



# Daily SOON TIMES

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## Punjab CM Maryam grieves over loss of lives due to rains



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORWE

Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on Friday expressed grief over the loss of lives caused by downpour in Punjab. She expressed sympathy with the bereaved families of those who were killed by electrocution and roof collapse incidents while assuring the families of full support during this predicament. She also directed the authorities to provide best medical facilities to the people injured due to heavy rains and deluge.

## Missing persons: Govt announces Rs5m for bereaved families



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

Federal Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tatar on Friday announced a grant of Rs5 million for each affected family of the missing persons. He said a number of complex factors were behind the issue of missing persons and the state had made a historic decision to provide the much-needed relief to the victim's families. The policy would be applied to the family of the person who has been missing for more than five years. The law minister stated that the package was intended to support and not compensation. "If the missing person returns, there will be no claim to the amount," he added. The minister reiterated that the cabinet had approved a Rs5 million support package. He said the federal government had approved the grant as this step might alleviate the sufferings of the bereaved families. He said the state is committed to solving the problem of missing persons using all available resources and many such cases have been resolved through Enforced Disappearance Inquiry Commission. In order to carry forward this determination, the government has started the 'National Consensus & Legal Resolution (NCLR) of Missing Persons'.

## Court disposes of PTI application for gathering at Minar-e-Pakistan

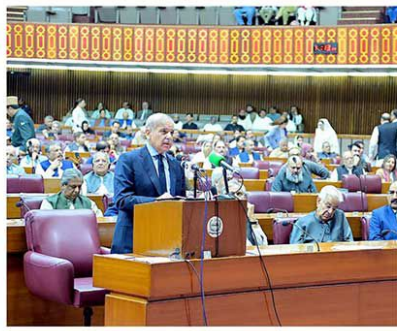


Soon Times Correspondent Lahore

The Lahore High Court has disposed of application of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) seeking permission of public gathering at Minar e Pakistan on 14 August in the light of deputy commissioner's report. The LHC's Justice Muzammil Akhtar Shabbir heard the application of Akmal Khan. Advocate Habibullah representing Lahore DC appeared before the court. He submitted the report of district administration related to public gathering permission. It was mentioned in the report that the 14 August day was an independence day and citizens celebrate the national day at the Minar e Pakistan. In the wake of law and order situation, permission for public gathering could not be allowed. Pakistan Peoples Party and Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party had also submitted the application for the events. The court directed the petitioner to file a new application in the light of the DC report.

## PM Shehbaz condemns Haniyeh's assassination, demands trial of Zionist leaders for war crimes

The premier says arrangements will be made to bring the injured Palestinians to Pakistan for treatment



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday condemned the assassination of Palestinian group Hamas' leader Ismail Haniyeh and demanded that leadership of the Zionist state be tried for war crimes. The prime minister was addressing the National Assembly after the house offered Fatcha for Haniyeh who was assassinated on Wednesday in Iran. Misbahuddin led the prayer on the request of National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. "Hamas leader's death is being mourned across Pakistan today," premier

Shehbaz said and added that Pakistan would continue to help the Palestinian brethren. He told the parliamentarians that arrangements would be made to bring the injured Palestinians to Pakistan for treatment. Palestinian students would be admitted to the medical colleges in Pakistan, he continued. He described the killing of Ismail Haniyeh as a big blow to efforts for peace and expressed the Pakistani nation's solidarity with the bereaved family and the Palestinian people. The Israeli military has converted Gaza into an abattoir where innocent children, women and men are being slaughtered, the premier stated. He urged the world community to ensure delivery of aid to the Palestinians. "I am grateful to all the members, those sitting on opposition benches and the coalition partners for adopting the resolution against Israeli atrocities on Palestinians," Prime Minister Shehbaz said. The parliamentarians belonging to the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) raised slogans when Prime Minister Shehbaz entered the house. They stopped sloganeering when Law Minister Nazir Tatar said the session was dedicated to discuss the martyrdom of Palestinian leader.

## Social media should be regulated as it poses threat of digital terrorism to state: Azma Bokhari



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE

Punjab Information Minister Azma Bokhari has asserted that digital terrorism on social media is posing threat to the state. Talking to media outside the Lahore High Court (LHC), she advocated for regulations as social media runs under rules across the world. She raised the question on the social media operation without any rules and regulations as anyone could post anything without any accountability.

The minister contended that social media was being misused on the pretext of freedom of speech. But now, social media accounts would be run under regulations, she added, adding that the government was not against social media. Bokhari highlighted the misuse of social media without regulations, stating social media was used for digital terrorism and the state wasn't safe from it. She gave the reference of Capitol Hill attack, saying the accused were sentenced to seven-year sentence for their involvement but no one was made accountable in Pakistan. She said the government was planning relief in electricity bills. She said Awais Leghari had confirmed that the prime minister had taken the issue into his own hands to resolve it. Punjab CM Maryam Nawaz was providing free solar panels to consumers using up to 100 to 200 units of electricity.

## PTI's claims of forming govt are hollow, unwarranted: Khawaja Asif



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

Federal Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Friday ruled out any possibility for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to hold the reins of government anytime soon. Taking a jibe at PTI founder Imran Khan's sister, Alcega Khan, the minister said that Khan's sister's tone and tenor in her recent press talk was directed at requests to the establishments for talks, adding that no one would talk to them until they were taken to justice for orchestrating May 9 violence. "Imran Khan was denying his involvement in May 9 incidents earlier, but finally he took the responsibility of the

events. PM Shehbaz had also extended an olive branch to the PTI in the National Assembly. All problems can be solved through dialogue between political parties," he added. He lambasted Khan for not being able to bring any change in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, insisting that the PTI brought back terrorists instead of establishing universities in the KP. He blasted Khan for not regarding any relation and held him responsible for fomenting chaos for serving himself only.

## PM Shehbaz, cabinet members offer funeral prayer in absentia for Ismail Haniyeh



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said on Friday the killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran was the worst incident of oppression by the Israeli state. Addressing a federal cabinet meeting in Islamabad, the premier said he had condemned the murder of Haniyeh in a meeting with his government's coalition partners and urged the global organisations to take action against the atrocities of the Zionist state on the innocent Palestinians. Later, funeral prayer in absentia for the late Hamas leader was also held in the Parliament

House, which were attended by the premier and cabinet ministers. PM seeks unity to solve electricity crisis. Speaking about the woes of electricity consumers, the prime minister said the time had come to assuage the concerns of the power consumers by stopping power thefts forthwith, adding that Chief of Army Staff Gen Asim Munir had helped the government in eradicating this menace of power theft. He also recalled the Chinese investment in power sector during former premier Nawaz Sharif's previous term which helped him reduce power outages which would be 20-hour long across the country. He called for avoiding politics on electricity crisis, adding that everyone across the political divide was rallying behind the government's agenda of reducing electricity crisis. He also criticised the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf for not being able to build a single dam in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, claiming that all promises of building dams were fraudulent and misleading.

## ATC Islamabad gives Raooof's custody to CTD for day in explosives recovery case



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD The anti-terrorism court of Islamabad has approved one-day physical remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Raooof Hassan in the explosives recovery case. Judge Tahir Abbas Signa of the Anti-Terrorism Court heard the remand request of PTI leader Raooof Hassan by prosecution in the explosives recovery case. At the beginning of the hearing, the prosecutor Raja Naveed, while reading the text of the case against Raooof Hasan, requested for another 7-day physical remand of Raooof Hasan. He said that they needed to investigate about some names and details of the accounts. He further said that raid had also been

conducted in Tarnol on Raooof Hasan's identification, but it was also unsuccessful. Raooof Hasan did not help in the investigation on the pretext of illness. On this, Raooof Hassan's lawyer Ali Bukhari said that he was taken for physical remand for 2 days. He said Raooof Hassan had been with the CTD a day before physical

remand as well which add up to become three days since the CTD had Raooof's custody. No explosive have still been recovered from Raooof Hassan, said Bukhari. The lawyer further said that Raooof Hassan had no role in the case. If the court felt that the police wrongly arrested him in the case, then he can be discharged from the case. On Raooof's medical condition Ali Bukhari said that Raooof Hasan would die, if he does not take medicine for two days. The prison doctor refused to examine Raooof Hasan and he had to be taken to PIMS Hospital, Bukhari continued. Along with this, lawyer Ali Bukhari completed the arguments requesting Raooof Hasan to be discharged from the case.



## BISP Pivotal Role in Climate Change

Senator Sherry Rehman, Chairperson of the Standing Committee Senate on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, visited the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) headquarters today. During her visit, she was briefed on BISP's core initiatives, with a special emphasis on its role in addressing the crises caused by climate change and natural disasters. Senator Rubina Khalid, Chairperson of BISP,

along with Additional Secretary Dr. Muhammad Tahir Noor, provided an overview of BISP's crucial interventions, particularly during the devastating floods of 2022. They highlighted that BISP was the first to reach flood-affected communities across the country through its dynamic database, disbursing Rs. 70 billion to 2.7 million families in need. Senator Rubina Khalid also discussed BISP's proactive measures to

handle emergencies caused by climate change. She introduced the Hybrid Social Protection Scheme, designed to promote savings culture among beneficiaries, ensuring they are better prepared for unforeseen climatic events. Additionally, Senator Rubina Khalid shared BISP's ongoing efforts to implement a transparent payment mechanism in consultation with the State Bank, following the directives of President Asif

Ali Zardari. This initiative aims to enhance transparency and uphold the dignity of women beneficiaries. Senator Sherry Rehman praised BISP's achievements, describing it as a success story for Pakistan. She underscored the importance of international partnerships and maintaining strong relationships with donor organizations for the continued support and well-being of BISP beneficiaries.

### China: one step ahead



Kazim Laghari

After the successful mediation of rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran, China has taken again one step forward in the international arena as it has mediated fourteen factions of Gaza in Beijing including Hamas and Fatah groups, which are severe rivals of each other. Hamas has been ruling Gaza since 2007 and Fatah rules the West Bank in the form of the Palestinian Authority (PA). Beijing's declaration glaringly mentioned in their mediation agenda that a unity government would be the day after the Gaza war and achieve Palestinian independence at an early date. These two themes are highly appreciable from the Palestinian point of view and are in fair contrast with Israel and its allies' brewing plan for the day after for Gaza.

It is worth highlighting that with peaceful mediation, China has been rising as an influential mediator across the world particularly in the Middle East. Repussions of Iran and Saudi Arabia détente were heard in Yemen also, as the escalation between Houthi rebels, backed by Iran, and the Saudi-led coalition Government widely observed a decrease and less intensification. However, repeated calls for a ceasefire from human rights organizations as well as countries across the globe have not forced

the USA to rein in Israel against attacks civilians in Gaza. Though the US, a big ally of Israel, has taken some initiatives and asked for a ceasefire in the Gaza war, the result still has been fruitless. After China's mediation of Palestinian factions, the US and Israel may take now serious actions and step forward for productive actions. Prime Facie, China has emerged as a conciliatory and peace-led country. With its business-focused economy and flagship projects mindset, Xi-led China has been working on peace and a war-free environment for business and trade. Contrary to this, the history of the USA shows its collusion mindset in wars and machination inclination. From Iraq's war to Afghanistan and the Cold War era evidence of the USA how played a biased role in being a Super Power. Moreover, after Joe Biden's drop out from the USA's presidential election and Donald Trump's likely winning assumptions global diplomacy has also got shake-up gains. Recently, Ukraine's top diplomat said that Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba has visited China and met his counterpart Foreign Minister Wang Yi and the discussion lasts for three hours. He further said that Ukraine is ready to talk with Russia if it acts in good faith. Considering Trump's talks about lessening Ukrainian aid and NATO's reformation, the Ukrainians have been brewing their preemptive measures for sorting out the conflict of a Russian invasion. Besides, the motives of China behind mediation in Middle Eastern countries have widely been drawn by some corners that China has been on the horizon for extending its influence in the Middle East. As the Arab countries

with oil-rich economies are stepping ahead to shore up their economies beyond oil reliance, Saudi Arabia's Neom plan and UAE's extension of corporate hubs are some incentives for China to stretch its feet in the Middle East. Xi-led China with a business-oriented economy has been extending its arms to catch the Arab countries' new markets. However, some corners have another point of view, as they have been expressing that China is strengthening its own flanks and showing to the USA with such mediations. Moreover, China has been vitalizing its position across the globe and challenging the old-world order setters. Taking advantage of global diplomacy's staggering, China is on its way to building its position as strong as a superpower. Considering the scenario of mediation and expressed views it has become clear that China with the second biggest economy in the world has taken the lead against its competitors USA and Western countries. With détente between severe rivals Saudi and Iran and agreeing Gaza's factions including Hamas and Fatah groups on a unity government in Gaza, China has widely strengthened its position in the Middle East. Eventually, if China succeeds in mediating between Russia and Ukraine, the West including the USA will be shocked and their influence might be lost. With such a leading role China may have a slot as a strong country on other polar which can challenge the West order. Taking that role China should continue its peace mediator and business expanding position. Learning a lesson from the USA China should not indulge in war or proxy wars otherwise it may lose such a strong built position.

### The History of Karachi And Its Current Status



Jftikhar Uddin Anjum

Karachi is Pakistan's biggest city and enjoyed status of capital of Pakistan before 1963. Karachi is not only its largest city but also the economic, cultural and financial hub of the country. Its history is rich, complex and fascinating, tracing back centuries. It's history start from a small fishing village to a sprawling urban center. Karachi's journey is marked by significant historical events, diverse cultural influences and rapid modernization. Today we will explore the history of Karachi and its current status, providing a comprehensive overview of this dynamic city. Karachi's origins can be traced back to the late 18th century when it was a small fishing village known as Kolachi-jo-Goth. The strategic location of this village by the Arabian Sea made it a crucial point for trade and commerce. The local economy primarily revolved around fishing, with a small population living in rudimentary conditions. The transformation of Karachi began with the arrival of the British East India Company in the early 19th century. Recognizing the strategic and economic potential of the region, the British annexed Karachi in 1839. This marked the beginning of significant infrastructural development. The British established the Karachi Port, which quickly became one of the busiest and most important ports in the region. The construction of railways and roads further integrated Karachi into the global trade network. The city's importance grew exponentially during the British colonial period. By the late 19th century, Karachi had developed into a major commercial and administrative center. The establishment of educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and administrative buildings transformed Karachi into a modern urban settlement. The city's population started to swell, attracting traders, laborers and professionals from various parts of British India and beyond. Karachi played a pivotal role in the history of Pakistan's independence. When Pakistan was established in 1947, Karachi was chosen as the capital due to its developed infrastructure and strategic importance. This decision brought an influx of migrants from India, significantly altering the city's demographic composition. The influx of refugees led to rapid urbanization and expansion of the city's boundaries. As the new capital, Karachi saw substantial investment in infrastructure, including the construction of government

buildings, roads, and housing projects. However, the rapid population growth also brought challenges such as housing shortages, inadequate public services, and social tensions. In 1963, the capital of Pakistan was moved from Karachi to Islamabad, a decision aimed at decentralizing administrative functions and addressing the overpopulation issues in Karachi. Despite losing its status as the capital, Karachi continued to grow as the economic heart of Pakistan. The city's industries, including textiles, shipping, and finance, flourished, contributing significantly to the national economy. Today, Karachi is a vibrant metropolis with a population exceeding 20 million. It is the financial and industrial capital of Pakistan, hosting the headquarters of numerous multinational corporations, banks, and financial institutions. The Karachi Stock Exchange, now part of the Pakistan Stock Exchange, is the largest and most active stock exchange in the country. Karachi's economy is diverse, encompassing manufacturing, services, trade, and information technology. The city's ports, including the Port of Karachi and Port Qasim, remain vital to Pakistan's trade, handling a significant portion of the country's imports and exports. One of the most remarkable aspects of Karachi is its cultural diversity. The city is home to people from various ethnic, linguistic, and religious backgrounds. This diversity is reflected in Karachi's cuisine, festivals, and cultural practices. The city celebrates a multitude of festivals, including Eid, Diwali, Christmas, and numerous cultural and literary festivals. Karachi's culinary scene is a testament to its multiculturalism. The city offers a wide range of cuisines, from traditional Pakistani dishes to international flavors. Street food is particularly popular, with a variety of options available across the city. The city's diverse population also contributes to its rich artistic and cultural landscape. Karachi is home to numerous theaters, art galleries, and cultural centers. The National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) and the Karachi Arts Council play a significant role in promoting the arts and culture in the city. Despite its economic significance and cultural vibrancy, Karachi faces numerous challenges. Rapid urbanization has led to severe infrastructure issues. The city struggles with inadequate public transportation, poor waste management, and insufficient healthcare and education facilities. Traffic congestion and pollution are significant problems, impacting the quality of life for residents. Law and order have been longstanding issues in Karachi. The city has experienced periods of political and ethnic violence, which have disrupted daily life and economic activities. However, recent efforts by the government and law enforcement

agencies have improved the security situation, leading to a more stable environment. Water scarcity is another critical issue facing Karachi. The city's growing population has put immense pressure on its water resources, leading to frequent water shortages. Efforts are being made to address this issue through infrastructure development and improved water management practices. In response to these challenges, Karachi has seen several urban development initiatives aimed at improving infrastructure and quality of life. The Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) and other municipal bodies are working on projects to enhance public transportation, including the revival of the Karachi Circular Railway and the development of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems. Efforts are also being made to address the housing crisis in the city. Various housing schemes and projects are underway to provide affordable housing options for the growing population. The government and private developers are collaborating to create sustainable urban communities with modern amenities. Environmental sustainability is becoming a focus in Karachi's urban planning. Initiatives to improve waste management, increase green spaces, and reduce pollution are being implemented. These efforts aim to create a more livable and environmentally friendly city for future generations. Karachi's economic prospects remain promising. The city's strategic location and well-developed port infrastructure continue to attract foreign investment. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project has further enhanced Karachi's importance as a key economic hub. The development of the Gwadar Port under CPEC is expected to complement Karachi's ports, boosting trade and economic activities in the region. The information technology sector in Karachi is growing rapidly, with numerous startups and tech companies establishing their presence in the city. Karachi's vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem, supported by incubators and accelerators, is fostering innovation and technological advancement. The real estate sector in Karachi is also witnessing significant growth. The construction of modern commercial and residential complexes is transforming the city's skyline. The development of new business districts and commercial centers is attracting businesses and investors from across the country and beyond. Karachi's history is a testament to its resilience and adaptability. From a small fishing village to a sprawling metropolis, the city has undergone remarkable transformations. Its strategic importance, cultural diversity, and economic significance make Karachi a vital part of Pakistan's identity. Despite facing numerous challenges, Karachi continues to grow and evolve.

### At least two policemen martyred in attack on judges' convoy in DI Khan

Incident took place near Hathala area kills two cops deputed for security of the judges



The convoy included Additional Judge Tang Hasmin, Additional Sessions Judge South, and Senior Civil Judge Mah Jabeen, who were all unharmed in the attack. Initial reports indicate that the judges' convoy was attacked by gunfire. In this terrorist action, two officers of the Upper Waziristan Police, Abdullah and Constable Samad Khan, were martyred. There are also reports of two individuals being injured in the incident near Bhagwal. Following the incident, the bodies and injured were transported to the hospital. A heavy contingent of police responded swiftly, gathering evidence from the scene, cordoning off the area, and launching a search operation for the terrorists.

WEB DESK  
At least two policemen were martyred on Friday in an attack on a convoy of

vehicles carrying judges near Hathala area in Dera Ismail Khan (DIK) district of Khyber-Pakhtunkwa (K-P)





## Commissioner Takes Steps To Restore Sewerage System of The City

Soon Times Correspondent  
Sargodha:

On behalf of Commissioner and Administrator Municipal Corporation Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti, steps are being taken on a daily basis to restore the sewerage system of the city. In a high-level meeting on Friday, SE Public Health Engineering Syed Sauleh Raza gave a detailed briefing on the current status of sewerage system in Municipal Corporation and Cantonment areas and short-term and permanent solutions for rehabilitation. Deputy Commissioner Captain Retired Aurangzeb Haider Khan, CO Cantonment Board Raja Eliya Asad, CO MC Tariq Paroya, CEO Waste Management Company Rana Shahid Imran and others were present on this occasion. In the meeting, in the light of the recommendations of SE Public Health Engineering, several important decisions were taken to improve the city-wide sewerage system, including Stadium Road, on an emergency basis. It was decided that immediate de-silting and replacement of screen chambers of all MC and cantonment disposals will be done. Also, trouble spots will be identified and rectified. In the meeting, while taking strict notice of the encroachments built on the drains, AC Sargodha was given the responsibility to immediately demolish all such encroachments. MC and technical team of Cantonment Board will jointly participate in this operation. SE Public Health Engineering told that every street of the city is being marked by sewers to see what size the pipe is and in which direction it is going. He also informed about the technical method of utilization of the disposals of the recent monsoon season besides transferring all the disposals to modern machinery. Commissioner expressed regret that every department laid sewer lines without planning at the cost of billions of rupees. The technical team of Punjab Intermediate Citizen Improvement Program told the meeting that a program called Dream Sargodha is being started soon on behalf of their organization about water supply, sewerage and waste treatment in Sargodha city. This will solve the problems of the city for the next several decades.

## NHSP Extends Deepest Condolences Over The Death Of Dr. Ilyas Gondal's Sister

Soon Times Correspondent  
Lahore:

The sister of the esteemed Dr. Muhammad Ilyas Gondal, Director General of Health Services/PD, NHSP, has passed away and was laid to rest in their native graveyard in the district M.B. Din on Thursday evening. The officers of the National Health Support Program (NHSP) expressed their deepest sorrow and grief over the sudden demise of Dr. Gondal's sister. On this occasion, the Communication Specialist at NHSP Karamat Ali, Planning Monitoring & Evaluation, Asif Rasheed, OBB consultant, Umaid Faisal, Procurement Specialist Mudassar Farooq, and other officials extended their heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved family. They expressed their condolences and prayed to Almighty Allah to bless the departed soul, grant her eternal peace, and the highest place in the Heavens (Ameen). They also prayed Almighty Allah to give the bereaved family the strength and courage to bear this irreparable loss.

## At least 1,215 Pakistanis killed in more than 2,000 terrorism incidents in 16 months



Web Desk

Pakistan recorded 2,075 incidents of terrorism over the past 16 months, resulting in 1,215 deaths and 2,600 injuries, according to figures provided by the Ministry of Interior.

The Ministry presented these details to the National Assembly, revealing that in 2023 alone, 930 people were killed and 2,000 were injured in terrorist attacks. In just the first four months of the current year, 285 individuals lost their lives, and 600 were injured.

The data paints a grim picture of escalating violence, with significant casualties reported across multiple provinces.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) bore the brunt of most of the violence, with 1,140 incidents leading to 756 deaths and 1,786 injuries. Balochistan reported 626 incidents, resulting in 423 fatalities and 734 injuries.

Sindh experienced 19 terrorist incidents,

with 14 people killed and 36 injured over the 16-month period.

Meanwhile, Punjab witnessed eight attacks, causing 12 deaths and 11 injuries. On the other hand Gilgit-Baltistan reported three incidents, resulting in nine fatalities and 26 injuries.

The Ministry attributed the rise in terrorist activities to several factors, including increased cross-border support for terrorist organizations and the strategic use of cyberspace to expand their reach.

The withdrawal of coalition forces from Afghanistan has also been cited as a key factor contributing to the rise in violence.

The Ministry further informed the Assembly that, in response to the escalating threat, security forces conducted 2,208 intelligence-based operations in the first quarter of this year. These efforts resulted in the elimination of 89 terrorists and the arrest of 328 individuals.

Additionally, a draft for the National Policy for Countering Violence and Extremism has been prepared and is awaiting cabinet approval, signaling a proactive approach to tackling the growing menace of terrorism.

## 2-Days Assembly By PFP Pakistan Will Be Held In Kashmir Point: Nasir Abbas Qadri

Soon Times Correspondent  
Lahore:

Senior Vice President of Pakistan Falah Party Punjab Province North and Central Member of Consultation Nasir Abbas Qadri Advocate said that the two-days assembly organized by Pakistan Falah Party Punjab Province North will be held in Kashmir Point, Murree District, Rawalpindi on August 3 and 4, 2024. The schedule has been sent to the members. Syed Rashid Ali Gurdizi, president of Pakistan Falah Party, Punjab North Province, will preside over the various seats of the members of



the assembly. While the special guests will be Chairman Pakistan Falah Party Salare Watan Amanat Ali Zaib and Founder President Qazi Atiqur Rehman and others. In connection with the preparations, a committee consisting of General Secretary Punjab North Chaudhry Zameer Gujjar and provincial leader Muhammad Rafique Qadri has been formed. All the arrangements regarding the members of the Assembly have been completed.

## JI sit-in enters eighth day amid stalemate in negotiations

RAWALPINDI

The Jamaat-e-Islami's sit-in against inflated electricity bills and rising inflation has entered its eighth day at Liaquat Bagh, Rawalpindi.

The protest includes 10 demands from the government, including significant reduction in electricity prices, elimination of unnecessary taxes, renegotiation of contracts with Independent Power Producers (IPPs), and cuts in government expenditures.

Two rounds of negotiations between the government and the Jamaat-e-Islami leadership have ended fruitless.

JI leader Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has left to attend the funeral prayer of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh but will rejoin the sit-in at night. Earlier, the JI emir criticised the



former governments for approving IPP agreements, calling them criminal.

He urged the government to make the IPP contracts public, warning that the public might stop paying electricity bills if the agreements' realities are not revealed. He also stated that the country is held hostage by a small elite class that hinders Pakistan's progress for its vested interests.

## BYC's Gwadar sit-in ends after negotiations with government

Soon Times Correspondent  
GWADAR:

The Baloch Yakjehi Committee (BYC) has reportedly called off its sit-in protest in Gwadar district following successful negotiations with the government.

The agreement, reached on Thursday night, led to the restoration of internet services in the region and promises of significant concessions from the authorities.

The protest was initially sparked by the demand for the recovery of missing persons. It continued for six days and intensified in response to the demonstrators being barred from attending a BYC meeting in Gwadar.

Security was tightened across the province to maintain order as the protests continued for six consecutive days in Gwadar and other areas, without any major incidents.

The closure of roads and the resulting disruptions impacted traffic moving towards major destinations, including Karachi, Khuzdar, Hub, Kalat, Surab, Turbat, Panjkur, and Gwadar. Additionally, 14 people were injured in Mustang when convoys en route to the meeting were dispersed.

The protests, held on the call of the Baloch Youth Council (BYC), also led to complete strikes in various cities. The Baloch Solidarity Committee asserted that peaceful rallies were a



fundamental right and criticised the authorities for raiding homes to make arrests.

The Balochistan government had maintained its intention to find peaceful solution to issues relating to Balochistan. Chief Minister, Mir Sarfraz Bugti said protesting was the constitutional rights of every citizen. However, no one could be allowed to take the law into their hands.

This led to disruptions, including the closure of the National Highway and other major roads, such as the Makran Coastal Highway (MS). The roadblocks caused significant traffic jams and stranded cargo trucks and passenger vehicles.

Earlier on Monday, Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti has condemned the "one-sided narrative" and "propaganda" surrounding the ongoing sit-in in Gwadar and extended an invitation to Dr Mahrang Baloch and the Baloch Yakjehi Committee (BYC) for negotiations.

## Bushra Bibi withdraws LHC plea challenging Toshakhana arrest

Legal battle over Bushra Bibi's arrest in Toshakhana case ends with plea withdrawal.

Soon Times Correspondent  
Islamabad

The Lahore High Court dismissed a plea filed by Bushra Bibi, wife of PTI founder Imran Khan, after she withdrew her petition challenging her arrest in the third Toshakhana case.

The petition also sought action against the superintendent of Adiala Jail and female staff for allegedly mistreating her following her re-arrest after acquittal in the Iddat case.

The court's registrar raised objections, stating that the Lahore High Court was not the appropriate forum for such a plea.

Bushra Bibi, represented by senior lawyer Sardar Latif Khan Khosa, requested the court declare her arrest illegal and dismiss any further investigations, FIRs, or detention orders related to the case.

In her petition, she named several respondents, including the Inspector



in the Toshakhana case had been suspended, and she was granted bail in the Al-Qadri Trust case.

She was also acquitted in the Iddat case on July 13, 2024.

Despite these legal victories, she alleged that she was re-arrested in a fresh Toshakhana case, which she deemed illegal and a violation of her rights.

She further argued that the re-arrest was a breach of section 17(d) of the National Accountability Ordinance 1999.

Bushra Bibi claimed that no reasons for her arrest were provided, nor were any orders from the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) shown to her, denying her the right to know the charges against her.

The petition highlighted the alleged mistreatment by uniformed female jail staff, which she described as a humiliating and degrading experience, especially given the lack of a valid arrest warrant.

General of Police Punjab, Superintendent of Adiala Jail, the Government of Punjab, and the Federation of Pakistan.

She claimed she was physically assaulted by female jail staff upon her re-arrest and that her detention was part of a broader campaign to target her husband, Imran Khan, through fabricated cases.

Bushra Bibi's plea stated that her sentence

## 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 temporarily suspended as per given schedule: On 03rd August 2024, From 06:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Islamabad Circle, Bari Imam, Isolation Hospital, Rehara, CM Pak Zong Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, P&T Wini, Jhangi, EME Complex, Ghousia Colony,

Hydari Chowk, Saham Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Mehboob Shaheed, Park View, Pindi Board, Jail Park, Car Chowk, Zaraj-I & II, IST, Dhok Awan, Mohra Nagyal, Swan Garden-II/River Garden, Jail Park-I Feeders, Chakwal Circle, Dhoda Feeder, Attock Circle, Malohwali, Masood Shaheed 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.





**Harris raised a massive \$310 million in July, as she looks to reset November's race against Trump**

WASHINGTON  
Vice President Kamala Harris' campaign announced Friday that it raised \$310 million last month, an eye-opening sum showing that donors who once seemed spooked about the prospects for November's election with President Joe Biden are now offering mountains of cash to boost his former No. 2.

The haul by Harris, the Democratic National Committee and affiliated entities far outpaced Republican former President Donald Trump, whose campaign and assorted committees said they took in \$138.7 million for July.



**Hezbollah leader says war with Israel has entered 'new phase' after killings of top militant figures**

BEIRUT (AP) — Hezbollah's leader warned Thursday that the conflict with Israel has entered a "new phase," as he addressed mourners at the funeral of a commander from the group who was killed by an Israeli airstrike this week in Beirut.

Meanwhile in Tehran, Iran's supreme leader prayed over the body of Hamas' political leader, who was killed in a presumed Israeli assassination.

The back-to-back killings have increased fears of an escalation into a wider war, leaving the region waiting to see how Iran and ally Hezbollah will respond. Iran has vowed retaliation against Israel for the strike that killed Hamas' Ismail Haniyeh on Wednesday in the Iranian capital of Tehran.

Israel has not claimed responsibility for Haniyeh's assassination, but comments by Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm.



## Funeral prayer of Ismail Haniyeh performed in Doha

The funeral prayer of Ismail Haniyeh was performed at the Imam Muhammad Bin Abdul Wahab Mosque

DOHA: The funeral prayer of Hamas leader and former Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh was performed in Doha.

The funeral prayer of Ismail Haniyeh was performed at the Imam Muhammad Bin Abdul Wahab Mosque, after which he will be buried in the cemetery of Lusail, Qatar.

The Turkish Foreign Minister also arrived in Doha to attend the funeral prayer of Ismail Haniyeh, while the Emir of Jamat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman was also in Qatar to attend the funeral prayer of Ismail Haniyeh. According to a World News Agency, the body of Ismail Haniyeh was brought to his residence in the capital of Qatar.

The bodies of Ismail Haniyeh and his bodyguard Waseem Abu Usman were wrapped in Palestinian flags when brought to Doha Airport from Tehran.

A large number of his comrades and relatives welcomed the body of their beloved leader.

The Hamas leader was martyred in a missile attack on his residence in Tehran between Tuesday and Wednesday night.

His funeral prayer was held yesterday (Thursday) in Tehran. The funeral prayer was led by the Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

On this occasion, the newly-elected president of the country, AI-Madigan also attended the prayer.

According to a news agency, thousands of people gathered at the funeral prayer of Ismail Haniyeh carrying posters with his photos and the Palestinian flag.

Before the martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh, 70 members of his family were martyred in Israeli attacks.

## Israel summons Turkish envoy over half-mast salute for Hamas leader

JERUSALEM  
Israel's foreign ministry summoned the deputy Turkish ambassador for a reprimand on Friday after Turkey's embassy in Tel Aviv lowered its flag to half mast in response to the killing of Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh.

"The State of Israel will not tolerate expressions of mourning for a murderer like Ismail Haniyeh," Foreign Minister Israel Katz said in a statement.

Haniyeh was killed in Tehran while there to attend the inauguration of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. Israel has not made any official claim of responsibility for his death but Iran and allies including Hamas and Hezbollah have accused Israel of the assassination and vowed revenge.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan declared Friday, Aug 2, a day of national mourning for Haniyeh.

Katz's statement said Haniyeh had been Hamas leader during the Oct. 7 attack on



Israel that killed some 1,200 Israelis and foreigners and saw more than 250 taken hostage into Gaza, triggering Israel's assault on the coastal enclave.

Turkish Foreign Ministry Spokesman Onur Koculu, responding to Katz's remarks on social media platform X, said: "You cannot achieve peace by killing negotiators, threatening diplomats," in an apparent reference to Haniyeh's killing.

Tensions between Israel and Turkey have risen sharply since the start of the war in Gaza, in which more than 39,000 Palestinians have been killed.

## New ads calling Trump 'afraid to debate' to follow him on campaign trail



Web Desk  
The Democratic National Committee's newest advertising campaign, launched on Friday, taunt Republican rival Donald Trump for not committing to a debate with Kamala Harris and set to follow him on the campaign trail.

The DNC has purchased large ads that dominate the digital homepages of major local newspapers in states where Trump plans to campaign in the coming weeks. The ads say "the convicted felon is afraid to debate" and question whether that is due to his stance on abortion.

The first ads are running on the Atlanta Journal Constitution's homepage ahead of Trump's visit to the Georgia capital on Saturday and the ad campaign will follow him through local news outlets at each rally stop, the DNC said.

Trump emerged a clear victor from his June 27 debate with President Joe Biden, whose faltering performance renewed voters' deep concerns about his age. The two had agreed to a second debate on Sept 10.

After Biden dropped out of the race on July 21 and backed Harris, Trump said on July 21 that he would not debate her because she was not the official candidate. He added that former President Barack Obama had yet to endorse her as proof of lack of support for her bid. A day later, Obama endorsed Harris.

Recent polls show a tight contest between Harris and Trump, who had enjoyed a bigger lead over Biden after the first debate. Americans freed from Russian detention were greeted by US President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris after their arrival home on Friday.

Trump has suggested the Sept. 10 debate on ABC News should be moved to Fox News. Last week, in a phone call with reporters, Trump was asked if he'd commit to debating Harris at least once. He responded: "Oh, yes, absolutely. I'd want to," and he said there was an obligation to debate.

# Sports & Showbiz

## Hopes hinge on Arshad Nadeem as five of 7 Pakistani athletes exit Olympics



**ICC approves 70mn dollars' budget for Pakistan to host Champions Trophy 2025**

(Web Desk)  
The International Cricket Council (ICC) has allocated a budget of approximately \$70 million for hosting the Champions Trophy 2025 in Pakistan next year.

Reports said the budget was approved by the ICC's financial and commercial committee in a meeting chaired by BCCI secretary Jay Shah.

The meeting reviewed the budget jointly prepared by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and the ICC finance department for the upcoming mega cricket event.

The ICC Champions Trophy is scheduled to be held from February to March 2025 in Pakistan. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had proposed to India to play all their matches in Lahore. The tournament will begin on Feb 19, 2025 with first match to be played in Karachi while it will conclude on March 9 in Lahore. There will be reserve day on March 10 for the final of the event.

PARIS Web Desk  
Pakistan suffered another blow on Friday as two more athletes bowed out of the Paris Olympics 2024 without any medal with many hopes hinge on Javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem.

Sprinter Faiqa Riaz was eliminated from the Olympics after she failed to qualify for the next round in 100-meter race in Heat 2.

She finished sixth with a timing of 12.49 seconds in preliminary round of 100-meter sprint. As per

## Paris Olympics: Faiqa Riaz, Kishmala Talat bow out of event

Sports Desk  
Pakistani athletes Faiqa Riaz and Kishmala Talat have been eliminated from the Paris Olympics after failing to qualify for the next rounds of their respective events.

Faiqa failed to qualify for the next round in the 100-meter race event after she could not finish in the top three in the preliminary round of Heat 2.

The 100-meter race contest has four preliminary heat rounds and the top three contenders of those rounds qualify for the first round. Five athletes with the next best timings also obtain a spot in the next round of the women's event.

However, Pakistan's Faiqa finished with a timing of 12.49 in Heat 2 of the 100-meter race and ended in the sixth spot, losing her chance to qualify for the next round.

As for Kishmala, she competed in the women's 25-meter pistol event and despite having higher expectations, she placed 22nd overall.

Her scores in the precision series were 95, 99, and 99, while her rapid series scores were 98, 93, and 99. This gave her a total score of 579, which fell short of the top 8 needed to move on to the next round.

This marks the end of the road for Faiqa and Kishmala at the Paris Olympics 2024.

Pakistan's athletes have been having a bad run at the Paris Olympics 2024 as two swimmers — Ahmed Durani and Jehanara Nabi — and shooter Gulfiya Joseph bowed out of international games.

Amid this desperate situation, Pakistani fans hoped that javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem would bag a medal for the country.

Pakistan has one more shooter who is yet to be in action at the Paris Olympics and that is GM Bashir who will compete on August 4.



## Zheng stuns Swiatek at Olympics as Alcaraz closes in on Djokovic clash

PARIS Web Desk  
Zheng Qinwen ended Iga Swiatek's 25-match unbeaten streak at Roland Garros on Thursday to become the first Chinese player to reach an Olympic Games singles final as Carlos Alcaraz marched closer to a showdown with Novak Djokovic.

Defending champion Alexander Zverev however crashed out, losing his quarter-final to a fired-up Lorenzo Musetti of Italy.

Seventh-ranked Zheng triumphed 6-2, 7-5 over world number one Swiatek and will face either Croatia's Donna Vekic or Anna Karolina Schmiedlova of Slovakia for gold.

"I feel more than just happy, happy isn't enough to describe how I feel," said Zheng, who had played back-to-back three-hour matches to make the semi-final.

"If you ask me to play another three hours for my country, I would," Swiatek, a four-time French Open champion at Roland Garros, went into the match having not lost in Paris since 2021.

The 23-year-old had also defeated Zheng in all of their six previous meetings.

However she was hit off the court by the powerful 21-year-old Australian Open finalist who broke the Pole three times in the opening set. Swiatek appeared restored by a 10-minute break and quickly stretched out to a 4-0 lead in the second set before Zheng battled back, retrieving both breaks for 4-4.

The Chinese star broke again for a 6-5 lead against the ex-ragpled Swiatek and claimed victory in the next game.

By making the final, Zheng is the first Chinese man or woman to reach an Olympic singles gold medal match, bettering the run of Li Na, who finished fourth in the women's event at Beijing in 2008.

China's only Olympics tennis gold came thanks to Li Ting and Sun Tiantian in the women's doubles at Athens in 2004.

**ABOUT THE FIGHT**  
Alcaraz, back at Roland Garros where in June, won a maiden French Open when he became the youngest Olympic semi-finalist since Djokovic in 2008.