



# Daily SOON TIMES



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Shehbaz Sharif's statement to Falzabad Dharna Commission comes to the fore

Simultaneously Publishing from Islamabad, Sargodha and Karachi



## Opposition objects to oath-taking of MNAs amid lawlessness



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

Opposition in National Assembly raised objections to the oath-taking ceremony of new members of National Assembly (MNAs) in a tumultuous session on Friday.

NA Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq presided over the session which commenced 40 minutes late than the scheduled time and two MNAs-elect took oath.

Addressing the session, opposition leader Omar Ayub emphasised that the country was facing constitutional and legal crisis, and it was imperative for speaker to abide by constitution and law.

Read more: No talks will be held with terrorist outfits, Azam Nazeer tells NA

The opposition leader condemned what he described as a blatant violation of constitutional principles, demanding immediate discussions on pressing issues such as soaring inflation.

He argued that since MNAs pledge to abide by the constitution and laws upon taking their oath, it was imperative to address the state's crises within the framework of constitutional governance.

Omar Ayub, the opposition leader, further drew attention to a recent tragic incident involving the death of a young man after being hit by a government vehicle.

## Balochistan cabinet members to be assigned portfolios shortly, says CM Bugti



ISLAMABAD (Web Desk)

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, while talking to reporters after the swearing-in ceremony of his cabinet members at the Governor's House in Quetta on Friday, stated that the ministers would be allotted the portfolios shortly.

Bugti said that the formation of the cabinet took time due to the consultation taken place with all the coalition partners.

The chief minister, to a question, asserted that providing maximum relief to the public and strengthening good governance were key priorities of his government.

He said that at present, Balochistan was facing many challenges, including terrorism, but added that effective measures were put in place to eliminate this menace and maintain law and order.

## 14-member Balochistan cabinet sworn in



Soon Times Correspondent QUETTA

A 14-member provincial cabinet of Balochistan on Friday took oath in a ceremony held at the Governor House, Balochistan.

Governor Balochistan Abdul Wali Kakar administered the oath.

Those who took oath included Sadiq Umrani, Ali Madad Jattak, Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Noor Muhammad Dumar, Sardar Faisal Jamali, Bakht Kakar, Tariq Magasi, Shoaib Noshervani, Raheela Hamed Durani, Sarfraz Domki, Abdul Rehman Khetran, Saleem Khosa, Zia Langau and Asim Kurd Gailu.

Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti, newly-elected MPAs, and IGP attended the ceremony.

# PM Shehbaz orders accelerating countrywide drive against smuggling

A report of the investigation committee, headed by AD Khawaja, was also presented during the meeting.



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, while reiterating his government's resolve to purge the country of smuggling, directed the relevant authorities on Friday to accelerate the countrywide drive against this menace.

Chairing a meeting on anti-smuggling efforts, the premier paid tribute to army chief General Asim Munir for his full cooperation in the government's endeavour against smuggling.

A report of the investigation committee, headed by AD Khawaja, was also presented during the meeting.

PM Shehbaz commended the committee for identifying the elements involved in the misuse of Afghan Transit Trade for smuggling and the officers acting as facilitators.

PM Shehbaz was told that a list of smugglers, hoarders and their facilitating officers had been forwarded to the law enforcement agencies and

provincial governments. The PM issued directives for removing the identified officers from their respective posts and initiating disciplinary proceedings against them.

Shehbaz also asked the LEAs and intelligence agencies to cooperate with each other to curb the smuggling.

Calling for punishing the smugglers and drug dealers, the prime minister ordered the Law Ministry to carry out immediate necessary legislation for the purpose. Affirming no leniency for looters of public money and their facilitators, Shehbaz ordered for providing alternative earning opportunities and conducive atmosphere to the youths living in the frontier regions.

He emphasised more swift and effective monitoring of sale and smuggling of Afghan Transit Trade goods in the country, and called for a third-party audit of the monitoring system.

## President Zardari confers Nishan-i-Imtiaz (M) award on Turkish CGS



Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday conferred the Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) award on Chief of Turkish General Staff, General Metin Gurak in recognition of his illustrious services and contribution to strengthening Pakistan-Turkey defence relations.

The award was conferred at a special investiture ceremony held at the Aivan-e-Sadr and attended by services chiefs and parliamentarians.

General Metin Gurak is an officer of high intellect and his excellent administrative qualities earned him the reputation of being a courageous

and professionally competent officer. General Metin Gurak has played a vital role for implementing peace and stability under Turkey.

General Gurak, during his outstanding military career served on different staff and command appointments which prominently include Commander of 2nd Armored Brigade, Chief of Communication Department of TGS, Commander of Military Academy, Commander of Army Aviation School, Commander of 4th Corps, Commander of Land Forces TRADOC, Communications Services Support Training, Chief of Staff of Land Forces Command and Deputy Chief of Turkish General Staff.

He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General in 2015. In recognition of his excellent services and outstanding achievements, he was promoted to the rank of General in 2020 and served as 2nd Army Commander before being appointed as Chief of Turkish General Staff in August 2023.

General is sincere and close friend of Pakistan. He has played a prominent role in promoting and strengthening defence relations between both brotherly countries.

## NA speaker suspends Two MNAs for disruptive behavior during presidential address

Soon Times Correspondent (Web Desk)

National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq

suspended the memberships of Jamshed Ahmad Khan Dasti and Muhammad Iqbal Khan on Friday for the ongoing session due to their use of abusive language during the presidential address a day earlier.

During President Asif Ali Zardari's inaugural address to the 16th National Assembly on Thursday, lawmakers on the opposition benches, led by the PTI created a ruckus.

The House adopted a motion introduced by the speaker to suspend the two members, Jamshed Ahmad Khan Dasti and Muhammad Iqbal Khan.



The motion stated, "Jamshed Dasti and Muhammad Iqbal, MNAs, used abusive language and approached the speaker's dais in a threatening manner, which is unacceptable."

The motion further detailed that their disruptive behavior, including blowing whistles and trumpets, chanting objectionable slogans, and displaying banners and placards, violated the sanctity of the House and the rules outlined in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, 2007.

# No criticism on Pakistan allowed in Parliament: Atta Tarar



## Says PTI's founder jeopardizing foreign interests of the country

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar on Friday lambasted the Opposition benches for hurling criticism against the state and warned that no criticism against the country would be allowed.

Speaking on a Point of Order at the National Assembly, the minister said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had damaged the country's interests through

its concocted narrative of foreign conspiracy that allegedly resulted in the regime change and put a dent to the foreign policy of the country.

He said the PTI's founder had been jeopardizing the foreign interests of the country and he compromised the confidentiality of the entire diplomatic communication. The PTI leadership had been accusing foreign countries for interference in the country which was retracted by the spokesperson of the

PTI through its official social media handles, he added.

The minister underscored that the country's economy was stabilizing which was discussed globally by prestigious institutions like Bloomberg, UNDP, Asian Development Bank that claimed that investment was coming to Pakistan and it was leading to its economic revival and would help in ending inflation.

## Govt to launch joint operation against miscreants in Katcha area

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday said government would launch a joint operation in Katcha area to permanently eliminate the miscreants.

He said modern technology, including drones, will be used for joint operations in Katcha area.

Mohsin Naqvi said all security agencies including police should ensure complete implementation of SOPs for protection of Chinese nationals in Pakistan.

Chairing a meeting to review implementation of National Action Plan at NACTA headquarters in Islamabad, he said any

negligence in this regard will not be tolerated at all. Naqvi said strict disciplinary action will be taken for negligence in implementing the SOPs for the protection of foreign nationals.

The interior minister said, "We have to equip our departments with modern technology to eradicate terrorism." He said the federation would provide all possible support to the provinces in this regard.

Naqvi said anti-state elements will be eliminated from the Katcha area once for all. Expressing satisfaction over the anti-smuggling operations, the interior minister said all departments must ensure strict legal action against smugglers.

## Pakistan deeply disappointed by UNSC dissensus on Palestine's full

The spokesperson said that during the recent visit of a high-powered Saudi delegation to Islamabad

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD

Pakistan on Friday expressed its disappointment on the United Nations Security Council's inability to reach a consensus on Palestine's full membership of the United Nations, also regretting the US decision to veto the draft resolution.

"Pakistan is deeply disappointed by the result of last night's debate at UNSC and its inability to reach a consensus and recommend Palestine's membership to UNGA. We regret the US decision to veto the draft resolution granting full membership of the UN to Palestine," Foreign Office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said in her weekly press briefing.

The Security Council blocked Palestine's bid to become a full

member of the United Nations due to a United States veto on a widely-supported resolution that would have recommended the granting of such status.

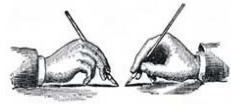
The proposal, submitted in the 15-member Council by Algeria, received 12 votes in favour, with the United States casting a negative vote and Switzerland and the United Kingdom abstaining.

A Council resolution requires at least nine votes in favour and no vetoes from its five permanent members — China, France, the Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States — to pass.



"We believe, the time has come for admission of Palestine to the UN. This will be a step towards correcting the historic injustice suffered by Palestinians for over 75 years. It will affirm their right to self-determination," she remarked.

The spokesperson said that the people of Palestine had their inherent right to live in a sovereign Palestinian state with the pre-1967 borders and Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.



## Joint operation in Kacha area of Sindh

Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi, after consultation with all stakeholders in the interior ministry decided to conduct a joint operation in Kacha area of Sindh province, with full force to clear the area from dacoits. An important meeting of the National Action Plan Implementation Review Committee was held at NACTA headquarters here on Friday under the chairmanship of the Interior Minister which was attended by Federal Interior Secretary, Head NACTA, DG FIA, Punjab, Sindh, Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. IGs and provincial secretaries Interior besides National Coordinator NACTA, all teams of National Action Plan and Intelligence agencies and Chief Commissioners also attended the meeting. The top brass after detailed brainstorming, decided to conduct a joint operation in the Kacha area with full force and close coordination between the provinces and all stake holders to clear the area from dacoits. Detailed consultation and consideration was made to provide new modern

technology to the police across Pakistan. The meeting also carefully reviewed the measures taken regarding the security of Chinese citizens while All the IGs gave a detailed briefing on security and safety measures for Chinese citizens in Pakistan. The meeting also decided to restrict the movement of those tourists who do not follow the prescribed SOPs. The meeting also reviewed the foolproof security arrangements in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad during the Iranian President's visit.

Any negligence in this regard will not be tolerated at all, said

Mohsin Naqvi and added that strict disciplinary action will be taken for negligence in implementing the SOPs for the protection of foreign nationals. The minister said that to eradicate terrorism, institutions should be equipped with modern technology while the Federation will provide all possible support to the provinces in this regard. The minister said that Good progress has been made in the last few months to prevent smuggling and it has reduced substantially. All institutions must ensure strict legal action against smugglers with a common strategy, he directed.

## The Political Divisions in Nebraska's Electoral Future



Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer

Nebraska is a triply landlocked state in the Midwestern region of the United States. It borders South Dakota to the north; Iowa to the east and Missouri to the southeast, both across the Missouri River; Kansas to the south; Colorado to the southwest; and Wyoming to the west. Nebraska is the 16th largest state by land area, with just over 77,220 square miles. With a population of over 1.9 million, it is the 37th most populous state and the 7th least densely populated. Its capital is Lincoln, and its most populous city is Omaha, which is on the Missouri River. Nebraska was admitted into the United States in 1867, two years after the end of the American Civil War. The Nebraska Legislature is unlike any other American legislature in that it is unicameral and its members are elected without any official reference to political party affiliation.

The setback for a Donald Trump-backed initiative, Nebraska encountered a stumbling block in its endeavor to adopt a winner-take-all system for presidential elections in November. The proposal, supported by the former president, faced a critical moment on Wednesday as state lawmakers voted down a procedural motion, effectively thwarting its advancement. The Republican-dominated state legislature dealt a decisive blow to the measure, rejecting the procedural motion by a commanding margin of 36 votes to eight. This outcome dashed hopes for proponents of the winner-take-all system, with one GOP state senator lamenting the missed opportunity, labeling it as "the last chance to pass winner-take-all this session." The defeat underscores the complexities and divisions surrounding electoral reform efforts, highlighting the challenges in altering established election procedures within the

American political landscape. Despite the endorsements from former President Trump and Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen, LB 764, a legislative proposal by state Senator Loren Lippincott aiming to allocate all five of Nebraska's Electoral College votes to the top-performing presidential candidate, has languished in the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee for over a year, resulting in renewed efforts to overcome the impasse through procedural maneuvers. The bill's intention to alter the allocation of electoral votes in the state has sparked significant debate and contention, reflecting broader national discussions on election reform and the Electoral College system. With its prolonged stagnation in committee, LB 764 underscores the complexities and challenges inherent in enacting electoral legislation, particularly when it involves fundamental changes to the electoral process. The involvement of prominent political figures such as Trump and Governor Pillen highlights the significance and polarizing nature of the proposed reforms, further amplifying the stakes involved in the ongoing legislative deadlock. As Nebraska navigates the intricacies of electoral reform, the fate of LB 764 remains uncertain, emblematic of the broader tensions surrounding electoral systems in the United States.

GOP state Senator Julie Slama recently brought forth a procedural vote aimed at potentially transitioning Nebraska to a winner-takes-all system for presidential elections, mirroring the majority of states. This initiative, proposed minutes before the vote, was presented as a pivotal moment by Slama, who asserted that the vote on the motion to overrule the chair would effectively signal support for the winner-takes-all approach. In her impassioned plea, Slama emphasized the significance of transparency, declaring that constituents and the nation at large were keenly observing. Despite her efforts, Slama garnered the support of only seven fellow GOP colleagues, falling short of the required number for passage and significantly below the threshold needed to overcome an expected Democratic filibuster, which would demand 33 votes. The outcome underscores the

complexities and divisions within the political landscape, revealing the challenges associated with enacting substantial electoral reforms.

Democratic state Senator John Fredrickson responded to Wednesday's vote by addressing Trump and Turning Point USA CEO Charlie Kirk directly, particularly regarding Kirk's suggestion that a potential Republican presidential candidate might lose "by exactly ONE electoral vote" in November due to Nebraska's utilization of the congressional district method. This method involves allocating two electoral votes to the state popular vote winner and one electoral vote to the popular vote winner in each congressional district. Fredrickson's message, posted on X (formerly Twitter), emphasized the accountability of the Nebraska Legislature to the state's voters rather than to Kirk or Trump. He declared, "The Nebraska Legislature answers to the voters of Nebraska, not Charlie Kirk or Donald Trump." He underscored the significance of the vote as a means of safeguarding the Electoral College system in Nebraska, framing it as a victory for the populace's influence within the state. After Wednesday's vote, Lippincott expressed determination to persist in his efforts to advance LB 764, acknowledging the challenging outlook for the current year while affirming plans for a renewed push in the following year, characterizing it as the "varsity try." Despite the setback, Lippincott's commitment signals a sustained effort toward achieving his legislative goals. Concurrently, Nebraska state Senator Mike McDonnell's departure from the Democratic Party to join the GOP was notable. McDonnell cited the Democratic Party's internal response to his anti-abortion stance as a primary factor in his decision. This move underscores the complexities within political parties and highlights the ongoing debates surrounding contentious issues such as abortion within political spheres.

## Bolstering the Trajectory of Pakistan's Strategic Ties with China



The Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS), Lahore, hosted a seminar titled "Bolstering the Trajectory of Pakistan's Strategic Ties with China" on 18 April 2024 to examine the dynamic partnership between the two countries and propose strategic recommendations to further solidify the Pakistan-China relationship. The seminar began with opening remarks by Ambassador Muhammad Haroon Shaukat (Retd), Director of Foreign Affairs at CASS, Lahore, who emphasised the importance of Pakistan-China ties within the evolving regional landscape. This was followed by an address by Ambassador Masood Khalid (Retd), the former Pakistani envoy to the People's Republic of China, who discussed China's role in global and regional geopolitics. Ambassador Moin ul Haque (Retd), another former envoy to China, highlighted the

importance of strengthening the strategic partnership between the two countries. Dr Suhail Saleem, Director General of the Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT), elaborated on the Special Economic Zones and industrial development in the context of Pakistan-China ties. Lastly, Dr Hassan Daud Butt, an Associate Professor at Bahria University, explored leveraging the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) beyond 2030 for sustainable economic growth and connectivity. In his concluding remarks, Air Marshal Asim Suleiman (Retd), President CASS, Lahore, highlighted Pakistan's deep and enduring friendship with China, forged through shared experiences and mutual trust. He hailed CPEC as a symbol of China's confidence in Pakistan and a key factor in the latter's progress. In the defence sector, he noted China's collaboration with the Pakistan

Armed Forces, highlighting the flagship project JF-17, the major induction of J-10C fighters, and the planned acquisition of J-31 Gyrfalcon Stealth Fighter. The seminar brought forth several key points. The speakers unanimously stressed Pakistan's need to prioritise cementing and diversifying its strategic partnership with China. Clearing impediments for Phase II of CPEC was emphasised for industrial growth in Pakistan. The seminar placed special emphasis on ensuring the safety of Chinese personnel working in Pakistan. Moreover, the government was urged to promote ease of doing business and to address the external trade gap with China. Finally, the seminar underscored the importance of avoiding bloc politics to foster mutually beneficial relations with great powers while maintaining strategic autonomy.



Islamabad: Ambassador of Italy Marilina Armellini calls on Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resources Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain on April 19, 2024



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding country wide Anti-smuggling drive in Islamabad on 19th April 2024.

# Death of a Student in The No 1 University of Pakistan Due to Carelessness of the Administration

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad:

On the 16th of April an incident occurred in Quaid-e- Azam University. A female PhD student passed away due to a heart attack during a seminar. This was not simply a health issue, its effects were exaggerated due to the negligence of the administration of the university. No ambulance could be arranged for 30 minutes as the student suffered. Students condemn the actions of the QAU administration. This incident is a reminder of how rotten our education system is; students are deprived of basic facilities such as healthcare and housing. The medical facility of the university in this

case lacked medical facilities and a specialist staff which became direct factors leading to the student's death. It is the university administration's negligence due to which these facilities were unavailable. This highlights how the university misallocates funds, these funds which are to be used for providing the students with much needed facilities are instead used up by the administration elsewhere. Now the university people have nothing but regret. The is an eyewitness to all these accidents. But the administrator only plays the game of money with the people and the rest of the human lives will continue to go on in the same way.

# Commissioner orders to shift cattle out of city

Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha:

Commissioner Sargodha Division and Administrator Municipal Corporation (MC) Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti has taken note of the presence of cattle such as buffaloes and cows in the city, issuing a deadline of April 21 for owners to voluntarily shift them out of city. He has directed the relevant authorities to commence a full-fledged operation starting from Monday. These directives were issued during a meeting chaired at the MC

office. Deputy Commissioner Shoab Ali, Additional SP Headquarters, DG of PHA, CO MC, CO District Council, Assistant Commissioner, MOR, and CO Civil Defense were present in the meeting. The Commissioner instructed to form special squads comprising officials from Revenue, MC, District Council, Police, and PHA to commence the operation from Rahman Pura on Sunday night. Instructions were also issued to have Elite Force accompany during the operation. It was decided in the meeting that the city will be divided

into different zones, with officers from Revenue and other departments being appointed as in-charge of each zone, assisted by the concerned SHO. The Commissioner warned that the confiscated cattle during the operation, will be auctioned off to butchers. Before initiating the campaign to remove cattle, the Commissioner directed to advertise through rickshaws and announcements in mosques at various locations and to place advertisements on billboards. Orders were also issued to seal all shops

# PS City Sargodha filed an FIR after colluding with the accused

Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha:

After torturing businessman Zafar Iqbal Arain and his son Abu Bakr in the limits of Police Station City Sargodha, the police colluded with the accused and filed an FIR on behalf of the accused. According to the eyewitnesses, Yusuf, Kifayatullah etc. attacked Zafar Iqbal's shop in Urdu Bazar along with their associates and beat them

up. Other shopkeepers in Urdu Bazar dismissed the matter. But Yusuf and others instead created a self-inflicted wound and lodged a false FIR, which includes deliberate malice on the part of the police. DPO Sargodha should take notice of this matter. Also, he should process the request of Zafar Iqbal by re-examining the investigation and dismissing the FIR.

# SWMD addressed sanitation complaints in Sohrab Goth



Soon Times Correspondent Karachi:

Town Chairman Sohrab Goth Lala Abdul Rahim has directed the staff of the Solid Waste Management Department to address the sanitation complaints as soon as possible. Following these instructions, the Solid Waste staff immediately addressed these complaints. On this occasion, Chairman Sohrab Goth Lala Abdul Rahim inspected the cleaning work along with the dignitaries of the area.

# Terrorism is the most serious challenge for economic & social development: Lubna Qureshi

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad:

Former Central President Human Rights and political and social leader Lubna Qureshi has said that the recent terrorist attack that took place in KPK in March 2024 shows that an unstable environment is created. This is the most serious challenge for the economic and

social development of Pakistan. We condemn it. Recent events have created panic among foreign investors. Investors and tourists from all over the world will hesitate to invest in and traveling to Pakistan if Pakistan cannot guarantee security to them. Peace and development are the themes of the present day. All the unstable factors will have a very

negative impact on the economic and social development of Pakistan. We strongly urge the Pakistani government to ensure the safety of foreign investment institutions and officials and create a conducive environment for Pakistan's economic development. Lubna Qureshi further said that the criminals need to be brought to light.

# British army chief lauds Pakistan Army's professionalism, expertise

Soon Times Correspondent LONDON

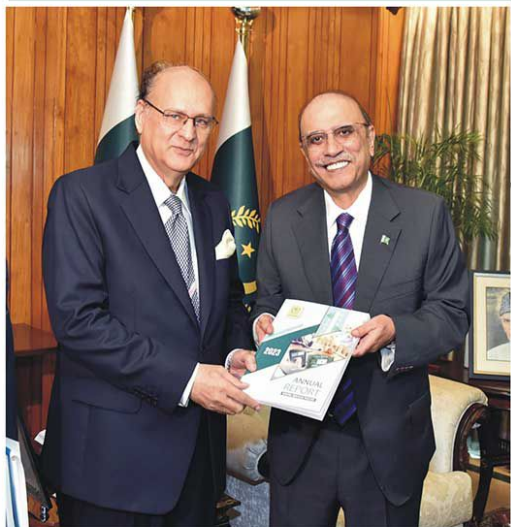
Several decorated British military officers paid glowing tributes to the allure of Pakistan while referring to the hospitality of Pakistan as being unparalleled. They appreciated the professionalism and versatility of the Pakistan Army, calling it one of the best and most disciplined military organisations in the world, according to a press release.

Around 50 senior British military men of the Quetta Association who studied and served in Pakistan Army's elite Command and Staff College in the last 50 years shared their views after attending a luncheon in their honour hosted at the Army and Navy Club in London. UK Army Chief General Patrick Sanders was the chief guest on the occasion. The event was organised to cherish the indelible imprints of the British officer's stay at Quetta.

The veteran British officers paid rich tributes, unbounded homage and reverence to the great institution at Quetta. Notable British military officers who attended the event included Lieutenant General Sir Alistair Irwin (1980 graduate), Lieutenant General Anthony Palmer (1981 graduate), Brigadier Nick Thompson (1971 graduate), Brigadier Tony Berry (1970 graduate) and Major General Seumas Kerr (1985 graduate).



Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi chairing the meeting of National Action Plan Coordination Committee at NACTA headquarters Islamabad on April 19, 2024.



The Banking Mohtasib Pakistan (BMP), Mr. Sirajuddin Aziz, presenting the Annual Report 2023 of BMP to President Asif Ali Zardari, at Awan-e-Sadr, on 19-04-2024.

# IESCO Power Suspension Schedule for Today & Tomorrow:

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad:

According to Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO)'s spokesman, System Maintenance/Development Work is in process. Therefore power supply of below mentioned feeders/areas will be temporary suspended as per given schedule: On 20th April 2024, From 08:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Islamabad Circle, Lohi Bhir, NDC-1, 1-10/3 Auto Workshop, PTCL I-9, I-10/2, New Exchange, U Phone I-9, Fazal GH-9, SES I-9, NDC-2, Nascom Feeders, Rawalpindi City Circle, P&T Wani, Jhangi, Azharabad, EME Complex, B-Block, Abu Bakar Feeders, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Major Riaz, Lala Zaar, Jhawara, Dhamaal-I, Gulshan Saeed, Lalkarti, Cantt, UC Lakhani, Shah Jeevan, Quaid-e-Azam Colony, Qasim Base, Morgah, Fuji Foundation, Mohra Nagyal, Mehboob Shaheed, AOWHS, Wilayat Complex, X-Lair Colony, Pindi

Board, Park View, Pepsi, Model Town, Humk, Dhok Awan, Zaraj, I & II, IST, RCC Express, Emirates, Islamabad Feed Mill, Jhata Hatial, Basali, Pind Jatla, Lab I & II, Reliance Weaving Mill, Industrial, Bhal, Jarrar Comp, New Kalyam Feeders, Jhelum Circle, Pran Feeder, From 08:00 AM to 05:00 PM, GSO Circle, Tatta Pani, Sehans, City-II, Fatehpur, Cherubi, City-I, Nar, Khoi Ratta Feeders. On 21st April 2024, From 08:00 am to 10:00 am, GSO Circle, Hanif Shaheed, Abar Shaheed, Ghazin Khan, Nad, KRL, Lahtrar, Khawaja, Nara Matur, Kahota City, Panjar, Kahota City-2, THQ, Lahtrar, Kotli Sattian, Balawara, Karor-2 feeders and surrounding areas will remain closed. IESCO management apologizes to its esteemed customers for the power outage. If the work is completed ahead of time, the power supply can be restored even before the scheduled time.



## European Union official von der Leyen visits the Finland-Russia border to assess security situation



COPENHAGEN, Denmark

The head of the European Union's executive branch said Friday that Finland's decision to close its border crossings with Russia over a surge in migrants is a security matter for the whole 27-member bloc to consider.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen made the remarks during a trip to the frontier, visiting a part of the border located in southeastern Finland.

"We all know how (Russian President Vladimir) Putin and his allies instrumentalize migrants to test our defenses and to try to destabilize us," von der Leyen told officials. "Now Putin is focusing on Finland, and this is no doubt in response to your firm support of Ukraine and your accession to NATO."

On April 4, Finland decided to extend the closure of its border crossing points with Russia "until further notice" because of what the government says is a high risk of organized migration being orchestrated by Moscow.

Finland shares a 1,340-kilometer (832-mile) land border with Russia, running mostly through thick forests in the south, and to the rugged landscape in the Arctic north.

"This is not just about the security of Finland, but it is about the security of the European Union. We are in this together," von der Leyen said after visiting the border in Lappeenranta with Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo.

Von der Leyen and Orpo flew in a Finnish helicopter over the landscape of forests and towns on the border. In a statement issued after the visit, Orpo said that "the spring's warmer weather increases the risk of Russia helping people illegally try to get to Finland via the land border ... outside the border crossing points."



## Israel's Iran attack carefully calibrated after internal splits, US pressure

He described the situation as a dance, with both parties signalling to each other their intentions and next steps.

DUBAI/JERUSALEM

Israel's apparent strike on Iran after days of preparation was small and appeared calibrated to dial back risks of a major war, even if the sheer fact it happened at all shattered a taboo of direct attacks that Tehran broke days earlier.

Netanyahu's war cabinet had initially approved plans for a strike on Monday night inside Iranian territory to respond forcefully to last Saturday's missile and drones from Iran, but held back at the last-minute, three sources with knowledge of the situation said.

By then, the sources said, the three voting members of the war cabinet had already ruled out the most drastic response - a strike on strategic sites including Iran's nuclear facilities whose destruction would almost certainly provoke a wider regional conflict.

Facing cabinet divisions and strong warnings from partners including the United States and in the Gulf not to escalate, and aware of the need to keep international opinion on Israel's side, the plans to hit back were then postponed twice, the sources said. Two war cabinet meetings were also delayed twice, government officials said.

Netanyahu's office did not respond to requests for comment for this story. Before the attack, a spokesperson for the government's National Public Diplomacy Directorate cited Netanyahu as saying Israel would defend itself in whatever way it judged appropriate.

## Kenya's military chief among 10 people killed in helicopter crash

NAIROBI

Kenya's military chief, General Francis Ogolla, was among 10 people killed when his military helicopter crashed shortly after take-off on Thursday, President William Ruto announced.

The aircraft, which had been on a visit to troops deployed in northwest Kenya to combat endemic cattle-rustling, came down just minutes after leaving Cheptulet Boys Secondary School in West Pokot County, Ruto said.

Ogolla was previously the head of the Kenyan air force, before rising to deputy military chief and then being promoted by Ruto last year to head the military. Ogolla joined the Kenya Defence Forces in 1984, where he trained as a fighter pilot with United States Air Force and as an instructor pilot at the Kenya Air Force (KAF), according to a Defence Ministry profile.

When promoting Ogolla to the top military job a year ago, Ruto accused him of being part of a plot to overturn the result of the 2022 presidential election, but said he was the best qualified person for the job.



## US envoy to UN visits Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum, pays tribute to victims



TOKYO

The American envoy to the United Nations called Friday for countries armed with atomic weapons to pursue nuclear disarmament as she visited the atomic bomb museum in Nagasaki, Japan.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, who became the first U.S. cabinet member to visit Nagasaki, stressed the importance of dialogue and diplomacy amid a growing nuclear threat in the region.

"We must continue to work together to create an environment for nuclear disarmament. We must continue to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons in every corner of the world," she said after a tour of the atomic bomb museum.

The United States dropped the world's first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, destroying the city and killing 140,000 people. A second attack three days later on Nagasaki killed 70,000 more people. Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, ending World War II and its nearly half-century of aggression in Asia.

# Sports & Showbiz News



## Here's how Lionel Messi's assisting Lowe's ahead of Copa America 2024



WebDesk Argentine star forward Lionel Messi joined hands with a popular home improvement retail company Lowe's, as his popularity has increased in the US since he started playing with Inter Miami CF last year.

Lowe's is delivering a hat trick for soccer fans. Lowe's is partnering with the best soccer player in the world, Lionel Messi, Major League Soccer Club Inter Miami CF, and the upcoming CONMEBOL Copa America 2024 USA.

The US men's national football team which is set to host Brazil for a friendly match on June 12 after facing Colombia at the FedExField in Landover, Maryland on June 9.

## Pakistan to take on New Zealand in second T20I Today

RAWALPINDI The second match of the five-match T20 international series between Pakistan and New Zealand will be played in Rawalpindi on Saturday (April 20). The match will start at 7:30 pm. A day earlier, the first T20I was rained off in Rawalpindi. There was cloud cover throughout the day with a light drizzle falling. However, during the three-hour window from around 5pm to 8pm, the light showers stayed away. This allowed the ground staff to prepare the ground and hand it over to the umpires, enabling the toss to take place half an hour late.



returned, forcing the players off the field. Players returned at 10.17pm local time for a five-overs-a-side match but only two balls were possible before play halted for the final time. Shaheen Afridi's first ball went for two big-eyes, while the second dismissed the symmetry of Robinson's stumps. It was Shaheen's 14th first over wicket of the career.

## Hania Aamir enjoys quality Time in London

LONDON (WebDesk) - Pakistan diva Hania Aamir is enjoying her vacation in London and the Hollywood star is keeping her fans updated from a foreign destination. The Instagram account of the diva is flooded with captivating posts from her UK visit.



Her pictures went viral on social media as the post received more than half a million reactions in a day. Hania Aamir enjoys a massive fanbase in both Pakistan and India. She also performed her first Umrah during the holy month of Ramadan this year. Hania has appeared in Bade Mein Rehne Do, Dil Ruba, Sange-Mah, and super-hit Mujhe Pyar Hua Tha. Beyond her acting career, Hania Aamir's personal life often grabs media attention.

## Real Madrid beat Man City to reach Champions League semis



MANCHESTER Real Madrid exacted revenge on Manchester City to reach the Champions League semi-finals 4-3 on penalties after withstanding a barrage at the Etihad on Wednesday.

Rodrygo gave the visitors an early lead before Kevin De Bruyne hit back for the holders to leave the match level at 1-1 on the night and 4-4 on aggregate.

However, City's defence of the competition came to an end after Bernardo Silva and Mateo Kovacic saw spot-kicks saved by Madrid's unlikely hero Andriy Lunin.