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dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah chairs a meeting to review the Law and Order situation, held at CM House in Karachi.

CM for launching joint operation against dacoits, street crime, mafia

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Wednesday directed the police and other Law enforcement agencies to improve law and order situation in the province with launching of joint operation against dacoits in Kacha areas, drug mafia and street criminals in the cities.

He issued the directives while chairing first meeting regarding law and order situation in Sindh here at CM House.

Sindh Chief Secretary Fakhr Alam, Principal Secretary Agha Wasif, DG

Rangers Sindh Major General Azhar Waqas, Inspector General Police Riffat Mukhtar, Additional IG Karachi Khadim Hussain Rind, Commissioner Saleem Rajput, all DIGs of Karachi Region were present in the meeting while DIGs of other Divisions attended the meeting via video link.

Addressing the meeting, the chief minister said he was not satisfied with the prevailing law and order and street crime situation in the province.

He said law and order area was deteriorated since long time and there was need of giving special focus to improve the situation by eliminating dacoits from these areas so that people could be secured and they could live a peaceful life.

The chief minister said after formation of all provincial governments, an operation would be launched in Kacha areas of Sukkur and Larkana Divisions with coordination of Punjab and Balochistan governments.

As far as drug peddling is concerned, his policy is clear, he said and added the Police and

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, saying 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.

In a veiled jibe at his political foe, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan,

Nawaz said that it was "never heard of that such [harsh] words were used against a prime minister".

"We invited you at every point but you exhibited uncivilised behaviour in your rule," he said.

Moreover, Nawaz pledged to make motorways in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Gilgit-Baltistan as well as Punjab, where the party has formed the government in alliance with PPP.

He then prayed for courage to serve the country together.

The PML-N and the PPP had, last week joined forces to form a coalition government at the Centre "in the nation's best interest", ending long-standing uncertainty post-polls, as no political party had secured a simple majority in the February 8 elections.

Besides Centre and Punjab, the two parties also eye forming a coalition government in Balochistan.

COAS underscores need for nationwide consensus on curbing intolerance

Lauds ASP Shehbaz for her selfless devotion to duty and professionalism

RAWALPINDI (Online): Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir has lauded Lady Police Officer Syeda Shehbaz 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 Shehbaz 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 ad-



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): Care taker 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 he 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.

Care taker 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 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.

Care taker 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.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif addressing parliamentary party meeting

IGP Sindh chairs crucial meeting to enhance security measures

KARACHI (APP): Under the leadership of IGP Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar Raja, a significant meeting was convened at the Central Police Office (CPO) in Karachi, focusing on the prevailing law and order situation in the province and subsequent police actions.

In attendance were Additional IGP Karachi, DIGs from various ranges, Special Branch officials, and Zonal DIGs.

Addressing the meeting, the IGP emphasized the importance of implementing operational directives issued by the newly

elected chief minister of Sindh to ensure peace and security across the province. He stressed the need for further directives to solidify the execution of operational measures.

The directive from the chief minister mandates stringent and organized actions against street crimes and rural area criminal activities.

The IGP urged all district officers to bolster their police station deployments and intensify patrolling in streets, markets, and neighbourhoods to instil a greater sense of security among citizens.

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.

Leaked audios stir controversy: After Kamal, Tessori admits MQM-P's poll 'setback'

Our situation is going to be even worse if we join govt, Sindh governor can be heard as saying

Monitoring Desk

KARACHI: Following the recent revelation of a leaked audio featuring Mustafa Kamal, another audiosurfaced on Wednesday, this time involving Sindh Governor and Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) leader Kamran Tessori. In the recording, Tessori purportedly admits that the party did not secure the expected votes in the 2024 elections.

In the leaked audio, Tessori can be heard expressing concern about the party's position if they were to join the government, stating, "Our situation is going to be even worse. We did not get votes in the elections." He highlighted the contrast with the 2018 elections when MQM-P secured seven seats, which was considered their actual vote bank.

Tessori went on to reveal the party's past alliance with PTI, expressing that joining the upcoming government would be detrimental.

He disclosed that the MQM-P's support for the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), a coalition mainly consisting of PPP and PML-N, angered their voters.

"If we join the government, then our situation is going to be worse," Tessori lamented. He added, "They are bringing a Sindh governor of their own... in return for joining the government, they are only giving us a Ministry of Science and Technology."

This revelation comes on the heels of another audio leak featuring MQM-P leader Mustafa Kamal, where discussions about a potential coalition government with PML-N were detailed. Kamal described an uncooperative attitude from PML-N during negotiations, alleging that PPP accused MQM-P of a completely fraudulent mandate.

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 spokes-

person 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.



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



KARACHI: Huge fire flames and dark smoke rise from burning bushes after fire broke out incident due to unknown reasons as the fire brigade officials are busy in extinguishing fire, located on Korangi Crossing area.

Shahbaz Sharif expresses concern over Gawadar situation

LAHORE (Online): Nominated Prime Minister (PM) Shahbaz Sharif has expressed grave concern over situation in Gawadar besides directing PML-N Balochistan workers to extend help immediately to affected persons. He further said our sympathies are with affectedes and we stand by them in this critical hour.

He held steps should be taken for reconstruction of destroyed homes.

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 said in an email to Reuters.

Last week, the IMF declined to comment on the country's political situation after PTI founder's aides said they would urge the lender to call for an independent audit of Pakistan's disputed Feb 8 elections before engaging in further talks with Islamabad.

Sohail Ahmed of Karachi-based Topline securities said the letter was unlikely to have a major market impact.

"The IMF will do its own due diligence," he said.

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." Bushnell's "new skin

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 fancy. 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, Makaziwa 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,



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

ISLAMABAD: 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 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

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



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

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.

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.



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

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.

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.

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.

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.



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.

International News

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

Monitoring Desk
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 financial 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.



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.

Macron breaks taboo on Western troops in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
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-peak 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.



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

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

Monitoring Desk
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

Monitoring Desk
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."

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 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 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.

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.

Thousands of artists ask Venice Biennale to exclude Israel

Monitoring Desk
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 Minister 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.

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 Fatema 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

President, PM polls will be disputed, if SIC not given reserved seats: PTI

ISLAMABAD (INP): The President and Prime Minister's elections will become disputed, if the SIC would not be granted its quota of reserved seats, quoting PTI's lawyers.

Barrister Ali Zafar talking to media said, "We would go to the Supreme Court if this unlawful embezzlement took place. The Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC) didn't refuse reserved seats ever," the lawyer said. "We told the election commission to show us that letter, but they didn't do so," he said.

Barrister Gohar said that the house will not be completed till presence of

all members of the assembly. He also urged the electoral body to decide the matter today.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) today reserved its decision on the Sunni Ittehad Council's plea seeking reserved seats in assemblies.

A five-member bench of the ECP headed by CEC Sikandar Sultan Raja took up the plea. Barrister Ali Zafar in his arguments before the electoral body said PTI-backed independent candidates joined the SIC after winning the elections. It is our right to have reserved seats in the assembly, he added.



SUKKUR: Members of Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (JUI-F0) are holding protest demonstration against the alleged rigging in the General Election 2024, held at Sukkur press club.

Students, faculty urged to learn latest trends in developing digital economy

HYDERABAD (APP): The M365 Regional Tech Lead for Asia Pacific at Tetra Tech Australia and former faculty member at the Institute of Mathematics & Computer Science (IMCS) Aslam Memon has said that artificial intelligence (AI) can perform various tasks simultaneously and that the technology has crossed the stages of limited intelligence and general artificial intelligence.

This, he said while addressing the seminar titled "Introduction to AI in Microsoft Technology" held in the main auditorium of the Institute of Mathematics & Computer Science (IMCS), University of Sindh, Jamshoro.

He said that the technology had entered the critical stage of super artificial intelligence; therefore, he advised students and faculty members at IMCS to enlighten themselves with the latest trends in the rapidly developing digital economy.

Director IMCS Professor Dr Abdul Waseem Shaikh, Dr Kamran Brohi, Prof. Dr. Yasir Arfat Malkani, Dr. Shah Murad Chandio, Dr. Asadullah Buledi, Yasir Nawaz

Memon and Makhdoom Aadil Bhatti were also present on the occasion.

The seminar was also attended by 160 fresh students enrolled in the first batch of BS Artificial Intelligence in both morning and evening sessions.

Aslam Memon said that AI will surpass the intelligence of its creators and play a very important role in hybrid warfare and cyber warfare. He shed light on applications, opportunities and transformative potential of AI-enabled systems and told how AI was the defining technology of prevailing times. He described Microsoft's principled approach to AI research and development which aimed to amplify human ingenuity, transform industries and create a positive impact for people & society.

He spoke on the mission of Microsoft 'to empower every person and every organization in the world to achieve more' and the different ways in which Microsoft supports developers and data scientists in designing as well as deploying AI systems by providing platforms and tools that enable them.



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

Prevent Israel from unleashing ground offensive on Rafah, Pakistan urges UNSC

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has called for preventing Israel's planned offensive on Rafah, saying it will further intensify the suffering of the Gaza Palestinians and risks widening the conflict.

"Israel's planned offensive in Rafah must be stopped," Ambassador Usman Jadoon, deputy permanent representative of Pakistani to the UN, told the UN Security Council on Tuesday, while underscoring the threat of famine.

The Pakistani envoy also warned against the imminent threat of famine in the war-ravaged Gaza Strip, pointing out Israel's ongoing 5-month genocidal military campaign in Gaza

has killed 30,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and displaced the entire 2.3 million population of Gaza, with half a million people facing starvation. Compounding the already dire situation, he said Israeli forces not only leveled Gaza's cities, they have also brazenly destroyed agricultural land and Gaza's fishing fleet.

Earlier, three United Nations humanitarian officials warned that there is a high risk of conflict-induced famine in the Gaza Strip if the war does not stop soon.

"If nothing is done, we fear widespread famine in Gaza is almost inevitable, and the conflict, which since October has claimed the lives of almost 30,000

people and injured more than 70,000, according to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, will have many more victims," said Ramesh Rajasingham, director of the coordination division in the U.N. humanitarian office.

Rajasingham said at least 576,000 people in Gaza — 25% of the population — are one step away from famine, and practically the entire population is relying on insufficient humanitarian food assistance to survive. "Unfortunately, as grim as the picture we see today, there is every possibility for further deterioration," he said. "Gaza is seeing the worst level of child malnutrition anywhere in the world," said Carl Skau, the World Food Programme's deputy executive director. "One child in every six under the age of 2 is acutely malnourished."

Maurizio Martina, assistant director-general of the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization, explained how the entire food supply chain has been impacted by the war. Farmers have been forced by Israel to evacuate their land or fled shelling that has destroyed crops; cattle and poultry are dying from hunger or killed in bombings; fishing is prohibited; and ground water is contaminated. In his statement, Ambassador Jadoon said, "Israel's indiscriminate killing of civilians; its destruction of civilian objects indispensable for human survival.

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 Khursheed Shah, and Syed Naveed Qamar.

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 Khursheed Shah, and Syed Naveed Qamar.

KE's Renewable Expansion Plan 2030 lauded

ISLAMABAD (INP): The energy experts have commended the K-Electric for its strategic plan to incorporate 1,182 MW of renewable energy into its grid by 2030.

Addressing a webinar organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) titled 'Emerging trends in Pakistan's renewable energy sector: charting the agenda for 2030 and beyond,' they said this initiative was a significant part of K-Electric's broader efforts to enhance its generation capabilities, in line with the national Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan (IGCEP) aimed at fostering sustainable and optimal growth in power generation.

On the occasion, Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at K-Electric, Sadia Dada provided a detailed overview of the utility's Investment Plan, already submitted to the regulatory authority. The plan outlines K-Electric's commitment to reducing its reliance on imported fuels to 51% while boosting its use of green energy sources to 49% within the next seven years.

Thief-catchers arrested for stealing from Steel Mills in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Four people including three policemen were arrested for stealing copper wire from Pakistan Steel Mills in Karachi on Wednesday.

According to police, the three cops were posted at Steel Town police station and were involved in stealing copper wire from the Steel Mills.

Police constable Muhammad Ali Arshad, Abdul Ghafoor, Saqib Nazir and private person Bilal were involved in the theft and they were all arrested, the police said.

A case has been registered against all the involved police personnel and further investigation was underway, said the police.

Fatwa by PUC, Dar-ul-Ifta Pakistan Political activities prohibited at Makkah, Madina holy sites

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) and Dar-ul-Ifta Pakistan on Wednesday jointly issued a religious decree (Fatwa) strictly prohibiting political activism, sloganeering, and hoisting of banners or flags, in any form, at the holy sites of Makkah and Madina.

The Fatwa was announced by PUC Chairman and Dar-ul-Ifta Pakistan President Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi along with prominent religious leaders, during a press conference.

Emphasizing the sanctity of holy sites, Ashrafi urged the intending Hajj

pilgrims to spend their time there in worshipping and praying to the Almighty instead of indulging in petty political activities.

Expressing concern over attempts by some individuals to display banners and flags at the holy sites, he stressed that such actions were unacceptable and could lead to disturbance of peace in the holy precincts.

He reiterated that adhering to the directives and laws of the Saudi Arabian government was imperative for all visitors and pilgrims, as otherwise they might land into trouble.

Ashrafi highlighted efforts by PUC, International

Tazeem-e-Harman-e-Sharifain Council, and Hajj Organizers Association of Pakistan to organize educational sessions for pilgrims across the country. They were also striving to involve representatives from the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah in the training sessions, he added.

He appreciated that all the arrangements made under the Government Hajj Scheme were in accordance with the Saudi instructions, while the private Hajj groups were also following suit. The cooperation of the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, and the Saudi Embassy in Pakistan was also appreciable, he added.

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Ashrafi highlighted efforts by PUC, International



PESHAWAR: Activists of Awami National Party (ANP) are holding protest demonstration against alleged rigging in General Election 2024, outside Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly in Peshawar.

ECP rejects Nawaz plea for re-election in NA-15

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has dismissed PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif petition seeking nullification of election and re-election in NA-15 Manshehra.

ECP announced decision of election petition filed by Nawaz Sharif in regard to NA-15 Manshehra. Nawaz Sharif was defeated in this constituency.

The ECP has directed Nawaz Sharif to resort to Election Tribunal (ET) besides ordering RO to compile the final result within three days.

Nawaz Sharif had demanded nullification of election in NA-15 and re-polling in the constituency.

Jahangir Jadoon counsel for Nawaz Sharif requested in ECP that election was illegal, unconstitutional and against the election rules.

Member Election Commission (EC) Babar Hassan Bharwana inquired are you wanting to say that election in entire country was illegal, unconstitutional and rigging stricken.

Counsel for Nawaz Sharif said I am talking ONLY about NA-15.

Later the EC reserved judgment on the application.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja heard the election petition filed by Nawaz Sharif in respect of NA-15.

At the inception of hearing of petition Barrister Jahangir Jadoon counsel for Nawaz Sharif said report of RO has not been provided so far. He cannot give arguments without reading RO report.

Opium cultivation destroyed in Sindh

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) in a joint action destroyed 21 acres of poppy cultivation in the village Bajak near the hilly northern districts of Sindh bordering Balochistan.

According to Sindh Rangers spokesperson, the poppy crop was destroyed in Bajak village in the limits of Ghaibi Dero police station.

The crop was destroyed, while the raids were being conducted for the arrest of the accused. The Rangers spokesperson further said, the poppy cultivation at 74 acres of land has been destroyed in various actions from February 24.

In the recent drive, said an ANF spokesperson in Karachi, the force conducted a series of operations in parts of Ghaibi Dero and Hamal Lake bordering Balochistan in the Qambar-Shahdadkot district.

"The ANF destroyed poppy crop in [the] coordinated operation with Sindh Rangers," said the ANF official, adding, that the local police and district administration were there to support the action.

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Strengthening cooperation with China national consensus in Pakistan: Ambassador Hashmi

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi has said that there is a national consensus across political parties and various segments of society on further strengthening bilateral ties with China.

"Over the 73 years, Pakistan-China relationship has become very solid and assumed unique characteristics in terms of interstate relations. Ours is a relationship that is not affected by internal developments in either country or regional and international events. That is why we refer to it as an ironclad relationship that has stood the test of time," he told Global Times in an interview.

"With the recent elections, a new government is being formed, and I am confident that it will play its role in further bolstering our strategic cooperative partnership with China," he added.

(CPEC), which is the pioneering project of President Xi's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Ambassador Hashmi said, the first phase of CPEC was primarily focused on two things: infrastructure (including transport infrastructure) and energy. Both these areas are key ingredients for any economy to grow rapidly.

The first decade of CPEC has laid important ground for fast-tracking development. Moving forward, it will be important to prioritize industrial cooperation and industrialization, including through promoting special economic zones and attracting and facilitating new investments.

"We welcome Chinese enterprises and businesses to invest in diverse sectors such as agriculture, mining, information technology, textiles, engineering, and electric vehicles," he added.

While elaborating on Pakistan's plan for the next decade of development within the CPEC, he said, "I would use three terms for next phase of CPEC: connectivity; infrastructure, and industrialization; and agriculture. Connectivity is a multidimensional concept including but not limited to physical, digital, and people-to-people connectivity.

To a question about new areas where China and Pakistan can further enhance cooperation, he believed cooperation between Pakistan and China is already very multi-dimensional, covering almost every area. For example, we have just completed 10 years of intense and multi-dimensional cooperation under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor

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SEHWAN: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah talking to media persons during his visit to Shrine of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar in Sehwan

KMC cancels leaves of staffers in view of rain forecast

KARACHI (APP): Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad on Wednesday said that in view of the forecast of rain in Karachi, leaves of all relevant officers and staff have been cancelled and they have been directed to remain alert.

The Department of Municipal Services has established an emergency desk, he said this while presiding over a high-level meeting.

Salman directed the officers of the relevant departments of KMC to adopt a joint action plan with the Town Municipal Corporations and Water and Sewerage Corporation for drainage works during rains in the city.

All the machinery and pumps used for drainage should be kept in proper condition and in case of rain, the process of draining water from the roads should be started immediately so as to provide convenience to the citizens.

He said that special attention should be paid to the roads, streets and low-lying during rains.

The departments of Engineering, Municipal Services, Parks and Horticulture and other related departments should ensure mutual cooperation and direct their officers to ensure immediate implementation of the instructions given.

The Deputy Mayor Karachi said that providing convenience to the citizens is the primary responsibility of local bodies.

He said that every possible effort is being made to solve the municipal problems wherever the people are facing in the city by doing immediate work.

We did work to save the citizens from difficulties during the rains in Karachi and still doing this before the coming rain, he added.

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KARACHI (APP): Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad on Wednesday said that in view of the forecast of rain in Karachi, leaves of all relevant officers and staff have been cancelled and they have been directed to remain alert.

The Department of Municipal Services has established an emergency desk, he said this while presiding over a high-level meeting.

Salman directed the officers of the relevant departments of KMC to adopt a joint action plan with the Town Municipal Corporations and Water and Sewerage Corporation for drainage works during rains in the city.

All the machinery and pumps used for drainage should be kept in proper condition and in case of rain, the process of draining water from the roads should be started immediately so as to provide convenience to the citizens.

He said that special attention should be paid to the roads, streets and low-lying during rains.

The departments of Engineering, Municipal Services, Parks and Horticulture and other related departments should ensure mutual cooperation and direct their officers to ensure immediate implementation of the instructions given.

The Deputy Mayor Karachi said that providing convenience to the citizens is the primary responsibility of local bodies.

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

PTI founder, Asad others acquitted

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and sessions courts Islamabad has acquitted PTI founder, Faisal Javed, former PTI leader Asad Umar, Asad Umar, Raja Khuram Shahzad and others in May 9 protest and vandalism case registered in police station Tarnol. Judicial magistrate Muhammad Shabbir issued the decision on accepting acquittal plea of Ali Nawaz Awan, Faisal Javed, Abid Hussain and Zahir Khan are also acquitted.

The decision further said the accused Asad Umar, Ali Nawaz Awan and Faisal Javed are on bail. They can take back their surety bonds.

It is pertinent to mention here that case was registered against the accused persons in Tarnol police station on May 26, 2022.

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