik Sultan



Shabbir Ahmed Zahid, Muhammad Ali, Arif Awan, Malik Usman Mani, Dr. Nazir Mukhlis, Gul Jahnan, Munir Sawan, Malik Asad Mairaj, Shariq Aziz Mian Awan, Rabab Awan, and Nazia Awan, Naeem Zafar and Islam Zaki specially participated in the event. A large number of men women and from the city attended the Mushaira and appreciated the efforts of the Soon Valley Literary Society's administration. The administration of SVLS extends its heartfelt gratitude to MD Village Hotel, Naushera, and M.M. Alam Awan for their cooperation.



# Commissioner reviews the ongoing operation of rain water drainage by MC



Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: Commissioner and Administrator Municipal Corporation Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti on Sunday made a secret tour of the city on a motorcycle and reviewed the ongoing operation of rainwater drainage

by the Municipal Corporation. He made a detailed visit to other areas including Block No 28, 30, 31 and 35 and got information from the citizens about the ongoing operation. He directed to blacklist the contractor who laid the faulty sewer line in Block No. 29. It directed the COMC

to stop payment to the contractor and repair the sewer line immediately. He also called Deputy Commissioner Captain Retired Aurangzeb Haider Khan, Assistant Commissioner Anna Ehsan Tarr and CO MC Tariq Paroya on the spot. He directed the officers to listen to the problems of the citizens and take immediate steps and strictly monitor the ongoing operation. The commissioner said that before the next spill of monsoon, de-silting of all sewer lines should be done and the operation should be continued till all areas of the city are drained of rain water. Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner also inspected Muhammad Colony and Silanwali Road Disposal. On this occasion, it was informed that all the disposal machinery across the city has been working continuously for 36 hours. MC officers and field staff are also on duty even on holidays.

# Chambers of Commerce & Associations Urged to Address the Impact of Independent Power Producers



Soon Times Correspondent Lahore: S M Tanveer, Patron in Chief of the United Business Group, alongside Faraz ur Rehman, Chairman & Founder of Pakistan

Business Group Organization (PBG), has issued an urgent call to action to the Chambers of Commerce and various associations regarding the adverse effects

of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) on Pakistan's economy and society. In their joint statement, Tanveer and Rehman highlighted the detrimental impact of current IPP policies and practices, which have not only harmed the business environment but also inflicted severe hardships on the poor, threatening the future of the nation and the well-being of its children. Tanveer and Rehman's detailed analysis of these issues can be found in an article published in Business Recorder. They urge all stakeholders to read the article and join in a collective effort to raise awareness and advocate for necessary reforms. They have called on the government to immediately cancel and renegotiate the agreements with IPPs, stating that Pakistan is in the midst of a severe energy and economic crisis primarily due to these IPP agreements. They also urged the chambers and associations to use their platforms and networks to bring about the much-needed changes in IPP policies to ensure a better future for Pakistan.

# 03 Turkish NGOs announce to work in Pakistan's education, health & culture fields



Soon Times Correspondent Ankara: Three prominent Turkish Non-Governmental Organizations have announced to work for the improvement in the fields of education, health, culture and social uplift of the people of Pakistan. The announcement was made on the occasion of a ceremony to award certificate of appreciation to President Turkish-Pakistan Women Forum Shabana Ayyaz by four-member directors of Anatolian Union, Turkish World Association of Academics and Bureaucrats and World Reporters Association in recognition of her services to enhance Pak-Turkiye brotherhood and friendship. The directors of all three organizations, Ismet Tas, Professor Dr. Issa Eleri, Dr. Mehmet Tekin, and President of the

Women's Wing, Nur Dilce were also present on the occasion. Addressing the ceremony, Director General Ismet Tas said that President Shabana Ayyaz of the Turkish-Pak Women Forum did not leave us alone in our event "Be the Voice for the Silent Children's Scream" and supported us in every possible way. We acknowledge that Shabana Ayyaz has led many programs for women and children in Pakistan. Ismet Tas said she is also working to enhance Pak-Turk friendship and brotherhood, which Turkish people deeply appreciate. Ismet Tas stated that people of both countries harmonize with each other in pain, sorrow, trouble, and happiness and Turkish people want Pakistan and Türkiye to fully support each other in every field. The Director General Türkiye's achievements in science and technology, art and culture, economy, and human rights are widespread around the

world, especially the effort "Silent Children's Silent Scream" has been broadcast in many countries worldwide. Besides Turkish media as well as the global media have praised this effort. "We believe that Pakistan and its people will feel the silent scream of the silent children, especially the silent scream of the thousands of children martyred in Gaza. We should become their voice; there are about 40,000 martyrs in Gaza. We should advocate for their legal and human rights on every platform," Ismet Tas remarked. The Director General thanked to the efforts of Women's Wing Head Nur Dilce, Vice President Dr. Issa Eleri, and Dr. Mehmet Tekin, the echo of the silent children's scream is being heard around the world. On the occasion, Nur Dilce said that he was grateful for the support and cooperation of Shabana Ayyaz, President of the Turkish-Pak Women Forum, who conveyed their voice to Pakistan. As a Turkish woman, she saw Shabana Ayyaz and other Pakistani women as her sisters and look forward to meeting them. Ismet Tas, Nur Dilce, Dr. Issa Eleri, and Dr. Mehmet Tekin especially greeted the Pakistani people on behalf of all Türkiye people and chanted the slogan on conclusion of the ceremony "Long live Turkey-Pakistan brotherhood."

# Armed Forces pay homage to Havildar Lalak Jan Shaheed

Soon Times Correspondent Rawalpindi: The Armed Forces of Pakistan, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, and Services Chiefs pay homage to Havildar Lalak Jan Shaheed, Nishan-e-Haider, on the 25th anniversary of his ultimate sacrifice. On this day, Havildar Lalak Jan demonstrated unwavering courage and selflessness, laying down his life in the line of duty during the Kargil conflict. His valor and altruism continue to inspire future generations of brave soldiers. The highest



honor is bestowed upon those who sacrifice their lives for the nation's defense. The nation remains forever grateful to its valiant soldiers for their unwavering commitment to protecting the motherland at all costs. We honor the memory of our fallen heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of

## SNGPL disconnected 38 connections & imposed fine of Rs 0.95 million

Soon Times Correspondent Lahore: During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad. It disconnected 38 connections and imposed a fine of Rs 0.95 million. In Lahore, the team disconnected 06 connections on illegal use of gas. In Multan, the team disconnected 14 connections on illegal use of gas while and 04 on use of compressor. The regional team of Faisalabad disconnected 02 connections on illegal use of gas and booked Rs 0.02 million against gas theft cases. In Sahiwal, the team disconnected 02 connections on illegal use of gas. The regional team of Gujranwala disconnected 02 connections on illegal use of gas and imposed a fine of Rs 0.45 million against gas theft cases. In Mardan, the team disconnected 04 connections on illegal use of gas and imposed fine of Rs 0.48 million against gas theft cases. The regional team of Bahawalpur disconnected 04 connections on illegal use of gas.

# Pakistan to launch Kisan Tv to promote climate-resilient agriculture

Soon Times Correspondent Lahore: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam has unveiled Pakistan's plans to launch Kisan TV channel to support farmers in combating the impacts of climate change. PM's aide in a statement on Sunday said the idea of this innovative channel aims to educate farmers on climate adaptation strategies, disaster management techniques, and sustainable practices to mitigate environmental degradation. The Coordinator said the channel will leverage the services of Pakistan Television (PTV) to broadcast programs in six regional languages, ensuring that vulnerable communities receive timely information. The programs will be telecast through local PTV stations at the provincial level, maximizing and localizing the coverage and reach, she added.



Romina Khurshid Alam also engaged with a private channel to amplify the voice of the Climate Ministry, promoting clean and green initiatives. She emphasized the importance of media support in enhancing climate change coverage and rearranging journalism priorities. She noted the Kisan TV channel will provide farmers with timely information and guidance on adapting to climate-related challenges, including weather alerts to enable preemptive measures. She said adding, the Kisan TV channel will also feature initiatives promoting women's income generation, gender empowerment, and environmental sustainability. She said the government seeks to empower farmers with knowledge and tools to build resilience against climate change, leveraging the power of media. She stated media teams from relevant climate change departments and TV initiatives will collaborate to strengthen their efforts protecting the socio-economic impacts of climate change on the farming community. During different meetings convened in June over global heat waves and floods, the PM's aide directed relevant institutions to strengthen official media teams to keep vulnerable communities informed about climate change timely. She said the goal is to sensitize the media to report on climate change before potential flash flooding and glacial lake outbursts in vulnerable regions.

# Muharram: Over 16,000 personnel to be deployed in Islamabad

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police has devised a special security plans including deployment of over 16000 personnel during Muharram-ul-Haram. The plan was chalked out at a high level meeting chaired by IG Islamabad Police Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi in Islamabad today. From 1st Muharram till 2nd Rabi-ul-Awwal, 181 processions and 965 majalis will be held in Islamabad. During which over 16,000 police officials will perform security duties. The processions will be monitored by Safe City cameras while armored vehicles will be deployed to deal with any emergency. Strict checking will be done at the entrance and exit points of the city. All roads and streets in the route of the procession will be closed with barbed wire and special checking will be done and disposal squad will clear the route of the procession before its start.



All gatherings and processions will be video recorded by drone cameras. Locals and non-locals will be allowed to enter the procession after thorough search. Entry of vehicles and motorcycles will be completely prohibited in the procession. People joining the processions and majalis will be checked by metal detector while walk-through gates will also be installed at entrances and exits. Earlier, the police also held meetings with scholars of different schools of thought, members of the peace committee and intellectuals before the meeting.

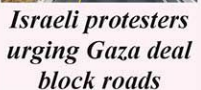


## Heavy rains trigger landslides in Nepal, 11 killed, 8 missing



**KATHMANDU**  
Heavy rains triggered landslides and flash floods killing at least 11 people in the last 36 hours in Nepal and blocking key highways and roads, officials said on Sunday.  
Eight people were missing, either washed away by floods or buried in landslides, while 12 others were injured and being treated in hospitals, police spokesperson Dan Bahadur Karki said.  
"Rescue workers are trying to clear the landslides and open the roads," Karki told Reuters, adding heavy equipment was being used to clear debris.

## Israeli protesters urging Gaza deal block roads



**JERUSALEM**  
Protests aimed at pressuring the Israeli government to reach a hostage deal with Hamas began across the country on Sunday, with demonstrators blocking roads and picketing at the homes of government ministers.  
Protests began at 6:29 am (0329 GMT), corresponding to the time of Hamas' Oct 7 assault on Israel, according to Israeli media.  
The demonstrators took to the streets, blocking rush hour traffic at major intersections across the country. They briefly set fire to tires on the main Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway before police cleared the way.  
Efforts to secure a hostage deal between Israel and Hamas in Gaza after nine months of war have gained momentum in recent days, with officials expressing optimism but saying gaps remain between the sides.  
Gaza health authorities say more than 8,000 Palestinians have been killed in the offensive launched in response to Hamas' attack on southern Israel, in which 1,200 people were killed and over 250 taken hostage.



## Israeli strike 16 Dies at Gaza school, military says it targeted gunmen

**The health ministry said the attack on the school in Al-Nuseirat wounded more than 50**

**CAIRO/GAZA**  
At least 16 people were killed in an Israeli strike on a school sheltering displaced Palestinian families in central Gaza, the Palestinian health ministry said, in an attack Israel said had targeted militants.  
The health ministry said the attack on the school in Al-Nuseirat killed at least 16 people and wounded more than 50.  
The Israeli military said it took precautions to minimize risk to civilians before it targeted the gunmen who were using the area as a hideout to plan and carry out attacks against soldiers. Hamas denied its fighters were there.  
At the scene, Ayman al-Atouneh said he saw children among the dead. "We came here running to see the targeted area, we saw bodies of children, in pieces, this is a playground, there was a trampoline here, there were swing-sets, and vendors," he said.  
Mahmoud Bassal, spokesman of the Gaza Civil Emergency Service, said in a statement that the number of dead could rise because many of the wounded were in critical condition.  
The attack meant no place in the enclave was safe for families who leave their houses to seek shelters, he said. Al-Nuseirat, one of Gaza Strip's eight historic refugee camps, was the site of stepped-up Israeli bombardment on Saturday. An air strike earlier on a house in the camp killed at least 10 people and wounded many others, according to medics.  
In its daily update of people killed in the nearly nine-month-old war, the Gaza health ministry said Israeli military strikes across the enclave killed at least 29 Palestinians in the past 24 hours and wounded 100 others.

## Sydney house fire kills three children, police suspect homicide



**SYDNEY**  
Three children, including a 10-month-old, were killed after fire ripped through a house in Sydney early on Sunday in an incident Australian police said they were treating as a homicide.  
Emergency services were called to the property in Lalor Park, about 35 km (20 miles) west of Sydney's city centre, around 1 am (1500 GMT) on Saturday, police said in a statement.  
Two boys, aged two and four, were treated at the scene but died shortly after being taken to the hospital, while a 10-month-old girl was found dead after the fire was extinguished, police said.  
A 28-year-old man, who frustrated police attempts to get into the property, was

arrested and was being treated for fire-related injuries at the hospital under police guard, it said.  
Homicide squad detectives have taken control of the investigation and are treating it as a "domestic-related homicide", said Homicide Squad Commander Detective Superintendent Danny Doherty.  
"At this stage, it does appear the 28-year-old man is responsible for multiple deaths of young lives that have been tragically taken away," Doherty told a press conference.  
Four other children, aged from six to 11, were in stable condition in hospital, as well as the mother of the children, a 29-year-old who was being treated for smoke inhalation, police said.

## NATO is spending more on defence, but it's likely not enough



**BRUSSELS (Belgium)**  
Spurred on by Russia's war in Ukraine and the spectre of Donald Trump's potential return to the White House, more of NATO's European members are finally hitting the alliance's defence spending target.  
But as leaders gear up to celebrate at a NATO summit in Washington there is a clear feeling that it will not be sufficient to tackle the challenges it faces.  
"Even in countries historically reluctant to spend more on defence there is now a growing sense of the importance of greatly increased defence spending," said Ian Lesser, from the German Marshall Fund of the United States think tank.  
"I think, broadly speaking, in the next years we're looking at levels of defence spending that will begin to approach those of the Cold War."  
A decade after setting a spending goal to two percent of gross domestic product, just over two-thirds of NATO's 32 countries are now expected to reach or top that threshold this year.  
That is up from only three allies in 2014.  
The increase in spending, which includes European heavyweights Germany and France, will be heavily showcased in Washington as NATO stages its show of unity.  
That is designed to send a message to Russia's President Vladimir Putin as he wages his war in Ukraine and menaces NATO from the east.  
But it is also a message for former US leader Donald Trump as he seeks to reclaim the Oval Office from incumbent Joe Biden at elections in November.  
Like other US leaders, upset that Washington shoulders too much of the burden with its vast defence budget, Trump spent his time in office demanding European countries do more.  
On the campaign trail in February he unleashed a firestorm by saying he would encourage Russia to "do whatever the hell"

# Sports & Showbiz

## Rohit Sharma to lead India in Champions Trophy, WTC: BCCI



**SportsDesk**  
Triumph captain Rohit Sharma who recently won his country the T20 World Cup 2024, will be leading team India in the Champions Trophy 2025 and the 2023-25 World Test Championship (WTC).  
"I am confident that under the captaincy of Rohit, we will win the WTC Final and the Champions Trophy," said the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) Secretary Jay Shah.  
Shah's remarks come after India ended their 11-year-long ICC trophy drought after beating South Africa in the final of the T20 World Cup 2024 under the leadership of Rohit.  
The star batter was appointed India's captain in 2021 after Virat Kohli stepped down and since then, the Blues made it to the WTC 2021-23 final and the ODI World Cup 2023 final where they lost to Australia on both occasions.  
In a video message shared by the BCCI, Shah dedicated India's World Cup win to previous head coach Rahul Dravid, whose last match in charge was the final and to Rohit, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja as all three of them retired from T20Is.



## Copa America: Uruguay knock Brazil out on penalties

**PARADISE**  
Uruguay edged Brazil 4-2 in a penalty shootout on Saturday after a 0-0 draw at the Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas to march into the semifinals of the Copa America where they will face Colombia.  
With Vinicius Jr suspended for Brazil and watching on from the stands, Doralva Jr's side struggled to create opportunities despite having a man-advantage late in the second half when Uruguay's Nahitan Nandez was sent off.  
In the ensuing shootout, Sergio Rochet saved Brazil's first penalty from Eder Militao while his teammate Douglas Luiz hit the post to give Uruguay the upper hand.  
Although keeper Alisson Becker denied Jose Maria Gimenez and Gabriel Martinelli scores to keep Brazil alive, Manuel Ugarte buried the decisive spot kick as Uruguay continue their quest for a record 16th Copa crown.  
"It was a very tense match, against a very tough opponent, suffering in the last minutes a man down but we showed character despite our youth," Rochet said.  
"To finish with penalties and winning, I was able to save one... The truth is that it is a tremendous happiness that this group deserves, the country deserves it. We are very excited, so we are going for more."  
In a bruising encounter with 41 fouls from both teams, players from both sides were involved in physical battles across the pitch.  
Brazil's 17-year-old forward Endrick was on the receiving end of brutal challenges as a high-pressing Uruguay refused to give him space to breathe.  
On one occasion, Raphinha acted out when Endrick was pushed to the ground by Romaldo Araujo as the Brazil skipper retaliated in anger by shoving back before the referee stepped in and had a stern word with both players, keeping his cards in his pocket.  
But Araujo's nifty ended early when he was taken off with an injury after the half-hour mark and the match suddenly burst into life moments later when Darwin Nunez missed a close-range header that sailed over the net.

## Imran Abbas most followed celebrity on Instagram



**(Web Desk)** - The handsome and young Pakistani actor, singer, model, and TV host Imran Abbas has become the most followed actor in Pakistan.  
Beloved by Pakistani drama fans, Imran Abbas has showcased his powerful acting skills in numerous blockbuster drama serials, including "Khuda Aur Mohabbat," "Mohabbat Tumse Nafat Hai," and "Mera Naam Yousaf Hai."  
Moreover, Abbas has appeared in many of Bollywood movies. Notable projects include, "Creature 3D," "Ae Dil Hai Muskanil," "Jaansana" and his most recent project, "Je Vee Sohneya Jee".

## PCB allocates Rs12,800mn for upgradation of stadiums ahead of Champions Trophy

**LAHORE**  
The Board of Governors (BoG) of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Saturday approved Rs12,800 million for upgradation of the cricket stadiums in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Karachi ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, to be held in Pakistan.  
The BoG took important decisions for development of domestic and women cricket in the country during its 72nd meeting at the Board Room of the National Cricket Academy (NCA) Gaddafi Stadium on Saturday. The meeting was chaired by Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi.  
The board also approved enhancing the annual budget for women cricket from Rs70 million to Rs240 million, besides raising the central contracts of the women cricketers.  
The meeting also set aside Rs450 million for the promotion of domestic cricket in the country. It was also decided that the PCB will look after 12 cricket grounds across the country besides providing funds for the upkeep and salaries of staff of 100 cricket grounds in Pakistan.



The meeting was briefed on the preparation for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 to be held in Pakistan next year. The Chairman PCB emphasized the need of completing the upgradation work on the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, National Bank Cricket Stadium Karachi and Pindi Stadium Rawalpindi ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, adding that the international standards will be met in the upgradation.  
Mohsin Naqvi said that the upgradation of the stadium will ensure better facilities for the cricket fans. He directed to work on new venues for the domestic tournaments.