

Within hours water drained from Hospitals, Roads, claims Info Minister

Work to drain rainwater on Lytton Road, Gaddafi Stadium continued, Azma Bukhari



@GovtofPunjabP

Soon Times Correspondent

LAHORE

Punjab Information Minister Azma Bukhari said that the 44-year rain record in Lahore was broken on Thursday, but within a few hours, water was drained from hospitals and roads. Azma Bukhari while talking to the media, said that it is the government's responsibility to take measures to reduce the people's sufferings. She said that till now 337 mm of rain has been recorded. She further said that rains cannot be stopped but the sufferings of the people could be reduced. The Provincial Minister said that work is going on to drain rainwater on Lytton Road. She said that rainwater was also being removed from the sides of Gaddafi Stadium. She said that Services Hospital was highlighted more due to rain. She said

that water came from an open window. More to read: Rain emergency enforced as Lahore records its 'wettest day' in 44 years Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz is personally monitoring the situation, the minister said. The information minister further highlighted the situation caused by rains in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. She advised that nobody should play politics on natural disasters as the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa belonged to them. She blamed hospitals in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are flooded with rain waters. Those who have enjoyed the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for 11 years are talking about rainwater. The people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were dying of dengue and the leader was in the mountains, Azma Bukhari said.

MQM delegation to meet PM Shehbaz to discuss special funds, electricity bills



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD A delegation of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) Pakistan is expected to meet Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif today. According to the sources, the delegation will comprise Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and Mustafa Kamal. The expected topics for the meeting would be electricity bills and payment of non-development charges to the IPPs. The MQM said that IPPs are receiving illegitimate payments in the form of non-development charges.

'PTI ban decision to go forward once institutions decide on it'



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD With the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) facing a potential ban, the federal government has said that the institutions will go forward with banning the former ruling party once they believe they have a strong case against the Imran Khan-founded party. "When the [interior ministry's] institutions have [necessary] evidence and they believe that they have a strong case in light

Process for Discos' privatisation begins: Attaullah Tarar



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar has said the process of privatisation of Discos has been started after an amendment to the State Owned Enterprises Act. Addressing a news conference along with MQM leader Mustafa Kamal in Islamabad on Thursday, he pointed out that the inefficiency and corruption of Discos span over several decades. Therefore, he said,

Doctors advise Parvez Elahi to take a breather amid health scare



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE Doctors have advised former Punjab chief minister Parvez Elahi to take complete bed rest following complaints of ill health. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf president has complained about breathing issues due to rib fractures. He was taken to hospital where doctors conducted echocardiogram and other heart-related tests. The medical team examined him for more than 45 minutes. Blood samples of the former chief minister were also collected for further examination. The doctors have advised him complete bed rest. Once the test reports are available, doctors will decide the best course of treatment for him.

Reforms inevitable for country to get rid of IMF: FinMin Aurangzeb



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD As Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif-led government eyes International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Executive Board's approval of a fresh bailout package, Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb

No need to freak out even if debt has raised to \$130bn, says Dar

● Ishaq Dar said that there was no need to worry as Pakistan was on its way to financial stability



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar said on Thursday there was no need to worry as Pakistan was on its way to financial stability. Ishaq Dar, while addressing a gathering on Thursday, said there was a strong need to curb negative behaviour in society. He said the potential to accelerate the economy existed in Pakistan and all it needed was

to remove the barriers stopping the country from financial stability. He also warned that elements are present in and outside Pakistan, who want it to end up as a default state. "On the other hand, the government is working on a single agenda and that is to save Pakistan from bankruptcy," he said. Dar reiterated that "we are strongly facing all the challenges."

Pakistan calls for holding Ismail Haniyeh's killers to account

● Israel must be held accountable for its transgressions and actions.



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD Pakistan on Thursday strongly condemned Israel's continuing adventurism in the region and its aggression against Lebanon with its strikes of July 30, also calling for holding to account the killers of Ismail Haniyeh, the Chief of the Political Bureau of Hamas in Tehran. "Targeting individuals inside sovereign states is a violation of international law and global norms. Such acts carry the seeds of further escalation. It is yet another demonstration of indiscriminate and disproportionate Israeli aggression that has continued unabated to the detriment of regional and global peace and security." Foreign Office spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch said at her weekly press briefing.



United Nations Charter, she said that Pakistan stood in solidarity with the people of Lebanon and reaffirmed its support for their right to live in peace and security and to enjoy their sovereignty. "Israel must be held accountable for its transgressions and actions. Israel's

assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran on Wednesday was an act of dangerous escalation in an already volatile region and undermined efforts for peace. "We express our condolences to his family and the Palestinian people. His killers must be held to account," she added. She said that since October 2023, Israel had unleashed a campaign of terror against the Palestinian people. "Its war on Gaza and the inhumane siege in violation of international human rights and humanitarian law have resulted in misery, death and destruction. These acts constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. We call upon the United Nations to uphold international law and to bring an end to the genocide of the people of Gaza," she remarked and reiterated Pakistan's support for the realization of the inalienable right to self-determination of the Palestinian people.

Raof Hasan granted bail in Peca case



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD A district and sessions court on Thursday accepted the post-arrest bail of PTI spokesperson Raof Hasan in a case registered under Peca law. Raof Hasan is in the custody of CTD on a two-day physical remand by the Anti-Terrorism Court which would prevent his immediate release. Deputy Magistrate Abbas Shah heard the post-arrest petition filed by Raof Hasan and other accused in the case. Advocate Ali Bukhari represented the accused while FIA Prosecutor Amir Sheikh and the investigation officer also came along the record of the case. Advocate Bukhari told the court that the case was registered on the revelations made by Ahmed Waqas Janjua. He mentioned that eight accused were paid employees whereas Raof Hasan had no connection with any of them. He further told the court that the allegations on Raof Hasan did not even exist in the FIR. "The court has substantial grounds to

accept the bail plea and even discharge the accused from the case," he said. Bukhari referred to the case of Azam Swati, whose Justice Babar Sattar had accepted Swati's bail plea in a case registered for making a tweet under Peca. The FIA prosecutor argued that there were four technical reports in this case, which showed the existence of over 100 WhatsApp groups provoking violence. The prosecutor also read out the transcripts of different tweets. He further said "whatever is said by Raof Hasan becomes narrative". He told the court that Rahul was a frontman of Indian agency RAW whereas accused Liaquat created propaganda for the Baloch Liberation Front.

Central Asia Climate Resilient

In a significant development towards global climate action, Pakistan and Kazakhstan have reaffirmed their commitment and agreed to boost collaboration for coping with climate risks, environmental, energy, air pollution and water scarcity challenges being faced by these two countries. This agreement was reached during a meeting held here on Thursday between Romina Khurshid Alam, coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and a Kazakhstan embassy delegation led by Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Yerzhan Kistafin, a news release said. The Kazakhstan's envoy informed the PM's climate aide that his country was deeply interested to strengthen people-to-people contact through tourism and engagement in various socio-economic development sectors including bilateral trade, education and research, environment, climate change, disaster risk reduction,

renewable energy, efficient water management, aiming to improve quality of the life and environment of the both countries. He also offered his country's all-out technical, technological and financial support through the joint working with the climate change & environmental coordination ministry to build Pakistan's climate resilience, promote eco-tourism, climate-smart agriculture and boost power generation from renewable energy sources. Romina Khurshid Alam thanked the Kazakhstan's ambassador for extending his country's offer to engagement with the ministry for building up collaboration in climate change, energy, agriculture, water and eco-tourism sectors. The PM's climate aide assured the ambassador of her all-out support, saying: "I would mobilise every possible resource to engaged with Kazakhstan government through the embassy to benefit from experiences of

Kazakhstan regarding climate risk management, tapping of renewable energy, efficient water management, disaster management, sustainable farming practices and eco-tourism." Romina Khurshid also highlighted during the meeting that the Central Asia region is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to its unique geographical and climatic conditions. "The Central Asia region is also experiencing significant warming, with temperatures rising faster than the global average. This has been leading to more frequent and severe heatwaves, affecting agriculture, water resources and human health," she added. Romina Khurshid further said that the region's glaciers are shrinking at a rapid pace, particularly in the Tien Shan and Pamir mountain ranges. These glaciers are crucial for providing water to rivers and lakes that support agriculture

and drinking water supplies. As they recede, there's an increased risk of reduced water availability. The PM's climate aide highlighted that what is interesting to note that like Pakistan, the region is gripped by identical environmental and climate change risks including growing water scarcity, extreme weather events like floods and heatwaves, desertification and biodiversity loss. "Addressing these vulnerabilities requires an over-arching regional approach, including improving water management, adopting climate-resilient agricultural practices, and investing in infrastructure to cope with extreme weather events. Regional cooperation is also crucial, as many of the issues, such as transboundary water management, involve multiple countries in Central Asia," Romina Khurshid stressed.

Needed to Balance of Tradition and Modernity in Education



Sahar Allah Bux

The contemporary educational system is a carousel that has been marked with visible developments and constant challenges. This statement likens the current educational system to a carousel, suggesting that it is constantly in motion and subject to continuous change. The educational system is evolving with notable advancements and facing ongoing challenges that require attention and adaptation. "As the global societies develop, so do their educational needs, which necessitate reforms to meet the requirements of diverse populations and dynamics of knowledge transmission. As societies around the world progress and evolve, their educational needs also change. This evolution requires reforms in the educational system to ensure that it meets the diverse needs of various populations. It also needs to address the changing ways in which knowledge is transmitted and received." In this sphere, there is an outstanding discourse in the

Islamic construct of science; it is a movement aimed at relating Islamic principles to modern educational paradigms. "Within the context of these educational reforms, there is significant discussion about the Islamic construct of science. This discourse involves a movement that seeks to integrate Islamic principles with contemporary educational frameworks. It aims to relate the values and teachings of Islam to modern approaches to education and scientific inquiry. Inclusiveness, technical integration, and an emphasis on a comprehensive educational viewpoint are among the characteristics of the modern education system. Digital tools and online platforms are being adopted by schools and universities worldwide enhanced the access and efficiency in learning process. The COVID-19 pandemic has hastened this transformation, leading schools almost overnight towards distance learning programs. While this transition has opened up new opportunities for learning, it has also highlighted the wide disparities in access to technology and internet connectivity, particularly in top-growth areas.

Among these developments, the debate about

Islamicizing knowledge is particularly prominent in Muslim-majority countries. This movement, which started at the end of the 20th century, attempts to harmonize modern education with Islamic values and teachings. Proponents argue that contemporary education either undermines or weakens collaboration among most Islamic scholars and spiritual leaders of the Muslim world. They believe that incorporating an Islamic perspective into education can make it more relevant and meaningful for Muslim students, fostering a sense of connectedness with their cultural and religious heritage and a sense of purpose. Critics have expressed concern about the possible dangers of such educational rigidity and vulnerability. They argue that education should remain secular, free from religious or ideological influences, so it can foster critical thinking, scientific research, and universal values. The challenge, therefore, is to find a balance that respects religious beliefs while maintaining the integrity of curricula and the global nature of education.

In practical terms, making science Islamic demands a reexamination of various educational subjects with an Islamic perspective in mind. For example, in highlighting the contributions of medieval Muslim scientists like al-Khwarizmi and Ibn Sina, whose works formed the basis for modern mathematics and medicine. In the humanities, it could mean studying Islamic philosophy and ethics alongside Western philosophical traditions. This perspective not only strengthens the syllabus but also encourages learners to identify mutual connections between global intellectual traditions. As the contemporary educational system continues,

The Root Causes of Pakistan's State Failure



Rai Muhammad Zaka Ullah Khan

Pakistan faces many social, political, and economic problems, it's important to look at the historical reasons for its failures as a state. Much of the blame goes to the early leaders, especially Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the Muslim League, who didn't have a clear plan for the new nation. Creating a state based on "Muslim identity" instead of shared culture, language, and values has turned out to be a big mistake. A nation can't be built just on religious identity. Nations are stronger when they share culture, language, and values. The state's attempt to impose a monolithic national identity based on religion has alienated various ethnic groups, weakening national cohesion and leading to internal conflicts. This thing make split between East and West Pakistan, which led to the creation of Bangladesh in 1971, shows this clearly. The big cultural and language differences between Bengalis and West Pakistanis were overlooked in favour of religious identity, causing alienation and eventually separation.

"According to Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad the identity crisis within Pakistan, stemming from its diverse ethnic, linguistic, and cultural composition. The state's failure to foster an inclusive national identity has resulted in ethnic tensions and separatist movements." The early leadership under Jinnah and the Muslim League lacked a clear vision of how to govern the newly formed state. That's why, even though he was secular, Jinnah often used religion to gain power and make religious leaders happy. In Nov 21 1945, He quoted in their speeches Islam gives us a complete code of life. It is not only religion but it contains laws, philosophy and

politics. It contains everything that matters to a man from morning to night." "The Muslims demand Pakistan, where they could rule according to their own code of life and according to their own cultural growth, traditions and Islamic laws." At another time, He said Who am I to give you a constitution? The prophet of Islam had given us a constitution 1,300 years ago. We have to simply follow and implement it, and based on it we have to establish in our state Islam's great system of governance." While on the other hand, He said in constitution assembly in 11 August 1947, during their speech, You are free, you are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other place of worship in this State of Pakistan. You may belong to any religion or cast or creed that has nothing to do with the business of the State. We are starting with this fundamental principle: that we are all citizens and equal citizens of one State. Now, I think we should keep that in front of us as our ideal and you will find that in course of time Hindus would cease to be Hindus and Muslims would cease to be Muslims, not in the religious sense because that is the personal faith of each individual, but in the political sense as citizens of the State." It is hard to understand what Jinnah actually wanted for Pakistan whether he think a secular democratic state or a religious state. His speeches make it difficult to interpret Pakistan's identity. Jinnah's approach during the independence movement was to use Islamic identity as a unifying different ethnic groups in Muslims but that his ultimate vision for Pakistan's governance remained unclear and subject to interpretation. This reliance on religious identity for political legitimacy set a dangerous precedent. The Objectives Resolution of 1949, passed under Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan, further entrenched the role of religion in the state's affairs. This resolution, later becoming part of the 1956 constitution,

facilitated the use of religion as a tool for political manoeuvring, ultimately leading to the exploitation of people's rights. And also the delay in creating a constitution led to political uncertainty. Without a clear legal and political framework, early governments struggled to establish effective governance and a sense of national unity. And the failure to establish a constitution allowed the civil and military bureaucracy to intervene in the political system. Several key players contributed to Pakistan's state failure like that, the Muslim league leadership identity to establish a clear governing framework and their use of religious identity undermined the foundations of a secular, democratic state. And power vacuum created by the lack of a constitution allowed the military and bureaucracy to dominate the political landscape, stifling democratic development. And empowered by early political decisions, the clergy have wielded significant influence, often at the expense of progressive and inclusive policies. And also the most common reason failure of state is Muslim leadership alliances with feudal elites entrenched patronage politics and hindered social and economic reforms, perpetuating inequality and underdevelopment. A way forward to built Pakistan as a strong nation, it is essential to recognize the need for a democratic and secular state. A secular state ensures neutrality in matters of religion, allowing individuals the freedom to practice their beliefs without state interference. And a democratic and socialist state, which prioritize social welfare and equity, can help create a society where everyone has equal opportunities and access to resources. A secular, democratic framework can help Pakistan move past its identity crisis and build a cohesive national identity that respects and celebrates its diversity. It is through the promotion of shared cultural, linguistic, and value-based commonalities that Pakistan can hope to achieve lasting stability and development.

مولانا کمال عثمان پبلک سروسز کالج، اسلام آباد

اساتذہ کرام کی طرف سے منعقد کیے جانے والے امتحان کا نتیجہ 2024-25ء کے لیے 13.08.2024ء کو جاری کیا گیا ہے۔ اس کے لیے طلبہ کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ امتحان کا نتیجہ 13.08.2024ء کو جاری کیا گیا ہے۔ اس کے لیے طلبہ کو مطلع کیا جاتا ہے کہ امتحان کا نتیجہ 13.08.2024ء کو جاری کیا گیا ہے۔

نمبر	نام	نمبر	نام
1	محمد امجد علی	11	محمد امجد علی
2	محمد امجد علی	12	محمد امجد علی
3	محمد امجد علی	13	محمد امجد علی

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DC Orders Arrest of Vendors Who Do Not Implement Fixed Rates of Poultry

Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: Deputy Commissioner Capt Reld Aurangzeb Haider Kham has ordered arrest of the vendors who do not implement the fixed rates of poultry with heavy fines. He said that price control magistrates should be mobilized in the field to bring self-inflated vendors to book. The sale of bread on fixed prices should be ensured everywhere. Violation will not be tolerated under any

circumstances. He expressed this in a meeting to review the performance of price control magistrates. The meeting was attended by ADCR Mohsin Salahuddin and all ACs along with Price Control Magistrates. The DC directed the Price Magistrates to go to the markets themselves and make purchases. They should also take feedback from the citizens and cases should be registered under the Price Act against the shopkeepers in markets where the

violation of fixed rates is found to be high. He clarified that further action will be taken against the concerned magistrate in the area where the price act violation report is received. In the meeting, DC while reviewing the progress so far regarding the registration on the Socio-Economic Registry directed the ACs to ensure the achievement by setting a daily target for all the registration centers.

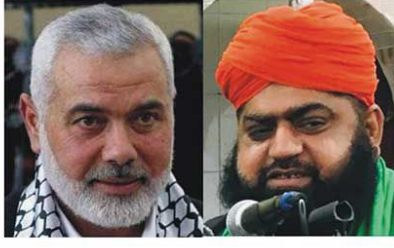
Surveys Will Be Conducted Again In The Field & Offices of Deserving Women: Razia Yasmeen

Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: According to the orders of the Government of Pakistan, a survey has been started again in the field and offices of the deserving women who have benefited from the Benazir Income Support Program. In this regard, Deputy Director Benazir Income Support Program Sargodha Razia Yasmeen said that information is being conveyed to deserving women through mosques and mobile calls so that no one misses the survey. She said that the government of Pakistan has issued orders to the women who have benefited from the Benazir Income Support Program for the past two years to conduct a survey again. Eligible women will be able to take the survey six days a week from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. She urged the women to bring their original identity card, children's 'B' forms and electricity bills with them.



Ismail Haniya's Murder Is The Worst Global Terrorism: Nasir Abbas Qadri

Soon Times Correspondent Lahore: The Central Chairman of Imam Hasan Council of Pakistan and the Gadi Nashin of Darbar Hazrat Pir Muhammad Yar Bhatti Nowshahi Qadri known as Baba Mali Shah Sarkar Sahibzada Pir Nasir Abbas Nowshahi Qadri Advocate has said that the murder of the great hero of the world of Islam, Ismail Haniyeh is the worst global terrorism, which is condemned. He added that his murder is the result of the traditional indifference and cowardice



of the callous rulers of the Islamic world. First, the accident with the plane of the former president of Iran and now the killing of Ismail Haniyeh, the great hero of the Islamic world in Iran, is proof that the enemies of the Islam are killing the heroes of the Islamic world one by one. Finally, he said that the unity of the Muslim world and a policy is the need of the hour. If the world of Islam is not united, then the world of infidelity will continue to kill everyone one by one in the same way.

SNGPL Disconnected 62 Connections & Imposed Rs 1.2 Million Fine

Soon Times Correspondent Lahore: In a continued effort to combat gas theft, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has intensified its raids across Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad. This recent crackdown has led to the disconnection of 62 illegal gas connections and the imposition of fines totaling Rs 1.2 million. In Lahore, the enforcement team disconnected 01 connection for illegal gas use and 02 for the use of compressors. Meanwhile, the regional team in Peshawar and Karak disconnected 26 connections for illegal gas use and 01 for the use of compressors, resulting in fines amounting to Rs 0.64 million. In Mardan, the team disconnected 15 connections for illegal

gas use and imposed fines totaling Rs 0.63 million on the offenders. The regional team in Islamabad disconnected 01 connection for illegal gas use. In Bahawalpur, 04 connections were disconnected due to the use of compressors. The team in Gujranwala disconnected 03 connections for illegal gas use, while in Gujrat, 01 connection was disconnected for illegal gas use and 02 for the use of compressors, with fines amounting to Rs 0.02 million. The regional team in Sahiwal disconnected 01 connection for illegal gas use and 02 for the use of compressors. Lastly, in Sargodha, 03 connections were disconnected for illegal gas use. SNGPL remains dedicated to eradicating gas theft and ensuring the fair and efficient distribution of resources.



Prayer Ceremony Held for the Late Chairman RMA Ch. Qurban Hussain

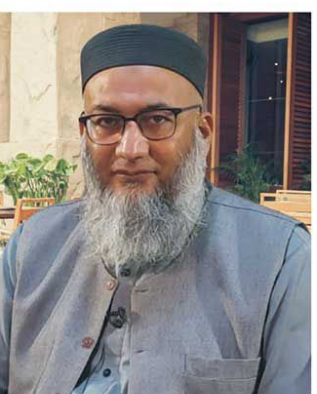
Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad: A prayer ceremony was organized by the Regional Media Association for the repose of the soul of the Chairman of the Regional Media Association, Chaudhry

Qurban Hussain. A large number of journalist community attended the ceremony at Press Information Department Mosque. Rao Ehsan recited the Holy Quran and made a prayer. Chaudhry Waheed Rasool had the privilege of reciting Naat. In

the prayer ceremony, prayers were made for Chaudhry Qurban Hussain, father of PIO Mubashir Hasan, husband of journalist Asia Unair and brother-in-law of Nasir Khattak, Umair Khattak and brother of Syed Toqeerul Hasan Shah.

The Martyrdom Of Ismail Haniyeh Is A Great Loss For The Entire Muslim Ummah: Shujauddin Shaikh

Soon Times Correspondent Lahore: The martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh is a great loss for the entire Muslim Ummah. This was said by the Ameer of Tanzeem-e-Islami, Shujauddin Shaikh, in a statement. The Ameer said that where ordinary Muslims have been brutally massacred on a massive scale since the commencement of ruthless Israeli brutality against Palestinian Muslims on 8 October 2023. The illegitimate Zionist state has also been involved in overt terrorism by carrying out target killings of leaders and representatives of Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas in other Muslim countries. Over the course of the past nine and a half months, 60 members of the family of the head of the Hamas political wing, Ismail Haniyeh, had been martyred, including his sister, 3 children and 5 grandchildren. The reality is that Ismail Haniyeh, similar to countless other Palestinian Muslims, has attained the eternal success of the Hereafter after embracing martyrdom, and the blood of Gaza's Mujahideen will strengthen the Resistance Movement with a renewed vigor. The Ameer raised the question that when the threat of target killing of Hamas



leadership by Israel was common knowledge, then why was foolproof security not arranged for Ismail Haniyeh during his participation in the oath-taking ceremony of the Iranian president? He demanded that a full and transparent investigation be carried out into this massive security failure. He prayed that May Allah (SWT) grant Ismail Haniyeh and every other martyr of Gaza, Jannat Al-Firdous.

Buying & Selling of Engineers Is Heinous Business of PEC Mafia: Engineer Zahoor Sarwar

Expenditure Of Billions Of Rupees Revealed In PEC

Soon Times Correspondent Lahore: Yesterday, Engineer Zahoor Sarwar, Member of Governing Body of Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) held an emergency press conference at Lahore Press Club. In the press conference, he informed the media about the heinous business of buying and selling engineers. He said that Pakistan Engineering Council is a statutory body which came into existence in 1976 under an Act of Parliament. (PEC)'s function is to address environmental issues related to the field of engineering and to regulate the field. As a think tank the duty of (PEC), is to provide solutions to all engineering related issues to Government of Pakistan including electricity, gas, water and advise the government on contracts like IPP and formulate policies. Unfortunately, PEC has been monopolized by mafias who are focused only on their own business and personal gains. Policies have been made to regulate the sale and purchase of PEC licenses for engineers. Non contractor, consultant or company can enter into any government contract unless it is registered with the PEC. The fee for this registration is on an average 4 to 5 lakh rupees per annum. More than one lakh companies have registered with PEC till date. It is a condition of



this registration that every minor company keeps two or three and big companies 15 to 20 engineers per month as employees. These companies, along with some PEC people, have worked out a system where most companies buy engineers' licenses for one year instead of hiring them. The rate of such buying and selling ranges from Rs 1 lakh per annum for civil engineers to Rs 25 thousand per annum for mechanical and electrical engineers. Instead of hiring engineers on monthly salary, the mafia has started this annual job, due to which the youths are less interested in engineering. PEC management is aware of this nefarious business. An inhumane policy that is against basic human rights, is that once an engineer gets biometrics done with a

engineer gets biometrics done with a company, he cannot de-register for one year and cannot work with another company. It is an appeal to the higher authorities to save the engineering profession from drowning and to close this trap completely. He further revealed that (PEC) should play a prominent role in the current power crisis. But billions of rupees are collected as fees every year and instead of finding solutions to the problems, this money is wasted on rooms in 5 star hotels and TADA. Engineer Zahoor Sarwar showed the PEC's finance report, a public document, to the media as proof that billions of rupees are in the fund, which is kept in banks and collects interest. He said that more than one and a half lakh young engineers are unemployed. Engineering departments in big universities have come to be closed. He appealed to the top government members that the audit of public money is done by the Auditor General of Pakistan, but the AGP does not have the authority to audit the PEC. This authority should be given to AGP.

IESCO Power Suspension Schedules For Today

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad: According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule. On 02nd August, 2024, From 07:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Rawalpindi City Circle, Commercial Centre, Chakra

Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Doctor Town, PWD-II Feeders, From 06:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Attock Circle, Punjab Small Industrial Estate, Mix Industries, Kohistan Enclave feeders and surrounding areas will remain closed. IESCO management apologized 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.

Khaled Meshaal, who survived Israeli assassination attempt, tipped to be new Hamas leader



CAIRO Khaled Meshaal, tipped to be the new Hamas leader, became known around the world in 1997 after Israeli agents injected him with poison in a botched assassination attempt on a street outside his office in the Jordanian capital Amman. The hit against a key senior figure of the Palestinian militant group, ordered by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, so enraged Jordan's then-King Hussein that he spoke of hanging the would-be killers and scrapping Jordan's peace treaty with Israel unless the antidote was handed over.



Body of top Hezbollah commander Shukr killed by Israel found in Beirut, sources say

BEIRUT (Agencies) - The body of senior Hezbollah military commander Fuad Shukr was recovered Wednesday from the rubble of a building in southern Beirut that was targeted in an Israeli strike. The recovery came almost 24 hours after Israel confirmed that it had targeted Shukr in an airstrike on the Lebanese capital. A Lebanese source close to Hezbollah on Wednesday told AFP that, "Shukr's body has been found under the rubble of the targeted building." Reuters also quoted two unnamed security sources confirming that the body of the senior Hezbollah commander had been found in the rubble almost 24 hours after Israel said it had targeted Shukr in Tuesday's strike.



Ayatollah Khamenei leads the funeral prayer of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran

NATO allies condemned Russia's behavior and called on the country "to uphold its international obligations."

TEHRAN Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei led funeral prayer for slain Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh on Thursday at the University of Tehran in Iran. The services began with an address from Iran's parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf. He said that Martyr Ismail Haniyeh was the voice of the Palestinian people all over the world. "He was not only a leader. He was the wise man," he said. "Our reply will be there. At the right time and the right place. It is difficult for us to have our guest being targeted and assassinated on our soil," he said. Khali al-Hayya, the deputy head of Hamas in the Gaza Strip, addressed the Haniyeh's funeral service in Tehran. "The nation today is carrying his coffin, and the nation today is raising the flag of jihad and resistance towards the goal of liberating Palestine and Jerusalem," al-Hayya said. "With the faith of our country, and the Palestinian soul, we are sure that the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh will bring anger towards this Zionist entity from the entire people of the world," he said. Following funeral prayer of slain Hamas leader

UN Security Council members condemn Israel's assassination of Hamas leader

UNITED NATIONS Web Desk UN Security Council members on Wednesday condemned the assassination of Hamas political chief Ismail Haniyeh in the Iranian capital Tehran, while permanent representatives of the US and UK blamed Iran for destabilizing the region. The Council convened for an emergency session on the killing of Haniyeh at the request of Iran, which was supported by Russia, Algeria and China. Speaking at the session, Chinese Ambassador Fu Cong said China strongly condemns the assassination of Haniyeh. Calling the incident "a blatant attempt to sabotage peace efforts," Cong stressed that "China is deeply worried about an



exacerbation of the upheaval in the region that this incident may trigger." Similarly, Algeria's envoy to the UN, Amar Bendjama, said. "We are on the precipice of catastrophe," adding that Israel's attack was "an act of terror" that violated international law and the sovereignty of Iran.

Antony Blinken hails closer ties with Mongolia in rare visit



ULAANBAATAR US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Mongolia on Thursday at the end of a 10-day tour of Asia, hailing growing ties with the landlocked democracy sandwiched between authoritarian powers China and Russia. His long tour, which also took him to Southeast Asia and Japan, has been aimed at hammering home US support for allies and countering China's influence in the region - even if Washington insists it is not pursuing a policy of containment against Beijing. During a meeting in the Laos capital Vientiane at the end of last week, Blinken raised the issue with Chinese counterpart Wang Yi during "frank and productive" exchanges, according to Washington. In Japan and the Philippines, Blinken and US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced closer military and defence ties with the countries in the face of what they described as Beijing's "provocations", particularly in the South China Sea. In Ulaanbaatar on Thursday, Blinken stressed the US approach was not "against any one country." "It's for a common vision that we share for what the future should look like," he said during a press conference. "And yes, part of that common vision is clearly the freedom - for any country to make its own decisions, to make its own choices about the future," he said. Mongolia is a vast, sparsely populated democracy of 3.4 million and held parliamentary elections in June. The United States intends to cultivate closer ties, including "people-to-people" exchanges, and maintain a "comprehensive strategic dialogue" with Mongolia.

Sports & Showbiz

Sri Lanka Women to tour Ireland for a white-ball series



(Web Desk) Sri Lanka women will feature in a two-match T20I series followed by a three-game ODI series, against Ireland, beginning 11 August. Sri Lanka, placed at no.7 on the ICC Women's T20I Team Rankings, will feature in a two-game T20I series against no.10 Ireland. The islanders are fresh off a historic maiden Asia Cup triumph. They beat India by eight wickets in the final. The fixtures will give Sri Lanka much-needed game time in the lead-up to the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024. The two T20Is will be followed by a three-match ODI series beginning on 16 August. The ODI games will be a part of the ICC Women's Championship 2022-25. Sri Lanka are at fifth place with 20 points to their name, with Ireland at the bottom of the table with merely two points against their name. In the four ODI engagements between the two sides, Sri Lanka have won three games while one match has ended in no result. In the T20Is, Sri Lanka have an unblemished record with three wins from three matches.

Sears pitches 7 shutout innings, Athletics hit 4 homers in 5-2 win over Giants



SAN FRANCISCO JP Sears pitched seven shutout innings and the Oakland Athletics hit four home runs in a 5-2 win over the San Francisco Giants. The A's have won eight of 11 since the All-Star break and can win their fifth straight series for the first time since 2021 with a victory on Wednesday. Brent Rooker and Lawrence Butler stayed hot, hitting their 11th and 10th home runs in July, respectively. The duo also ranks first and second in both home runs and RBIs in the majors this month. Daz Cameron and JJ Bleday also went deep. The A's have hit 45 home runs this month, the most in the majors and second most in Oakland history in July. "I think you're just seeing the start of it, and that's nice," manager Mark Kotsay said. "I don't want to say they're validating themselves. We still have a long season to play and a long way to continue to play good baseball, continue to swing the bats the way we're swinging it. But as I said pregame, this group is starting to believe in themselves. And that's powerful when that happens."

Sears (8-8), the only A's pitcher to not miss a start this season, rebounded from allowing seven earned runs against the Astros in his last start. Sears struck out on a season-high nine and held the Giants to three hits to win his fourth game in a month for the first time in his career. Kotsay said it was Sears' best outing of the season. The 28-year-old felt he had good command of his fastball on both sides of the plate. "Coming off not a great ending in my last start, I want to get a good start going into the second half of the season," Sears said. "I felt really confident." Cameron put the A's up 1-0 in the second with a solo shot, and Butler doubled the lead in the third. Rooker drilled a two-run homer to deep left in the fifth. The A's had seven hits off Giants starter Robbie Ray (1-1), who took the loss in his home debut with the Giants. Ray, the 2021 NL Cy Young Award Winner, came off the injured list last week and got the win in his first start against the Dodgers.

Selena Gomez fed up plastic surgery rumours



(Web Desk) Selena Gomez, who always comes with much scrutiny over her changing looks and weight fluctuations, fed up with all the rumours around her going under the knife for cosmetic procedures, recently shut down speculations. The 32-year-old singer addressed the speculations while responding to a TikTok video about the buzz around her changing looks in the comment section. In the now-deleted clip, content creator Marissa Barriomuevo was asked to share what work Gomez has gotten done over the years, according to Page Six. Barriomuevo, a physician assistant in a plastic surgery office, declined to analyze Gomez's appearance, citing the former Disney Channel star's health struggles with lupus as the reason.

Significant talent among Pakistani artists, Summan Sheikh



Karachi SoonTimes Correspondent Summan Sheikh has said that if Pakistan's entertainment industry is properly managed at the government level, it can compete not only with Hollywood but also with Bollywood in a significant manner. In a statement, Summan Sheikh expressed regret that we have consistently overlooked art and artists. It is unfortunate that our responsible individuals have failed to understand that art and artists truly embody a country's balanced face. In response to a question, Summan Sheikh stated that Pakistani artists often forget that artists in neighboring countries are not only respected in government but also at the societal level. Summan Sheikh emphasized that there is significant talent among Pakistani artists, and it is essential to encourage them in real terms rather than just verbally. Summan Sheikh said it is time to give Pakistani art and artists their rightful place.