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PM Shabbaz announces solarization of tubewells for Balochistan in Quetta visit



Soon Times Correspondent
QUETTA
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday announced a historic package for the farmers of Balochistan during his day-long visit of Quetta. The prime minister on Monday announced the solarization of agricultural tubewells in the province. An agreement in this regard was also signed between the federal and provincial government. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, federal ministers, Balochistan's governor, chief minister and members of the provincial cabinet witnessed the signing of the agreement.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif's Big Gift for People of Punjab

"Provide solar panels to the consumers consuming up to 500 units of electricity,"



Soon Times Correspondent
Lahore
"Provide solar panels to the consumers consuming up to 500 units of electricity," Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif directed the authorities concerned while approving in-principle "Roshan Gharana Program" during a meeting of the Energy Department. She said, "Punjab government will provide solar system to crores of consumers consuming electricity from 50 to 500 units." Chief Minister said, "90% of the cost of solar panel will be paid by the Punjab government, while the remaining 10% will be paid by the consumer." She added, "In view of the rising cost of electricity and the energy crisis, it was decided to start 'Roshan Gharana' programme, under which solar panels will be provided to the customers in cases of installations of five years." Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif said, "We will not leave people alone in difficult situations." She added, "We are trying to save people from the effects of past disasters." She highlighted, "After five years people will not have to face the current issues." Chief Minister called to formally approve 'Roshan Gharana' program of providing solar panels to the people. She said, "Using a transparent procedure, solar systems will be given to the poorest families in Phase-I." She added, "In winter the installation of solar panel will be relatively less, the panel will only be supplied by the government."

Election tribunal to hear pleas against rigging in Islamabad constituencies



Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD
The Islamabad High Court (IHC) will hear the pleas against election rigging in some constituencies of Islamabad.

IHC Judge Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri-led electoral tribunal will conduct the hearing on pleas of the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) leaders Shouab Shaheen, Aamir Mughal and Ali Bukhari. It should be remembered that PTI leaders Shouab Shaheen and Ali Bukhari had filed petitions against alleged rigging in the constituencies of the capital, which were accepted by the IHC for hearing. For hearing against alleged electoral rigging in NA-47 and NA-48, Justice Jahangiri had summoned the Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) leaders Raja Khuram Nawaz and Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry

Slain journalist Arshad Sharif's family to be awarded Rs21.7m as compensation



Web Desk
Kenya's High Court has ordered its government to compensate the family of Pakistani journalist Arshad Sharif with 10 million Kenyan Shillings (Rs21.7 million) after ruling that his shooting by police in Kajado County in 2022 was "arbitrary and unconstitutional." According to Kenyan news agency NTV, Justice Stella Mutuku of the Kenyan court declared that Sharif's rights to life, equality before the law, and dignity were violated in the incident on October 23, 2022. Arshad Sharif, who had fled Pakistan in July 2022

amid allegations of criticising the military, was fatally shot by Kenyan police in the Tinga area of Kajado County, later attributed by police to a case of "mistaken identity". The court suspended the monetary award for 30 days to allow for a potential government appeal. "Given the analysis above, I find that the respondents, through their actions, violated the rights of the petitioners," Justice Mutuku stated. The widow, Justice Siddique, had filed a lawsuit against several government officials, accusing them of delaying the investigation into Sharif's shooting and failing to provide updates to the family. Kenya's court has also dismissed police claims that firing on Arshad Sharif's vehicle was based on mistaken identity. "We were considering this car as a vehicle of abductors," the police had said. The court also ordered a thorough investigation into the conspiracy behind Arshad Sharif's murder and instructed strict disciplinary action against police and security agencies

Bail granted to Umar Ayub in anti-terrorism case



Soon Times Correspondent
Sargodha:
Opposition leader Umar Ayub has been granted bail in the anti-terrorism case. The anti-terrorism court has granted bail till July 15. Talking to the media, Umar Ayub said that there are already intelligence-based operations against terrorism in the country. "There is no need for any new operation, so public opinion should also be given importance. I buried my loved one myself who was martyred in the bomb blast." The government is standing on crutches. We cannot allow a fake government to make decisions. Adiala Jail is controlled by the people of an organization. Meetings with the chairman are being controlled. If this was done, the chairman had called for a hunger strike. The government should hold fresh elections so that the people's government will come to power. Warrants were issued against me in two cases, the court gave bail in both cases and cancelled the warrants. PTI speaks the truth about the constitution and the law. All institutions must stay within their limits. We strongly condemn the transfer of Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi to Lahore.

CJP Isa questions legal ambiguity of term 'Form-47'

LHC had nullified PML-N leader Qayyum's victory notification, reinstating PTI's Bilal Ejaz as MNA on April 4



Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD:
Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa raised a query regarding the definition and legal term used for "Form-47" during a hearing on an electoral dispute involving Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) leader Azhar Qayyum Nahra in the NA-81 constituency. At the outset of the hearing, Ahsan Bhughat, the counsel for Nahra, argued that his client was

declared successful after a recount and had approached the Election Commission Pakistan (ECP) to challenge the administrative officer's ruling. On April 4, Justice Shahid Karim of the LHC suspended the notification declaring PML-N leader Azhar Qayyum victorious from Constituency NA-81, Gujranwala. The ruling occurred during a hearing on a petition filed by Bilal Ijaz Chaudhry of the Sunni Itehad Council (SIC), who

raised concerns over the election results. Today at the hearing, Advocate Bhoon informed the court that the returning officer issued Form 47 on February 9. To which CJP queried, "What is Form-47, and what term is used in the law for it?" "Form-47 is the preliminary result, and the final result is issued on Form 48. Legally, Form-47 is termed the provisional result," Advocate Bhoon replied. He added that the returning

officer issued Form-48 for the constituency on February 11. Form-48 is crucial in the preparation of election results as it includes the total number of votes cast for each candidate in a specific constituency. "Can the Election Commission declare someone a winner and then change its decision?" Indeed, the returning officer should have conducted a recount based on your request," Justice Aqeel Abbas remarked. On April 26, ECP restored victory notification of PTI's Chaudhry

Bilal Ejaz as MNA from NA-81, Gujranwala. Bilal Ejaz won the general elections with a clear margin of 8,000 votes but lost in a controversial recount. The ECP issued the victory notification pursuant to orders passed by the LHC. On April 4, LHC nullified the victory notification of PML-N leader Azhar Qayyum Nahra from NA-81 and reinstated Bilal Ejaz as a Member of the National Assembly (MNA).

Cipher case: Asad Umar 'arrested' from Islamabad



Additional District and Sessions Judge Afzal Majoka conducts proceedings
the assistant lawyer for Khawar Maneka's counsel Zahid Asif filed a request seeking adjournment of the hearing. Bushra Bibi's lawyer, Salman Safdar, argued against the adjournment, later filing an application opposing it. The judge then indicated he would seek direction from the Islamabad High Court regarding the adjournment. After a brief break, Judge Majoka discussed the matter with Bushra Bibi's lawyer, Salman Safdar, informing him that the high court had been informed about the application, and requested him to proceed with his arguments.

Pakistan must shore up tax revenue to break free from IMF cycle: minister



Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD:
Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb warned on Sunday that Pakistan will continue to seek International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailouts if it fails to boost tax revenue. The finance minister said that he was "relatively confident" of reaching a staff-level agreement with the global lender this month for an estimated loan of \$56-\$8 billion. "But it will not be our last fund programme if we don't bring our tax revenues up," said the finance minister while speaking during an interview with Financial Times. The federal government

Govt greenlights army deployment across country for Muharram



Soon Times Correspondent
ISLAMABAD
The federal government has granted the approval of army deployment across the country during Muharram to ensure security. The federal government has approved deployment of Pakistan Army and civil armed forces in Islamabad, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan along with provinces, says a notification. The notification mentions that details about army deployment will be discussed with relevant authorities. The deployment of army and civil armed forces has been allowed for an indefinite period. The army as a quick response force is going to be deployed on request of provinces. The provinces will decide about the places and numbers of deployment of army troops. Earlier, the Sindh government approved the deployment of army, rangers and FC personnel. PUNJAB SECURITY PLAN With the advent of Muharram on Monday (today), the Punjab police have finalised foolproof security arrangements to protect processions and Majalis (gatherings) across the province. As many as 10,700 processions and 38,000 Majalis will take place in the province. Over 215,000 officers and personnel will perform security duty, with over 28,000 officers and personnel will specifically be deployed in Lahore.



Pakistan's Flood Management Efforts

Pakistan is prone to natural disasters, and devastating floods have become an annual threat. To mitigate the impact, the government has implemented a comprehensive flood management plan. Structural measures include building dams and reservoirs to control water flow and reduce flood risk. The Tarbela Dam, one of the largest in the world, plays a crucial role in regulating water levels in the Indus River. Bhasha, Mahmud dams are under construction. A huge project Kala Bagh dam disputed by politicians. Channel

improvement and river training works enhance the carrying capacity of rivers and streams, while levees, bankment, and flood protection walls prevent overflow and damage. Non-structural measures include a robust early warning system, utilizing real-time data to predict flood events and enable timely evacuations. Insurance schemes provide financial protection against flood-related losses, and nature-based solutions like reforestation and wetland restoration enhance ecosystem resilience. Disaster

preparedness and response plans are in place, with regular drills to ensure emergency responders are equipped to handle flood-related emergencies. Post-flood recovery efforts focus on providing relief assistance, restoring infrastructure, and supporting affected communities. Public awareness campaigns educate citizens on flood safety, evacuation procedures, and early warning systems. Community-based initiatives promote flood-resilient construction practices and

flood-resistant crops. Pakistan's flood management efforts demonstrate the government's commitment to protecting citizens and infrastructure. By combining structural and non-structural measures, the country is better equipped to manage flood risks. As the monsoon season approaches, it is essential to remain vigilant and continue strengthening flood management capabilities. By working together, Pakistan can reduce the impact of flooding and build a safer, more resilient future.

2nd Death Anniversary of Late Muhammad Idris Mahar: A Prominent Name in Education



Mushtaque Ahmed Rahu.

Late Muhammad Idris Mahar, son of Muhammad Laique Mahar, was born on 10 July, 1929, in village Muhro in the Sindhal Kamal area of Kazi Ahmed. He received his early education in the village of Haji Abdul Hameed Mahar in Deh Kurro (Dang), where he completed five grades of primary school and studied Persian, including Gulistan and Bustan. There was no nearby school, so he studied at a local Madrasa. Later, he moved to Kazi Ahmad town for further education, where Pir Bux Bughio was his classmate. In 1947, he completed his Matriculation from Madarsa High School Nausahro Feroz. He learned English privately from the teacher late Muhammad Fazil Chandio of Darbalo. At that time, his notable teachers included Hotchand and Lekho Mal. After that, he enrolled in Nausahro Feroz and stayed at the Local Board Hostel. At that time, he received eight "Annas" (currency), free meals, and laundry service. He did his intermediate studies in Hala and obtained a BA from Sindh University, where he also completed his MA. He was so intelligent that he was promoted directly from first grade to third grade due to his exceptional performance. After this, his friend Shamsuddin Korai wrote to him about teaching vacancies, as he himself was a teacher at Moro Middle School. So he wrote a simple application on plain paper to Head Master Haji Khan Panhwar (Nawan Jati) and received an appointment order as a teacher on 30 January 1950. In those days, teachers would be assigned to any vacant class. He was temporarily hired to fill a vacancy while Mr. Khuda Bux Aalamani was on leave and was given a third-grade class for a month. At that time, job opportunities were abundant, but there were fewer people. He also applied to the railway,

revenue, and forestry departments. He received orders from all three, but the Chief Officer of Dadu also offered him a position in the education department, which he accepted. He was assigned to Darbalo for AP class, where he stayed with Mohammad Fazil Channar. Later, he moved to Ghulam Mohammad Punjabi, then to Qazi Ahmed, becoming the first English teacher for the AP class. He was then transferred to Saktan Middle School and back to Qazi Ahmed, followed by a two-year assignment in Majeed Keerio as an AP class teacher in 1953. In 1962, he completed BT training, now known as B.Ed., and became an HST in GHS Sakrand, where he stayed for 3 or 4 years. After completing M.Ed., he returned to Qazi Ahmed, and spent some time in Daur and Moro. He became Headmaster in 1983 and joined again to Majeed Keerio as a HM and served there till retirement, where he retired on 09 July, 1989. He also fondly remembered his favorite teacher, the late Khuda Bux Memon (Moro), who had a good knowledge of Arabic and Persian. He studied Arabic in Nausahro Feroz and Persian in the village of Allah Bux Kuban. He was keenly interested in literature, admired the writings of Altaf Shaikh, Pir Hasamuddin Rashidi, and Ahmad Brohi (brother of AK Brohi). His favorite book was the Holy Quran. He was also involved in the Tabligh Jamaat, starting his Tabligh journey in 1969, and in 1989, he traveled to Thailand for preaching, where he stayed for sixty days. His students hold high positions in Pakistan and abroad. In 1996, he established a private school named as Good Luck Grammar High School Kazi Ahmed, which is now one of the best private schools in the area, with total 1400 students enrolled and few poor students are getting education on free basis. Despite his old age, he continued to view classes on daily basis. He guided and checked both students and teachers from every point of view. He look after his school till the last days of his life, at private school he trained so many teachers in English subject and teaching methods all those teachers are now are at key posts in different organisations. At Good Luck Grammar School Kazi Ahmed his favourite teachers were Mr. Ghulam

Mohyud Din Kaloi and Abdul Waris Buzdar. Reflecting on his life, he shared that he was very young when his father passed away. In 1935, his cousin Abdul Latif took him to harvest sugarcane. He fell and injured his arm, which remained weak despite treatment in Hyderabad. He performed two Umrah in different years and one Hajj (in year 2018 in his life in old age). He received three awards: SMS Majeed Keerio awarded him life time achievement award on his services in the area of Majeed Keerio. His family possesses good educational background. He had one brother. His entire family is well-educated and holds high positions. His eldest son, Mr. Muhammad Khubab Mahar is an Engineer in Canada. Mr. Saadullah Mahar is an admin officer in OGDCL and holds lot of best performance awards in his credit. Mr. Junaid Mahar is an HST, Mr. Adnan Mahar is an Assistant professor in a college he possesses BS & MS in computer science he performed his Services in PITE Nawab Shah, and as a District Coordinator RSU Siba and Assistant Director, Mr. Rizwan Mahar is an HST and he is good Administrator, Mr. Mohammad Shahid has completed his MS from Canada in software Engineering, and youngest Mr. Mohammad Zahid is an HST teacher having degree in chemical engineering. His close relative, Mr. Sher Mohammad Mahar, a humbled soul and down to earth personality is a Director in the Culture Department Govt of Sindh. His close friends were included Ahmad Ali Arain, Khudadad Rahu and Professor Karim Dux Khoso. Famous poets, writers and Teachers i.e. Mr. Mashooq Ali Dharajo (Kazi Ahmed) and Muhammad Aalam Keerio (Sakrand) has written biography of Late Muhammad Idris in their Books and write up. No doubt he was a noble person, a great teacher and educationist, and honest and loving personality and a good human being. He believed that a good teacher should be honest, dedicated, confident, and an expert in their subject. He emphasized in his life that nothing is more important than religion. He often reflected on the miraculous journey from the village of Haji Abdul Majeed Mahar to Qazi Ahmed. He died on 09 July 2022.

Power Outage and its Consequences



Iqra Ashraf

Pakistan is currently facing a situation in which electricity production and imports are not meeting the actual expectations of citizens regarding the electricity consumption, this is the right time that government should take certain measures to handle this unbridled horse of electricity price hike and power outages but the situation is opposite. The people in cities and towns are facing power cuts and load shedding there are several reasons for this trouble and advertising harsh consequences for both public and government. Thus, Pakistan is facing several issues regarding the energy sector especially electricity due to many reasons but some important of them are as unstable economy, bad governance, less or no check and balance on the electricity theft, grid overload, natural causes, equipment failures, untrained staff, and preplanned outages. Undoubtedly, power outage is a global concern many other countries are also facing the same issue such as Papua New Guinea, California (during 2002 and 2022), south Africa, sari Lanka and in Bangladesh. Power outage is not a mild issue it is not only regarding the electricity outages for certain time but also lead to towards the loss of communication networks as these networks contains information from one point or station to another. These outages impact

badly on the bank transactions, which can result into public unrest regarding their money, delays in the transactions of companies contracts and in the salaries of employees which create the trust issues among the employees, clients and customers. It also hit the industrial productivity by disturbing the work and when industries either it is on large scale or it is based on small units does not achieve their targeted yield it results into the loss and shortage of products and on the larger context it hits the GDP of the country. The loss to businesses in terms of losing customers and revenues because customer outages slows down the power care sites which creates the difficulty for customers to scroll down through the websites and they are also unable to reach out the customer support agents to guide them which entirely result into loss customers which is a very immense loss to any type business. As these business in any country increment in the economy so there is direct proportional relation within the business benefits and in the economic stability of the country. Pakistan is facing crumbled economy which need certain factors to stable it one important of them is enhanced business activities but power outages are damaging this hope. Power shortage also Retard supply chains, hence, retardation in the supply chain result into acute shortage of products which is equally disastrous for government and public food wastage in the restaurants and houses because the items in the power out refrigerators more than 4 to 5 hours like milks, bakery items, eggs, chicken, meats, and fish are not usable and injurious to health on the other hand food wastage is also a loss to business. This badly impacts on the

medical services in the hospitals like many services such as chemotherapy, CT scan, x-rays, and many other tests are relied on the power or energy sector in simple words directly relate with the electricity therefore the power outage risks the patients' life. This outage gives birth to many other social issues in the form unemployment, poverty, increase in crime rate. Power outage is responsible to stop or limit the small as well as large businesses and industries due to this the productivity hits and it turns the opportunities of employment, no employment opportunities leads to the poverty, domestic violence, street crimes, hunger and lawlessness. It is a dire need of hour that Pakistan should make strategies and decisions to save the country from the above mentioned catastrophic consequences of power outage. No doubt, this is adversely affecting but every problem has a solution like this it can also be controlled by certain methodologies and strategic decisions. NDMA should play more active role to control the situations and to properly inform the citizens about the predictions because as mentioned above that natural disasters are also responsible for the power shortages. The government should spend enough budget to improve the system and machinery equipment in the grid stations and in power plants so it can prevent grid stations to overload, as well as, energy sector has to pay proper attention to train its staff to attain work efficiency. The electricity theft should be dealt with the iron hands. As it is a crystal clear reality that energy crisis of Pakistan is a threat to economic growth of the country. To sum up, Power outage affecting the citizens life badly but with the good and efficient governance and methodologies it can be controlled.

The Role of Media in Pakistan



Ifrikhar Uddin Anjum

Media is considered cornerstone of a young democracy, in case of Pakistan it's really most important pillar as well, where already have been many military interventions, at that time if we would have an independent and powerful media then many be the history of country would be different today. The media landscape in Pakistan has undergone significant transformations over the years, playing a crucial role in

shaping public opinion, influencing politics, and driving social change. From traditional print and broadcast media to the rapidly growing digital platforms, media in Pakistan serves as a powerful tool for communication, education, and entertainment. This article explores the multifaceted role of media in Pakistan, highlighting its impact on society, politics, culture and the economy. The evolution of media in Pakistan is deeply intertwined with the country's political and social history. At the time of independence in 1947, the media landscape was dominated by print newspapers, which played a vital role in the freedom struggle and the subsequent nation-building process. The establishment of Pakistan Television (PTV) in 1964 marked the beginning of the electronic media era, offering a government-controlled platform for news and entertainment. The liberalization of the media sector in

the early 2000s, under General Pervez Musharraf's regime, was a turning point. Private television channels and FM radio stations began to proliferate, breaking the state's monopoly on information. This period also saw the rise of digital media, with the internet and social media platforms becoming increasingly popular. These developments have significantly expanded the reach and influence of media in Pakistan. In Pakistan, media serves as the primary source of information for the public. News outlets, both traditional and digital, provide updates on national and international events, ensuring that citizens are informed about the latest developments. Television news channels such as Geo News, ARY News and Dawn News, along with newspapers like Dawn, the News and Jang, play a pivotal role in disseminating information. The rise of social media platforms such as

Facebook, Twitter and YouTube has further transformed the information landscape. These platforms enable real-time updates and interactive engagement, allowing individuals to access and share news instantly. The digital space has also given rise to citizen journalism, where ordinary people report events through blogs, videos, and social media posts, providing alternative perspectives and amplifying grassroots voices. Media in Pakistan has a significant influence on public opinion. The framing of news stories, choice of headlines and editorial stances of media outlets shape how the public perceives various issues. Talk shows and panel discussions on television channels are particularly influential, often driving public discourse and shaping political narratives. Media has the power to highlight social issues, bringing them to the forefront of public consciousness. For instance, media

coverage of incidents of violence against women, child abuse and corruption has sparked public outrage and demands for justice. However, the media's role in shaping public opinion is a double-edged sword. Sensationalism and biased reporting can distort facts, misinform the public and fuel polarization. In Pakistan, media and politics are closely intertwined. Media serves as a platform for political communication, with politicians using television, radio and social media to reach out to the electorate. Political talk shows and interviews provide a space for politicians to articulate their views, debate policies and connect with voters. Media also acts as a watchdog, holding those in power accountable and exposing corruption and maladministration. Investigative journalism has uncovered numerous scandals, leading to public scrutiny and legal action. The Panama Papers leak,

which implicated several high-profile Pakistani politicians in offshore holdings, is a notable example of media-driven accountability. However, media freedom in Pakistan is often curtailed by political pressures and censorship. Journalists and media houses face threats, intimidation and legal actions, hindering their ability to report freely. The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) has been criticized for imposing restrictions on media content, leading to concerns about press freedom and the independence of journalism. Media plays a crucial role in shaping cultural norms and values in Pakistan. Television dramas, films, music and online content contribute to the country's cultural narrative, reflecting and influencing societal attitudes. Popular television serials like "Humayun", "Zindagi Gulzar Hai,"

DG PHA visits Zone 7 & reviews construction of shops in New Satellite Town



Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha:

Director General Parks and Horticulture Authority Touqeer Haider Kazmi has started a series of emergency visits to the parks established in Sargodha to review the condition of the parks after the rain, drainage and other issues. In this regard, he

visited Zone No. 7 and after reviewing the condition of the parks, issued orders regarding the renovation of the parks. Later, DG PHA went to Bismillah Park in Tahli Chowk where he issued instructions regarding planting new trees and renovating the park. He also reviewed the construction of shops on Parkside in front of Amin Market New Satellite Town and also met the allottees who got the rights of shops in the auction. On this occasion, he said that the construction of shops on the outer side of the park will be as per the prescribed design of PHA. No allottee shall be allowed to exceed this. On this occasion, Deputy Director Admin Shafiqur Rahman Niazi gave him a detailed briefing regarding the current situation of parks, plantation drive and construction of shops on the market side of Bismillah Park, on which he expressed satisfaction.

BISE Sargodha announces the names of the position holders of Matric Examination 2024



Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha:

Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Sargodha has announced the names of the position holders of Annual Matric Examination 2024. Commissioner and Chairman Education Board Sargodha Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti along with Secretary Abul Hasan

Naqvi and Controller of Examinations Riaz Qadeer Bhatti announced the names of the position holders in a press conference. Overall in Science Group Boys, three

children Roll No. 500353 Muhammad Ali Abdullah, Roll No. 505535 Shehryar Khan and Roll No. 547122 Sajjad Ahmed secured first position by securing 1187 marks. Roll No. 502288 Muhammad Sajjad secured second position with 1185 marks and Roll No. 502289 Ahmed Rizq Khan secured third position with 1184 marks. Among female science group, Roll no. 566372 Aisha Zafar got first position

with 1183 marks. Roll no. 569902 Abira Bibi got second position with 1181 marks and Roll no. 553273 Ayesha Zafar and Roll no. 568914 Saima Karan got third position with 1180 marks. In Arts Group Boys, Roll No. 586936 Abdullah Basit Ali got first position with 1126 marks, Roll No. 583210 Umar Hasan got second position with 1107 and Roll No. 598460 Syed Faizan Ali Shah got third position with 1106. Among the Arts Group female students, Noor Fatima, Roll number 588088, secured first position with 1139 marks, Huzaifa Gul Roll number 595633, secured second position with 1137 marks, and Zainab Riaz roll number 600049 secured third position with 1135 marks. The Commissioner and Chairman congratulated the students, teachers and parents. In honor of the position holders, the prize distribution ceremony will be held today, July 9 at 10 am in the multi-purpose hall of the board office.

Nihao! China-2024 Silk Road Tourism Overseas Promotion Season kicked off in Pakistan



Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad:

China Cultural Center in Pakistan and the Cultural Office of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Pakistan have officially launched Nihao! China-2024 Silk Road Tourism Overseas Promotion Online Season in Pakistan. "Nihao! China"-2024 Silk Road Tourism Overseas Promotion Season series of activities were organized by the Network of International Cultural Link Entities (NICE), in collaboration with China

Cultural Center, China National Tourist Offices overseas, International Tourism Alliance of Silk Road cities and the cultural and tourism departments (bureaus) of 13 provinces (autonomous regions, and municipalities) including Shanghai, Jiangsu, Fujian, Henan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Yunnan, Shaanxi, Gansu, Qinghai, Ningxia and Xinjiang from June to October 2024. The aim of the event is to promote the Silk Road spirit of "peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, and mutual learning and mutual benefit", showcase the magnificent natural scenery, diversified

ethnic cultures and profound cultural heritage of cities along the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, and enhance the exchanges, mutual learning and common prosperity among the member cities of the International Tourism Alliance of Silk Road Cities. The activities will include the launching ceremony, global broadcasting of themed videos, Glory of Millennia - Silk Road Photo Exhibition. To expand the domestic and international influence of the Promotion Season, The Network of International Cultural Link Entities (NICE) in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Radio, Television and Sports of Hainan Province and Sanya Municipal People's Government organized the Opening Ceremony of the 2024 Silk Road Tourism Overseas Promotion Season on June 24 in Sanya, Hainan, China showcasing Hainan's abundant cultural heritage, tourism offerings and promoting Hainan tourism routes and products as well as the latest inbound tourism policies to international audiences. Viewers in Pakistan can enjoy all these fascinating events on our Facebook, Wechat, Official Twitter (X) handle of Director China Cultural Center in Pakistan H.E Zhang Heqing @zhang_heqing and other social media platforms.

LHC orders removing Parvez Elahi, family members names from PCL

The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Monday directed the authorities concerned to remove the names of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Parvez Elahi and his family members from the passport control list (PCL).



After hearing the arguments of the lawyers of the litigants, the court issued orders to remove the names of Parvez Elahi, his son Rasikh Elahi and daughter-in-law Zara Elahi from

the country following PTI founder Imran Khan's arrest in a corruption case. The

riots saw attacks on public and private properties, including military installations, with the army declaring May 9 as a "Black Chapter" in the country's history. On June 1, 2023, the former Punjab chief minister was arrested outside his residence in a corruption case and was released on bail in May this year. What is illegal recruitment case? According to the details provided by or grade 17 positions.

PIC Directs Governor SBP to Publicize List of Top 1000 Loan Defaulters

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad:

The Pakistan Information Commission has issued a directive to the Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to disclose the list of the top 1000 loan defaulters in response to an information request filed by Azmat Khan, a resident of Karachi. Khan had sought the list under the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017. In response, the State Bank of Pakistan requested an exemption from disclosing the information under Section 7(d) of the Act, which relates to the records of banking companies and financial institutions concerning their customers' accounts. The Commission thoroughly examined the

information request, the written reply from the SBP, and the relevant law. The Commission's order clarified that Section 7(d) of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017, which exempts certain records from disclosure, does not apply to the requested list of loan defaulters. The Commission observed that the exemption cited by the SBP does not pertain to this case. Consequently, the plea of the public body has been rejected. The Governor of the SBP has been directed to disclose the required information and submit it to the Commission within 10 days. Failure to comply will result in the initiation of proceedings against the responsible parties under Section 20(f) of the Right of Access to Information Act, 2017.

REEDS organize 2-days workshop on Business Management skill Training



Soon Times Correspondent Dadu:

REEDS with the support of Tearfund-DEC is implementing "Enhancing Disaster Resilience of the Flood Affected Communities in Sindh Pakistan-Phase-II" in District Dadu. In order to create awareness and minimize the effects of waterborne diseases, REEDS raised community awareness around WASH through interaction with street theaters. Street Theaters were performed in project villages of UC-Kamal Khan and UC-Bahawalpur. Street theater is a powerful and

effective tool for engaging communities, initiating conversations, and fostering behavioral changes. Two days workshop on Business Management skill Training (BMST) was organized at Rural Education & Economic Development Society (REEDS) Pakistan District office Dadu. 48 deserving beneficiaries participated in it to build up capacity to strengthen their small business. They were supported with cash grant so that they can sustain their lives after flood. Mr. Sajid Ali along with REEDS team Dadu participated in activities.

RHC Miani should be given the status of Civil Hospital: Citizens

Soon Times Correspondent Bhera:

The citizens of Miani have demanded from the authorities that Rural Health Center Miani should be given the status of civil hospital. Muhammad Imran, Shabbir Bhatti, Liaquat Khan and Anjum Tajran Miani have strongly demanded from MNA/Coordinator National Health for Prime Minister Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Bharath and his brother Provincial Minister of Communications Sohaib Ahmed Bharath that Miani city is an ancient and densely populated city. Apart from this, the RHC of



Miani should be upgraded due to the growing new settlements, adjoining villages and being a link road to the motorway. It should be given the status of Civil Hospital Miani so that the people of Miani and its surrounding areas can get better medical facilities. More doctors should also be appointed to the existing RHC so that a doctor is available in case of emergency.

Qureshi transferred to Lahore, set to appear before ATC

Soon Times Correspondent RAWALPINDI:

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi has been transferred from the Adiala jail to Lahore and is set to be produced before a anti-terrorism court (ATC) in the cases pertaining to the May 9 riots. The prison sources said Qureshi was transferred amid tight security, in the wee hours of the morning, to Lahore, where he would be produced before the anti-terrorism court established in Kot Lakhpat Jail.



Multiple cases related to May 9 riots are lodged against him in Lahore. Lawyer Barrister Taimur Malik confirmed that the judges of ATC Lahore will hear the May 9 cases in Kot Lakhpat Jail and the PTI leader would appear in the court.

Democratic US Representative Schiff says VP Harris may win 'overwhelmingly'



WASHINGTON Democratic US Representative Adam Schiff told NBC News he felt Vice President Kamala Harris could win "overwhelmingly" if she ran against former President Donald Trump, but that President Joe Biden needed to make a decision about his own candidacy.

"I think she (Harris) very well could win overwhelmingly, but before we get into a decision about who else it should be, the president needs to make a decision about whether it's him,

Biden's uncertain political future divides Democrats as they return to Capitol Hill



WASHINGTON Deeply torn over President Joe Biden's candidacy, Democratic lawmakers return to Washington at a pivotal moment as they decide whether to work to revive his campaign or edge out the party leader, a make-or-break time for his reelection and their own political futures.

Anxiety is running high as top-ranking Democratic lawmakers are joining calls for Biden to step aside after his dismal public debate performance and defiant response to the uproar. At the same time, some of the president's most staunch supporters are redoubling the fight for Biden's presidency, insisting there is no one better to beat Republican Donald



'Gaza death toll could be over 186,000'

Report estimates nearly 38,000 Palestinians killed in Gaza since October 2023; Indirect deaths may raise toll

Web Desk According to the medical journal 'The Lancet', Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza reported that 37,396 people had been killed since last October as of June 19, 2024. These figures, while contested by Israeli authorities, are supported by Israeli intelligence, the UN, and WHO. Independent analyses comparing changes in UNRWA staff deaths with those reported by the Ministry also back these numbers.

The destruction of infrastructure in Gaza has made data collection increasingly difficult. The Health Ministry has had to rely on information from media sources and first responders.

As of May 10, 2024, 30 percent of the 35,091 deaths were unidentified.

Due to these challenges, the reported death toll is likely an underestimate. Significant numbers of bodies are still buried in rubble, and indirect deaths are expected to multiply the total toll.

The UN estimates that 35 percent of buildings in Gaza have been destroyed, with more than 10,000 bodies potentially still trapped.

Indirect deaths from causes such as disease and lack of resources could increase the total death toll to up to 186,000, or 7.9 percent of Gaza's population.

The medical journal urged for an immediate ceasefire. Humanitarian aid is urgently needed to prevent further loss of life and to document the full scale of the conflict for historical accountability and post-war recovery.

Philippines says pact with Japan takes defence ties to unprecedented high

MANILA The Philippines hailed an "unprecedented" high in defence ties with Japan after the signing on Monday of a landmark military pact allowing deployment of forces on each other's soil in the face of China's increasingly assertive stance in the region.

The Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA), the first of its kind Japan has signed in Asia, will ease the entry of equipment and troops for combat training and disaster response, smoothing military co-operation between Manila and Tokyo.

"The RAA brings our defence partnership to an unprecedented height," Philippine Foreign Minister Enrique Manalo told a joint briefing after a "2-plus-2" meeting of both nations' foreign and defence ministers.

The deal coincides with a spurt in maritime run-ins between Manila and Beijing over the former's missions to resupply troops stationed on a beached vessel on the contested Second Thomas Shoal, which led to injury of a Philippine sailor last month.



France's Macron keeps prime minister in place for "stability of country" after chaotic election



PARIS French President Emmanuel Macron refused the resignation of the country's prime minister, asking him on Monday to remain temporarily as the head of the government after chaotic election results left the government in limbo.

French voters split the legislature on the left, center and far right, leaving no faction even close to the majority needed to form a government. The results from Sunday's vote raised the risk of paralysis for the European Union's second-largest economy.

Macron gambled that his decision to call snap elections would give France a "moment of clarification," but the outcome showed the opposite, less than three weeks before the start of the Paris Olympics, when the country will be under an international spotlight.

France's main share index opened with a dip, but quickly recovered, possibly because markets had feared an outright victory for the far right or the leftist coalition.

Prime Minister Gabriel Attal had said he would remain in office if needed but offered his resignation Monday morning. Macron, who named him just seven months ago, immediately asked him to stay on "to ensure the stability of the country." Macron's top political allies joined the meeting with Attal at the presidential palace, which ended after about 90 minutes.

Attal on Sunday made clear that he disagreed with Macron's decision to call the surprise elections. The results of two rounds of voting left no obvious path to form a government for either the leftist coalition that came in first, Macron's centrist alliance, or the far right.

Sun inspired by YouTube greats in making Wimbledon history

The 23-year-old left-hander hit 52 winners against Raducanu



LONDON: Lulu Sun became the first New Zealand woman to reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals on and hailed the inspiration she found by tuning to YouTube to learn from Centre Court legends Steffi Graf and Martina Navratilova. Qualifier Sun, ranked at 123 in the world, made the last-eight by triumphing 6-2, 5-7, 6-2 over 2021 US Open winner Emma Raducanu.

The 23-year-old left-hander hit 52 winners against Raducanu, who had been hoping to capitalise on an open draw and become the first British women's champion at Wimbledon in 47 years.

"Just watching the professionals growing up," said Sun when asked how she honed her impressive grass-court tactics.

"For example, Roger Federer, of course, coming towards the net, and I watched also Steffi Graf versus Martina Navratilova on YouTube.

"It was just so amazing to watch them. Of course I couldn't watch them live but I was taking it all on from the pros, and trying to do that for my game."

Sun will next face Donna Vekic of Croatia as she bids to become only the second New Zealand woman to reach a Grand Slam semi-final.

Alcaraz overcomes slump to reach Wimbledon quarter-finals



LONDON Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz overcame a worrying mid-match slump to reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals on Sunday, defeating Ugo Humbert of France in four sets to stay on course for a fourth Grand Slam title.

The Spanish world number three came through 6-3, 6-4, 1-6, 7-5 against his 16th-ranked opponent to book a spot in the last-eight of a major for the ninth time in just 14 appearances.

However, it was another uncomfortable afternoon for Alcaraz, who had needed five sets to see off Frances Tiafoe in the third round. His erratic performance on Sunday saw him drop seven five times and commit an uncharacteristic 33 unforced errors.

"Playing lefties is always tricky, no matter the surface," said Alcaraz, who lost to British left-hander Jack Draper at Queen's on the eve of Wimbledon.

"I learnt a little bit from that. I felt great playing today. I think I played a really high level."

The 21-year-old, bidding to become just the sixth man to win the French Open and Wimbledon back-to-back, eased through the first set under the Centre Court roof before crucially saving four break points in the fifth game of the second.

Alcaraz wrapped up the second set

despite losing his footing and tumbling towards the ground.

"I just try to fight for every ball, it doesn't matter which part of the court I am. I just try to run in whichever part of the court I am on," said Alcaraz.

"I give myself the chance to stay alive in the point.

"Set point is a really important point for me so I had to show the opponent that whatever shot he shoots, I will be there.

"That's me, I will be there, fighting until the last ball and sometimes it is a good point like this one and sometimes I lose it but the main thing is just to fight."

Despite that dramatic conclusion, Humbert stormed back, breaking the champion three times in the third set as Alcaraz went spectacularly off the boil.

Alcaraz was twice unable to hold on to breaks in the fourth set and had to fend off three break points in the eighth game to stay level at 4-4.

Left-hander Humbert then lost his bearings to hand over a service break in the 11th game and Alcaraz took full advantage to quickly seal the tie.

Alcaraz will take on either American 12th seed Tommy Paul or 36-year-old compatriot Roberto Bautista Agut, a semi-finalist in 2019.

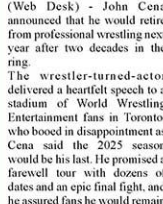
Shah Rukh Khan imitated my character in his movie: Tauqueer Nasir alleges

(Web Desk) Senior Pakistani actor Tauqueer Nasir has claimed that Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan copied one of his roles from the Pakistani dramas. The Races star did not even mention this thing anywhere," complains Nasir.

To be particular, he said Khan's role in 'Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna' was exactly similar to his performance in the play 'Parwaaz'.

He said thought Khan is a kind of person who usually prays many people but in his case, the Dunki star has been a disappointment as he fails to give due credit.

John Cena announces his retirement from professional wrestling after 2025 season



(Web Desk) - John Cena announced that he would retire from professional wrestling next year after two decades in the ring.

The wrestler-turned-actor delivered a heartfelt speech to a stadium of World Wrestling Entertainment fans in Toronto, who booed in disappointment as Cena said the 2025 season would be his last. He promised a farewell tour with dozens of dates and an epic final fight, and he assured fans he would remain involved with the wrestling franchise that launched his career.

"Thank you so much for letting me play in the house that you built for so many years," Cena told the crowd.

In a news conference after the event, Cena told reporters that he feels physically "at my end," but that doesn't mean he needs to distance himself from the sport he loves.

Cena is a 16-time WWE champion who burst onto the scene in the early 2000s as the fan-favorite



"Doctor of Thuganomics," a rapper character decked in gold chains and a backwards hat who challenged his wrestling opponents to rap battles. He went on to portray other popular characters, both in the ring and on the big screen.

Cena played starring roles in the films "Blockers" and "The Suicide Squad." He has made multiple appearances in the "Fast & Furious" franchise and appeared most recently in the comedy thriller "Argyle" and the box office hit "Barbie."