

# Imran Khan offers conditional apology for May 9 incidents

If PTI members are found involved in May 9 events, he will apologise



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan on Wednesday announced seeking a conditional apology over the May 9 riots, saying that the CCTV footage of the violent protests should be produced beforehand.

In a statement, the jailed former prime minister said that he would apologise if the PTI activists were found involved in the violent protests that broke out in the country last year following his arrest from the Islamabad High Court (IHC) in a corruption case.

The violent protests saw attacks on public properties including military

installations in many parts of the country, prompting the civil and military leadership to try the rioters under the Army Act.

The PTI chief, who has been incarcerated in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, has time and again distanced his party from the protests, alleging that the riots were pre-planned and staged to launch a crackdown on the opposition party.

"I will sack and myself seek punishment for the PTI members if they were found involved [in the May 9 incidents]," he added.

Apparently referring to his arrest on May 9 last year, the PTI founder lamented that he was "dragged" by Rangers. "There is no respect for a

popular person in Pakistan and globally," he added.

"Don't you feel obliged to apologise to me?" asked the PTI founder.

The latest statement came as the PTI founder has apparently lowered his political rhetoric lately and offered to hold talks with the military.

Ahead of Monday's anniversary of his jailing on dozens of charges ranging from corruption to leaking state secrets, Khan told Reuters that it would be "foolish" not to have "excellent" relations with the army.

He also stated in a written response to Reuters questions that he held no grudges against the United States, whom he has also blamed for his 2022 ouster from the PM Office.

## Omar Ayub exchanges words with Bilal Kayani during finance committee's meeting



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
Leader of the opposition in National Assembly Omar Ayub on Wednesday staged walkout from the meeting of finance committee after exchange of harsh arguments with PM-I leader Bilal Kayani.

Omar Ayub, who was also the member of the committee, said that the conduct of Bilal Kayani wasn't appropriate during the meeting.

It all started when the opposition member Mubeen Arif attended the meeting through Zoom.

## Punjab requests military, rangers help for peaceful Imam Hussain chehlum



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE  
To ensure the peaceful observance of Chehlum of Imam Hussain (PBI/H), the Punjab Home Department has requested the services of the army and Rangers.

According to the Punjab Home Department, law-enforcement agencies will be deployed to ensure a peaceful Chehlum.

The services of the army and

## 'Justice delayed is justice denied': CJP Isa apologises for delay in 27-year-old case

Supreme Court orders release of convicted murderer after 27 Years, cites reconciliation agreement

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
The Shariat Appellate Bench of Pakistan's Supreme Court has ordered the release of a convicted murderer after 27 years, based on a reconciliation agreement between the parties.

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa also apologised to the parties for the delay in justice.

Chief Justice Isa, leading a five-member Shariat Appellate Bench, issued the decision after hearing the appeal of Muhammad Akram on Wednesday. The case, filed 27 years ago, concluded with the court ordering Akram's release.

"Justice delayed is justice denied," Chief Justice Isa said, expressing regret for the prolonged



incarceration. The petitioner's lawyer informed the court that a reconciliation had been reached between the convict and the victim's heirs, and the convict had served other sentences.

The Supreme Court's order noted

that Akram, a resident of Khanewal district, was arrested on 13 April 1997 in connection with the murder. A reconciliation between Akram and the victim's family occurred in 2018, but the court was not adequately assisted at that time.

Chief Justice Isa, addressing Akram's lawyer, said, "I apologise for the years your client spent in jail."

The chief justice highlighted that while there have been decisions in favour and against acquittal based on reconciliation agreements, this matter will be addressed in some other case in future.

## Bushra Bibi files exoneration petition in 190 million pound reference



Soon Times Correspondent RAWALPINDI  
A special court heard the 190 million pound reference in Adiala Jail where Bushra Bibi filed an exoneration petition.

NAB abandoned the remaining 14 witnesses as unnecessary, during the hearing. Thus, the request of the lawyers to issue summons to 14 witnesses became ineffective. During the hearing, the PTI founder's lawyer somewhat cross-questioned the NAB investigation officer.

Further hearing of the reference was adjourned till tomorrow (Thursday). PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi were present in the court. Judge Nasir Javed Rama heard the case.

## PM kicks off monsoon tree plantation drive



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday launched the countrywide monsoon tree plantation drive by planting a sapling here.

Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister said he had directed the concerned departments and institutions to plant at least 100 million saplings across the country including Gilgit-Baltistan and

# Pakistan expresses support, seeks stability for Bangladesh



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
Pakistan has expressed solidarity with Bangladesh as the country grapples with political turmoil following the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

In a press release, Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, "The Government and people of Pakistan stand in solidarity with the people of Bangladesh, sincerely hoping for a peaceful and swift return to normalcy."

The Government of Pakistan has conveyed its support for the people of Bangladesh, expressing hope for a swift return to stability.

"We are confident that the resilient spirit and unity of the Bangladesh people will lead them towards a harmonious future," the statement further said.

The relationship between Pakistan and Bangladesh has been strained for years, particularly during Sheikh Hasina's tenure.

The execution of opposition leaders under her regime worsened relations, impacting regional cooperation within the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Bangladesh, aligning with India, boycotted the SAARC summit in 2016, preventing the meeting from taking place since then.

With the recent political shift in Bangladesh, there is speculation about potential changes in diplomatic relations.

## Reserved seats granted to party having no representation in Parliament, Atta Tarar

Parliament has a jurisdiction of legislation and makes laws

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
Federal Information Minister Atta Tarar raised the question on the Supreme Court's verdict on reserved seats to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), saying how a party could have reserved seats which didn't have representation in Parliament.

In a press conference in Islamabad, he cleared the air on the Election Amendment Bill, saying it was approved with the majority vote from both houses of Parliament, National Assembly and Senate.

He insisted that a rule mandating a party member to join a new party within three days had been made law now. He argued that how could a candidate change his party after submitting an affidavit. "Parliament is a superior



institution having a jurisdiction of legislation, it has made a rule, a law," Federal Minister Atta Tarar asserted.

Atta Tarar reiterated that a party could get reserved seats on representation in the Parliament according to the constitution and a political party provided a list of candidates for reserved seats in the Parliament.

He argued that Sunni Itehad Council chairman didn't contest the party election nor have representation in Parliament, then how could the party have reserved seats. A party didn't request relief but provided relief by granting reserved seats, Tarar added.

Information minister insisted that the SC couldn't interfere in the constitution. He asserted that two judges of

SC raised key questions, and the apex court hadn't issued the detailed verdict for 15 days.

Tarar also lambasted the PTI, a specific party that was doing political point scoring on the situation of 1971 and current situation of Bangladesh.

Federal minister berated Imran Khan and his party for declaring Sheikh Mujeeb Rehman a hero, saying, Imran Khan compared himself with Mujeeb Rehman and his party leaders asserted that their leader was like Mujeeb Rehman.

But when Bangladeshis attacked the Mujeeb Rehman statue, PTI changed its narrative. He lambasted PTI for changing the narrative who asked for foreign relief like Mujeeb Rehman asked for.

## Govt decides to appoint Rashid Langrial as FBR chairman

Establishment Division has sent a summary to PM Shehbaz for approval



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD  
The Federal government has decided to appoint Federal Secretary for Power Rashid Mahmood Langrial as Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) chairman.

Sources said the Establishment Division had sent a summary to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for approval.

Langrial, who is a Harvard University graduate, has experience in key administrative matters including public administration, international development, mobilising group resources, and development policies and strategies.

Langrial previously served as the chief secretary of Gilgit-Baltistan.

He would replace outgoing FBR chairman Amjad Zubair Tiwana who has sought early retirement from the office.

Last month, Tiwana had submitted two weeks' notice for leaving his charge.

The FBR chairman had also written a letter to the PM office, informing the premier about his decision to resign. Tiwana was due to retire in February 2025, however, he has sought early retirement.



# Digital Pakistan Vision

Minister of State for IT and Telecommunication Shaza Fatima Khawaja said that the present government is committed for the fulfillment of Digital Pakistan vision. She said on the directives of the Prime of Pakistan, Ministry of IT & Telecom is taking steps for digital transformation in the country. Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima was delivering keynote address at Digital Nation Summit organised by GSMA in collaboration with Ministry of IT & Telecom here on Wednesday. Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, was the chief guest on the occasion. She also emphasised the need of ending digital divide between

rural and urban areas of the country. Shaza Fatima said that under Prime Minister's vision of digitalization, economy, governance and society are being digitalised. She said that Telecom industry has important role in country's economic uplift. She said that effective steps are being taken for boosting Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in the country. Minister of State for IT Shaza Fatima said that remarkable progress have been achieved with over 80 percent teledensity and over 190 million subscribers. Our broadband customers continue to grow, she added. We are working on National IT Policy focused on ease of doing business and tax breaks to accelerate economic activity in this

sector. She said that Pakistan's IT Exports saw record surge as it reached 3,223 billion dollars during FY 2023-24. She said that there were great opportunities for youth in IT sector, as government is focused upon equipping youth with latest digital skills. Talking about Digital inclusion, Shaza Fatima said that digital gender inclusion is the part of our priorities. She also emphasised upon joint efforts for digitalization in the country. Earlier, Julian Gorman, Head of APAC at the GSMA, said: "Pakistan has the potential to realise its aspiration to become a Digital Nation. First it must scale its connected population to strengthen its basic digital economy enabler. Then by adopting a whole-of-government

approach and investing in the five key pillars of infrastructure, innovation, data governance, security, and people, Pakistan can unlock its full digital potential, improve the lives of its citizens, and drive sustainable economic growth. The GSMA is committed to supporting the country's digital journey and working in partnership to build a connected, inclusive, and prosperous future." Chief Marketing Officer, GSMA, Lara Dewar, and Chairman PTA Maj Gen (Retd) Hafeez ur Rehman also addressed. Secretary IT Ms. Aisha Humera Chaudhary, senior officers of the Ministry of IT and Telecom, CEOs of Telecom companies, representatives from IT industry attended the Summit. /Ends

## Self-Care Family planning method and way forward

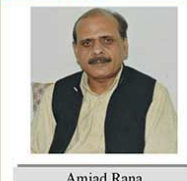
Muhammad Aslam Panhwer

In Sindh province very little financial resources are allocated and spent on healthcare for the majority of the population with low-income bracket. The poorest have to fend for themselves to meet exorbitant amount in highly expensive private health facilities. For meeting the health expenses through private health facilities, the low-income families have to either sell their meager assets or have to borrow the amount on high interest to meet the health emergency expenses. Despite efforts to improve access to healthcare, like health insurance, help from other countries, and private money, there are still big challenges, such as not enough funding, complicated healthcare systems, management issues, and unequal access to services. Family planning is facing more challenges. Hundreds of thousands of Lady Health workers, who are appointed with responsibilities including educating the communities on benefits of small families and provide services for planning in major cities, do little and. The medical experts in public sectors hospital and health centers scare the couples who approach for counseling and services to adopt family planning methods,

saying that there would be complications and side effects. It is observed that in majority cases those with higher education and higher stable income keep their family size very small but unfortunately those in extreme poverty continue to enlarge their family size without educating their children and this keeps vicious cycle of poverty going on. They suffer health problems for food in case of health emergency. There is need for more funding for family planning, especially for self-care family planning method i.e Sayana Press. (birth control method through self-injecting method). But self-care family planning method i.e Sayana Press, isn't widely available, especially in rural areas, and healthcare workers are reluctant to use it. Although Lady Health Workers (LHWs) are trained to use it, but they are not providing these services due to lack of motivation. There's a clear need for better training for these workers, especially on interpersonal skills and strategies to sensitize and motivate needy couple about benefits and use of the Sayana Press, and women and girls are

interested in using it for birth control. In Sindh, 60% of health budget goes is spent on salaries of healthcare workers and buying medicines and equipment. Rural healthcare services, managed by a semi government NGO PPHI. The PPHI mainly focuses on maternal, newborn, child health, and family planning. In 2020-21, PPHI budget was about 15 billion PKR, which is only 19% of what was needed for the people they serve. Most of the health budget goes to large hospitals, leaving very little for primary health care facilities that actually see more patients for maternal and child health. The money meant for developing the health sector often goes to building new hospitals and improving facilities, but a lot of this budget isn't used properly. For example, from 2016 to 2020, 85 billion PKR was allocated to health projects in Sindh, but only 52% out of total 44 billion PKR budget was used, including for COVID-19 response and building or upgrading hospitals and medical colleges. A big portion of the budget for these projects wasn't spent by the end of the fiscal year.

## Protests Escalate in Bangladesh, PM Hasina Leaves for Tripura



Amjad Rana

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned amid violent protests and leaving Dhaka for Tripura, India. The protests, driven by dissatisfaction with her government, especially a controversial quota system, have led to over 100 deaths. The Bangladesh army has announced the formation of an interim government to restore peace and investigate the recent violence. The situation remains fluid, with a high alert at the India-Bangladesh border and calls for calm from military officials. While Bangladesh Army chief said, "PM Hasina has resigned, interim government to run the country. We will return peace to the country. We ask citizens to stop violence. We will investigate all killings that have happened over the past few weeks." The death toll in the violent clashes during student protests in the country is at least 300 according to police and doctors reported. At least 98 people were killed due to violent clashes in the student protests quota reforms in the country. India has advised its citizens not to travel to Bangladesh until further notice with the renewed student protests demanding PM Sheikh Hasina's resignation. The protests began last month, when the Bangladesh high court ruled in favour of reinstating a 30 percent quota in government jobs for descendants of freedom fighters. After Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina refused to meet the students' demands to reverse the order, the protests intensified, leading to clashes with police and government supporting groups. Over 200 people were killed and several injured during the movement in July. The government had also

cut off all connectivity through broadband or internet for 11 days, which was slowly restored after a while. The protests had reduced for a while as talks began with the government but started again as students called for a nationwide civil disobedience movement and asked PM Sheikh Hasina to step down from her position. Students are demanding a public apology from Hasina for the deaths and the removal of several of her ministers. They also want the government to reopen schools and universities, which have been closed since the protests intensified. PM Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeb Wazed said in a social media post, "Your duty is to keep our people safe and our country safe and to uphold the constitution. It means don't allow any unelected government to come in power for one minute, it is your duty." 400,000 people are on the streets protesting in Dhaka. More than 3,500 factories servicing Bangladesh's economically vital garment industry were shut down amid violence in the country. 11,000 people at least have been arrested since beginning of protests. Pressure mounts on PM Sheikh Hasina after Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, secretary-general of the main opposition party, repeated a call for the government to step down to stop the chaos. PM Sheikh Hasina says the protests are being organised by "terrorists who want to destabilise the nation" and not students. She also asked students to

have a conversation with her and not resort to protests. Some students from various educational institutions had gathered at Dhaka Central Shaheed Minar to participate in the 'March to Dhaka' programme, prompting the police to fire tear gas shells to disperse them. Former army chief General Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan and other senior former armed forces members addressed the press on Sunday asking for the PM Hasina to withdraw troops and allow protests to continue. Current army chief Waker-uz-Zaman also gave a vague statement, telling officers on Saturday that the military 'always stood by the people. The country has taken a \$10 billion hit to the economy from the curfews and the internet blackouts. The nation has again shut down government and private offices, including banks, for three days starting on Monday and mobile internet services have been switched off. The University Teachers' Network in the country has proposed to form an interim government immediately consisting of people from various sections and professions. The Anti-Discrimination Student Movement has rescheduled their 'Long March to Dhaka' to Monday, a day earlier than initially planned. Bangladesh Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus said he was disappointed that India had called the violent clashes in Bangladesh an 'internal matter' of the country.

## The leader of Tehreek-e-Insaf is a hero to Pakistanis and a threat to the government

Kashaf Waqar

The head of Tehreek-e-Insaf is considered a symbol of change in the country. His ideology represents change and hope in Pakistan. He is still seen as a serious challenge to the ruling political parties. Despite his imprisonment, Khan's popularity among Pakistanis continues to grow. Many people believe that he is the only true leader capable of bringing much-needed reforms to his nation. It was clear from the recent elections that Khan would be the next prime minister of Pakistan, but that did not happen, was elected but the anti-system failed to form a government. Khan is a threat to the current ruling government while in prison. Concerned about his popularity among Pakistanis, the government has taken extreme measures to limit his influence. Sahara Lia Khan wants to end the confrontation with the institutions and form the government of his party in the country, for which he has opened the door of dialogue, on the other hand, Imran Khan is

not accepting any government offer to remove the impression of a deal. He is known for his unwavering ideals and honesty. Undaunted by the consequences, he stands firm in his mission to implement real change in Pakistan, has upheld his mission of rule of law by refusing to accept the offer to form a government on February 9. Seen as a ray of hope, the Pakistani government and military are united in their support for Khan, despite continued efforts to curtail his authority. Khan's unwavering commitment to ideals of justice and equality, along with his faith in a higher power, keeps him steadfast even in the face of adversity. Ready to fight for the rights of the people and the future of Pakistan, a staunch opponent of the ruling political parties, Khan stands by his unwavering belief in the efficacy of democracy and his unwavering commitment to moral principles. He has cemented his reputation as a leader who is not easily intimidated or swayed by his unwavering trust in Allah Almighty and his selfless

dedication to helping people. The resolute public support for Khan is reflected in his imprisonment, which raises serious questions about the direction of Pakistani politics. Roshan is a beacon of hope for a brighter future, whether the government tries to curb their popularity and influence or not.

### CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

The Tender Notice for the work "REHABILITATION / CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICES / RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX FOR THE NEWLY CREATED ZONES/ CIRCLES/ DIVISIONS/ SUB DIVISIONS IN IRRIGATION ZONE SARGODHA / BHALWAL CANAL DIVISION PACKAGE A1" which was published on PPRa website on 23.07.2024, as well as published in the leading newspapers against IFL No. 6869 dated 23.07.2024 which is originally scheduled to be opened on 08.08.2024. As per observation raised by the PPRa under rule 34 of PPRa Rules (Discriminatory and Difficult Condition).

The following amendments are being made.

- A complete set of Tender Documents can be purchased from the office of the Executive Engineer, Bhalwal Canal Division Bhalwal at Sargodha (Secretary Tender Opening Committee Zonal Level) on or before 07.08.2024 (Wednesday) by interested bidders on submission of a written application to the above office upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Rs.15000/- (Rupees: Fifteen Thousand Only) instead of Rs.35000 up to 3.00 PM.
- All the contractor/bidder approved from Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant category for the year 2024-25 can participate.
- Bidding documents are available on PPRa website; any bidder can load bidding documents from PPRa website and can submitted on day of receiving / opening of tenders i.e 08.08.2024 without submission of fee.
- All other conditions will remain same.

Executive Engineer  
Bhalwal Canal Division  
Bhalwal at Sargodha  
IPL-7367

### E-TENDERING NOTICE

Communication & works Department, Buildings Division, Mianwali intends to tender out the following scheme through E-Tendering vide Notification No. SOH-1 (C&W) 1-49/2023/3652 dated 26-05-2023. All Contractors who are registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in relevant category of Above can participate in Open E-Tendering System. Procurement procedure strictly is adopted in accordance with PPRa Rules 2014 (with upto date amendments). Contractors can participate in E-Tendering after fulfilling following terms & conditions.

- Contractor must register firm on website [www.punjab.gov.pk](http://www.punjab.gov.pk) by submitting the requisite information.
- After registration on E-Tendering website [www.punjab.gov.pk](http://www.punjab.gov.pk) contractor of eligible categories may participate in E-Tendering.
- Contractors may generate the Tender Fee Challan (32-A) / Payment Slip ID (PSID), amount mentioned against each item/work. Contractor/bidder has to upload scanned copy of payment receipt on contractor portal and payment receipt will be required to be submitted in the office of undersigned before tender opening time.
- Required Tender fee received / collected through e-pay Punjab Mobile Application with Buildings Works Code, 020266.
- After uploading the tender Fee challan paid voucher, contractor/bidder has to upload scanned copies of Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) @ 5% of the estimated cost of any scheduled bank. Original CDR must be submitted to the office of undersigned on tender opening date before closing time. Contractor has to quote online percentage rates on or below on below basis upto 23.08.2024 at 01:00 PM after receiving B.O.Q of the scheme available at website. The rates quoted online by the contractor will be downloaded from website and will be announced on same date at 01:30 PM.
- All the contractors participating in E-Tendering will be bound to submit their Original CDR, paid tender fee challans with letter heads in the office of the undersigned. Otherwise, the contractor will be declared as disqualified in the presence of Tender Opening Committee.
- In case of false information, fake CDR & fake tender fee challan, the contractor will be liable to disqualify as per PPRa Rules and will not be eligible to participate in upcoming tender of C&W, Government of Punjab. Further, this case will be forwarded to PEC and PRA for initiation of S12 Legal Action.
- In case the lowest bidder whose bid will be more than 5% below of DNT of the work, the lowest bidder will be bound to deposit the difference between his bid & estimated cost as per rate quoted by the Bidder on Quality Assurance Security in shape of Call Deposit of Bank Guarantee from any schedule bank within 15 days, after opening of tender. Lowest bidder will have to upload the CDR or Bank Guarantee on the website & will submit the original CDR/Bank Guarantee in the office of undersigned, otherwise the tender of the lowest bidder will stand cancelled & rejection may be ordered in favour of the Government.
- The procuring agency shall upon request communicate to lowest bidder, the grounds for the exercise of all bids or proposals, but shall not be required to justify those grounds.

Sr.#	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earliest Money	T.S.No & Date	Tender Fee	Time Limit
1	Balance work of 24 DHO & 15 THD Hospital at Sargodha Punjab Balance work of D.H.O Hospital Mianwali.	376,661 (M)	13,243 (M)	CEB/21/1604	20,000/-	10 Months

**Note:-**

- According to prevailing Rules of Finance Department, in case the amount of work exceeding Rs. 50,000 (M) 5% of the bid price will be applicable as performance guarantee in addition to quality assurance security.
- Due to system up-gradation, recovery against credit of old material will be adjusted manually and accordingly bids will be evaluated.

Name: Azam Ghafour  
Designation: Executive Engineer  
Department: Buildings Division  
House / Street PO: Kalabagh Road  
City Name: Mianwali  
Tehsil & District: Mianwali  
Phone / Fax: 0459-920238

Name: Amanat Ali  
Designation: Superintending Engineer  
Department: Buildings Circle  
House / Street PO: Jail Road Sargodha  
City Name: Sargodha  
Tehsil & District: Sargodha  
Phone / Fax: 048-9230371

IPL-7318





## Commissioner Takes Measures To Control Usage of Saline Water For Dialysis

Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: Commissioner Sargodha Division Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti immediately called a meeting in his office on being informed by the management of the Dialysis Unit of Government Dr. Faisal Masood Teaching Hospital that the water used for drinking and dialysis is saline and that water is being procured by tankers on a daily basis. Deputy Commissioner Captain retired

Aurangzeb Haider Khan and other officers participated in the meeting. In the meeting, plans were made to supply drinking water to the Dialysis Unit on temporary and permanent basis and it was decided that immediate connection to the Dialysis Unit would be given by the under construction water supply of Public Health Engineering for the residents of the Factory Area. While connection to water supply of under construction Cardiology will be provided on permanent basis. The commissioner

appreciated the initiative taken by the charitable organization to run the dialysis unit and emphasized the need for full cooperation from the government agencies. XEN Public Health Engineering told the meeting that the installation of 8 tube wells for drinking water supply to the city has been completed and the process of handing over to the Municipal Corporation is pending. The Commissioner directed the COMC to have his technical team survey all the tube wells and take them into account.

## Date sheet for Matric second annual examination issued across Punjab



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE The Punjab Education Board has officially released the date sheet for the Matric second annual examinations. The exams are set to commence on August 20, with roll number slips scheduled to be distributed from August 10. The first examination will be in Education and Islamic History. Subsequent papers of English, Pakistan Studies, Physics, and Chemistry will be taken from August 21, 22, 23, and 26 respectively. The exams for Islamic Studies,

Mathematics, Tarjamatul Quran, and Urdu will be held on August 27 to 30. For ninth grade students, examinations will begin on September 3 with Mathematics as the first paper. Social Studies, English, Islamic Studies, Physics, Tarjamatul Quran, Chemistry, and Biology exams will follow on September 10, 11, 12, 13, respectively, with the final Education paper taking place on September 17, 2024. Practical exams for both Matric and ninth grade will run from September 20 to October 2, 2024.

## DC Directs Concerned Authorities To Speed Up Anti-Dengue Measures



Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: Under the chairmanship of Deputy

Commissioner Captain Retired Aurangzeb Haider Khan, an important meeting regarding the Anti-Dengue

measures was held in his committee room. All concerned officials attended the meeting. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned authorities to speed up measures in high-risk areas regarding the presence of Dengue larvae keeping in view the data between 2013 and 2024. The Deputy Commissioner directed all the officers to ensure strict implementation of the code of conduct related to prevention of Dengue in government offices and to create awareness among the public. In the meeting, the municipal institutions were instructed to ensure the cleanliness of drainage and drains etc.

## There are chances of monsoon rains in most districts of Punjab in the next 2 days.

Soon Times Correspondent Lahore:



There are chances of monsoon rains in most districts of Punjab in the next 2 days. Heavy winds and thunderstorms are expected in Murree, Rawalpindi, Attock, Mandi Bahaudin, Sialkot, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Lahore, Okara, Kasur, Sahiwal, Khushab, Faisalabad, Sargodha, Nurporthal and other districts. Rawalpindi 43 mm, Sialkot 21, Chakwal 17, Gujrat 16, Murree 13 and Khanpur 11 mm of rain were recorded in the last 24 hours. Due to monsoon rains, the water level in rivers, dams and canals is increasing. From August 7 to 13, there is a risk of flooding in the river channels connected to Chenab and Ravi. In the Indus River, there is a moderate level of flood at Chashma and Taunsa, while there is a low level of flood at Tarbela and Kala Bagh. DG PDMA Irfan Ali Kathia said that all arrangements are complete in view of possible flood risk. According to the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab, the administration and concerned departments

are on alert. Citizens should take precautionary measures and follow government guidelines. 55 civilians were killed and 145 injured in the monsoon season this year. Deaths were caused by lightning and the collapse of dilapidated buildings. According to the instructions of the Chief Minister of Punjab, financial assistance is being given to the families of the deceased. Precious loss of life can be avoided by taking precautionary measures. Never live in weak and dilapidated buildings. In case of emergency contact PDMA helpline 1129.

## Relief measures of PDMA are in progress in the flood affected low-lying areas of the Indus River.

Soon Times Correspondent Lahore: Relief measures of PDMA are in progress in the flood-affected low-lying areas of the Indus River. There is moderate flood situation in the Indus River at Chashma and Taunsa. Villages adjacent to Indus River in Dera Ghazi Khan Taunsa and Tehsil Kot Chitta were affected by flood water. 5 villages adjacent to the river Indus were

submerged by flood water. DG PDMA Irfan Ali Kathia said that there was no loss of life or property due to the previous actions of PDMA and administration. Citizens and their livestock were rescued from the affected areas in time. 8 boats and 34 rescue workers were engaged in relief activities in the flood-affected areas. 61 people were transferred to safe places in time. More than 650 cattle were shifted to safe places. He further said that food and

free transport were provided to the affected people. Disease prevention drugs and vaccination facilities were provided to cattle. Administrative officers are always present in the field. Relief activities will continue until evacuation and rehabilitation of citizens. Protection of life and property of people is the first responsibility.

## Government is determined to bring back the golden era of agricultural development in Punjab. Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani

Soon Times Correspondent Lahore: Under the Transforming Agriculture Punjab Program of Chief Minister Punjab, a new era of agricultural development and prosperity of farmers has been restarted in the province. Allocated budget in FY 2024-25 have increased up to 300 percent for agricultural development. Under Kissan Package at the cost of billions of rupees, a new green revolution will come in Punjab and the fate of farmers will also be changed. The Present Government is determined to bring back the golden era of agricultural development. These views were expressed by Provincial Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Syed Ashiq Hussain Kirmani while presiding over the first meeting of Agriculture Commission in Lahore. In the meeting, Finance Minister, Punjab Mujtaba Shuja-ur-Rehman, Members of Provincial Assembly Rana Ayaz Saleem, Usama Khan Leghari, Rana Ijaz, Ms. Ishrat Ashraf along with Secretary Agriculture, Punjab Ifthikhar Ali Sahoo, Secretary Livestock, Punjab Muhammad Masood Anwar, Secretary Agriculture, South Punjab, Saqib Ali Ateel and Vice Chancellor University of Agriculture Faisalabad Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan and other members participated. In the meeting, the members of the Agriculture Commission presented their expert opinions for the development of agriculture and solving the problems of the farmers. On this occasion, the Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Punjab/Chairman Agriculture



Commission said that the Agriculture Commission has been reactivated to resolve the farmers' problems on a priority basis on the instructions of the Chief Minister, Punjab. He endorsed that in the past, the agriculture sector in the province of Punjab has been declining due to lack of planning. According to the vision of Chief Minister, Punjab the focus has been on modern agricultural research with the cooperation of agricultural universities and research institutes. He added that strengthening the value chain is very important for the development of agriculture sector. For this purpose, all the stakeholders will be gathered under one roof and recommendations will be formulated after consultation with them. Apart from this, the Present Government is promoting agricultural mechanization, green tractor scheme and shifting the tubewell to solar system to reduce production cost of farmers. Small farmers (owners of up to 12.5 acres of land) constitute 90 percent of the total farmers, the main focus of the Punjab Government is to provide facilities to them. He maintained that 1,000 agricultural

graduates will be employed in Agriculture Department under the internship program for one year. A center is being established at Toba Tek Singh for the revival of citrus in Punjab. Facilitation will be provided to farmers for agro-ecological zoning. Minister explained, The Provincial Agriculture Minister added that the Chief Minister has introduced a policy for the first time to differentiate between green and brown land and has formed a committee which will play its role in stopping the construction of commercial and housing societies in Green Land. On this occasion, Secretary Agriculture Punjab Ifthikhar Ali Sahoo said that the Agriculture Commission is the largest official forum for consultation regarding agriculture in Punjab. Decisions about Government policies related to agriculture will be taken at the forum of Agriculture Commission. He further said that last year there was a record growth of 6.5 percent in the agriculture sector due to which the country's GDP increased by 2.3 percent. The Current Government is providing generous resources for agricultural development. Various committees will be formed in the Agriculture Commission to solve the problems of the farmers as soon as possible.

## The Lahore Chamber of Commerce has expressed its commitment to effectively own the "Mazdoor Khushal-Taraqi Bemasal"

Soon Times Correspondent Lahore: The Lahore Chamber of Commerce has expressed its commitment to effectively own the "Mazdoor Khushal-Taraqi Bemasal" drive initiated by the Labor and HR Department and to join hands with Labor Department for the welfare of workers. Labor Department and Lahore Chambers of Commerce will work together for the implementation on the minimum wage 37000 of laborer. It has also been decided that child labor would be eliminated from the factories and would strictly implement labor laws in their factories and will create a safe environment for the workers. These decisions were taken in a meeting held in Lahore Chamber of Commerce between Provisional Minister Labor along with Secretary Labor Naem Ghous, DG Labor Kulsoom Hayee, Vice Commissioner PESSI Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Kharal and President Lahore Chamber of Commerce Kashif Anwar and executive members. While talking to members of Lahore Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that Punjab Government had been planning to enhance children working age from 15 years to 17 years and it has been enhanced that no worker less than age of 18 years

should work in declared as hazardous industries. "For the case of Lahore chamber of commerce, focal persons from PESSI, Labor and workers welfare fund will be attached with Lahore Chamber and Committee to solve the problem of members will also be formulated in this regard" Mr. Faisal Ayub Khokhar added that Punjab Government would set up 500 Daycare Centers in the factories with the support of factory administration and fair price shops would also be set up in factories for workers. While talking financial and medical facilities offered to registered workers Faisal Ayub Khokhar said that an amount of Rs. 20860 million had been spent on workers and their dependents in last year in regard with medical facilities while 9051 million had been given to 39341 workers under the head of marriage, death and education grant. He further said that it is the top priority of Chief Minister Punjab Maryam Nawaz Sharif to create conducive environment for business community. He said that business opportunities would be created for business class and similarly the laborers right would be protected.



## US to give \$414 mln in humanitarian aid for Congo

**UNITED NATIONS**  
The US said on Wednesday it would provide nearly \$414 million in humanitarian assistance for the Democratic Republic of Congo, where more than 25 million people need such aid, nearly a quarter of the country's population.

US Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, Jeffrey Prescott, told Reuters a significant amount of that money would go to United Nations agencies and aid groups providing urgent food assistance, healthcare and nutrition support, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene.

"This funding also includes direct support (of) agricultural commodities from American farmers," said Prescott, who will formally announce the aid in Kinshasa on Wednesday with US Ambassador to the DRC Lucy Tamlyn.

## British police brace for anti-Muslim riots and counter protests

**LONDON**  
British police braced for further anti-Muslim riots on Wednesday as far-right groups planned to target asylum centres and immigration law firms across the country, prompting anti-fascist protesters to organise counter demonstrations.

Britain has been gripped by an escalating wave of violence that erupted early last week when three young girls were killed in a knife attack in northwest England, triggering a wave of false messaging online that wrongly identified the suspected killer as an Islamist migrant.



## Sacked Bangladeshi intelligence chief 'arrested' at Dhaka Airport

**Maj Gen Ziaul Ahsan was arrested after Emirates Flight 585 was instructed to taxi back to boarding bridge from runway.**

**Web Desk**  
Major General Ziaul Ahsan, who was removed from his position in the Bangladesh military, was detained around midnight after his plane was brought back from the Dhaka airport runway to the boarding bridge, local media reported.

The former intelligence chief was taken off the aircraft and transported to the Dhaka cantonment.

According to sources at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Ziaul Ahsan was arrested after Emirates Flight 585 was instructed to taxi back to the boarding bridge from the runway.

During the search, a passenger was detained, and the plane was subsequently allowed to depart.

Local media have identified the detained individual as Major General Ziaul Ahsan, the former intelligence chief.

Ahsan was relieved of his duties yesterday. He was known to be a close associate of the recently resigned PM Hasina.

Since 2022, Major General Ziaul Ahsan has served as the Director General of the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre. Prior

to that, he was the Director of the same agency.

Ziaul Ahsan became the vice-captain of Rab-2 in 2009 when he was a major. In the same year, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and appointed director of the intelligence wing of the Rab headquarters. From that time many controversies were created about him.

Bangladesh's protest leaders said they expect members of an interim government, led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, to be finalised on Wednesday after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina quit and fled to India following a violent crackdown on a student-led uprising.

Bangladesh's president appointed Yunus as the head of the interim government late on Tuesday, meeting a key demand of students, and said the remaining members need to be finalised soon to overcome the current crisis, according to a statement from his office.

The interim government will fill a power vacuum left after Bangladesh's army chief announced Hasina's resignation in a televised address on Monday that followed weeks of deadly violence that ripped through the country, killing about 300 people and injuring thousands.

## Bangladesh's interim government will take oath on Today, says the military chief

**DHAKA, Bangladesh**  
Web Desk  
Bangladesh's military chief said Wednesday that an interim government headed by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus would be sworn in on Thursday night as he returns from Paris to take over the administration amid struggle for restoring stability after former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was forced to step down and flee.

Gen. Waker-Uz-Zaman said in a televised address late Wednesday afternoon that the responsible for the violence since Hasina's resignation would be brought to justice.

## PUNJAB HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT E-TENDER NOTICE

Communication & Works, Department through Highway Division, Sargodha intends to tender out the following scheme through newly introduced E-Tendering System.

All contractors who are registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) can participate in open E-Tendering System. Procurement procedure will strictly be adopted in accordance with PPRA Rules 2014 (amended upto date). Contractors can participate in E-Tendering after fulfilling following terms & conditions:-

- Contractors may register their firms on website <https://punjab.eprocure.gov.pk> of Govt. of Punjab by submitting their requisite information.
- After registration on E-PADS website <https://punjab.eprocure.gov.pk> contractors of eligible category may participate in E-Tendering.
- All documents alongwith application on original letter head, tender fee Challan Form 32-A and Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) @ 5% bid security must reach office of the Executive Engineer, Highway Division Sargodha on 26.08.2024 before closing hour. Scanning of documents will be done on 26.08.2024 in the presence of contractor or their authorized representative in the office of Executive Engineer, Highway Division Sargodha. Otherwise, the contractor will be declared as disqualified.
- Contractor may generate the tender fee Challan (32-A), amounting to Rs.2000/-, prescribed tender fee deposited in shape of original Challan Form-32-A deposited in National Bank of Pakistan, Sargodha, under Head of Account C-02716-Others in favour of Executive Engineer Highway Division Sargodha and receipt shall be required to be submitted in the office of Executive Engineer, Highway Division Sargodha as mentioned above.
- After uploading the tender fee Challan / paid voucher, contractor / bidder has to upload scanned copy of Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) @ 5% of the estimated cost of any scheduled bank on website and original Call Deposit Receipt (CDR) @ 5% to be submitted in the office of Executive Engineer, Highway Division Sargodha as mentioned above.
- Contractor has to quote online percentage rates either "on below or above basis or item wise" upto 26.08.2024 at 01:00 PM after receiving 800 of the schemes available at website. The rates quoted online by the contractor will be downloaded from website and will be announced on the same day at 01:31 PM.
- Tender will be opened in the office of Commissioner, Sargodha Division Sargodha in the presence of Tenderers Opening Committee and contractors or their representatives on 26.08.2024 at 01:31 PM by using E-Procurement portal of only those applicants who are clear in scrutiny of documents, no provisional applications will be acceptable.
- In case of false information, fake CDR & fake tender fee Challan, the contractor will be liable to disqualify as per PPRA Rules and will not be eligible to participate in upcoming tenders of C&W, Govt. of Punjab. Further his case will be forwarded to PEC and PPA for initiation of strict legal action.
- In case, the lowest bidder whose bid will be more than 5% below of DNIT of the work, the lowest bidder will be bound to deposit the difference between the bid & estimated cost as per rate quoted by the bidder as quality insurance security in shape of Call Deposit or Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank within 15-days after opening of tender. The lowest bidder will have to upload the CDR or Bank Guarantee on the website & will submit the original CDR / Bank Guarantee in the office of undersigned, otherwise the tender of the lowest bidder will stand cancelled & earnest money will be forfeited in favour of Government.

The detail of works is as under:-

Sr. No.	Name of works	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money @ 5%	T.S No. & Date	Tender Fee	Completion Time
1.	SPECIAL REPAIR ESTIMATE OF ROAD FROM DERA MALIK AHMED SAIED AWAN TO BHIGANTWALA ROAD VIA CHAK 77/58 LENGTH 2.12KM IN DISTRICT SARGODHA.	Rs.46,188 (M)	Rs.2,310 (M)	T.S vide C.E (N) Punjab Highway Department Lahore No.4552/C. 24/25/12/2019, Dated 29.07.2024	Rs.2000	06-Month
2.	SPECIAL REPAIR OF RE-DECKING OF BRIDGE 3 SPAN 10 R EACH OVER 21/5 CHAK ON SHANPUR BIALWAL KOHMOHIN ROAD DISTRICT SARGODHA.	Rs.5,838 (M)	Rs.0,292 (M)	T.S vide S.F Highway Circle Sargodha No.853/3, Dated 03.08.2024	Rs.2000	03-Month
3.	SPECIAL REPAIR OF DAMAGED BRIDGE 5 SPAN 10 R EACH OVER LINK ROAD SARGODHA SILLANWALI ROAD TO SARGODHA SHAHERNABAD NEAR CHAK NO. 122 SB DISTRICT SARGODHA.	Rs.1,285 (M)	Rs.0,065 (M)	T.S vide E.E Highway Division Sargodha No.4123/C, Dated 25.07.2024	Rs.2000	01-Month
4.	SPECIAL REPAIR OF DAMAGED BRIDGE 3 SPAN 10 R EACH OVER SARGODHA KHUSHAB ROAD NEAR SHAHPUR ICE FACTORY DISTRICT SARGODHA.	Rs.0,499 (M)	Rs.0,025 (M)	T.S vide E.E Highway Division Sargodha No.4202/C, Dated 24.07.2024	Rs.2000	01-Month
5.	SPECIAL REPAIR OF DAMAGED BRIDGE 3 SPAN 20 R EACH OVER SULKI BRANCH SULTANPUR BANGLOW TO VEV SHAHPUR ROAD DISTRICT SARGODHA.	Rs.0,974 (M)	Rs.0,049 (M)	T.S vide E.E Highway Division Sargodha No.4123/C, Dated 25.07.2024	Rs.2000	01-Month
6.	SPECIAL REPAIR OF DAMAGED BRIDGE 2 SPAN 20 R EACH OVER SAHIVAL FAROOQA SILLANWALI CHANAB NAGAR ROAD DISTRICT SARGODHA.	Rs.1,289 (M)	Rs.0,065 (M)	T.S vide E.E Highway Division Sargodha No.4123/C, Dated 25.07.2024	Rs.2000	01-Month
7.	SPECIAL REPAIR OF DAMAGED BRIDGE 3 SPAN 16 R EACH OVER SAJM NULAN CN SHANPUR SAHIVAL LINK SULTANPUR BANGLOW ROAD DISTRICT SARGODHA.	Rs.0,692 (M)	Rs.0,035 (M)	T.S vide E.E Highway Division Sargodha No.4195/C, Dated 20.07.2024	Rs.2000	01-Month
8.	M/R OF DAMAGED BOUNDARY WALL OF STORE ROOM AT BIALWAL IN DISTRICT SARGODHA.	Rs.1,215 (M)	Rs.0,061 (M)	T.S vide E.E Highway Division Sargodha No.4195/C, Dated 01.08.2024	Rs.2000	01-Month
9.	M/R OF INSTALLATION OF CCTV CAMERAS ON LAKSANA CHAK 46/58 & NEGOWAL TOLL PLAZA IN DISTRICT SARGODHA.	Rs.1,284 (M)	Rs.0,065 (M)	T.S vide E.E Highway Division Sargodha No.4195/C, Dated 01.08.2024	Rs.2000	01-Month
10.	MAINTENANCE & REPAIR OF ROAD FROM CHAK MUBARAK ROAD TO KHAWAIA ABAD ROAD LENGTH 20 KM (EFFECTIVE LENGTH 200 RFT) IN DISTRICT SARGODHA.	Rs.1,288 (M)	Rs.0,065 (M)	T.S vide E.E Highway Division Sargodha No.4202/C, Dated 25.07.2024	Rs.2000	01-Month
11.	MAINTENANCE & REPAIR OF ROAD FROM JHANG ROAD TO LANGARWALA BRIDGE ROAD LENGTH 6.00 KM IN DISTRICT SARGODHA.	Rs.0,853 (M)	Rs.0,043 (M)	T.S vide E.E Highway Division Sargodha No.4195/C, Dated 24.07.2024	Rs.2000	01-Month

**Note:-**

- According to prevailing Rules of Finance Department, in case the amount of work exceeding Rs.50,000 (M) 5% of the bid price will be applicable as performance guarantee in addition to quality assurance security.
- It is for the information of every interested applicant / bidder that the bidders for TST / DST of National Refinery Karachi with mechanical plant will be arranged by contractor himself and duly approved by the C&W Department Lahore and also rigid portion with paver plant and documentary proof is to be provided to the Executive Engineer before release of payment of work done.
- Due to system up-gradation, recovery against cost of old material will be adjusted manually and accordingly bids will be re-evaluated.
- The procuring agency may reject all bids or proposals at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal under PPRA Rule-35 (Rejection of Bids).
- In case of clarification from Finance Department, No Price Variation is admissible on M/R works & clause-55 of standard contract agreement is not applicable.
- In case of any public / local holiday the tender will be received on the next working day.

Executive Engineer, Highways Division Sargodha **IPL-7425** Superintending Engineer, Highways Circle Sargodha

## Sports & Showbiz

## Ethan Katzberg's 'distinctive' look prompts calls for DNA test after gold win



**Sports Desk**  
Olympic gold medalist Ethan Katzberg, who recently clinched victory in the hammer throw event at the Paris 2024 Olympics, has sparked curiosity among viewers who are calling for him to take a DNA test due to his "distinctive" appearance.

Katzberg, known for his long, wavy blond hair and thick moustache, represented Canada in the hammer throw on day nine of the Games.

While his athletic physique is a common trait among Olympians, his other features have led some to question his nationality.

Despite securing gold with an impressive throw of 84.12 metres, many viewers were more intrigued by the country he was representing—Canada.

Some believe his appearance fits stereotypes more commonly associated with another nation. Social media buzzed with reactions, with one Twitter user suggesting, "Nah, I want a DNA test, this man is clearly Australian."

## Taylor Swift leads the 2024 MTV Video Music Awards nominations, followed by Post Malone

**NEW YORK**  
It's Taylor Swift's world, and the MTV Video Music Awards nominations are the latest proof. "The Tortured Poets Department" singer once again tops the VMA noms with 10 — eight for her "Fortnight" music video and nods in the artist of the year and best pop categories. She's followed by her "Fortnight" collaborator Post Malone, who is nominated along with Swift eight times and earned his ninth nom for his country hit "I Had Some Help," featuring Morgan Wallen.

Rounding out the artist of the year category nominees announced Tuesday are Ariana Grande, Bad Bunny, Eminem, Sabrina Carpenter and SZA.

## Team USA's Gabby Thomas and Brittany Brown shine in women's Olympic 200m

**Sports Desk**  
In a standout performance at the Stade de France, Gabby Thomas clinched the gold medal in the women's 200 meters with a time of 21.83 seconds.

Her victory marks the first American win in this event since 2012. Thomas dominated the race from the turn, leaving her competitors far behind and securing her place in American sprinting history.

Thomas's exceptional speed off the turn ensured she remained unchallenged, with Julien Alfred of St. Lucia falling just short of the sprint double.D

Despite a strong race, Alfred finished in second place.

The race saw Thomas add to her previous bronze medal win in Tokyo, becoming the first American woman to win the event since Allyson Felix.

The 200 meters has seen Jamaican athletes prevail in recent years, but Thomas's victory breaks this trend. Brittany Brown contributed to Team USA's success by earning the bronze medal.