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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar ul Haq Kakar appeared in Islamabad High Court (IHC) in missing Baloch students case being summoned by the court.

Appears before IHC in compliance of court orders Making the entire state accused on enforced disappearances matter is not correct: PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar ul Haq Kakar has appeared in Islamabad High Court (IHC) in missing Baloch students case being summoned by the court.

Justice Mohsin Kiyani remarked we held several hearing in two years. Baloch students were lifted. Some are terrorists some joined TTP. Some people returned to their homes. The state agencies too have to work and they have to be accountable. This case has run then people have reached home due to efforts of institutions. The institutions are not exempted from or above law. If

people go missing then allegations are leveled against state of Pakistan. We had constituted committee comprising heads of intelligence institutions for this purpose.

Caretaker PM Anwar ul Haq Kakar said while giving statement before the court we all are working under law and the constitution. I belong to Balochistan and we are facing armed struggle. They are waging armed struggle for establishment of new state.

He said making the entire state accused in the matter of enforced disappearances is not correct. Who is such stupid and foolish that he will conduct

advocacy of enforced disappearances. The people were burnt alive on coastal highway 3 months earlier.

The case of enforced disappearances of Baloch students came up for hearing before Justice Mohsin Kiyani Wednesday.

Attorney General (AG) opened his arguments.

The court inquired if new people are too missing in addition to old list.

AG told 8 among 12 old persons were missing.

IHC directed Emman Mazari counter check it what he said about your list.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani remarked no court

can provide protection to anti state elements.

The court inquired from care taker PM can he enact legislation on this matter.

Caretaker PM said he cannot do. The new parliament will have powers. That can do it. The powers for registration of case rest with police and not with some one else.

Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani remarked so many big terrorists were awarded punishment by the courts. It is must to present them in the court who are being lifted.

Anwar ul Haq Kakar said this matter be taken up by major political parties and be resolved.

Ayaz Sadiq to run for speaker election Shehbaz best choice for premiership in current circumstances: Nawaz

Says upcoming govt will have to provide relief to masses; You did not oppress me but people of Pakistan by imposing individuals 'who don't believe in logic'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif has expressed hope that Pakistan will come out of difficulties in the next two years by taking difficult decisions as his party is all set to form a coalition government in the Centre.

"I believe the next 1.5 or 2 years will be difficult but we have to stay united [during the difficult times] and face our opponents," he said while addressing the parliamentary party meeting on Wednesday.

"Pakistan will come out of the difficulties in the next 1.5 to 2 years," he

added.

The three-time former premier said Pakistan is "badly injured" and the difficult decisions were the need of the hour to resolve the country's woes.

He said that the biggest problem in Pakistan is inflation.

He said the upcoming government will have to provide relief to the masses by bringing down inflation, food prices and utility bills as well as stabilising local currency value against the US dollar. The PML-N supremo also heaped praise on his younger brother and party president Shehbaz Sharif, say-

ing he dealt with immense challenges during his brief stint in power.

Nawaz said that he would not have completed his time in power had he been nominated to lead the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)-led government instead of his younger brother.

"In the current circumstances, Shehbaz Sharif is the best choice," he said while officially declaring him the candidate for the prime minister's slot.

Nawaz said party leader Sardar Ayaz Sadiq will contest the election for the National Assembly speaker.

COAS underscores need for nationwide consensus on curbing intolerance

Lauds ASP Shehribano for her selfless devotion to duty and professionalism

RAWALPINDI (Online): Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir has lauded Lady Police Officer Syeda Shehribano Naqvi for diffusing a volatile situation and protecting a woman from a violent mob at Ichra Bazaar Lahore.

He was talking to Assistant Superintendent of Police Syeda Shehribano Naqvi who called on him in Rawalpindi today.

The Army Chief underscored the importance of social harmony and the need for nationwide consensus on curbing intolerance.

dressing concerns and grievances.

Syed Asim Munir underlined Islam's eternal message of kindness and benevolence as the arbitrary actions on the basis of heresy undermine outlook of the society.

Acknowledging the vital role being played by Pakistani women in all walks of life since independence, he said they have distinguished themselves at home and abroad, by virtue of their talent, tenacity and commitment.

The Army Chief said



He further emphasized upon the rule of law and advised against taking law in one's hands when legal avenues are available for women as an invaluable part of Pakistan's society and their respect is enshrined in our religion as well as our ethos.

Maryam Aurangzeb presents resolution for granting approval to Punjab's one month budget

Independent Report LAHORE: Member PML-N Maryam Aurangzeb presented a resolution under article 125 of the Constitution in the Assembly which the Speaker Punjab Assembly Malik Muhammad Ahmed Khan declared the resolution according to the Rules for the provision of one month budget to the Punjab Province under article 125.

The newly elected Punjab government has submitted a resolution for getting approved one month budget under article 125 of the Constitution from the Speaker Punjab Assembly.

Maryam Aurangzeb stated that when the Cabinet and the government is not constituted then the Assembly gets the budget approved for the stipulated period under the constitution. The budget should be allocated to run the affairs of the government till the formation of the cabinet and the government. Maryam

National Assembly's inaugural session scheduled today

ISLAMABAD (APP): The inaugural session of the National Assembly is set to take place on Thursday at 10 am at the Parliament House.

According to a notification issued by the National Assembly Secretariat, the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs requested the Prime Minister's approval to make arrangements for the inaugural session of the newly elected Lower House. Following legal counsel from the Ministry of Law and Justice, the Prime Minister granted his approval under clause (2) of Article 91 of the Constitution of the country.

PTI urges IMF to consider political instability in bailout talks

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has asked the International Monetary Fund to factor in the country's political stability in any further bailout talks, two people familiar with the matter said on Wednesday.

The PTI has sent a letter to the IMF detailing its position, two senior sources in the party said, adding more details would be made public in due course.

The IMF has yet to receive the letter, the lender



LAHORE: Members of Lahore Bar Association are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at GPO Chowk in Lahore.

May 9 protest vandalism case: PTI founder, Asad others acquitted

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and sessions courts Islamabad has acquitted PTI founder, Faisal Javed, former PTI leader Asad Umar and others in May 9 protest and vandalism case registered in police station Tarnol. Judicial magistrate Muhammad Shabbir issued the decision on accepting acquittal pleas.

The lawyers Anna Ali, Sardar Masroof Khan and Mohsin Ghaffar appeared in the court during the hearing of the case.

It has been said in the decision that the accused filed separate applications regarding their acquittal under section 249-A. The accused cannot be awarded

Solangi visits NA Secretariat, Hall to review arrangements for opening session of NA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi here on Wednesday visited the National Assembly Secretariat and the National Assembly Hall to review arrangements for the inaugural session of the newly elected National Assembly.

The officials of National Assembly Secretariat briefed the minister about the arrangements for the opening session of the National Assembly.

The Director General Media informed the minister that special arrangements had been made by the National Assembly Secretariat for the convenience of the newly elected members.

He also informed about the registration of the members of the assembly, the preparation of necessary documents.

116 members take oath of KP Assembly amid uproar

PESHAWAR (APP): Newly elected 116 members of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly on Wednesday took oath amid uproar and anti party slogans by members.

The proceeding of the house was chaired by Speaker Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Mushtaq Ghani with recitation from the holy Quran.

Before taking the oath, the newly elected members of the provincial assembly chanted slogans against each other and threw shoes and pitchers on opposition benches.

The Speaker took notice of the slogans of PTI workers in the house and directed them to remain silent.

The house offered Fataha for father of Ali Amin Gandapur and other martyrs of security forces.

Special arrangements including multimedia screens were installed inside and outside of the assembly hall for special guests and party members.

The internet service was closed in the assembly premises due to security reasons.

Despite strict security measures, workers of political parties managed to enter the assembly hall.



PESHAWAR: Members of Provincial Assembly (MPAs) are taking oath during the first session of the Provincial Assembly, at Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly in Peshawar

US stands with the 'truth' in Pakistan, says State Department

WASHINGTON (INP): The United States has emphasized on importance of respecting sovereignty and democratic process while trashing allegations of interference in Pakistani politics.

Addressing media men at his daily news briefing in Washington on Tuesday, State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller categorically denied allegations of interference in Pakistan's political affairs, dismissing such reports as baseless and false.

Miller stressed that the future of Pakistan will be determined solely by the Pakistani people, highlighting the nation's right to self-determination. He further reaffirmed the United States' commitment to upholding the principles of free speech and a free press, not just in Pakistan, but across the globe.

"We stand with the truth in Pakistan," declared the spokesperson, underscoring the US government's commitment to supporting freedom of speech and a free press globally. Miller reiterated that the United States advocates freedom of the media in all countries, including Pakistan.

Committee formed for persuading political parties to vote Zardari

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has formed a four-member committee for persuading different political parties to vote for the party's presidential candidate, Asif Ali Zardari.

According to the notification issued here by the Chairman's Secretariat by his Political Secretary Jameel Soomro, the committee is comprised of senior leaders including Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, Raja Parvez Sharaf, Syed Khurshid Shah, and Syed Naveed Qamar.

It is pertinent to mention here that earlier during the last week, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the PPP had announced Asif Ali Zardari as a joint candidate for the presidential elections.

Six terrorist killed in N Waziristan IBO: ISPR

Independent Report RAWALPINDI: Security forces conducted an intelligence based operation (IBO) in North Waziristan District, on reported presence of terrorists.

According to ISPR, during the conduct of operation, intense fire exchange took place between troops and the terrorists, as a result of which six terrorists were killed, while one soldier also got injured.

Weapons, ammunition and explosives were also recovered from the killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities including target killing as well as extortion & abduction of innocent civilians.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf inaugurating Yadgar-e-Dastoor and Bagh-e-Dastoor in front of Parliament House.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Democracy damaged

The legal controversies surrounding the elections refuse to abate. Another row has broken out over who has the lawful authority to summon the first sitting of the newly elected National Assembly.

President Arif Alvi has refused to exercise the prerogative till all reserved seats have been assigned, but NA Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf has called a session on Thursday anyway to satisfy the constitutional deadline. It is unclear, however, whether the latter has any authority to do so, which may throw the legality and legitimacy of Thursday's proceedings into question and trigger another court battle.

It appears that this fresh controversy could have been avoided had the ECP by now decided whether the Sunni Ittehad Council, which the majority of PTI-backed independents have joined, deserves its quota of reserved seats or not. The ECP was supposed to decide the matter in an open hearing yesterday but adjourned the proceedings again, leaving the matter hanging.

The issue at hand is not a unique case, and several past precedents have been cited that seem to support the SIC's claim to its share of reserved seats for women and minorities. In any case, the power to decide the matter rests with the ECP. Why, then, is it allowing the controversy to linger?

From its complicity in the failure to hold timely elections for the KP and Punjab assemblies to its role in delaying the general elections over a controversy-ridden census, from its failure to ensure a free, fair and inclusive environment for electioneering to its flouting of myriad rules and laws governing the electoral process on election day and thereafter — the charge-sheet against the ECP has not stopped growing. Have the country's laws not been trampled upon enough? Does the foundation of the 16th National Assembly also need to be laid on a violation of constitutional process?

Hawks in charge

Mahir Ali

Last Sunday, Aaron Bushnell, a 25-year-old senior airman in the US Air Force, set up a video stream and, outside the Israeli embassy in Washington, poured an inflammable liquid over himself and self-ignited, yelling "free Palestine".

In a video posted on social media shortly before, he had declared that he would "no longer be complicit in genocide", adding: "I am about to engage in an extreme act of protest but compared to what people have been experiencing in Palestine at the hands of their colonisers, it's not extreme at all. This is what our ruling class has decided will be normal."

His last Facebook post says: "Many of us like to ask ourselves, 'What would I do if I was alive during slavery? Or the Jim Crow South? Or apartheid? What would I do if my country was committing genocide?' The answer is, you're doing it. Right now."

Bushnell died seven hours after US Secret Service agents doused his flames. This tragedy might have been avoided if he had deemed anti-war activism more effective than martyrdom. Mainstream American media outlets seem reluctant to point out the parallel with Norman Morrison who, almost six decades ago, self-immolated outside the Pentagon.

He was immortalised by the late British poet Adrian Mitchell, who noted (in part): "He did it in Washington where everyone could see/ because/ people were being set on fire/ in the dark corners of Vietnam where nobody could see... He simply burned away his clothes/ his passport, his pink-tinted skin/ put on a new skin of flame/ and became/ Vietnamese."

of flame' turned him into a Palestinian in Gaza, where infants who survive the incendiary Israeli onslaught are dying of starvation. To Joe Biden, the unfolding genocide is merely 'over the top'. He faced a potential reckoning yesterday in the Democratic Party primary in Michigan, where influential Democrats — from Arab and Muslim legislators to a variety of trade unions and progressives, including some Jews — have been demanding that the administration distance itself from Israel.

But even in the unlikely event that the 'uncommitted' votes trump the Biden partisans, it is unlikely that the self-proclaimed Zionist in the White House will shift his stance — which routinely involves mildly berating the Netanyahu regime for its indiscriminate slaughter while steadily supplying the weapons of mass slaughter and destruction.

There are obviously some differences with the other proxy war the US is engaged in — the one in Ukraine, against Russia, which had been brewing for years before Vladimir Putin's brutal invasion two years ago — albeit one in which the civilian death toll, deplorable at any level, is considerably lower than what Israel has managed to achieve in just five months.

If anyone assumed that Ukraine would have automatically empathised with the Palestinians, they would have been wrong. The appeal of Israel's ethno-nationalist proclivities and its genocidal tendencies is strong, particularly among neo-Nazis whose pivotal role in Ukraine's military and civilian establishment over the past 30 years tends to be underplayed by those who seek to portray Kyiv as a democratic bulwark against

authoritarianism.

Putin, mind you, isn't just an authoritarian. His murderous tendencies have been evident since long before the West decided he was no longer a viable partner for Nato and its ilk. His regime's brutality in Chechnya could be ignored as a part of the spurious 'war on terror', but the US had its eyes on Georgia and Ukraine as Nato recruits, after expanding the Cold War military alliance to Russia's periphery — in violation of verbal promises that Mikhail Gorbachev naively trusted.

Nonetheless, there was no immediate provocation that pushed Putin into a war of attrition two years ago. His immediate goals — capturing Kyiv, for instance — proved elusive. Every arm of government has been deeply corrupted in the past three decades, and Moscow's military strength fell short of the Kremlin's expectations, thankfully. The robust resistance that Ukrainian forces put up restricted Russian advances. But last year's much ballyhooed counteroffensive was a flop. Despite the CIA being entangled in Ukraine's security structure for 30 years, and particularly profoundly since the troubling events of 2014, Russia lately appears to have gained the upper hand. Halting the spiral would require compromise on both sides, but diplomacy is not a part of the picture at this point.

Waiting for Putin to kick the bucket, or for his regime to fold by other means, is not a viable strategy. But arming Kyiv in the expectation that Russia will eventually halt its 'special military operation' is equally delusional.

If Israel and Hamas can negotiate, there's no reason why Moscow and Kyiv cannot — except for the American hawks standing in the way.

Paper cuts deep

Shahzad Sharjeel

Pakistan, Palestine, and South Africa have much in common. The Indian subcontinent's division, which gave birth to Pakistan, was not meant to occur until a year later. Why our 'freedom' was advanced by a year is a subject for another piece. We could be the precedent that paved the way for the creation of Israel in 1948.

All three countries constantly face existential threats. In South Africa's case, it was the sagacity of Madiba, as Nelson Mandela is lovingly referred to by his countrymen, that prevented the country from sliding into chaos. Throughout their existence, it is mainly the US-led Western 'support' that props up Pakistan and Israel to the detriment of the Palestinians in the latter's case.

The biases of Pakistan Studies notwithstanding, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, an icon of the Freedom Movement, had his start in South Africa. Jinnah and Gandhi were lawyers and both wore peculiar spectacles; the similarity comes to a halt there. Nelson Mandela and Gandhi both spent considerable time in colonialists' jails. Pakistan and Israel are the only two countries founded and, dare one say, floundering on ideology.

Among their legacies, important public figures leave behind papers and personal effects. We are not referring to the parchment made of wooden pulp per se or heirlooms valued for material reasons. Today, the Cambridge system generation's first encounter with 'papers' comes with the prefix 'past'. In the 1980s, the Matric brigade blamed every flunked subject, some-

times an entire academic year, on A.U. Khan's 'Guess Papers' for miserably failing to live up to the promise in the title.

My first encounter with a more serious side to papers, which usually constitute unpublished musings and private missives, concerned Muhammad Ali Jinnah's papers. A very bushy-browed and nattily attired Zawwar Zaidi was their editor. Yes, the same person who, as an octogenarian, was thrown out of his official residence as the powers that be had decided to jettison all the gravitas associated with the founder, including, of course, the editor of his papers. Dr Zaidi had given up his lifelong career at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, to edit the Jinnah Papers. Ironically, SOAS retained his office for as long as he lived.

Universities, libraries, think tanks, museums, and private trusts the world over vie with each other to attain and share the contents of famous personalities' papers with the public. Most authors and public figures entrust their papers to these entities way before their careers plateau. Governments allow generous tax breaks in return. Franklin Roosevelt caused a rethink in the Internal Revenue Service as he claimed a tax break running into millions of dollars in return for the rights to his papers to a university. Since then, the amount for tax breaks has been capped. The role of the printed word and papers in the lives of public officeholders is again a topic for another day; in our part of the world, it is unfortunately restricted to cheque books and controlling newspaper.

Primarily driven by poverty and illiteracy, research, writing, and

reading have not caught the nation's fantasy. Publications that are considered commercial successes and boast of running the 20th edition have sold only 10,000 copies, as each print run is only 500 copies. Some publishers now run editions of 300 copies only.

In the age of AI and digitisation, when hardly anyone puts the proverbial pen to paper, researchers and biographers have their work cut out for them. From Benazir Bhutto's BlackBerry to Imran Khan's smartphones, not even the state sleuths could find them, let alone lesser mortals like gumshoe hacks. One must, however, give the devil its due, for we would not have the likes of the Panama Papers if it were not for technological advancement. As one former prime minister can attest, paper cuts can be deep.

Going back to the trio of the subcontinent, Palestine, and South Africa, of late, Makaziwe Mandela, Madiba's daughter, has been trying to auction off his personal effects to construct a memorial park near his burial site. A South African court initially issued an injunction against it, but later, the high court in Pretoria allowed it. If the auction goes ahead, the next best thing would be for a wealthy individual or a foundation to buy and gift the great man's effects to the people of Palestine. South Africa is the only country to have shown the courage to take Israel to the International Court of Justice over genocide in Gaza. The Palestinians can return Madiba's effects to the South Africans as a gesture of gratitude. This will merge Mandela's legacy and the Palestinians' indomitable spirit forever.

Commerce News

Unlocking 5G potential: Huawei's Li Peng highlights commercialization of 5.5G

ISLAMABAD (APP): At the 5G beyond Growth Summit hosted by Huawei at MWC Barcelona 2024, Li Peng, Huawei's Corporate Senior Vice President and President of ICT Sales & Service, discussed the path to business success in 5G and the potential of 5.5G commercialization.

The advent of 5G networks has emerged as a powerful catalyst for innovation in the global mobile industry. "5G is on the right path to business success," said Li. 5G began commercialization in 2019, and over the past five years, it has already gained 1.5 billion 5G users around the world. It took nine years for 4G to make this happen said a news release received here on Wednesday.

Currently, 20% of global mobile subscribers are using 5G. These users generate 30% of all mobile traffic and contribute to 40% of mobile service revenue.

Li explained, "5.5G is entering commercial use in 2024, and as 5.5G, AI, and cloud converge, carriers can unlock the potential of new applications and capabilities."

He went on to say that carriers around the world should focus on high-quality networking, multi-dimensional monetization,

emerging services, and generative AI to grasp these opportunities.

Mobile users have proven willing to purchase experience upgrades for their mobile packages if their networks are high enough quality. The traffic generated by these users is, therefore, expected to significantly increase, allowing carriers to maximize the value of traffic. This has led to more and more carriers proposing strategic goals that include the construction of high-quality 5G networks.

Operators can provide tailored solutions with new differentiated services leveraging 5G and edge to diverse industries and enterprises. Tailoring solutions to meet the specific needs of diverse industries and enterprises will help align costs with revenues. Some carriers in the Middle East, for example, have already deployed Massive MIMO networks, and the optimal experience delivered by these networks has made the 5G FWA rollout a success. Currently, 5G FWA has connected nearly 3 million households, making it a powerful engine of revenue growth for carriers. More than 20% of global 5G carriers have already adopted speed-tiered pricing models.



ISLAMABAD: Meeting with Provincial Government Balochistan, 28-02-24, regarding conduct of Agricultural Census 2024 under the chair of Muhammad Sarwar Gondal, (SI) Member (SS/RM).

Gondal chairs meeting to engage the stakeholders in planning of 7th Agricultural Census

Independent Report
QUETTA: A meeting chaired by Member (Support Services / IT), Mr. Muhammad Sarwar Gondal was held at PBS Provincial Office Quetta to engage the stakeholders in planning of 7th Agricultural Census.

The 7th Agricultural Census will be conducted in the country after 13 years of the 6th Agricultural Census conducted in 2010. 927 SMS Gateway has been activated for 7th Agricultural Census.

Balochistan has 6223 rural Mouzas/Villages. 1321 (22%) Mouzas/

villages in Balochistan will be covered in 7th Agricultural Census.

Total 933 supervisors and enumerators have been provided by the Balochistan government for enumeration and supervision of the field operation. Total 34 Census Support Centres at each district have been established throughout the province. To enumerate the big holdings (NCH), Process Re-engineering plan has been devised. "Three in One" approach to implement the "Integrated Digital Count" strategy for 7th Agricultural

Census of Pakistan in 2024. The field operation will be conducted in September-October 2024. Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), considering international best practices under the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) guidelines, has decided to integrate Agricultural, Livestock, and Agricultural Machinery Censuses, to cover three in one as 7th Agricultural Census. Information that will be collected through Agricultural Census will be utilized for evidence-based policy making therefore,

efficient and effective management of human and financial resources are crucial for 7th Agricultural Census. PBS has established 157 Agricultural Census Support Centers for seamless execution and management of field operations throughout the country. Provincial Stakeholders Viz. Board of Revenue, Agriculture (Extension), Livestock, Balochistan Bureau of Statistics, Crop Reporting Services, Education departments will support for Field Operation, Supervision and Monitoring. Budget of Rs. 650 million is estimated for 7th Agricultural Census.

Reservoir filling of SK hydropower project begins

ISLAMABAD (APP): The reservoir filling of the Suki Kinari Hydropower Project started successfully on Wednesday, marking the completion of another significant milestone and laying a solid foundation for the scheduled power generation target of the Project.

According to the press statement issued here on Wednesday, the project has mainly been invested by China Gezhouba Group Overseas Investment Company, belonging to China Energy Engineering Corporation (CEEC).

The important moment of reservoir filling was witnessed by owners of S K Project Company, engineers, personnel, and other construction participants. The Dam of the Project is an asphalt

concrete core-wall rockfill dam with a crest elevation of 2,239.5 meters, a maximum height of 54.5 meters, a crest width of 10 meters, a length of 258 meters, and a total backfill volume of about 1.9 million cubic meters, the statement added.

During construction, S K Project Company efficiently coordinated all construction participants, optimized the design schemes, accelerated the construction period, and achieved the dam capping target on May 2023 as scheduled. After capping, S K Project Company led the relating parties in the commissioning of M&E work, reservoir area slope support and other related work, and finally starts the reservoir filling as scheduled with several months' efforts.

PTCL Group announces Shog TV Box Powered by Android TV at Mobile World Congress

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD / BARCELONA: Pakistan's largest telecommunications and integrated ICT services

CEO, PTCL & Ufone 4G, Hatem Bamatraf, and Karen Teo, VP Android Partnerships APAC, Google during Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2024 in Barcelona, Spain.



provider, PTCL Group, is set to launch in Pakistan a cutting-edge Shog TV Set-top Box powered by Android TV, to transform the TV viewing experience for its customers. It was announced by the President and Group

The Android TV Set-top Box will feature multiple Google apps, including the Play Store, in addition to a sleek User Interface (UI) and captivating graphics to provide a transformative user experience.



Miracle Salt Collective Inc. USA delegation led by President Mr. Ahmed Khan called on President FPCCI Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh & Chairman Capital Office Mr. Karim Aziz Malik at FPCCI Capital Office. Ch Naseer Chairman Building Association is also present on this occasion.

Mobilink Bank's "Change to Sustain" program drives sustainability with Rs.2.5bln

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Mobilink Bank, a leader in digital financial services, launched its sustainability program, "Change to Sustain," signaling a step forward in its journey towards operational transformation and promoting environmental stewardship within the banking sector. Fueling this initiative is the strategic allocation of PKR 2.5 billion towards renewable energy financing. Embedded with its sustainability strategy, fifteen (15) Mobilink Bank branches are slated to undergo solarization, harnessing solar energy and reducing carbon emissions. Across all 109 nationwide branches, the Bank will also spearhead a large-scale tree plantation drive, contributing to preserving local ecosystems and biodiversity. These initiatives underscore Mobilink Bank's dedication to driving positive environmental impact while reinforcing its position as a responsible leader in the industry. VEON is a global digital operator that provides converged connectivity and digital services to nearly 160 million customers in six dynamic markets that are home to 7% of world's population. The "Change to Sustain" initiative is a concerted effort to drive sustainability practices by integrating Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles into the Bank's operations. The initiative strives to promote green business practices, advocate for climate action, raise awareness about sustainability issues, empower women-led climate resilience solutions.

Jamal Shah visits Urdu Science Board, reviews literary activities

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Syed Jamal Shah paid a visit to the Urdu Science Board (USB) here on Wednesday. Director of Urdu Science Board Zia Ullah Khan Toru with other officials welcomed the minister.

During a meeting chaired by Minister Syed Jamal Shah, Director Ziaullah Khan Toru briefed about the board's objectives, performance, literary activities and future plans.

Zia Ullah Khan Toru said under the guidance of the federal minister, secretary and director general National Language Promotion Department took steps to enhance the institution's position and address challenges.

Addressing the gathering, Jamal Shah stressed the importance of promoting children's folk literature in national languages. Commending the Urdu Science Board's achievements, he underscored the necessity of furthering the

publication of quality books. He expressed the need to encourage the younger generation to contribute to literature in their native languages.

Jamal Shah remarked that national academic and literary organizations were pillars and adornments of society. As a part of the visit, the minister explored the library and Urdu Science Kitab Ghar.

Later on, he planted a sapling on the board's lawn, symbolizing a commitment to growth and sustainability.



LAHORE: Director Urdu Science Board Lahore Ziaullah Khan giving a briefing to caretaker Federal Minister for National Heritage and Culture Jamal Shah.

Maryam Nawaz gives task of one month for cleanliness in the province

LAHORE (Online): Newly elected Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Maryam Nawaz has directed district administration and the respective institutions to ensure cleanliness across the province.

She presided over a meeting related to "Suthra Punjab" in CM secretariat Lahore Wednesday.

CM Maryam Nawaz while giving task of cleaning rubbish and waste material in Punjab within month said time

of one month is given and then I will see where it was implemented and where it was not implemented.

Maryam Nawaz while issuing directive to district administration and respective institutions said people should get rid of broken streets, filthy water standing on roads and overflowing gutter.

She travelled from Jati Umra to office like a common citizen. On her directives traffic was not stopped on her way.

LHC dismisses contempt of court plea against RO filed by PTI backed candidate

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has dismissed contempt of court petition filed by PTI backed candidate Suleman Akram Raja against Returning Officer (RO) of NA-128.

Justice Baqar Ali Najafi announced reserved judgment regarding petition of Suleman Akram Raja.

The court while announcing reserved judgment dismissed

Suleman Akram Raja petition declaring it non-maintainable.

It is pertinent to mention here LHC had reserved judgment on contempt of court plea of Suleman Akram Raja on February 21 after hearing arguments.

The petitioner had said that RO had not given notice on the occasion of preparation of form 48 despite assurance.

Multan Sultans arrive in Karachi for PSL 9 matches

KARACHI (APP): Multan Sultans have touched down in Karachi to resume their campaign in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) Season Nine.

The team, Multan Sultans franchise, has arrived in Karachi to play their remaining matches of HBL PSL 9.

Their upcoming clash is scheduled against Karachi Kings on March 3. Multan Sultans made their journey from Lahore to Karachi via a commercial flight.

Durrani says: JUIF to boycott election of KP CM, assembly Speaker, Dy Speaker

PESHAWAR (APP): JUIF leader and former opposition leader in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Akram Durrani on Wednesday said that his party members would not take part in the election of speaker and deputy speaker of the provincial assembly and the chief minister.

Addressing a news conference here after taking an oath of the house, he said the party would sit in the opposition in National and provincial assemblies, adding that JUIF would not be part of any strategy of the PMLN and PPP.

Criticizing the situation during the oath-

taking in the assembly here, he said that for the first time in the province, there was an unprecedented situation. Despite political and ideological differences in the past, there was respect for others which was not seen on the first day of the assembly proceeding.

"Today, the assembly was presenting the picture of a bus stand or a market," he deplored.

He said the house was disrespected as much so that no one could even think of coming to assembly. Durrani predicted more chaos and unrest in the province in the coming day.

Governor condoles with family of martyred Ejaz Khan

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali on Wednesday went to the house of martyred Superintendent Police, Ejaz Khan in Sherpao and expressed condolence to his family members.

Governor offered fateha and prayed to rest the departed soul in eternal abode with peace.

He said that the nation is proud of the sacrifices offered by KP police for the defense and sovereignty of the motherland.

He added that sacrifices offered by police would not go in vain and always be remembered.

Later, he visited the Umerzai, district of Charsadda and met with family members of a renowned religious scholar, late M o u l a n a Subhanullah.

He prayed to rest the departed soul in peace and grant courage to family members to bear the irreparable loss with patience.

UAJK, P&D Department forge MoU for strategic policy research

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) and the Planning and Development (P&D) Department of the Government of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (GoAJK) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote evidence-based research and offering crucial insights for policymakers.

The said collaboration was formalized through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) here on Wednesday.

The MoU was signed at the City Campus which

in the presence of dignitaries, including Vice-Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi and Additional Chief Secretary (Development) GoAJK, Midhat Shehzad, alongside other distinguished officials from both the government and UAJK.

Representing their respective institutions, Secretary of Planning and Development, Mr. Amir Latif Awan and Director of the Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC), UAJK, Dr. Rauf Ahmed Janjua formally executed the signing of the MoU.



CHARSADA: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali offering Fateha on the sad demise of martyred SP Ejaz Khan during his visit to Mardan.

Azma highlights Punjab govt's welfare plans

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Azma Bukhari said on Wednesday Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's politics would die down with the performance of Maryam Nawaz's government.

Speaking to the media, she said the new Punjab government was set to announce various development projects for

public convenience. She said CM Maryam Nawaz held meetings shortly after taking the oath of her office, focusing on improved healthcare facilities, the clean Punjab programme, and much more.

The PML-N leader highlighted that village cleanliness project, with a deadline set by the chief minister is currently under way.

PTI to accept election results, avoid levelling baseless allegations

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader, Chaudhry Abid Sher Ali has said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) should accept election results instead of levelling baseless allegations of rigging and raising hue and cry over non-issues.

Interacting with a private news channel on Wednesday, he said that keeping in the prevailing situation of the country, all political parties needed to join hands setting aside political differences for making collective efforts to drag the country out of confronting crises.

Abid Sher Ali said that the PTI and other stakeholders should find the best way for the betterment of the country as they had challenged victories of PML-N candidates based on alleged rigging during the general elections 2024. PTI does not want to prove anything but only to pressurize institutions for the decision according to their wishes, he added.

He added that sacrifices offered by police would not go in vain and always be remembered.

Later, he visited the Umerzai, district of Charsadda and met with family members of a renowned religious scholar, late M o u l a n a Subhanullah.

He prayed to rest the departed soul in peace and grant courage to family members to bear the irreparable loss with patience.

International News

'Urgent' for G7 to seize Russian profits for Ukraine: Yellen

SAO PAULO: US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Tuesday it was urgent for G7 nations to jointly seize profits from frozen Russian assets and redirect them to Ukraine, as the group prepared to meet on the issue.

Calls have been mounting in the United States and Europe to set up a fund for Ukraine using billions of dollars in bank accounts, investments and other assets frozen by the West over Russia's 2022 invasion.

"It is necessary and urgent for our coalition to find a way to unlock the value of these immobilized assets to support Ukraine's continued resistance and long-term reconstruction,"

Yellen told journalists in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where she will attend a meeting of G20 finance ministers Wednesday and Thursday.

"There is a strong international-law, economic and moral case for moving forward. This would be a decisive response to Russia's unprecedented threat to global stability. It would make clear that Russia cannot win by prolonging the war and would incentivize it to come to the table to negotiate a just peace with Ukraine."

Yellen urged joint action by the Group of Seven—Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain and the United States, plus the European Union—after evaluating the risks, which include triggering fi-

nancial instability.

"The G7 should work together to explore a number of approaches: seizing the assets themselves, using them as collateral to borrow from global markets," she said.

G7 officials say the group is due to meet on the sidelines of the Sao Paulo gathering to discuss support for Ukraine, as its grueling fight against Russia enters its third year.

Ukraine has warned it desperately needs more military and financial assistance, as a fresh \$60 billion US package remains stalled in Congress. That has cast a spotlight on the estimated \$397 billion in Russian assets frozen by the West, ranging from central bank assets to yachts.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky speaks to Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman during a visit to Riyadh.

US strikes Houthi unmanned vessels, anti-ship missiles, drone

WASHINGTON (INP): US forces struck three unmanned vessels and two cruise missiles inside Yemen and an attack drone over the Red Sea on Monday that posed threat to ships in the area, the military said.

Yemen's Houthis have been targeting shipping for months and their attacks have persisted despite repeated US and British strikes aimed at degrading their ability to threaten a vital global trade route. In Monday's attack, US Central Command (CENTCOM) destroyed "three unmanned surface vessels, two mobile anti-ship cruise missiles, and a one-way attack unmanned aerial vehicle," it said on social media.

"The (vessels) and

(missile) weapons were prepared to launch towards... the Red Sea," CENTCOM said, adding that the drone was already airborne. Those strikes, made between the hours of 4:45 pm and 11:45 pm Sanaa time (1345 GMT to 2045 GMT), were done "in self-defense", it said.

"CENTCOM determined that they presented an imminent threat to merchant vessels and to the US Navy ships in the region." Over the weekend, US and British forces carried out strikes against 18 Houthi targets across eight locations in Yemen, including weapons storage facilities, attack drones, air defense systems, radars and a helicopter, according to a joint statement.



U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen speaks during a press conference to highlight her key priorities for the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meetings, in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

US won't send troops to 'fight in Ukraine'

WASHINGTON: The White House said on Tuesday that the United States would not send troops to fight in Ukraine.

President Joe Biden "has been clear that the US will not send troops to fight in Ukraine," National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said in a statement. The statement came after the French president suggested that Western troops could be sent to Ukraine.

State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller, asked whether the United States could send troops for other purposes such as training, said the Biden administration opposed any deployment to Ukraine.

"We're not sending boots on the ground in Ukraine. The president's been very clear," Miller told reporters.

Meanwhile, President Biden warned top congressional leaders of the dire cost of failing to help Ukraine, as high-stakes talks at the White House ended without a deal.

Biden called the rare Oval Office meeting to persuade Republican House speaker Mike Johnson to unblock vital aid for Kyiv, and avoid a government shutdown at home. The leaders said they were optimistic they could keep the government's lights on, but on Ukraine they remained deadlocked, with Johnson insisting on the need for more border reforms first.

Hamas holds up US airman as 'immortal' after Gaza protest

JERUSALEM: Hamas on Tuesday said a US airman who died after setting himself on fire outside the Israeli embassy in Washington would "remain immortal" for his shocking anti-war protest.

Footage of the self-immolation was widely shared online, and the group said it was "an expression of the growing state of anger among the American people" over the Israeli aggression in Gaza. The airman "will remain immortal in the memory of our Palestinian people and the free people of the world."

Thousands of artists ask Venice Biennale to exclude Israel

ROME: Almost 9,000 people, including artists, curators and museum directors, have signed an online appeal calling for Israel to be excluded from this year's Venice Biennale art fair and accusing the country of genocide in Gaza.

Israel has been facing mounting international criticism, including in the arts world, over its military offensive in the Palestinian enclave. "Any official representation of Israel on the international cultural stage is an endorsement of its policies and of the genocide in Gaza," said the online statement by the Art Not Genocide Alliance (ANGA) collective.

ANGA said the Venice Biennale had previously banned South Africa over its apartheid policy of white minority rule, and excluded Russia after its 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Italian Culture Minis-

ter Gennaro Sangiuliano said the appeal was an "unacceptable, as well as shameful... diktat of those who believe they are the custodians of truth, and with arrogance and hatred, think they can threaten freedom of thought and creative expression."

He said in a statement that Israel "not only has the right to express its art, but also the duty to bear witness to its people."

The Venice Biennale press office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Signatories of the appeal include Palestine Museum US director Faisal Saleh, activist US photographer Nan Goldin and British visual artist Jesse Darling, who won last year's Turner Prize.

Dubbed the "Olympics of the art world", the Biennale is one of the main events in the international arts calendar.

Macron breaks taboo on Western troops in Ukraine

PARIS/KYIV: French President Emmanuel Macron has smashed a major taboo by floating the possibility of sending Western troops to Ukraine, raising the stakes in a showdown with a nuclear-armed Russia. Hosting a conference of Euro-pean leaders on Monday night, the French leader refused to rule out the dispatch of Western troops to Ukraine as Russia's invasion stretches into its third year and Kyiv's military campaign appears to be faltering. "We will do whatever it takes to ensure that Russia cannot win this war," Macron added. A European military source, who asked not to be named, said that European allies had been studying the plan for several weeks and the United States supported the idea.

The Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate's (CADD) new 280-page manual gives a detailed overview of Russian military strategy and tactics, and tries to predict how the country would conduct itself in future conflicts. The CADD promoted the

manual in a post on X (formerly Twitter) on Monday, asking, "Do you know your enemy?"

The primary focus is on Moscow's ground forces, which would be pitted against the US Army in a hypothetical direct war.

The document, known as ATP 7-100.1 and released last week, is part of a series that the US Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) has been developing for years. Previous

US Army calls Russia 'the enemy'

MOSCOW (Online): The US Army has branded Moscow the "enemy" while promoting a newly-published manual on the Russian military on social media.

The Combined Arms Doctrine Directorate's (CADD) new 280-page manual gives a detailed overview of Russian military strategy and tactics, and tries to predict how the country would conduct itself in future conflicts. The CADD promoted the

publications provided similar studies of the militaries of other potential near-peer and peer opponents: North Korea, China, and Iran. The materials are not classified and intended for professional US and allied military officers.

With Russia currently involved in the Ukraine conflict, US military researchers stressed that they are still examining data gathered there and would revise their instructions accordingly.

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Dr. Amjad Saqib emphasizes creativity, collaboration, conflict management for societal progress

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr. Muhammad Amjad Saqib Wednesday emphasized creativity, communication, collaboration, and conflict management as essential for societal progress. He said this in his thought-provoking address at the 7th International Conference on Research and Practices in Education, hosted by Allama Iqbal Open University (AIU).

The conference, themed 'Transforming Education: Empowering Learning for Life,' served as a pivotal platform for discussions surrounding the vital role of education in societal development.

Dr. Amjad Saqib's address underscored the significance of the conference as a milestone in the realms of research and practice, emphasizing the intrinsic value of education in shaping societies. He highlighted the importance of creativity in addressing contemporary challenges, advocating for innovative approaches and the integration of cutting-edge technologies to surmount obstacles.

Dr. Amjad Saqib stressed the critical importance of promoting a culture of critical thinking, asserting that courage to question and dissent was essential for societal progress.

He elucidated the pivotal role of communication, collaboration, and conflict management in effecting positive change, emphasizing their indispensable contribution to nurturing leadership qualities and resolving societal conflicts.

Addressing the pressing issue of Climate Change, Dr. Amjad Saqib underscored the urgent need for concerted efforts to mitigate its impacts and promote environmental sustainability. He called for the indigenization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to align with local contexts, asserting that Islam's teachings inherently uphold the principles of sustainable development.

Dr. Amjad Saqib redirected attention to the marginalized segments of society, particularly women living in extreme poverty whose children were deprived of access to education.



ISLAMABAD: Participants posing for a group photograph after seminar titled "Determining the Health Cost of Inadequate Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Pakistan, at a local hotel in the Federal Capital.

Ombudsperson stresses Eliminating workplace harassment, promoting gender equality to secure economic stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Ombudsperson against Harassment, Fauzia Vihar stressed the pivotal role of FOSPAH in addressing harassment and promoting gender equality in line with Pakistan's socio-economic development goals.

In the ongoing pursuit of fostering a safe and equitable workplace environment and advocating for the enforcement of women's property rights, the Federal Ombudsperson Secretariat for Protection against Harassment (FOSPAH) in collaboration with the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIU) the Office of Students Advisor, arranged an awareness seminar for the IIU Boys Campus, said a press release.

Ms. Fauzia Vihar who was the chief guest speaker at the seminar addressed the diverse audience, emphasizing the complexities of harassment faced by both

males and females.

She highlighted the need for males to be vigilant as their counterparts may also face harassment, citing examples from both local and international contexts.

Through her words, Ms. Vihar instilled a sense of responsibility among attendees to contribute to a gender-equal Pakistan, where every individual is treated with dignity and respect as mandated by Article 14 of the Constitution and can actively participate in the nation's development.

IFA mandates licenses for all food businesses in ICT

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) has instructed all businesses dealing with food within the Islamabad Capital Territory to obtain a license to ensure the safety and cleanliness of food consumed by citizens.

Under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner of Operations Food, this directive aimed to enhance public health standards and guarantee the quality of edibles circulating in the region, said the spokesman of ICT, Dr. Abdullah Tabassum.

The issuance of food licenses has commenced to streamline compliance with the new regulation. Any entity involved in food-related activities, ranging from production to distribution, must obtain this essential license to operate legally. Failure to comply could result in penalties or cessation of operations, he added.

To facilitate the process, applicants need to visit the IFA office located at Multipurpose Sports Center, F6 Markaz, Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Students of Model College performing in a competition held in connection with Students week celebration.

CDA taking steps to make Islamabad more green

ISLAMABAD (APP): Capital Development Authority (CDA), Environment Wing took several steps to eliminate environmental pollution to make the city more beautiful and green.

In this regard, as part of the plantation campaign in F-9 Park, 15,000 plants have been planted initially by destroying paper mulberry and poisonous weeds, which are compatible with the local environment and have no negative effects on human health.

The process of destroying such poisonous plants which have negative effects on human health and the environment has also been started.

According to the details, under the supervision of Member Environment, Capital Development Authority (CDA), NIH doctors along with private NGOs participated in the tree planting campaign conducted in Islamabad's F-9 Park.

It should be noted that under CSR, the private company Mari Petroleum has given 20,000 saplings to CDA in the plantation campaign and this series of plantations will continue in the coming days.

Furthermore, under the plantation drive, Environment Wing was continuing to plant plantations on the slopes around various highways, connecting roads, intersections, green belts, roads and drains in the city to reduce environmental pollution.

On this occasion, Member Environment highlighted the importance and usefulness of increasing green areas and planting new saplings, including eliminating environmental pollution.



Director General, Federal Judicial Academy, Islamabad, Hayat Ali Shah addressing District courts staff from all over Pakistan in the inaugural ceremony of three days training course at the Academy.

Court summons PTI founder in female judge threatening case

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions Court Islamabad has summoned PTI founder in female judge threatening case.

The case came up for hearing before civil judge Murid Abbas Wednesday.

The court issued summon notice to PTI founder in the case.

The court ordered that Superintendent Adiala jail should present PTI founder on next hearing.

The court summoned PTI founder on April 3.

The lawyers had filed application during previous hearing for production of Imran Khan in the court.

Court grants bail to PTI candidates

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Additional and District Session Judge on Wednesday confirmed the bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) candidates, including Shere Afzal Marwat, Shoaib Shaheen, Ali Bukhari, and Amir Mughal, in the case of protesting against the general elections 2024 results of their respective constituencies.

All the accused mentioned in the case appeared before the court and marked their attendance.

Subsequently, the court granted bail to the PTI leaders against surety bonds of Rs 10,000.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf planting a sapling of Roxburghii (Pinus) after the inauguration ceremony of Yadgar-e-Dastoor monument on a green belt along Constitution Avenue in the Federal Capital.

Improving investigations more perpetrators of human trafficking bring to justice, US DCM

ISLAMABAD (Online): US Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) in Islamabad, Andrew Schofer said in a statement that the challenging reality of human trafficking is that criminals exploit many systems of communication, finance, transportation, and commerce — all of which were originally designed for the collective public good.

"I would like to thank our partners at the Sustainable Social Development Organization and the Pakistan-U.S. Alumni Network for bringing together like-minded individuals to discuss strategies to combat trafficking in persons in Pakistan" he said.

Traffickers, however,

constantly evolve their networks to take advantage of emerging technologies and migratory trends. They use the same tools that are essential to connecting and enriching our global community for their transnational criminal activities.

This is precisely why tackling a global problem like human trafficking requires a global coalition — one that transcends borders and industries. Getting ahead of the traffickers requires us — governments, civil society, front-line workers, and the private sector — to forge meaningful partnerships and harness advanced tools to effectively counter these

criminal entities.

By leveraging technology, we can better address the nexus between finance and human trafficking and better detect online exploitation. By sharing information and resources, we can better equip front-line stakeholders to track and respond to evolving trafficking trends.

By improving investigations and prosecutions of trafficking cases, we can bring more perpetrators of these crimes to justice. And by partnering with survivors, we can better establish trauma-informed anti-trafficking policies and strategies. Together, these efforts can help us bring an end to human trafficking.

SDPI, Hailey College ink MoU on research, training initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Hailey College of Commerce, University of the Punjab have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on joint research, knowledge sharing, and training initiatives revolving around sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The MoU was signed by the Executive Director SDPI, Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri and Principal of Hailey College of Commerce, Lahore Prof. Dr. Hafiz Zafar Ahmed here on

Wednesday. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri said that SDPI and Hailey College's collaboration's tangible output could be introduced some sort of degree that can also help produce professionals managing finances of social sector.

Both the institutions could collaborate on joint training, certifications, conferences, workshops, and other endeavours, he said, adding that since 1996, SDPI has 30 years history of training and learning from its in house school of learning and training.

Speeding car runs over persons sleeping on footpath, killed two

ISLAMABAD (APP): At least two people were killed on the spot while others several injured when a speeding car ran over persons sleeping on a footpath in Karachi in the wee hours.

According to details, rescue officials said that the accident occurred near the Nagan Pull area of Karachi where a car skidded off the road and ran over people sleeping on a footpath. As a result, two people lost their lives, a private news channel reported.

Secy education agrees to revise teachers' service structure

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, Waseem Ajmal Chaudhary, has agreed to revise the four-tier service structure for the teachers of Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) Colleges.

This decision came during a meeting held here last day with representatives of the Federal Government College Teachers Association (FGCTA).

The meeting chaired by Secretary Ministry of Federal Education & Professional Training Waseem Ajmal Chaudhary.

The representatives of teachers and professionals include Dr. Rahima Rehman, the president of FGCTA, Professor Farhan Azam, the vice president of FGCTA, and Anum Kaleem, the joint secretary of the association, also attended the meeting.

During the discussions, the FGCTA representatives addressed issues concerning Federal Government Colleges.

The proposals outlining the necessary revisions to the four-tier service structure were presented that marking a significant step towards addressing the concerns raised by college teachers.

The revised service structure aims to provide teachers with improved career progression and recognition for their contributions to the education sector.

Dr. Rahima Rehman, while talking to this news agency said that secretary's commitment underscored the government's dedication to creating a conducive environment for teachers and fostering excellence in the nation's educational institutions.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman IPO-Pakistan addressing the Seminar on Intellectual Property as Empowerment through knowledge and wealth creation at NUST University.



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IFRC Deputy Regional Director for Asia-Pacific calls on PRCS Chairman

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) was honoured to welcome Ms. Juja Kim, Deputy Regional Director Asia-Pacific, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), on her inaugural visit to Pakistan. Kim's visit culminated in a significant meeting with Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari at the PRCS national headquarters, where they discussed strategies to enhance humanitarian efforts and strengthen PRCS's operational capacity.

During the meeting, Chairman Laghari extended a warm welcome to Kim, expressing gratitude for IFRC's unwavering support to PRCS. He underscored PRCS's response to the 2022 monsoon floods, which provided assistance to over 2.8 million affected individuals, and emphasised the crucial role of IFRC and ICRC in facilitating PRCS's humanitarian efforts.

Highlighting the ongoing commitment of PRCS

teams in the field, Chairman Laghari stressed the importance of sustained efforts in the recovery phase and appealed for continued support to bridge resource gaps. He specifically requested IFRC's assistance in providing model shelter houses, livelihood opportunities, and ensuring the well-being of the flood affected communities.

In response, Juja Kim appreciated PRCS's humanitarian efforts to help the affected people under the dynamic and forward-thinking leadership of Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari.

She assured IFRC's continuous support to PRCS. Kim outlined forthcoming initiatives such as the Strategic Development 2030 of the national society, partnership meetings, and operational planning, as well as support for peer-to-peer support through the IFRC network.

According to Juja Kim, "Climate change is unpredictable now, leading to an increase in the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events.

EPI called upon parents to cooperate with Polio teams

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director Expanded Programme on Immunization Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Wednesday appealed that the parents to cooperate with the polio teams which were knocking at their doors to administer polio drops to their children of less than five years so that they could be saved from the crippling disease.

Talking to a Private news channel, he said that after collecting environmental positive samples government had initiated this second nationwide polio, adding, that the presence of poliovirus in environmental samples are main cause of concern for us.

It is need of the hour that the parents should cooperate with polio vaccination teams for making polio free society and save their children from lifetime disability, he added.

"Our primary focus is the welfare of every child, and we are dedicated to leaving no stone unturned in our efforts to eradicate this disease," he affirmed.

"Given the recent detection of the poliovirus in environmental samples, it is imperative that we remain vigilant and ensure all children are protected," he mentioned. Replying a question, he said the government is working hard to eradicate this menace, but we cannot succeed without the support of parents and community. "We have held multiple vaccination campaigns this year to boost children's immunity and we will continue these drives into the next year until we achieve our target goals," he added. He said that vaccination cannot be done forcibly rather it has to be done in agreement with parents.

He also expressed his disappointment over the refusal of several parents to vaccinate their children against polio and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

Dr Mehlag's novel translated in Urdu language

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prominent Algerian writer Dr. Fadila Mehlag's novel (When Life Desires You) was translated in the Urdu in Pakistan which considered a historical precedent and pioneering step in establishing a bridge of cultural communication between two great brotherly countries.

The novel was published by the Karachi Editor's Club, in Urdu translated by Head of the Translation Department at the National University of Modern Languages (NUML) Islamabad Dr. Lubna Farah, said a news release on Wednesday.

The Karachi Editor's Club also issued for the first time in Pakistan two collections of short stories from Algeria in Urdu language by Dr. Fadila Mehlag (Outside the Field of Literacy) and (For display...Unpainted) also translated by Dr. Lubna Farah.

The novel "When Life Desires You", the experience of secret migration from the south to the north to deal with issues of clandestine immigration, through the experience of a long journey between the south and the north.

Dr. Fadila Mehlag a distinguished literary talent, brilliant academic researcher, excellent academic career, diverse literary and scientific production.

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ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari presenting the shield to Deputy Director IFRC Juja Kim.

Lack of education among women in rural areas significantly impacts a country's economic development

By Dr. Maira Ilyas

PESHAWAR - Lack of education among women in rural areas significantly impacts a country's economic development. Developed nations like Sri Lanka and South Korea boast literacy rates of 97% and 99% respectively, with China standing at 85%. These figures underscore the correlation between education and national progress.

Plato's assertion that education turns the inner eye towards light underscores its transformative power, a sentiment echoed in Islamic teachings which emphasize the importance of seeking knowledge.

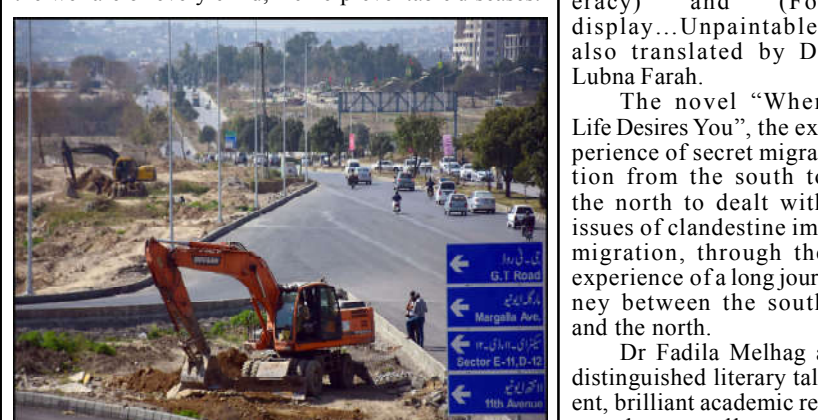
In society, women play pivotal roles, particularly as mothers nurturing future generations. Napoleon's acknowledgment of mothers' influence on nation-building underscores their significance. Consequently, women's education becomes imperative as they contribute significantly to a nation's advancement.

Unfortunately, Pakistan's literacy rate, especially among females, remains low, with rural areas in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) bearing the brunt.

The literacy rates in KPK's rural areas are alarmingly low, particularly among females. Factors contributing to this disparity include the scarcity of educational institutions for girls, long distances to schools, and societal misconceptions about women's roles. Traditionally, women are perceived as assets to their families, leading to limited access to education.

Moreover, governmental neglect exacerbates the issue, evidenced by inadequate infrastructure and insufficient repairs post-floods. Financial constraints further impede access to education, as impoverished families struggle to afford fees and essentials.

While private schools offer better education, their costs remain prohibitive for many.



ISLAMABAD: Motorists on their way on newly constructed overhead bridge sector E-11 in the Federal Capital.