



# Daily SOON TIMES

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## ISPR restructuring, expansion to help surmount challenges



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
The Pakistan Army's media wing will now be headed permanently by serving lieutenant general. According to sources, the latest reorganisation of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) has been done in the face of complicated challenges in information environment of Pakistan.  
With the expansion of the ISPR department, new areas of work will be explored which, according to sources, will be different from the previous modalities of work. Sources said ISPR DG Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif would continue to work as the head of Pak Army's media wing while two major generals would assist him as his subordinates in curtailing the threat posed by chaotic elements. Moreover, appointments of the major generals would be completed in a few days.  
ISPR-RECENT PRESSER  
Inter-Services Public Relations Director General Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry addressed an important press conference a week ago. He started his press conference by saying that the purpose of this communication was to clarify the army's stance on some important matters.

## Vandalism case: Imran, Qureshi to appear via video link on Sept 7



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Wednesday ordered jail authorities to present Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founding chairman Imran Khan and vice chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi via video link on Sept 7 in a vandalism case.  
ATC judge Tahir Abbas Sipra conducted hearing on vandalism case against Khan and Qureshi.  
Judge Sipra asked about Qureshi's whereabouts and whether he was a convicted prisoner, to which Qureshi's counsel responded that he wasn't a convicted prisoner and was languishing in Kot Lakhpat Jail as a political prisoner.  
Later, judge Sipra adjourned hearing till Sept 7 and ordered jail superintendent to present Khan and Qureshi through video link in the next hearing.  
It must be remembered that twin cases of vandalism had been registered against Khan, Qureshi and the PTI workers in Khanna Police Station, Islamabad.

## FBR Chairman Amjad Zubair Tiwana seeks early retirement



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Amjad Zubair Tiwana has requested for early retirement from his office.  
According to sources, Tiwana has also submitted two weeks' notice for leaving his charge.  
The FBR chairman has also written a letter to the PM office, informing the premier about his decision to resign.  
According to sources, the FBR chairman was due to retire in February 2025, however, he has sought early retirement.  
He says he wants to leave his charge in the FBR office, though he has not cited any reason.  
He also talked about his early retirement plan in meetings with higher-ups in the recent past.

# Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh martyred in Iran

Hamas said was killed in "a treacherous Zionist raid on his residence in Tehran"



CAIRO Web Desk  
Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was assassinated in the early hours of Wednesday in Iran, the Palestinian group said, drawing fears of wider escalation in a region shaken by Israel's war in Gaza and a worsening conflict in Lebanon.  
The Islamist faction mourned the death of Haniyeh, who it said was killed in "a treacherous Zionist raid on his residence in Tehran".  
Iran's Revolutionary Guards confirmed the death of Haniyeh, and said it was investigating.

Iran's Fars news agency, close to the Revolutionary Guard, posted on X that Haniyeh was stationed in the north of Tehran, and a projectile from the air killed him around 2:30 am. Further investigations are underway and details will be announced later, Fars added.  
Iran's top security body is expected to meet to decide Iran's strategy in reaction to the death of Haniyeh, a close ally of Tehran, said a source with knowledge of the meeting.  
IRAN-CONDOLIEES  
Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Nasser Kanaani, expressed condolences on the death of Haniyeh and said his

blood will never be wasted. Kanaani said on his Telegram channel that the killing is under investigation by the relevant institutions in Iran.  
"Undoubtedly, the pure blood of this brave warrior, who spent his life in an honorable fight against the Zionist usurping regime and on the way to the liberation of Holy Quds and the liberation of the oppressed Palestinian nation from the clutches of the Zionist occupation, will never be wasted."  
There was no immediate comment from Israel. The Israeli military said it was conducting a situational assessment but had not issued any new security guidelines for civilians.

## Azma Bukhari awaits justice as LHC seeks response from DG FIA

● Lahore High Court issues notice to DG FIA in Azma Bukhari fake video case

Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE  
The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Wednesday issued notice to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Director General, while hearing a petition against the alleged video of Punjab's Information Minister Azma Bukhari.  
LHC Chief Justice Alia Neelum heard the petition filed by Azma Bukhari.  
Chief Justice said that the petitioner should have removed the pictures attached with the petition, adding that he request would have been fixed for hearing today had the petitioner removed the pictures. Ms. Alia Neelum removed the objection of the registrar office, and fixed the case for hearing tomorrow.  
Azma Bukhari filed a petition against her alleged video while making the Federal Government, FIA, and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) social media activist Falak Javed Khan the respondents.



Petitioner requested the court to take legal action against Falak Javed and others for sharing a fake video on X, which she said, was shared by hundreds of people.  
Azma Bukhari speaks to media outside LHC.  
Azma Bukhari told the Lahore High Court said that she had to visit courts in the early morning to get justice, whereas the culprits were roaming free.  
"Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz has called upon the FIA authorities tomorrow (Thursday) for taking action, let's see what response they submit," she added.  
On being asked about the culprits behind the controversy, Azma told that it was no more her responsibility to point out the culprits, in fact this was now the responsibility of institutions and the FIA to figure out the ones involved.

## Pakistan condemns Ismail Haniyeh's assassination in Tehran

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
Pakistan on Wednesday condemned the assassination of Hamas's Political Bureau Ismail Haniyeh in Iran capital Tehran.  
Foreign Office Spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch, in a statement, said "Pakistan condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including extrajudicial and extra-territorial killings irrespective of the motives."  
She said Pakistan is deeply shocked by the timing of this reckless act, coinciding with the inauguration of the President of Iran, an event attended by several foreign dignitaries.  
The spokesperson said



Pakistan views with serious concern the growing Israeli adventurism in the region. She said its latest acts constitute a dangerous escalation in an already volatile region and undermine efforts for peace.  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
Meanwhile, a resolution condemning the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh has been tabled in the National Assembly.  
The resolution was submitted by Maulana Ghaffoor Haidari, Usman Dadini, Maulana Samiuddin and Alia Kamran of the JUI Pakistan.

# Parliamentary committee approves Election Act Amendment bill

Tarar supports bill citing proposed amendments in line with constitution, PTI opposes while JUI-F members abstain



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
The parliamentary committee has approved the Election Act Amendment Bill by a majority vote, despite opposition from PTI and abstention from JUI-F PPP members were also not present at the meeting.  
During the session chaired by Rana Idrat Sharif, the committee reviewed amendments to the Election Act 2017. Bilal Azhar Kayani provided a briefing on the bill.  
The meeting saw heated exchanges between opposition member Afi Muhammad Khan and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Azam Nazir

Tarar.  
Azam Nazir Tarar supported the bill, citing that the proposed amendments are in line with the constitution and law. However, PTI members opposed the amendments. JUI-F member Shahida Akhtar Ali expressed concerns about the election commission's role and called for a detailed review of the amendments.  
Ali Muhammad Khan criticized the election commission, accusing it of creating political crises and bias. The election commission's secretary stated that they could not comment on the retrospective effects of the

bill, leaving it to the Ministry of Law and Parliament.  
Ultimately, the committee approved the bill with six votes in favor and four against. Shahida Akhtar Ali abstained from voting, citing concerns about the bill's retrospective impact. No PPP members attended the meeting.  
The Election Act Amendment Bill will be presented to the National Assembly for approval on Friday.  
Furthermore, the National Assembly introduced the Second Amendment Bill to the Elections Act 2023, prohibits independent candidates from joining another political party

## Prime Minister is fully informed regarding IPPs: Mohsin Naqvi

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
Federal Minister for Interior Affairs Mohsin Naqvi said that he has provided all the important information regarding IPPs to Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif. While talking to media, Mohsin Naqvi said that the Prime Minister has made discussions with the minister of power, and the Federal Government was fully focused on resolving issues regarding the IPPs.  
Talking about the ongoing security concerns in Balochistan, he declared it a subject for the provincial government to handle. He assured that everything was under control and no one should be worried about any political instability. He also assured that if any help would be required, the Federal Government will be on its toes to fulfill the task of



providing the security to any province. Naqvi told the media that it was the government who made the ceasefire possible in Parachinar.  
The government intervened between the two parties fighting on an issue of land, however the matter has been carefully resolved by the mediation of the government.  
Answering a question regarding Irarah Khan, interior minister said only Allah knows with whom Imran Khan wants to make a dialogue.

## No institution can rewrite Constitution: Tarar

Law minister Azam Nazeer Tarar stands firm on constitutional integrity during committee meeting.

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar asserted that no institution has the authority to rewrite the Constitution. Speaking at a meeting of the National Assembly's Standing Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, chaired by Rana Aradat Sharif, the minister expressed strong support for the proposed amendments to the Elections Act 2017.  
"We cannot allow any institution to rewrite the Constitution. Courts interpret the law, but they do not have the authority to change it," said Tarar.  
He highlighted the requirement for elected members to join a political party within three days and noted that once a party is joined, it becomes irrevocable.  
In contrast, members supported by the



Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) opposed the bill. Shahida Akhtar Ali emphasized the need to work for the supremacy of the constitution and law.  
"We take oaths to legislate for the public good. It would have been better to introduce legislation against IPPs. The Election Commission has always been caught in the middle."



## Make in Pakistan Toyota Vehicles

Federal Minister Industries and Production lauded Toyota Indus Motor company Ltd on achieving milestone by exporting vehicles. Federal Minister for Industries and Production acknowledges role of Toyota in national development. Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain visited Toyota Indus Motor company Ltd (IMC) on 31st Jul 2024 at Port Qasim Industrial Estate Karachi. He was accompanied by Mr. Saif Anjum, Secretary MOIP, Mr. Khuda Buksh, CEO EDB and was warmly received by Executive Vice President, Toyota Motor Asia, Mr. Kazunari Iguchi, CEO IMC Asghar Ali Jamali and other Senior Officials IMC Toyota. While addressing the ceremony, Mr.

Rana Tanveer Hussain, Federal Minister for Industries and Production, congratulated IMC Toyota for achieving milestone by exporting vehicles. He appreciated the IMC management for localization of operations upto 64%, which reflects Pakistan Govt's vision of innovation and self-reliance. The Minister also acknowledge the role of Toyota in national development by investing 700 Million USD and producing 76000 units. In addition to this, the company contributes 258 billion to the national exchequer which reflects its determination in national development of the country. The Minister also highlighted the company's proactive approach of reducing CO2 footprints and addressing environmental challenges

by producing Hybrid Vehicles. "Such initiatives are example setting for others in the motor industry", he mentioned. Speaking to the audience in the ceremony, the Minister praised the leadership qualities of CEO IMC Mr. Asghar Ali Jamali and said that his role remained instrumental in steering the company towards these milestones. He praised the role of IMC management and said that their vision and approach in national development is aligned with the Government of Pakistan. Mr. Kazunari Iguchi, Executive Vice President, Toyota Motor Asia, added, "The partnership with IMC has been built over time and is immensely fruitful. In Toyota we say that we build people before we build cars, and this step is a testament to the

improvement of skill, and training of the human resources from Pakistan. We look forward to continued collaboration and success, allowing us to continue to contribute to Pakistan." CEO IMC Toyota Mr. Asghar Ali Jamali, in his speech at the ceremony, thanked the Minister and his Government for their unwavering support in making this possible. He said that the management fully aligns itself to the progress and development of the country through their contribution in creating jobs and sustainable growth in auto industry. During his visit to the company, the Minister planted a tree sapling, inaugurated vehicle export unit and was presented a memento by IMC Toyota.

## Bangladesh is in a war!



Sayed Anwar

Blood, blood, everywhere. Nor any space to breathe! I would use the term 'genocidal' to mean the severity of the torture inflicted upon the student protesters in Bangladesh by the government and its supporters in recent days. The issue began in 2018 when discriminatory quotas were imposed on government jobs in the country. In response, university students protested and demanded a fair and equitable quota system. After months of peaceful demonstrations, their movement succeeded. The story took a temporary pause at this point. The anti-quota movement resumed at the beginning of July this year when the High Court ordered restoring discriminatory quota system in June. 50% quotas were required for particular sections of people in job exams, including first-grade jobs, out of which 30% were for the descendants of freedom fighters, who fought for the independence of Bangladesh in 1971. The rest 44% were merit-based. Students from different colleges and universities took to the streets to protest against this imposed discrimination, demanding reinstatement or reforming. The movement also addressed other issues such as corruption and question leakage in job exams, including in civil service exams. During this stage, the students were peaceful without any kind of turbulence. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh expressed support for the discriminatory quota system and labeled those who oppose quotas for the relatives of freedom fighters as 'razakars', who are known as traitors during the war of independence when the country got independence from Pakistan in 1971. This statement sparked a significant reaction, leading students to feel insulted and stage an immediate protest at midnight. They chanted a slogan: 'Who are you? Who am I? Razakar, razakar. Who said? Who said? The PM said, PM said.' This slogan was an ironic expression by the students. But the government responded with crackdown on them using armed 'Chatro League', a student wing of the ruling party, and police. Additionally, there exists a political discourse in Bangladesh where the current government preaches that those labeled as

razakars should be killed or have no right to stay in the country, contrary to international human rights law. This narrative is commonly voiced by members and leaders of the ruling party. Using this narrative, the government cleared out many of the opposition leaders in the past years. This time, similar actions are taken against Bangladeshi protesting students. The current Hasina led government of Bangladesh has been accumulating its power since its arrival in 2009 undermining democracy. To do so, they have dispatched brutal and unjustified measures. According to many opposition activists and leaders, the government is trying to strengthen its power through this unjustified and illogical quota system by giving those important posts to loyal persons of the government. On a typical day, on 15th July, students from the University of Dhaka took to the streets for a peaceful procession. Suddenly, armed individuals affiliated with the ruling Awami League began attacking the peaceful protesters. They threw rocks, used cocktail bombs, guns, sticks, and iron rods to suppress the quota reformation movement, resulting in hundreds of injuries and a few deaths. This included causing serious physical and mental harm to the innocent unarmed students. A large number of female students were harassed and severely beaten. Some mobs stormed the emergency room of Dhaka Medical College Hospital to attack the vulnerable and injured students. Some students confessed that they thought that was their last day of life. On July 18, the police forces started attacking on various University campuses, causing about a dozen deaths and some hundreds more injured. I am a student of Jahangirnagar University. In my campus, police entered halls and attacked innocent unarmed students with tear-shell, guns, and sticks, resulting hundreds wounded. On the following days, police, Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) jointly started attacking the protesters with heavy weapons to suppress the protest. Tanks and helicopters were used. Shootings were so violent that pedestrians and house-insiders also got killed by bullets. Reportedly, more than 200 people were died and thousands more injured, including four to eighteen year kids. In accordance with some local media, the death toll is up to 500. All these happened during the internet blackout and in front of the eyes of the controlled mainstream media who gave biased report to satisfy the regime. Thus, the exact number is very hard to find. The country is placed under curfew

deploying several armed forces all over the country. Students go to Universities to study and work for the development of their own and the country. But regrettably, they have to face brutality from the state, just for claiming their rights. I have not seen this kind of brutality from any state so far. I wonder how a state can become so ferocious to innocent students. In the country, beating innocent students in university campuses and halls is not new to the members of the Chatro League. They beat general students for a very slight cause or, in most cases, without any reason. They torture fresher students in the guise of 'guest room' culture. Newcomers to universities feel extra pressure from this culture, where they are brainwashed by saying: 'We are teaching you manners'. They use students like toys. Brutal measures are still going on. Mass detention without warrant including persons without involvement in the movement and school students, inhuman torture in jails, and intimidation are used tools to suppress the student movement. Human rights abuses can be spotted. Electrifying private organs, severely beating different parts of the body of the captives, and sexual abuses are detected as per trusted sources. The world is closely observing the ferocious actions of the Israeli army in Gaza and the West Bank. What is the fault of the innocent Palestinians in this situation? What wrong have the babies, women, and children committed? Don't they deserve a peaceful life free from external fears and to live with their rightful rights? Let's analogically pose these questions on the lives of Bangladeshi students. Then, what is your answer? Have you noticed any similarity between Zionists and the incumbent machine of Bangladesh? While India is plagued by the extreme Hindu nationalism, its neighbor suffers from the division and hatred created by the current regime against those who oppose it. Students today are no longer just focused on quota reform. They have expanded their demands to include the resignation of several ministers and police officers, as well as the arrest of those responsible for unlawfully killing students. What began as an anti-quota protest has evolved into a national movement against corruption and injustice, advocating for freedom and democracy. It is important for the international community to take action to stop the ongoing brutality and protect Bangladeshi students and democracy from this dictatorship.

## The day-to-day hardships of a poor Pakistani man

### Kashaf waqar

In Pakistan, leading a low-income life can be an uphill battle full of daily challenges that occasionally feel insurmountable. For a lot of males in this group, it can seem like there is a never-ending struggle to support their families in the face of growing costs and stagnating income. The persistent worry that one won't be able to make ends meet is at the core of these difficulties. The burden of financial obligations increases daily, forcing many men to face the hard reality of needing to spend every rupee to the absolute maximum. Their financial security is a major burden, affecting everything from putting food on the table to paying for their kids' schooling. For these males, the rising cost of necessities like groceries and gas is one of their top concerns. Their carefully managed budgets can be severely impacted by the rising and falling costs of these essential requirements, making it more and more difficult to make ends meet for their families. This challenge is made worse by the recent trend of gasoline prices rising every 15

days, which forces many low-income people to choose between paying for other bills and necessities. The financial burden on these guys has been made even more difficult by the ongoing rise in taxes on products and services as if the growing prices of necessities weren't difficult enough. When every dollar is spent on keeping the family alive, even the slightest luxury like a packet of tea can seem unachievable. Their already hectic daily lives may become even more stressful due to the weight of these added expenses, which may harm their mental health and general well-being. Many males in Pakistan who earn modest salaries are all too familiar with the delicate balancing act that is required to navigate this financial minefield. Prioritizing the well-being of their families often entails sacrificing their own needs and desires, which is a duty that they carry deeply. Despite the astronomical odds stacked against them, they continue through the most trying moments because they feel compelled to support their loved ones and ensure a brighter

future for their kids. It is crucial to acknowledge and respect these men's tenacity and strength in the face of such overwhelming obstacles. Their strong passion and commitment are demonstrated by their unrelenting will to weather the storm and provide for their family. By bringing attention to the difficulties they face on a daily basis, we may increase empathy and compassion for their situation, which can lead to constructive change and assistance for those who most need it. In the end, the hardships of a low-income Pakistani guy serve as a sobering reminder of the terrible reality that many others in comparable situations experience all around the world. Their tenacity and bravery in the face of hardship serve as a potent reminder of the human spirit's ability to persevere and triumph over even the most difficult obstacles. To ensure that no one is left behind in the pursuit of a better, more equitable future for all, it is essential that we unite as a community to help and uplift those in need.

## FBR Chief Amjad Tiwana Seeks Early Exit



Amjad Rana

FBR Chairman Amjad Zubair Tiwana has sought early retirement, giving a two-week notice to step down from his position. Tiwana, an Inland Revenue Service (IRS) officer of grade 21, was originally scheduled to retire in February 2025. He cited the unsatisfactory pace of reforms, including digitalisation, within the FBR as a reason for his decision. Despite efforts from tax officers to persuade him otherwise, Tiwana has decided to leave his post. He communicated his decision both verbally and in writing to the government, stating that he could no longer continue in his role and requesting the appointment of a successor. During his tenure, the FBR managed to collect Rs9,311 billion in revenue over the last fiscal year, achieving a 30 percent growth despite challenging economic conditions. However, Tiwana faced criticism concerning the issues of digitalisation and the division between IRS and Customs groups. Efforts to retain Tiwana's personal views on his early retirement request have not been successful, as he did not respond to inquiries. The early retirement request by FBR Chairman Amjad Zubair Tiwana highlights

several key issues within the Federal Board of Revenue. Tiwana's early departure necessitates a swift appointment of a new chairman to ensure continuity and stability within the FBR. The unsatisfactory pace of reforms, particularly in digitalisation and structural bifurcation between IRS and Customs groups, indicates underlying systemic issues that need to be addressed by the incoming leadership. Despite achieving significant revenue growth, the challenging economic environment and internal criticism may have contributed to Tiwana's decision to step down. The lack of a response from Tiwana regarding his reasons for early retirement suggests potential communication gaps within the organization or between the chairman and other government officials. The government now faces the task of appointing a new FBR chairman who can effectively address these challenges and continue the reform and modernization efforts. The exact number of government officers in Pakistan who have taken early retirement in 2024 is not specified in a single source. Recent pension reforms proposed by the government include options for early retirement with certain penalties, indicating a significant number of employees might opt for early retirement to avoid the impacts of the new pension rules. Several senior officers, including those in the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), have recently sought early retirement due to various reasons, including personal and professional issues. Additionally, it is mentioned that 35 senior police officers are set to retire within a year, although it is not clear how many of these are early retirements. There is also a broader trend of government employees seeking early retirement amid ongoing economic challenges and reforms aimed at reducing pension liabilities. While the exact total number for 2024 isn't provided, these points illustrate that early retirement among government officers is a notable issue driven by reforms and personal decisions. For precise statistics, further detailed reports or official announcements from the relevant government departments would be needed.

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## Traders of Galla Mandii Go on Strike Against FBR's Imposition of Oppressive Tax on Agricultural Commodities



Soon Times Correspondent

**Sargodha:**  
A three-day shatter-down strike by Galla Mandii traders has been started from 11 am today in Sargodha, like across Punjab, against the cruel tax imposed by the FBR. In this regard, all Galla Mandii traders started coming to the protest camp. A strike camp was organized by the Galla Mandii traders against the cruel tax levied by the FBR on the import of agricultural commodities, in which all the representatives of the Galla Mandii traders were present. Talking to

representative of Suno News on this occasion, they said that inflation is already very high. It will affect the poor because of the cruel taxes imposed by the government. Due to this tax, the prices of imported goods will increase enormously. Production of agricultural commodities in Pakistan is already declining. We have to import about 50% of our commodities. If fixed tax is imposed by FBR, agricultural commodities will be out of reach of common man. We are not against the government but our strike protest is for the poor.

## CEO NRSP Along With His Technical Team Met Commissioner Sargodha

**Sargodha:**  
CEO of NRSP Rashid Bajwa along with his technical team met Commissioner Sargodha Division Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti at his office. He told the commissioner that his organization is taking steps to make Sargodha an

information technology zone. He said that his organization has set up its office at the bypass. There, internationally trained experts will provide IT training to the students of public and private universities, colleges and schools of Sargodha. He said that the aim of this initiative is to make Sargodha an IT hub and to provide training

to students and make them employable in their own city. The Commissioner appreciated the initiative of NRSP and directed the concerned institutions to fully cooperate with NRSP. Deputy Commissioner Aurangzeb Haider Khan was also present on this occasion.

## Registration Of Families Under Prosperity Survey Socio-Economic Registry Is Ongoing: Commissioner



**Sargodha:**  
Commissioner Sargodha Division Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti said that according to the vision of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif, "Ab Ho Ga Sab Ka Shumar" the process of registration of families under the Prosperity Survey Socio-Economic Registry is going on in the four districts. Deputy Commissioners

have been given the task of monitoring this important project. Under the Socio-Economic Registry, houses are being counted and the economic status of each household is also being recorded. He was presiding over a review meeting on Socio-Economic Registry in the conference room of his office yesterday. Deputy Commissioners and Deputy Director of Statistical Institute Azhar Saleem participated in the meeting. The

Commissioner said that registration centers have been established across the division. However, people can register themselves through the online web portal [www.pser.punjab.gov.pk](http://www.pser.punjab.gov.pk) and helpline 02345-0800. He further said that only the persons registered in the Socio-Economic Registry will be entitled to the Social Protection Project. Registered citizens will also be eligible to apply for e-Bike, Roshan Gharana, Solar Program, Himmat Card, Kisan Card, Health Card, Livestock Card and Scholarships among others. The Commissioner said that having authentic data will give the right to the original right holder and help solve people's problems. He urged the DCs to promote this people-friendly project of the Punjab government on social, print and electronic media.

## FGEHA Organized Meeting Aimed At Engaging With Investors

**Islamabad:**  
The Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA) organized a significant meeting at a private hotel in Islamabad, aimed at engaging with investors. The event was attended by Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President of the Federation of Realtors of Pakistan, along with both national and international investors. The FGEHA panel, which included Director Planning, Director Law, Director Estate, Director Revenue, and GM Finance EHPRO, warmly welcomed the guests. The meeting primarily focused on the upcoming public auction of 03 mixed-use commercial plots in Sector G-13, scheduled for August 7, 2024. This auction marks a historic first for Islamabad, as organized by the FGEHA. During the discussions, the investors expressed strong interest in the



FGEHA projects and commended the efforts of the Director General. They highlighted the importance of continued partnership and collaboration, underscoring the potential of Pakistan, particularly its vibrant population and the growing demand for housing. The FGEHA panel carefully considered the investors' proposals and shared information about future plans and initiatives.

## Mushtaq Ahmad Awan Paid A Surprise Visit To NADRA Office Shahpur



**Sargodha:**  
On the instructions of the Federal Ombudsman, Malik Mushtaq Ahmad Awan, in-charge of Regional Office Sargodha, paid a surprise visit to NADRA

Office Shahpur and got information about the problems faced by the people there. On this occasion, complaints were made by citizens about the lack of staff in the NADRA office, increasing the counters, issuing ID cards, verification by the staff

and other tactics of humiliating the public. After listening to these complaints, Malik Mushtaq Ahmad Awan gave an assurance to resolve them soon. On this occasion, Malik Mushtaq Ahmad Awan said that the Federal Ombudsman is always ready for immediate redressal of any kind of complaints related to the federal departments. I have visited Shahpur Sargodha today after receiving various complaints. Because our priority is to provide facilities to people at their doorstep. He said that a detailed report will be sent to the Federal Ombudsman as well as recommending the NADRA officers to take steps for their immediate and practical solution.

## Monsoon rainfall to intensify until Aug 5, Chenab river at Risk of flooding: PMD DG

**ISLAMABAD**  
Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Director General Mahr Sahibzada Khan on Wednesday predicted that the country would experience continued rainfall until Aug 5, with a focus on the Chenab river which is expected to face an alarming situation. Speaking to PTV, he said the Chenab river will be under significant pressure due to the heavy downpour, posing a risk of flooding in nearby areas, adding, while other rivers are also expected to swell, the Chenab river is of particular concern.



The PMD has advised authorities and residents to take necessary precautions and remain vigilant in the face of this impending situation. The continued rainfall is expected to bring relief from the heat, but also poses a threat to infrastructure and human settlements, making it essential for timely action to mitigate potential disasters, he mentioned. In response to a question, he emphasized the importance of staying informed about the latest weather updates, particularly regarding lightning and other severe weather conditions. He advised all departments concerned and citizens to regularly check the Pakistan Meteorological Department's (PMD) website

for the latest forecasts, warnings, and updates. By doing so, individuals can stay ahead of potentially hazardous weather situations and take necessary precautions to ensure their safety, he added. The DG stressed that staying informed is crucial in minimizing the risks associated with severe weather events, and encouraged everyone to make it a habit to regularly check the PMD website for updates, especially during the monsoon season when weather conditions can change rapidly. In response to another question, he expressed gratitude to the Chinese government for providing Pakistan with advanced technology for lightning prediction tools, adding that through this collaboration, Pakistan has acquired 26 lightning prediction tools, enabling the Meteorological Department to accurately predict lightning strikes in various cities across the country.

## Pir Nasir Abbas Will Make A Visit of 3-Days To Rawalpindi & Islamabad

**Lahore:**  
The founder, central chairman of Imam Hasan Council of Pakistan and Gadi Nashin of Darbar Pir Muhammad Yar Bhatti Naushahi Qadri, known as Baba Mali Shah Sarkar, Pir Nasir Abbas Naushahi Qadri, advocate, will make a detailed visit of three days from August 2 to 4, 2024 (Friday to Sunday) to Rawalpindi and Islamabad. During this visit, he will meet with scholars, local officials and workers of Imam Hasan Council of Pakistan. In these meetings, he will review the work of Imam Hasan



Council Pakistan in North Punjab and Rawalpindi Division. He will also formulate a strategy to take the work forward. On September 7, 2024, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of Khatam e Nabuwat Law, in Islamabad High Court preparations will be started for holding the All-Parties Golden Jubilee Apocalypse Conference (APC) organized by Imam Hasan Council Pakistan. Imam Hasan Council Pakistan North Punjab General Secretary Chaudhry Abdul Malik will welcome him.

## PTI's Raof Hasan sent on physical remand in terror case

**ISLAMABAD**  
(Web Desk)  
PTI Information Secretary Raof Hasan has been arrested in a terrorism case and

handed over to the CTD on a two-day physical remand by the anti-terrorism court (ATC). PTI leader Raof Hasan has been arrested in another case that includes terrorism charges. Police sources state that the arrest was made based on a statement by Ahmad Janjua. Subsequently, the CTD presented him in the Islamabad Anti-Terrorism Court, where Judge Tahir Abbas Supra presided over the hearing. Hasan was represented by lawyer Ali Bukhari. The CTD requested a five-day physical remand for Hasan. When Hasan took the stand, the judge inquired if his medical examination had been completed, to which he responded



affirmatively and complained about being shifted to jail despite medical issues. Hasan's lawyer, Ali Bukhari, stated that Hasan had been sent on judicial remand by the FIA the previous day, and it was unclear when the CTD made the arrest. The prosecutor clarified that Hasan was included in the investigation the day before but was formally arrested today.

## IESCO Power Suspension Schedules For Today

**Islamabad:**  
According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule:  
On 01st August, 2024, From 06:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Islamabad Circle, Tufail Shaheed, Karpa, Farash Town, Dhala, Bari Imam Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, Shams Colony, Nust Road Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Khanpur Feeder, From

07:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Rawalpindi City Circle, Satellite Town, I-14/3 Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, NPF-1 Feeder, From 05:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Attock Circle, Malhvali, Masood Shaheed Feeders, From 08:00 AM to 12:00 Noon Islamabad Circle, PC, TDPC, MCM, Gharial, Kohala, Sunny Bank Feeders and surrounding areas will remain closed. IESCO management apologizes to its esteemed customers for the power outage. If the work is completed ahead of time, the power supply can be restored even before the scheduled time.

**Missing Documents:**  
My Midwifery Diploma/Certificate No. 30198, Roll No. 1975 Course from DHQ Hospital Sargodha issued by Pakistan Nursing Council has been lost somewhere during the journey to Chashma Kundian. Whoever finds it should report it. Advertiser: Lubna Shehzadi Wife of Muhammad Irfan Khan House Gate No. 4/185 PAEC New Colony Chashma District Mianwali, Contact No: 03347669658





**UN express concern over human rights violations in India**

**NEW YORK**  
United Nations has expressed its concerns over continuous human rights violations in India. The United Nations Human Rights Committee has expressed concern over human rights violations against Muslim, Christian and low caste communities in India. The UN also voiced concerns over enforcement of terrorism laws in Occupied Jammu Kashmir, Assam and Manipur. The UN rights committee demanded immediate suspension of discriminatory laws. The UN also suggested India to train their civil servants, security forces, judiciary, and community leaders in a way that human rights are not violated in the society.



**Kerala's Wayanad landslides: Death toll rises to 151, search on for missing**

**CHOORALMALA, India**  
Rescue workers began looking for people trapped under debris early on Wednesday, a day after landslides caused havoc in the Wayanad district of India's Kerala state, with at least 151 people dead and many still missing. Heavy rain in one of India's most attractive tourist destinations toppled hillsides and triggered torrents of mud, water and tumbling boulders in the worst disaster in the state since deadly floods in 2018. Most of the 350 families living in the area surrounded by tea and cardamom estates were caught unaware by the landslides early on Tuesday morning. At least 151 people died and 187 were still missing, the state chief minister's spokesman, PM. Manoj, told Reuters by phone. Television visuals showed many houses destroyed and trees uprooted, as rescuers were pulled by ropes across muddy streams of water.



**Iran's Khamenei says avenging Haniyeh's killing is Tehran's duty**

**President Pezeshkian said in a statement "Tehran will defend its territorial integrity and dignity"**

**TEHRAN**  
Web Desk  
Avenging Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh's assassination is "Tehran's duty" because it occurred in the Iranian capital, Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said in his message on the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh. He said Israel had provided the grounds for "harsh punishment" for itself. President Pezeshkian vows to make Israel "regret cowardly action". Newly elected President Masoud Pezeshkian has issued a statement saying Tehran will defend its territorial integrity and dignity. "Today, dear Iran is mourning its sharer of sorrows and joys, the constant and proud companion of the path of resistance, the brave leader of the Palestinian resistance, the martyr of al-Quds, Haj Ismail Haniyeh. Yesterday I raised his victorious hand and today I have to bury him on my shoulders. "Martyrdom is the art of men of God. The bond between the two proud nations of Iran and Palestine will be stronger than before, and the path of resistance and defense of the oppressed will be followed stronger than ever. "The Islamic Republic of Iran will defend its territorial integrity, honour, dignity and pride, and make the terrorist occupiers regret their cowardly action," the president's statement concluded. Hamas says Haniyeh killing takes "war to new levels". Hamas's armed wing said that the killing of its political leader Ismail Haniyeh takes the "war" with Israel to "new levels," warning of repercussions for the entire region.

**Turkiye condemns assassination of Haniyeh**

**ISTANBUL**  
The Turkish Foreign Ministry on Wednesday condemned the "heinous" assassination of Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh. "We extend our condolences to the Palestinian people who have sacrificed hundreds of thousands of martyrs like Haniyeh in order to live in peace in their homeland under the roof of their own state," the statement said. Haniyeh's assassination once again demonstrates that the Israeli government led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has no intention of achieving peace, the statement said. The ministry also warned that the region will face much larger conflicts if the international community does not take action to stop Israel. "Turkey will continue to support the just cause of the Palestinian people," the statement added. Haniyeh's assassination aims to expand the conflict beyond Gaza to a regional scale, it stated. The Palestinian resistance group Hamas announced early Wednesday that Ismail Haniyeh was killed in an Israeli airstrike targeting his residence in the Iranian capital Tehran. Iranian state television also reported Haniyeh's death, noting that an investigation into the assassination is ongoing and that the results will be announced soon.

**Biden prods Congress to act to curb fentanyl from Mexico as Trump paints Harris as weak on border**



**WASHINGTON**  
President Joe Biden is prodding Congress to help him do more to combat the scourge of fentanyl before he leaves office. The Democratic administration is making the new policy push as former President Donald Trump steps up attacks against Vice President Kamala Harris, painting her as Biden's feckless lieutenant in the battle to slow the illegal drugs and undocumented immigrants coming into the United States from Mexico. The White House on Wednesday announced a series of proposals from Biden aimed at curbing the ongoing drug epidemic. These include a push on Congress to pass legislation to establish a pill press and tableting machine registries and enhance penalties against convicted drug smugglers and traffickers of fentanyl. Biden also wants to tighten rules on importers shipping small packages into the United States, requiring shippers to provide additional information to Customs and Border Protection officials. The move is aimed at improving the detection of fentanyl precursor chemicals that frequently find their way into the United States in relatively low-value shipments that aren't subject to customs and trade barriers. The president's new efforts at combating fentanyl may also benefit Harris, the likely Democratic nominee, as Trump and his surrogates are trying to cast her as a central player in the Biden administration's struggles at the U.S.-Mexico border throughout his term. "Still, far too many of our fellow Americans continue to lose loved ones to fentanyl," Biden said in a statement. "This is a time to act. And this is a time to stand together — for all those we have lost, and for all the lives we can still save." Biden said he will also sign a national security memorandum on Wednesday aimed at improving the sharing of information between law enforcement and federal agencies to improve understanding about the flows of production and smuggling of the synthetic opioid.

Daily SOON TIMES SPORTS & SHOWBIZ

**Pakistan team secures victory in Asian Men's Volleyball Championship**



**ISLAMABAD**  
The Pakistan team continued their remarkable performance in the 15th Asian Men's U18 Volleyball Championship by securing a resounding victory against Kuwait. The match, played on Tuesday, showcased Pakistan's prowess as they won with a decisive 3-0 set sweep. The set scores were 25-19, 25-11, and 25-19, reflecting the team's dominance throughout the game said a press release. The Pakistani team, captured the hearts of volleyball enthusiasts across the nation. The team's qualification for the next round is a significant achievement, and they are determined to continue their success in the upcoming match against Chinese Taipei. Upcoming Match: Opponent: Chinese Taipei (Taiwan), July 31. With this victory, Pakistan has successfully won all three of their pool matches, securing the top spot in their group. The team has demonstrated exceptional skill and teamwork, making a strong statement in the tournament. Their victories against South Korea, India, and now Kuwait have propelled them into the next round with confidence and momentum.



**Historic bilateral series between Afghanistan and South Africa announced**

(Web Desk)  
Cricket South Africa (CSA) and the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) announced the first-ever bilateral series between them to be played from 18-22 September in the United Arab Emirates. This ODI series will be the first meeting between Afghanistan and South Africa outside of ICC tournaments, with all three games set to be hosted by ACB at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium. The two sides have met twice in the ODI format before, in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cups 2019 and 2023, with South Africa emerging victors on both occasions. Similarly, they've met thrice in T20s before, in Men's T20 World Cups (2010, 2016, 2024), with Proteas winning on all occasions. Their last meeting was in the semi-final of the Men's T20 World Cup 2024, where South Africa raced to a formidable win over Afghanistan. CSA Chairman Lawson Naidoo called the tour a significant milestone in South Africa and Afghanistan's cricketing relations. "We are excited to embark on this historic ODI series with Afghanistan, who have become a very competitive all-round team as evidenced by their recent performances in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 and most recently at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. "This is a significant milestone in our cricketing relations, and we look forward to a competitive and entertaining series." ACB Chairman Mirvais Ashraf commented: "These fixtures were not initially part of our FTP. Still, based on our productive negotiations with our counterparts at Cricket South Africa, we concluded that we will host the Proteas for an ODI series in September. They are an excellent team, and we are eagerly looking forward to hosting them and playing them regularly in the future."

**On Broadway, two stars of 'Aladdin' trace their roles all the way to middle school**



**Web Desk**  
**NEW YORK**  
Some years ago, when Sonya Balsara and Adi Roy were in middle school, they were cast in kiddie versions of the musical "Aladdin." Little did they know it would be very good preparation — for the same roles on Broadway. More than a decade after hitting their marks in the show as pre-teens, Balsara is playing plucky Princess Jasmine and Roy is the show's urchin-tumtug-titular hero now on Broadway as the Disney hit musical celebrates its 10th anniversary.

**Basketball-Spain rally past Greece, Canada stun Australia**



**LILLE, France**  
(Reuters) - Spain overcame a tricky test to beat Greece 84-77 and Canada stunned Australia 93-83 in the second round of men's basketball Group A action at the Pierre Mauroy stadium. Greek Giannis Antetokounmpo brought all his NBA experience as the Milwaukee Bucks small forward made 27 points, hitting 11 rebounds and three assists. However, he wasn't prepared for Spain guard Sergio Llull, who combined with first-time Olympian and Memphis Grizzlies forward Santi Aldama to make 32 points. "We had a lot of faith even with this up and down score. Of course we had some slumps, little slumps. But overall we controlled rebounds which was a little flaw in the last few games," said Spain coach Sergio Scariolo. Canada were up to the task of upsetting third-ranked Australia, who chased the North Americans throughout the game, but were unable to keep up. Chicago Bulls point guard Josh Giddey led the Australians with 19 points, seven rebounds and six assists. But Canada's superior shooting, with combined efforts of RJ Barrett and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, saw them making up to 40 points. Hosts France face Japan and Germany take on Brazil in Group B late.