

Daily SOON TIMES



Chief Editor
Shah Muhammad Awan

Friday
August 9, 2024
Page: 4 Rs: 20
Vol: 2 : Issue: 309
Karachi
www.soontimes.pk

+92 321 888 1135

Simultaneously Publishing from Islamabad, Sargodha & Karachi

ABC Certified

Asad Qaiser rejects any attempts to extend tenure of CJP Isa



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Asad Qaiser has rejected the Election Amendment Bill, labelling it an attack on the independent judiciary. He warned the government of creating rifts between parliament and judiciary. Asad Qaiser stated that the Election Amendment Bill was a violation of the constitution to halt the implementation of the Supreme Court reserved seats verdict. He reiterated that the constitution has mandated the jurisdiction of state institutions. He asserted that all state institutions including Parliament and judiciary must operate in their respective jurisdiction. The PTI leader alleged that the chief justice of Pakistan's extension in office was meant to make the judiciary and CJP office controversial. He asserted that his party rejected efforts for CJP office extension.

Imam Masjid al-Nabawi arrives in Pakistan for official visit



Soon Times Correspondent ESTEEMED Imam of Masjid al-Nabawi, Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair, arrived in Islamabad on Thursday for a week-long official visit to Pakistan. He was warmly welcomed at Islamabad International Airport by Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Chaudhry Salik Hussain, Saudi Ambassador Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, and Secretary of Religious Affairs Zulfiqar Haider. During his visit, Dr. Al-Budair will lead the Friday prayers at Faisal Mosque in Islamabad. He is also scheduled to meet with President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and other prominent leaders. Additionally, the Imam will hold meetings with Pakistani religious scholars. Minister Salik highlighted the significance of the visit, stating that it would not only strengthen the already robust ties between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia but also foster greater religious and cultural collaboration between the two countries.

SC adjourns harassment of journalists case for indefinite period



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD The Supreme Court has adjourned the hearing of a case pertaining to harassment of journalists by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for an indefinite period. The three-member bench headed by Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa heard the case against issuing FIA notices to the journalists and harassment cases. During the hearing, the Additional Attorney General informed the court that Islamabad police had submitted the report on cases against journalists. CJ inquired about the response of Haider Waheed that was sought from him. Haider Waheed's counsel said that the response of his client along with an affidavit has been submitted. CJ Isa asked from Haider Waheed that "application was filed on whom request?" Haider's counsel replied that Haider had written his stance in his submitted response.

Murad targets SEF to bring 300,000 out-of-school children to schools

Hire over 600 women learning facilitators and for the purpose approved Rs800 million.



Soon Times Correspondent Karachi Murad targets SEF to bring 300,000 out-of-school children to schools KARACHI (Aug 8) Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has targeted the Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) to establish 300 MicroSchools, bring 300,000 out-of-school to schools, and hire over 600 women learning facilitators and for the purpose approved Rs800 million. He gave these directives to the SEF while presiding over its board meeting here at CM House on Thursday. The meeting was attended by Minister Education Syed Sardar Shah, Chief Secretary Asif Hyder Shah, PSCM Agha Wasif, Chairman P&D Najam Shah, Secretary School Education Zahid Abbasi, Secretary Finance Fayaz Jatoi, MD Sindh Education Foundation (SEF) Kazi Kabir, board members-Qaiser Bengali, Dr Qazi Masood, Dr Mohammad

Memon and others. The chief minister approved the expansion of the Accelerated Digital Learning (ADL) program with Teach the World Foundation. The ADL phase II would be for three years. Mr Shah targeted the SEF MD Kazi Kabir to bring 300,000 out-of-school children back to school in 2025 by establishing 300 Digital MicroSchools. He also directed the MD SEF to engage over 600 Women Learning Facilitators to facilitate the teaching process. Mr SEF told the CM that the cost of a student would come to Rs2,200 in the next ADL Phase-II, therefore the CM approved Rs800 million for SEF. MD SEF Kazi Kabir told the CM that there was a one million enrolment in 2734 schools, 35 Peoples Schools, 223 Centers and 125 Microschools. Mr SEF stated that being given scholarships, 804 scholarship holders have passed out.

Election Act Amendment Bill 2024 gets presidential assent amid legal wrangling



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD President Asif Ali Zardari on Wednesday signed the 'controversial' Election Act Amendment Bill 2024 which becomes a law. The gazette notification will be issued today (Thursday) as the bill has been sent to the Senate Secretariat. The Senate passed the Election Act Amendment Bill by a majority vote despite protest by the opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Aug 6. As the session started with Yousuf Raza Gilani in the chair, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senator Talal Chaudhry presented the Election Act Amendment Bill. The

opposition members stood on their seats and started protest. The amendment provides that "a candidate who does not submit the party certificate before obtaining the election symbol will be considered an independent candidate. If the list of candidates for reserved seats is not submitted within the specified period, no political party will be entitled to those seats." It also provides that any candidate's declaration of affiliation to a political party will be irrevocable. PTI CHALLENGES THE BILL The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Wednesday moved the apex court against the Election Act Amendment Bill. The decision was taken a day after the government passed the Election Act Amendment Bill 2024 to deny the PTI reserved seats after the Supreme Court verdict. PTI chief Barnister Gohar Ali Khan approached the Supreme Court through Advocate Salman Akram Raja while making the federal government and the Election Commission of Pakistan respondents in the application.

Sharjeel Inam Memon has issued strict instructions to expedite the construction of the Yellow Line BRT.



Soon Times Correspondent Karachi Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has issued strict instructions to expedite the construction of the Yellow Line BRT in Karachi, a high-level meeting regarding the Yellow Line BRT was held in the office of Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon, who also chaired the meeting. Participants included Secretary of Transport Asad Zamin, Managing Director of the Sindh Mass Transit Authority Kamal Davo, World Bank representative Lincoln Flor, international consultants, and others. In the meeting, the progress on the construction of the Yellow Line BRT was reviewed, and various aspects were discussed in detail, including the commencement of work on the Yellow Line BRT depot and the ongoing construction of the Jam Saadiq

Bridge. In the meeting, Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon instructed all concerned parties to work on a day-to-day basis to ensure the timely completion of the Yellow Line BRT project and to diligently remove any obstacles causing delays. On this occasion, World Bank representative Lincoln Flor assured his full support for the project. Speaking at the meeting, Sindh Senior Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon emphasized that all stakeholders must make collective efforts to meet the deadline for the Yellow Line project. He noted that the project is of great importance to the citizens of Karachi and reiterated the Sindh government's commitment to completing it as soon as possible.

COAS Gen Asim Munir pledges to protect Pakistan from chaos

General Asim Munir highlights the severity of corruption, describing it as the greatest crime in the eyes of Allah.



Soon Times Correspondent Rawalpindi Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir on Thursday pledged to stand resolutely against any attempt to create chaos in Pakistan, asserting the military's commitment to preserving national integrity and upholding the principles of Shariah and the

unrest and disorder by divine guidance. "We will stand before anyone who tries to create chaos in Pakistan, by God," declared the Army Chief, reinforcing the military's dedication to preserving peace and stability in the country. He stated his commitment to presenting witnesses in the Al-Qadir Trust case, albeit anonymously for their safety. He criticized the government and its allies for attempting to disband PTI, asserting that he would not negotiate any deals

Munir reiterated the Islamic teaching that "there is no coercion in religion" and condemned the backing of terrorism by criminal mafias. He warned against the spread of anxiety through social media platforms. Highlighting the sanctity of the Prophethood, General Munir asserted the protection

of religious values as paramount. "Pakistan is built to last," he affirmed, emphasizing the nation's resilience against external threats. Drawing lessons from conflicts in Iraq, Syria, and Libya, he called on religious scholars to promote tolerance and unity.

JI to march towards Murree Road as sit-in enters 14th day



Soon Times Correspondent RAWALPIDI Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) has announced plans to march towards Murree Road on Thursday (today) after the sit-in has entered its 14th consecutive day amid fourth round of talks with the government. The protest against rising inflation and soaring electricity bills has received nationwide support including workers from JI, traders, as well as members of other organisations.

Due to continuous rain last night, the protesters spent the night under the metro shed. After performing the Fajr prayer in the protest camp this morning, they resumed their usual cleaning activities, and breakfast was arranged for the participants as usual. The protest in Rawalpindi today, along with similar sit-ins at the Governor House in Karachi and an announced sit-in in Peshawar on August 12, is aimed at addressing issues such as agreements with IPPs, unjust taxes, high electricity bills, and the rising costs of petrol, gas, and general inflation. Following the talks with government yesterday, Attaullah Tarar told the media, "Positive discussions were held with Jamaat-e-Islami. Some issues have been agreed upon in writing. The prime minister's agenda is to reduce electricity prices, with a subsidy of 50 billion rupees provided to consumers using up to 200 units for June, July, and August."

Imran Khan says government will fall within two months



Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad Former Prime Minister and PTI founder Imran Khan has predicted that the current government has only two months left in power. Speaking informally to journalists at Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail during the hearing of the £190 million reference case, Imran dismissed rumours of seeking a deal or apologising, reiterating his stance for Pakistan's future. Imran challenged the government to present evidence if PTI members were involved in the events of May 9, promising to apologise and punish the culprits if proven. He stated his commitment to presenting witnesses in the Al-Qadir Trust case, albeit anonymously for their safety. He criticized the government and its allies for attempting to disband PTI, asserting that he would not negotiate any deals



despite the numerous cases filed against him. He called for the release of CCTV footage to verify the involvement of PTI members in the incidents. "If any PTI members are found guilty of participating in the events of May 9, I will apologise, expel them from the party, and ensure they face punishment," Imran stated during an informal conversation with journalists.

Revitalizing Print Media in Pakistan

The print media industry in Pakistan is facing a crisis, with declining readership, financial struggles, and government pressure threatening its existence. However, with innovative strategies and adaptations, print media can revitalize itself and remain a vital source of information and discourse. Firstly, print media outlets must invest in digital infrastructure and training to create engaging online content, expanding their reach and audience. This includes social

media presence, online editions, and multimedia storytelling. Secondly, print media should focus on quality journalism, in-depth analysis, and investigative reporting, distinguishing itself from online news sources. This can attract readers seeking comprehensive coverage and informed perspectives. Thirdly, regional language publications can cater to specific audiences, providing a niche for print media. This can help preserve linguistic and cultural diversity, promoting inclusivity and

representation. Lastly, government support or subsidies can facilitate print media's digital transition, ensuring its survival and continued contribution to public discourse. Suggestions for improvement:- Develop innovative revenue models, such as subscription-based services or sponsored content- Encourage diversity and representation in newsrooms, promoting fresh perspectives and ideas- Engage with readers through digital platforms, fostering a sense of community and feedback-

Collaborate with online influencers and bloggers, expanding reach and credibility- Invest in research and development, exploring new formats and technologies- By implementing these strategies, print media in Pakistan can revitalize itself, adapting to the digital age while maintaining its unique strengths and contributions. It's time for the industry to evolve, innovate, and reclaim its vital role in shaping public discourse and promoting informed citizenship.

The High-Stakes Political Maneuvering



Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer

In a dramatic development within Pakistani politics, the government of Pakistan, with the apparent backing of the military, is considering an outright ban on the political party led by ousted former Prime Minister Imran Khan. This move comes in the wake of the explosive riots that erupted on May 9, 2023, which have been attributed, at least in part, to Khan's alleged incitement. The government's proposed actions also include charging Khan and other prominent figures in his party with treason, reflecting the gravity of the political and legal crisis at hand. Imran Khan, who served as Pakistan's Prime Minister from 2018 until his ousting in a no-confidence vote in April 2022, has remained a polarizing figure in Pakistani politics. His party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has continued to be a significant force, advocating for Khan's return to power and analyzing the current administration. The riots on May 9 were particularly violent and destructive, with widespread reports of property damage and clashes with security forces. These disturbances have been framed by the government as part of a broader destabilization effort spearheaded by Khan and his party. The decision to pursue a ban on PTI is not merely a political maneuver but also carries significant legal and constitutional implications. In Pakistan, political parties are integral to the democratic process, and the banning of a major party such as PTI would have far-reaching consequences for the country's political landscape. Such a move would not only eliminate a key player from the political arena but could also lead to increased polarization and unrest among Khan's supporters. The treason charges being considered against Khan and his party leaders are particularly serious. Treason in Pakistan's legal framework is a grave accusation, typically associated with actions deemed to threaten the sovereignty or integrity of the state. If Khan and his associates were formally charged, the legal proceedings would likely be highly contentious and closely scrutinized both domestically and internationally. The charges would need to be substantiated with concrete evidence linking Khan's actions directly to the riots and other alleged destabilizing activities. The role of the military in this political drama cannot be overstated. In

Pakistan, the military has historically played a powerful role in politics, and its involvement in this case suggests a significant level of support for the government's stance. The military's concurrence with the proposed ban and legal actions against Khan indicates a coordinated approach between the civilian and military branches of government, aimed at addressing what they perceive as a serious threat to national stability. The potential banning of PTI and the treason charges against Khan raise important questions about the state of democracy and governance in Pakistan. Critics argue that such actions could undermine democratic institutions and civil liberties, particularly if they are seen as politically motivated rather than based on genuine legal concerns. On the other hand, supporters of the government and the military might view these measures as necessary steps to restore order and prevent further chaos. As Pakistan navigates this complex and volatile situation, the international community will be watching closely. The outcome of these legal and political maneuvers will likely have significant implications for Pakistan's political stability and its relations with other countries. The unfolding events underscore the intricate interplay between politics, law, and military influence in one of South Asia's most strategically important nations.

In recent times, the political landscape of many nations has been marked by intense power struggles and dramatic shifts. One of the most striking examples of this phenomenon can be seen in the ongoing efforts to remove a prominent political figure and his party from the national stage. The government and military establishments, determined to maintain control and stability, have resolved that Khan and his party must be permanently removed from the political scene. This decision reflects a broader strategy to eliminate any threats to their authority and prevent the possibility of Khan ever wielding legislative power or forming a government again. Khan, a figure who once commanded significant political influence and popular support, now finds himself at the center of a high-stakes battle for political survival. The government's stance is unequivocal: Khan's removal is not just a matter of political rivalry but a strategic imperative. The reasons behind this drastic measure are multifaceted, encompassing concerns about potential challenges to the established order, perceived threats to national security, and a desire to consolidate power. The military's involvement in this decision highlights the intersection of politics and defense in

contemporary governance. In many countries, the military plays a pivotal role in shaping political outcomes, either directly or indirectly. The government's collaboration with military establishments in this case underscores the gravity of the situation and the perceived need for a decisive response. The military's influence extends beyond traditional defense roles, affecting political dynamics and policy-making processes. The determination to ensure that Khan and his party are permanently excluded from power speaks to a broader strategy of political consolidation. By removing Khan from the equation, the government aims to eliminate a key challenger and secure its position in the legislative and executive branches. This move is part of a broader pattern observed in various political contexts, where incumbent powers take drastic measures to neutralize potential rivals and maintain their dominance. The implications of this decision extend beyond the immediate political landscape. The removal of Khan and his party could have far-reaching consequences for democratic processes, political pluralism, and civil liberties. In democratic societies, political competition and the presence of diverse voices are essential components of a healthy political system. The exclusion of a significant political figure raises questions about the health of democratic institutions and the extent to which political dissent is tolerated. Moreover, the removal of Khan and his party could have ripple effects on public sentiment and societal cohesion. Political decisions that appear to be driven by a desire for absolute control can contribute to a sense of disenfranchisement and alienation among segments of the population. Public trust in institutions and governance can erode when political processes are perceived as being manipulated or suppressed.

The government's and military establishments' decision to permanently remove Khan and his party from the political scene represents a significant moment in the nation's political trajectory. It reflects a broader strategy of consolidating power, addressing perceived threats, and shaping the future political landscape. While this move may achieve short-term objectives, it also raises important questions about the health of democratic institutions, the role of military influence in politics, and the broader implications for political pluralism and public trust. The unfolding situation will undoubtedly continue to shape the nation's political discourse and governance in the years to come.

Artificial Intelligence in Future

Aleeza Maqbool

It's moment to explore AI significance in detail. AI, or artificial intelligence, imitates mortal brainpower in machines programmed to break complex and complicated problems and do mortal cognitive exertion. These machines are aimed to achieve tasks that generally bear mortal intelligence, similar as understanding natural language, feign patterns, and conforming to new information.

It's worth noting that AI is an marquee term that encompasses colorful arising technologies and paths, including machine literacy, neural networks, natural language processing (NLP), deep literacy, computer vision, and others. By automating processes, perfecting data analysis, generating precious perception,

and perfecting decision-material, it has the implicit to revise multiple diligence and ameliorate aspects of our lives, including healthcare, finance, entertainment, and others. AI continues to develop fleetly and holds great promise for the future, enabling colorful kinds of technologies AI-able. For case, moment, artificial intelligence is present in over 77 of gadgets in one form or another. Along with the AI elaboration, people are getting interested in discovering further about the future of AI and the concurrence of humanity with it. We wonder if robots will ever match or surpass mortal intelligence. While business possessors wonder whether they should use AI to expand the capabilities of their products. But before exploring all

these, whether AI is our friend or foe, let's explore compactly its elaboration and see at what stage it's now.

Although the term artificial intelligence was formally introduced in themid-20th century, creating intelligent systems has excited the mortal imagination for centuries. Since its start in the 1950s, the field of artificial intelligence has embarked on a gradational trip. Over the once many decades, AI has really made significant advances, changing how we suppose about the capabilities of mortal cognition, still, it has also yet to realize some of its grand promises. In this section, we offer you to go through the history of AI, find out its turning points and significant achievements, and how AI is altering the world.

Political Situations in the US During Presidential Elections



Iqra Ashraf

The 60th upcoming presidential elections on Tuesday November 5, 2024 is the most important update for the international arena because it will reshape the face of global politics. Are the US upcoming presidential elections are following the same culture of feud and blame game culture in the politics? Is US also facing Political polarization? The us presidential elections are around the corner and the both candidates political campaigns and rallies on its peak, during election campaign the presidential candidate and former president of US Donald trump got assassination attempt but luckily rescued, so the assassination attempt on the former president is the absolute failure of security. This assassination attempt is showing that the stable economic states and the world super power cannot get the political stability hence this is the crystal clear reality that the political stability is not directly proportional with the economic stability. The political stability is only having proportional relation with the, awareness, transparency, and eventually by democracy. The assassination attempt on the former president Donald trump on July 13th is the most significant

operational failure of the secret service in decades. The secret service sole mission is to protect our nation's leaders. On July 13th, we failed. As a director of the United States secret service, I take full responsibility for any security lapse of our agency. We are fully cooperating with ongoing investigations. We must learn what happened, and I will move heaven and earth to ensure that an incident like July 13th does not happen again. (Kimberly cheale)

There is no two school of thoughts regarding the US democratically attempts but the ongoing situation is quite mysterious because it is following the same political culture as this is in the third world countries and in the countries which are following extreme political polarization like in Pakistan.

Mr. Joe Biden get step back from presidential race due to age concerns and vice president Kamala Harris step forward for the presidential race. Now the election campaigns from the both candidates are on the pinnacle. As the debate between the trump and the Biden on the 27 June, 2024 left many question on the political face of world super power. As Biden called the trump loser and sucker and blamed trump for the instabilities during his tenure of presidency. In return the trump said handicap and mentally ill person to the Joe Biden he also added that a presidential candidate should be mentally smart enough to take this huge and important responsibility of the state, trump also pointed the Biden presidential performance by saying the inflation is on highest rate in his tenure while the country situation was not like that before and the also said that there is extreme southern border safety and security concerns as many people in his tenure crossed it. The former president said that Biden pushing US to the world war

three and important gesture from trump is that he showed soft corner for the Palestinians in his debate. The ongoing rallies and campaigns are full of blame game such as kamala Harris said that trump has no character which is a big statement about any nation's leader in return Donald trump also verbally attacked on kamala Harris by calling her a "radical left lunatic and said she unfit to rule. Political segregation led towards the many critical issues it equally impacts either the state is economically stable or not. Political polarization is shaking the states among the globe like as the state like US is not away from it. In the current situation of election rallies and campaigns in the US the political segregation is on the climax or it's a prominent component. This polarization is going to directly impact on the governance and political activities or democracy of the country.

In the history of US during the 59th US presidential elections held on November 3, 2020 there were also many incidents that relate with the political polarization. This was the first time in the history that the Donald trump not welcomed and met with the president Biden and fly off. As in the past social media companies banned trump due to his aggressive tweet which played a central role in the attack of the white house on January 6, 2021. As a result on 8th of January 2021 twitter suspended his account. Then he launched his own social media platform, truth social in 2022. This was the biggest witness for the political polarization in the US. Now the restrictions from the trump's social media accounts has been lifted. Each is trying to blame other as unfit for this role is this not the same crummy political culture? This is the limpud point that all over the globe the states are facing the political polarization.

DC & Chairman DRTA Ban Large Vehicles From Entering The City From 6 am To 11 pm



Mirpur Khas has banned large vehicles from entering the city from 6 am to 11 pm in view of difficulties in traffic flow due to entry of large vehicles into the city and road accidents. According to the order issued, the permits issued to large vehicles have been cancelled. Commissioner Mirpur Khas has directed SSP Mirpur Khas to ensure complete implementation of traffic rules and large vehicles should never be allowed to enter the city during the timings of the order issued. DC held a meeting with the traffic police in his office and directed them to play their active role in this regard.

Soon Times Correspondent Deputy Commissioner and Chairman Mirpur Khas: District Regional Transport Authority

Food Control Authority Raided Various Hotels & Imposed Heavy Fines



license to run a hotel. Nadia Nadeem fined 10,000 rupees on Cafe Sarfaraz and 30,000 rupees on Cafe Saad Mumtaz for not cleaning the hotel. Cafe Sarfaraz and Cafe Saad had kept milk open. They were selling substandard milk's tea and Cafe Sarfaraz was not having a license. A challan of Rs 11300 was also issued to the four hotel owners for not having a license. Cafe Saad and Cafe Sarfaraz Mumtaz were strictly instructed by Nadia Nadeem to improve the cleanliness of the hotel. She said, action will be taken by the Food Department for negligence. The team will visit different hotels on a daily basis. The use of substandard and chemical milk will not be tolerated under any circumstances. If chemical milk is found in a hotel, the food department team will register a case against the hotel owner and the hotel will be sealed.

Soon Times Correspondent along with the police visited different hotels of the city. Cafe Sarfaraz, Cafe Saad Mumtaz and Main Indus Highway Sehwan Road Dadu, Abdul Jabbar Zaniwar and other hotels were also raided. They checked the milk and also asked for

SNGPL Severed 95 Illegal Connections In Crackdown Against Gas Theft

Soon Times Correspondent Lahore: Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has continued its aggressive campaign against gas theft, successfully disconnecting 95 illegal connections across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad. The company has also imposed fines amounting to Rs 0.98 million on those involved in these illicit activities. In Lahore, the enforcement team severed 07 connections for

unauthorized gas usage and 06 more for using compressors illegally. Additionally, 01 FIR was lodged in connection with a gas theft incident. In Mardan, 08 connections were terminated for illegal gas usage, with fines totaling Rs 0.6 million imposed on the violators. The Faisalabad team disconnected 03 connections for similar infractions, accompanied by a fine of Rs 0.07 million. In Bahawalpur, the team disconnected 07 illegal connections and cut off another 14

for the unlawful use of compressors. The Gujranwala team severed 01 connection for unauthorized usage and imposed fines amounting to Rs 0.10 million. In Sheikhupura, 03 illegal connections were terminated, and fines of Rs 0.21 million were levied. Meanwhile, in Multan, the team disconnected 45 illegal connections and 01 for using a compressor without authorization.

PTI founder, Bushra Bibi's remand extended for 11 days

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad: An accountability court in Islamabad Thursday approved 11-day physical remand of PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi in new Toshakhana reference case. Accountability Court Judge Nasir Javed Rana extended the remand and adjourned the proceedings until August 12. Former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi were earlier sent on 10-day physical remand in NAB Toshakhana reference. On July 13, Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi were arrested in a fresh



National Accountability Bureau (NAB) reference related to Toshakhana, hours after their acquittal in the Iddat case. The NAB team headed by Deputy Director Mohsin Haroon arrested Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi from the Adiala Jail, the sources privy to the development

added. The development came after the Islamabad district and sessions court accepted the appeals filed by former prime minister Imran Khan and his spouse Bushra Bibi against their conviction in the Iddat case. The couple was sentenced to seven years in prison and awarded a fine of Rs500,000 each, in February earlier this year after a trial court found their nikah to be fraudulent. The verdict clears the last existing legal hurdle keeping the deposed prime minister in jail. His sentences in the two Toshakhana cases were suspended while he was acquitted by the Islamabad High Court (IHC) in the cipher case.

Free passport announced for citizens

Soon Times Correspondent QUETTA: Chief Minister (CM) Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti on Thursday announced that citizens will receive free passports. Addressing an event for the launch of the computerised arms license system in Quetta, CM Bugti said that the provincial government inked an agreement with the passport office for the convenience of the citizens. "The government will pay the passport fee on behalf of the citizens," CM Bugti said. Additionally, he said that the government will pay the Rs 16,000 cost for citizens of Chaman to obtain free digital passports under the one-document system. CM Bugti said that technology is helping



the government move toward effective governance. He said that the digital arms license system will be extended throughout Balochistan. Read More: Delay in Pakistani passport issuance echoes in National Assembly. The CM also spoke on the recent flooding in the province, saying that an emergency

has been declared in four districts of Balochistan. He clarified that Dera Bugti has never been a no-go area. Responding to Pakistan People's Party's Aga Rafiullah's call attention notice, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazir Tarar said the government is working to speed up the issuance process of passports. He said the daily demand for Pakistani passports has reached 44,000 while only 25,000 to 26,000 passports are being published, daily in Pakistan. "Software is on update, the number of issuance of passports will reach 60,000, daily till September," Tarar said. Azam Nazir Tarar admitted 'extraordinary' delay in passport issuance and assured to address the issue raised by a member of the house.

Shaheed Benazirabad Police Arrested 13 Accused & Recovered Drugs During Crackdown

Soon Times Correspondent Navabshah:

On the orders of SSP Shaheed Benazirabad Tanveer Hussain Tamu, strict crackdown is ongoing against criminal elements across the district. SHO Bandhi police station and his team arrested 06 drug dealers Parvez/Ahmed Jamali, Amjad Ali Jamali, Mehram Solangi, Hasnain Jamali, Sanatullah Jamali and Khushi Muhammad Rajput after receiving a tip-off during patrol. A huge quantity of Z-21 Gutka was found in their possession and cases have been registered against the accused under the Narcotics Act. The SHO of Sakrand police station and his team arrested 4 drug dealers Farhan Rind, Dilwar Bugti, Waseed Ali alias Naveed Keno and Dil Murad Rind on a tip-off during patrolling. A huge quantity of harmful Z-21 Gutka and hashish was found in their possession and cases were registered under Narcotics Act. SHO of Baloo Ja Quba police station on receiving a tip-off during patrol arrested 2 drug dealers Shaukat Ali and Sajid Khakhsheli and a huge number of whiskey points were recovered from their possession. Cases were registered against them under the Narcotics Act. The SHO of Quazi Ahmed police station, on receiving information during patrolling, arrested the drug dealer



Mumtaz Ali Khakhsheli and recovered a huge amount of hashish and registered a case under the Narcotics Act. SSP Shaheed Benazirabad Tanveer Hussain Tamu congratulated the police team for the excellent performance and issued instructions to continue stricter crackdown.

NEPRA approves Rs 2.56 per unit hike in power tariff

KARACHI: Electricity consumers are set to face an additional financial burden as the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has announced an increase in electricity tariff by Rs 2.56 per unit. As per the notification issued by NEPRA, the hike comes as part of the monthly fuel adjustment for the month of June, while the consumers will see the extra charges reflected in their August bills. Meanwhile, the increase will not apply to Lifeline consumers or K Electric customers. The Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA) - responsible for the purchase of electricity from power plants on behalf of



distribution companies in Pakistan - had initially requested an increase of Rs 2.63 per unit. However, NEPRA approved a hike of a slight lower amount of Rs 2.56 per unit. This adjustment will result in an additional burden of over Rs 30 billion on electricity consumers across the country.

Govt to review and 'terminate contracts with 15 IPPs'

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad:

The Pakistani government has decided to review and terminate agreements with 15 Independent Power Producers (IPPs) to provide relief to the public burdened by high electricity costs, sources said on Thursday. In efforts led by Energy Minister Awais Leghari, a task force has finalised the framework to address the issue. The government plans to immediately end contracts with six IPPs established in the 1990s and gradually phase out agreements with nine others. Sources revealed that contracts with Gul Ahmed Energy Limited, Kohinoor Energy, Liberty Power Project, Tapal Energy Limited, Attock Generation, and KAPCO will be terminated without extension. Additionally, agreements with Lal Pk. Paken, Fajri Kabirwala Power, Habibullah Coastal, Japan Power Generation, Saba Power, Hubeo, Southern Electric Power,

and Roush Power will be phased out over the next three to five years. The government is also preparing a framework for consumers using over 201 units of electricity. The policy regarding the same slab for consumers exceeding 201 units for six months will be revised. Special slabs will be introduced for these consumers, with a proposed rate of Rs26 per unit for those exceeding 201 units. Federal Minister Awais Leghari emphasised the importance of the energy sector for the economy, stating, "We are implementing reforms in the energy sector and will ensure their execution." He underscored the need for coordination in implementing these reforms, highlighting the role of the national task force in overseeing the 20-point reform agenda. "The sooner we address these issues, the quicker the economy will stabilise," he added.

Emergency declared in twin cities as strong monsoon spell strikes country

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD:

Various areas in twin cities Islamabad and Rawalpindi were inundated in the early hours of Thursday as a strong monsoon spell hit the country, prompting the administration to declare emergency in the capital and garrison cities. The water level continued to rise in Lai Nullah due to which the Water and Sanitation Authority (WASA) issued an alert. The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has ordered to clear the drain amid downpour. Meanwhile, intermittent rain continued to



lash areas of Lahore and Karachi, turning weather pleasant. Besides, various parts of Balochistan were shut down for traffic as pluvial flooding continued to wreak havoc across the province.

Majority of US adults say democracy is on the ballot but they differ on the threat: AP-NORC poll



NEW YORK
Roughly 3 in 4 American adults believe the upcoming presidential election is vital to the future of U.S. democracy, although which candidates they think poses the greater threat depends on their political leanings, according to a poll.

The survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that most Democrats, Republicans and independents see the election as "very important" or "extremely important" to democracy, while Democrats have a higher level of intensity about the issue. More than half of Democrats say the November election is "extremely important" to the future of U.S. democracy, compared to about 4 in 10 independents and Republicans.



Tropical Storm Debby stalls off Carolinas, poised to move north

ATLANTA
Tropical Storm Debby brought unrelenting rain to the US Southeast as it drifted off the Carolinas on Wednesday, threatening the region with dangerous flooding before picking up speed in the coming days and moving north.

At least six people have died in Florida and Georgia in the wake of the storm, which made landfall on Florida's Gulf Coast on Monday as a Category 1 hurricane and headed northeast. It is expected to next menace the Southeastern and mid-Atlantic coasts for days.

Governors in the Carolinas, Florida and Georgia have declared states of emergency. The storm has already left neighborhoods and communities underwater with widespread flooding washing out streets and inundating.



Saudi king allows cabinet to meet without him or crown prince

The king has named Mohammed bin Salman as prime minister in 2022

DUBAI
Web Desk
Saudi Arabia's King Salman issued a royal decree that allows the cabinet to convene in the absence of both himself and the prime minister, his son Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, state media reported on Thursday.

The 88-year-old king of the world's biggest oil exporter, and a major US ally in the Middle East, received medical care for lung inflammation in May that prompted Prince Mohammed to later postpone an official visit to Japan due to the king's health.

The king chaired a cabinet meeting a week later, with state TV broadcasting footage of him leading the meeting via video conference.

Prince Mohammed, 38, has been the de facto ruler of the OPEC leading country since his father named him as heir in 2017, in a move that cut hundreds of veteran princes out of the line of succession and tore up the unwritten rules of the ruling family's dynastic politics.

The king named him prime minister in 2022.

In the absence of the king, the crown prince or his deputies, the cabinet would be chaired by the eldest member of the cabinet who is a descendant of Salman's father, founding King Abdulaziz Al Saud. Cabinet decisions issued would be signed by the chairman, the royal decree added.

The cabinet includes two of King Salman's sons, Defence Minister Prince Khalid and Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz.

In deluge of protests, fuel subsidies prove hard to abolish

LONDON
Web Desk
Like thousands of others across the developing world, higher fuel costs have irked Antonia Arosamwo.

"I am angry," the 46-year-old mother of five said at a bus stop in Lagos, the teeming commercial capital of Africa's most populous nation.

Her journey from Ojuelegba, a bustling suburb just 8 miles north of Lagos's business district, has more than doubled in price to 700 naira (45 US cents) since the government announced an end to fuel subsidies last year - allowing petrol prices to triple.

Arosamwo's anger mirrored that of thousands of other Nigerians, whose nationwide protests last week demanding protection from rocketing inflation, spreading hunger and dwindling jobs rattled the government.

Nearly all had one core complaint: fuel prices.

Across Africa - and a string of other emerging market nations - debt-laden governments trying to shed costly fuel subsidies are running headlong into angry populations reeling from years of increasing living costs.

Egypt and Malaysia this year boosted prices to cut subsidy spending, while Bolivia's President Luis Arce, who fended off an attempted coup in June, called this week for a referendum on fuel subsidies. The government expects gasoline and diesel subsidies to cost Bolivia some \$2 billion this year.

Arce, like others, faces dollar shortages and a lagging economy.

"Difficult moments require firm, mature, thoughtful decisions and human beings who do not falter in the face of adversity, and this is precisely a moment of this nature," Arce said in a speech in the Bolivian city of Sucre.



Tunisian president replaces prime minister



Tunis
Web Desk
Tunisian President Kais Saied sacked his prime minister Ahmed Hachani without explanation and replaced him with social affairs minister Kamel Madouri, according to a statement from his office.

Hachani took office on August 1 last year, replacing Najla Bouden, who was also dismissed without an official reason by Saied.

His replacement Madouri may only taken on the social affairs portfolio in May. In a social media post from his office, Saied is shown shaking hands with Madouri with a brief statement saying only that the president had "decided to assign him to head the government, succeeding Mr. Ahmed Hachani".

Saied, 66, was democratically elected in 2019 but orchestrated a sweeping power grab in 2021 and is now seeking another term in office in elections on October 6.

He submitted his official candidacy for the election on Monday, while some would-be challengers are being barred from running, including through prosecution and imprisonment.

After registering, the incumbent told reporters his candidacy was part of "a war of liberation and self-determination" aiming to "establish a new republic".

As part of Saied's consolidation of power, Tunisia's constitution was rewritten in 2022 to create a presidential regime whose parliament has extremely limited powers.

Opposition hopefuls blocked
On Monday, Abir Moussi, a key opposition figure and ex-member of parliament who has been in jail since October, was sentenced to two years in prison under a "false news" law days after she reportedly submitted her candidacy via her lawyers.

Media personality Nizar Chaari was also handed an eight-month sentence Monday night, days after three staffers on his campaign were arrested on suspicion of forging signatures.

Daily SOON TIMES Sports & Showbiz

Naseem Shah urges Pakistan cricket team to learn from past mistakes



ISLAMABAD
Sports Desk
Fast bowler Naseem Shah believes Pakistan team needs to learn from past mistakes and come forward together as a united force.

Speaking to the media at Islamabad Club, Shah said, "We must play as one team for Pakistan now. We have to learn from our past mistakes and improve."

Shah acknowledged the team's recent struggles, saying, "We haven't had a good time lately. We didn't play good cricket, but every team goes through such phases."

He emphasized the importance of learning from mistakes and working together to overcome challenges.

On his personal comeback after injury, Shah said, "I'm trying to perform better. International matches are different, and taking care of your fitness is crucial."

He stressed the importance of prioritizing fitness, saying, "When you play for your country, you know how much you need to maintain your fitness." Shah said, "The team should work together, and we're doing that. Everyone is playing good cricket now."

Sri Lanka spinner charged under ICC Anti-Corruption Code



(Web Desk)
The International Cricket Council (ICC) have confirmed that Praveen Jayawickrama has been charged with three counts of breaching the ICC Anti-Corruption Code.

Jayawickrama allegedly failed to report to the Anti-Corruption Unit, without delay, that he was approached to carry out fixing during International matches and in the 2021 Lanka Premier League. Reportedly, the Sri Lanka bowler was found to have deleted messages related to the approach for conducting corrupt practices. Jayawickrama has 14 days from 6 August 2024 to respond to the charges.

The 25-year-old spinner, with 15 matches of international experience, has been levied the following offences under the code:??

Article 2.4.4 - Failing to report to the Anti-Corruption Unit, without unnecessary delay, details of an approach he received to carry out fixing in future International Matches.

Article 2.4.4 - Failing to report to the Anti-Corruption Unit, without unnecessary delay, details of an approach he received in which he was asked to approach another player, on a corrupter's behalf, to carry out fixing in the 2021 Lanka Premier League.

Article 2.4.7 - Obstructing the investigation by deleting messages in which the approaches and offers to engage in corrupt conduct were made.

Following Articles 1.7.4.1 and 1.8.1 of the Code, Sri Lanka Cricket and the ICC have agreed that the ICC will take action concerning the Lanka Premier League charge alongside the International Match charges.

Jayawickrama made his last international appearance for Sri Lanka in 2022 in the T20I series against Australia.

Sabrina Carpenter teases track 'Slim Pickins' from upcoming album 'Short n' Sweet'



Pop sensation Sabrina Carpenter is gearing up for the release of her highly anticipated album, Short n' Sweet, scheduled for August 23, 2024. The announcement, made on June 4, 2024, through an Instagram post, has fans eagerly awaiting the drop of this new project.

Carpenter, known for hits like "Please Please Please" and "Espresso," is set to hit the road with a supporting tour, aptly named the Short n' Sweet Tour. Fans can also look forward to exclusive merchandise, including a sought-after vinyl edition of the album.

In a recent update, Carpenter previewed a new track titled "Slim Pickins" during an event at the Grammy Museum on August 2, 2024.

'Married four times to three men': Noor Bukhari opens up about multiple marriages

Showbiz News
Former actress Noor Bukhari, who left the showbiz industry for religious reasons, recently made surprising revelations about her marriages and children during Hafiz Ahmed's podcast.

She openly discussed her career and personal life, expressing regret about living in a society where extramarital relationships are acceptable, but multiple marriages are not.

Noor mentioned that she doesn't remember the date of her first marriage and doesn't wish to, as it's part of her past, and she is happy with her present.

She stated that all her marriages were out of love, but unfortunately, they ended in failure.

However, she is content and satisfied with her current marriage.

Addressing rumours, Noor clarified that while some claim she has been married five times, it wouldn't matter to her if they said ten.

Further explaining that she has been married four times to three men, having married her current



husband, Awn Chaudhry, twice.

Noor also shared details about her children, stating that all three are fathered by Awn Chaudhry, and she has no children from her previous marriages. Her eldest daughter Fatima is 11 years old, her second daughter Shehri Bano is 4, and her son Muhammad Raza is one year old.