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Jamaat-e-Islami rejects Punjab defamation law as 'black law'



governor to sign the Punjab Defamation Act 2024 raised many questions. The JI chief emphasised that the acting governor's signature on the defamation bill was synonymous with restrictions on freedom of expression. Hafiz Naecm held the PML-N and PPP equally responsible for the preparation, approval and enforcement of the Punjab defamation law. He condemned the defamation law as an attack on the constitutional right to freedom of expression. Hafiz Naecm also reaffirmed that the Jamaat-e-Islami stood by the Joint Action Committee of the journalist fraternity.

Soon Times Correspondent KARACHI Jamaat-e-Islami chief Hafiz Naecmur Rehman rejected the Punjab defamation law as "black law" on Sunday. In a statement, the JI chief said that this law was enacted in the dead of the night and Jamaat-e-Islami was the first party to oppose and reject it. He said that the departure of the Punjab governor from the country allowing the acting



Karachi: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meeting at CM House.

Governor Kundi issues debate challenge, as tug-of-war with CM Gandapur continues



Soon Times Correspondent PESHAWAR Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi challenged Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to a debate on Sunday, as the tug of war between the two continues. Interacting with media, Kundi said that Gandapur could debate with him on any channel of his choice. Kundi said that Gandapur was talking like this to secure a job, adding that the chief minister must engage in reasoned discourse.

Former Sindh governor Muhammad Zubair resigns from PML-N



formed after the February 8 general elections. Recently, he expressed dissatisfaction with the party leadership, comparing his position to that of former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi. When former Rawalpindi Division Commissioner Liaquat Ali Chatha alleged that the election results were manipulated, Zubair urged the PML-N to "publicly accept defeat" and allow the country to move forward. However, Chatha later retracted his claims. In April, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi approached the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for the registration of a new political party. Abbasi arrived at the ECP office in Islamabad today where he submitted an application for the registration of the new political party. Along with the application, he also submitted the required documents.

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD Former Sindh governor and senior leader of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Muhammad Zubair, has announced his resignation from the party. According to the report, Zubair said he currently has no intention of joining another political party. However, he indicated that he will soon reveal his future political plans. "Politicians cannot remain silent for long," he added. Zubair previously served as the spokesperson for both PML-N President Nawaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. The politician has been critical of the incumbent government.

Captain among seven soldiers martyred in IED blast in Lakki Marwat

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD Seven Pakistan Army soldiers, including a captain, were martyred after their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device (IED) planted by terrorists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Lakki Marwat, the military's media affairs wing said on Sunday. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the security forces vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb during patrolling in Lakki Marwat. The martyred personnel were identified as Pakistan Army Captain Muhammad Faraz Ilyas, Subedar Major Muhammad Nazir, Lance Naik Muhammad Anwar, Lance Naik Ihsaan Ali Sepoy Asad Ullah, Sepoy Manzoor Hussain and Sepoy Rashid Mehmood. Sanitisation of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists present in the area and perpetrators of this heinous act will be brought to justice, the ISPR said. "Security forces of Pakistan are



determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the military's media wing concluded. It said, "On 26 May, an intelligence-based operation was conducted in general area Hassan Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan Khel, Peshawar District, where six terrorists were successfully neutralized by the security forces

and multiple hideouts were busted. Captain Hussain Jehangir and Havildar Shafiq Ullah also embraced Shahadat on 26 May, while fighting gallantly. "On 27 May, in another operation conducted in Tank district, own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location, as a result of which ten terrorists were killed." "The third engagement occurred in general area Bagh, Khyber district, wherein, the security forces killed seven terrorists, while two terrorists were injured. However, during the intense exchange of fire, five brave soldiers, Naik Muhammad Ashfaq Butt (age 32 years, resident of district Kahuta), Lance Naik Syed Danish Afkar (age 30 years, resident of district Pooneh), Sepoy Taimoor Malik (age 32 years, resident of district Layyah), Sepoy Nadir Saeer (age 22 years, resident of district Bagh) and Sepoy Muahammad Yasin (age 23 years, resident of district Khushab), having fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat", the ISPR said.

PTV, Radio Pakistan newscaster Taskeen Zafar passes away



Soon Times Correspondent RAWALPINDI Legendary voice of Radio Pakistan and PTV newscaster Taskeen Zafar passed away here on Sunday after brief illness. She was 67. Her Namaz-e-Janaza will be offered at 4:30 pm at Lalkurti Eidgah. Taskeen Zafar's broadcasting career spanned over four decades. Born in Rawalpindi in 1957, she joined Radio Pakistan as an announcer in 1980. She also hosted programmes at Radio Pakistan's News and Current Affairs Channel.

Parliament, not streets, real guardian of constitution, says Nawaz Sharif



Khan here on Sunday. Nawaz observed that aimless protests and disturbances on streets and intersections had always harmed the constitution and democracy. PML-N's Parliamentary Leader in the Senate, Irfan Siddiqui, was also present during the meeting. Earlier, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) senior leader Manzoor Wassan said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif may dissolve the National Assembly during next three months.

Soon Times Correspondent MURREE Former prime minister and PML-N President Nawaz Sharif has stated that the real guardian of the constitution of Pakistan was not the streets, but parliament. Nawaz made these comments during his meeting with Senate Deputy Chairman Syedaal

IMF suggests national council to harmonise taxes between centre, provinces

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has asked Pakistan to raise provincial taxes, especially on agriculture, sales tax on services and property tax. The international lender also asked for establishing a National Tax Council (NTC) to harmonise the taxes among the Centre and the provinces. To generate revenue surplus from the provinces, the provincial taxes get immense importance because the collective contribution of all the four provinces stood at just a meager amount of less than 1% of gross domestic product (GDP). The IMF has estimated that the revenue potential of the provincial taxes is considerable. However, a lack of uniformity in the policy and administration of the provincial taxes prevent this revenue potential from being fully realised, besides creating all



sorts of distortions and inequity. While the progress of the NTC in achieving the objectives and scope of its term of reference is relatively slow, it has achieved some encouraging results and could serve as a ready-to-use platform for achieving consensus on a broader range of provincial tax issues. The IMF has recommended to expand the remit or terms of reference of the NTC to include the harmonisation of tax rates and bases for agricultural income tax and property tax. The IMF asked to encourage provincial governments to step up the collection of provincial taxes and enforcement of provincial tax laws. The IMF says that the Agriculture Income Tax (AIT) is taxed by the provincial governments, often preferentially as compared to other types of income. Khan and other politicians. "I do not foresee favourable conditions for the PTI founder and other politicians. Even if they receive relief, it is often short-lived. The PTI founder should not remain in a state of delusion," he warned. In a similar prediction by incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan, he claimed on March 20 that the current government would last only five or six months and until then, he would stay in jail and

PPP raises concerns over not being consulted on budget

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) central party leader Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah on Sunday raised reservations over his not party not being consulted on the upcoming federal budget 2024-25. "The government neither told us anything related to the budget nor look us into confidence. We don't know what the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) is doing about privatisation policy, taxes, developmental program," said the PPP leader. Shah further said that the PPP does not know anything in the terms of relief. He said he's unaware whether the government is making the budget or the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) budget is being imposed.



The PPP leader said that their proposals should have been included in the federal budget at any cost. "People will ask us what we have done. Will we tell them that we don't even know about it?" he questioned. Shah further said that the Bilawal Bhutto-led party will have to see politically what decision to take regarding the budget — which will be announced on June 12. On the other hand, Minister of State for Finance Ali Pervaz Malik rebutted the reports about the further increase in tax on the salaried class, saying that they are baseless and false. Naya Pakistan programme, Malik said that the government is focusing on fair tax system. Gandapur refuses to withdraw tobacco tax

Manzoor Wassan sees National Assembly dissolving in next three months

PPP leader dismisses possibility of Nawaz Sharif returning as prime minister in current political scenario



Soon Times Correspondent Senior Vice President of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Sindh, Manzoor Wassan, has predicted that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif might dissolve the National Assembly within the next three months. While forecasting the political future of the country, Wassan remarked that the next three months are crucial for national politics. He expressed doubt over

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Nawaz Sharif becoming the prime minister in the current setup. "After the dissolution of the National Assembly, we will see what kind of setup emerges," Wassan stated. "However, the remaining provincial assemblies will stay intact." Wassan further commented on the political climate for the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran

Khan and other politicians. "I do not foresee favourable conditions for the PTI founder and other politicians. Even if they receive relief, it is often short-lived. The PTI founder should not remain in a state of delusion," he warned. In a similar prediction by incarcerated PTI founder Imran Khan, he claimed on March 20 that the current government would last only five or six months and until then, he would stay in jail and

awaited the departure of PML-N supremo to London. Imran Khan reiterated his scepticism regarding the longevity of the current government, predicting its demise within five or six months. Imran underscored the importance of political stability in the country, otherwise, he warned that the money borrowed from the IMF would go to waste.

Pak-China Relations

Chinese companies operating in Pakistan expect better opportunities for the second phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) following Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif recent visit to China. World leading Chinese engineering and power companies such as CMEC and POWERCHINA Pakistan aimed to enhance investment and undertake new projects across various sectors. Talking to the Chinese media, Dai Bao, Vice General Manager of China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) Pakistan has expressed strong interest in collaborating with the Pakistani government during the second phase of the CPEC. He acknowledged the recent high-

level meeting between President Xi and Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif. The initial phase of the CPEC laid a robust foundation for Pakistan national destiny and established a pivotal framework for further bilateral cooperation. This progress paves the way for the next steps, and both sides eagerly anticipate the new phase of CPEC. The Prime Minister visit to China signaled the beginning of this transformative stage. The company senior representative highlighted that both nations aspire to witness fresh achievements and embrace a renewed outlook of the joint corridor. China, drawing from its experience with reform and openness, extends a friendly hand of support to Pakistan. Notably,

CMEC became the first Chinese state-owned company to operate in Pakistan since 1981. "Having closely observed Pakistan progress, we are confident that both countries will reap benefits from this new chapter," Dai Bao said. "Our company has diligently prepared for this moment over the past five years, formulating comprehensive plans encompassing industrialization, agricultural modernization, trade, healthcare, education, poverty alleviation, and more." "With unwavering support from both governments, we are committed to contributing significantly to this milestone project," he added. During his recent meeting with PM Shahbaz Sharif, Ding Yanzhang, Chairman POWERCHINA

assured that his company was ready to actively participate in hydro-power, new energy, and other fields in Pakistan, promoting the optimization of local energy structure and green development. The Power Construction Corporation of China would seek further investment, engineering and construction opportunities in collaboration with relevant international partners, taking full advantage of the rich water, wind, solar, and mine resources in Pakistan. Previously, it has implemented several major projects, such as Port Qasim 2—660 MW Coal-fired Power Plant, Dawood Wind Power Project, Haveli Bahadur Shah 1,230 MW Combined Cycle Coal-fired Power Project.

Conflict Resolution in the 21st Century: Strategies, and Challenges,

By Zainab Mustafa

In an era marked by unprecedented interconnectedness and rapid change, conflict resolution in the 21st century has become more essential and challenging than ever before. Today's world grapples with a variety of conflicts, from territorial skirmishes to deeply rooted ideological divisions, necessitating innovative and dynamic approaches to foster lasting peace. As traditional methods evolve, new strategies are emerging to tackle the intricate and multifaceted nature of modern disputes. One of the most promising approaches in contemporary conflict resolution is the promotion of open dialogue. Encouraging continuous communication is crucial for understanding the diverse perspectives and interests of all parties involved. By building trust through dialogue, the groundwork is laid for sustainable solutions. Modern conflict resolution also emphasizes problem-solving strategies that seek win-win outcomes, focusing on creative solutions that meet the underlying needs of every one involved. Involving multiple stakeholders is another key strategy. Multitrack diplomacy engages not just government officials but also civil society, businesses, and international organizations. This inclusive approach leverages the expertise and influence of various sectors to forge comprehensive and enduring peace agreements. The digital age offers powerful new tools for conflict resolution as well. Digital platforms facilitate communication and negotiation, while advanced data analysis provides valuable insights into conflict dynamics. Technology also enhances transparency and accountability, crucial elements in effective peace processes. However, these advancements come with significant challenges. Modern conflicts often involve a complex web of actors, interests, and issues, making resolution efforts more difficult. These complexities demand holistic approaches that address multiple dimensions simultaneously. Power imbalances between conflicting parties

can obstruct fair and effective resolution, with stronger parties potentially dominating negotiations while weaker ones struggle to advocate for their interests. Conflicts driven by deep-rooted identities and ideologies are particularly resistant to resolution, as such disputes often involve existential stakes for the parties involved, making compromise seem unattainable. Moreover, globalization, while facilitating cooperation, also adds layers of complexity to conflict resolution. The interconnected nature of global issues means local conflicts can have far-reaching implications, necessitating coordinated international responses. To overcome these challenges, conflict resolution in the 21st century must be adaptive and innovative. Combining various resolution methods to address different aspects of conflicts is essential. Empowering local actors and institutions to take active roles in peacebuilding is also vital. Ensuring that all relevant stakeholders, including marginalized groups, are represented in peace processes helps create inclusive solutions. Additionally, utilizing technological tools for monitoring and verifying the implementation of agreements is vital. The Good Friday Agreement of 1998 is an example of successful modern conflict resolution. Aimed at ending the sectarian conflict in Northern Ireland known as "The Troubles," the agreement included open dialogue, problem-solving, and involvement of multiple stakeholders, including the UK and Irish governments and various political groups in Northern Ireland. The agreement successfully reduced violence and established a power-sharing government, although ongoing political disagreements and sporadic violence remain challenges. Another example is the Dayton Accords of 1995, which sought to end the Bosnian War. This agreement involved international mediation, particularly by the United States, and included multiple stakeholders from the warring factions and the international community. The accords ended the war and established a complex political

framework for Bosnia and Herzegovina, but continued ethnic divisions and political dysfunction persist. The Oslo Accords of 1993-1995 attempted to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through direct negotiations facilitated by Norway. These negotiations focused on mutual recognition and incremental steps towards peace. While the accords established frameworks for future negotiations and some interim governance arrangements, they ultimately failed to resolve core issues, leading to resumed violence in subsequent years. A SWOT analysis of conflict resolution in the 21st century highlights both the strengths and weaknesses of current strategies, as well as the opportunities and threats they face. Strengths include adaptability, inclusivity through multitrack diplomacy, and technological advancements that enhance communication, data analysis, and transparency. Weaknesses encompass the complexity of modern conflicts, power imbalances, and the difficulty of resolving deep-rooted identity and ideological disputes. Opportunities arise from innovative solutions, global cooperation, and capacity building for local actors. However, political instability, cybersecurity risks, and global disruptions pose significant threats. Ultimately, the evolving nature of conflicts today demands a rethinking of traditional approaches to conflict resolution. By embracing new strategies and addressing inherent challenges, the international community can work towards a more peaceful and stable world. Adaptability, inclusivity, and the effective use of technology are key to fostering dialogue and cooperation among all stakeholders involved. As evidenced by case studies like the Good Friday Agreement, Dayton Accords, and Oslo Accords, successful conflict resolution hinges on a multifaceted approach that incorporates dialogue, problem-solving, and the engagement of diverse actors. Through continued innovation and collaboration, it is possible to address the complexities of modern conflicts and build lasting peace.

Impact of Artificial Intelligence on modern warfare; how AI Drones are Shaping the Dynamics of international conflicts



Saqlain Abbas

Artificial Intelligence (AI) use in modern warfare has become a topic of immense interest among scholars and policymakers. AI-enabled drones have significantly impacted the dynamics of international conflicts. This literature review explores how AI drones have shaped modern warfare and the various implications associated with their use.

In "Artificial Intelligence: A Threat to Strategic Stability," James Johnson argues that the proliferation of AI technology in modern warfare may threaten global strategic stability. He notes that the rapid development of AI technology and its potential use in autonomous weapons systems could lead to unintended consequences, such as miscalculations and misinterpretations by military forces. However, the article needs more empirical evidence to support its claims, and further research is needed to explore the actual impact of AI on strategic stability. Additionally, the article needs to consider the potential benefits that AI could bring to enhance strategic stability "Just & Unjust Targeted Killing & Drone Warfare," Michael Walzer comprehensively analyzes the ethical and moral implications of targeted killing and drone warfare in modern warfare. He argues that such actions must be justified according to certain criteria, such as the imminence of the threat and the proportionality of the response.

In "The Ethics & Morality of Robotic Warfare: Assessing the Debate over Autonomous Weapons," Michael Horowitz examines the ethical and moral implications of using modern autonomous weapons in modern warfare. Assessing the debate over Taiwan following the conclusion of two days of military discussions with the U.S. in Washington. These talks aimed to reestablish communication channels between the two nations' armed forces. Occurring just before Taiwan's presidential election, which holds significance for its relationship with China and the U.S., the discussions underscored the sensitivity surrounding China's ambition to "reunify" with Taiwan, even though force is necessary. China reaffirmed its position, refusing to compromise on the Taiwan issue and urging the U.S. to adhere to the one-China principle while ceasing arms support for Taiwan and refraining from backing its independence. The U.S., on its part, reiterated its commitment to the one-China policy, maintaining unofficial relations with Taipei. Both sides expressed willingness to cultivate a respectful military relationship. How does China threaten

warfare. He argues that while such weapons offer potential benefits in reducing the risk to human soldiers and increasing military effectiveness, there are significant concerns about their potential impact on civilian populations and the difficulty of ensuring accountability for their actions. In the article "Killer Flying Robots Are Here. What Do We Do Now?" Vivek Wadhwa discusses the ethical and legal challenges posed by the increasing use of autonomous drones in modern warfare. He argues that while such technology offers potential benefits in reducing risk to human soldiers and increasing military effectiveness, there are significant concerns about the potential for unintended harm to civilians and the need for accountability and transparency in their use. Wadhwa also discusses the need for international cooperation in developing ethical and legal frameworks to regulate the use of autonomous drones. However, the article needs to provide a detailed analysis of the technical and operational challenges of developing and deploying autonomous weapons. Tom Donlon's article "The Drone Threat Comes Home" discusses the increasing use of drones in international conflicts and domestic security operations. Donlon argues that as drones become more ubiquitous, there is a growing need for governments to establish clear legal and ethical frameworks for their use to protect the privacy and civil liberties of their citizens. He highlights the importance of balancing the benefits of drones, such as increased situational awareness and reduced risk to human life, with the potential risks of abuse and misuse. However, the article does not comprehensively analyze the strategic implications of drone technology for US foreign policy. Further research is needed to explore the impact of drone technology on US military operations, alliances, and diplomatic relations.

Nicholas Wright's article "How Artificial Intelligence Will Reshape the Global Order" examines the potential impact of AI on international relations and the balance of power between states. Wright argues that the growing use of AI in various fields, including military technology, will significantly shift global power distribution. He suggests that AI could enable small states to challenge the dominance of larger powers and potentially lead to new power centers. However, the article does not adequately address the ethical implications of AI development and deployment, such as bias, privacy, and accountability issues. Further research is needed to explore AI's ethical and political dimensions in international relations and develop appropriate policy responses. The article "Artificial Intelligence and Unmanned Warfare" by Shan Li, Yuning Wang, Zhaoyu Chen, and Chao Wu explores the impact of AI on modern warfare and how AI drones shape the dynamics of international conflicts. The authors discuss the advantages of AI in military operations, including increased efficiency, reduced costs, and improved decision-making. They also examine the risks and ethical considerations associated with AI in warfare, such as the potential for autonomous weapons to make decisions without human oversight. However, the article does not adequately address the challenges of integrating AI with existing military systems, including interoperability, data sharing, and communication issues. The article "Drones in Military Warfare: The Moral and Emotional Implications of an Emerging Technology" by Madeleine Reusch explores the moral and emotional implications of using drones in modern warfare. The author discusses the advantages of drones in military operations, such as their ability to carry out precise strikes and their potential to reduce the risk of harm to military personnel. However, the article does not thoroughly consider the strategic and operational implications of drone use, including the potential impact on military effectiveness and civilian casualties.

the near future. However, the focus within the policy community tends to be primarily on Chinese military capabilities, such as the prospect of an imminent amphibious invasion and occupation of Taiwan, while neglecting other strategies of persuasion and coercion employed by the CCP. "One China" Policy The One China principle is a diplomatic stance acknowledging the People's Republic of China (PRC) as the sole legitimate government representing the entirety of China, including Taiwan. It asserts the idea of a unified China and considers Taiwan as an integral part of it. This principle has served as a fundamental aspect of China's foreign relations, especially concerning Taiwan-related matters. Adhering to the One China principle typically involves countries recognizing the PRC as the legitimate authority over China and terminating official diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

American involvement in the China-Taiwan conflict and its future implications

Kamran Wajid

Introduction
The China-Taiwan conflict has been a longstanding issue with far-reaching implications for regional stability and global geopolitics. Conflict stemming from the aftermath of the Chinese civil war (1945-1949), has persisted as a complex and multifaceted issue in international relations. This enduring tension involves the people's republic of China (PRC) and the republic of China (ROC) in Taiwan, with the profound implications for regional stability and global geopolitics. The involvement of the United States of America in this complex dispute in crucial time, shaped by historical events and evolving circumstances. **Background and significance**
Historical records indicate that in the 17th Century, a Chinese empire established complete authority over it. In 1895, following the Qing empire's

defeat in the initial Sino-Japanese conflict, it fell under Japanese colonial rule. Subsequently, in 1945, post the Second World War, China regained control of the island. However, this occurred during a period when a nationalist regime, under the leadership of General Chiang Kai-shek, held sway. The leaders of China, the United States, and Great Britain came together on December 1, 1943, to collectively endorse the "Cairo Declaration." This declaration stated that Japan must return all territories it had taken from China, including Manchuria, Taiwan, and the Penghu Islands, back to China. This period coincided with a prolonged struggle between Chiang's forces and the Communist Party led by Mao Zedong. The US halted its military support to the KMT while maintaining its economic aid initiatives. The victory of the communists in 1949 prompted Chiang and the remaining members of the nationalist party, commonly known as the

Kuomintang or KMT, to seek refuge in Taiwan. In the early 1950s, as the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) secured control over mainland China, the People's Republic of China (PRC) began building up its military forces opposite Taiwan, while the Kuomintang (KMT) in Taiwan planned its own potential attack across the Taiwan Strait. However, when the Korean War erupted in June of that year, the United States deployed its Seventh Fleet to patrol the Taiwan Strait, aiming to prevent any escalation of conflict. This led to a renewed collaboration between the United States and the KMT. Subsequently, on December 2, 1954, the United States and the Republic of China (ROC) signed the Mutual Defense Treaty, in which the United States committed to supporting Taiwan in the event of an attack by the PRC. These measures by the United States solidified the stalemate in the Taiwan Strait region. Understanding the historical

context of America's involvement in the China-Taiwan conflict is essential for comprehending the complexities of contemporary geopolitics. **China Standing on Taiwan**
The One China principle, advocated by the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), asserts that there is a single sovereign entity known as China, with the PRC recognized as its sole legitimate governing authority. According to this principle, Taiwan is an integral part of China. It rejects the notion of two separate entities using the name "China" - the PRC and the Republic of China (ROC), as well as the idea that China and Taiwan are distinct nations. There are three crucial elements that have propelled and are expected to persist in propelling Beijing towards intensifying its grey-zone actions against Taiwan. **Can China Compromise on Taiwan?**
China emphasized its unwavering stance on its

sovereignty over Taiwan following the conclusion of two days of military discussions with the U.S. in Washington. These talks aimed to reestablish communication channels between the two nations' armed forces. Occurring just before Taiwan's presidential election, which holds significance for its relationship with China and the U.S., the discussions underscored the sensitivity surrounding China's ambition to "reunify" with Taiwan, even though force is necessary. China reaffirmed its position, refusing to compromise on the Taiwan issue and urging the U.S. to adhere to the one-China principle while ceasing arms support for Taiwan and refraining from backing its independence. The U.S., on its part, reiterated its commitment to the one-China policy, maintaining unofficial relations with Taipei. Both sides expressed willingness to cultivate a respectful military relationship. **How does China threaten**

Taiwan?
Beijing's continuous and assertive pressure on neighboring countries has effectively altered the political landscape in favor of China. The CCP actively manipulates information to isolate Taiwan and cast doubts on US security assurances. Our research delves into China's tactics of coercion to pinpoint when force might be employed. Through studying CCP's coercive strategies, we aim to uncover efforts to fracture a regional alliance led by the US. **Will China invade Taiwan in this decade?**
Xi Jinping, the leader of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), is unsettling the established situation across the Taiwan Strait. The militarization endeavors and heightened military activities of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) seem aimed at incorporating Taiwan into China through force and asserting dominance in the region. American policymakers and military figures are warning of a potential Chinese invasion in

the near future. However, the focus within the policy community tends to be primarily on Chinese military capabilities, such as the prospect of an imminent amphibious invasion and occupation of Taiwan, while neglecting other strategies of persuasion and coercion employed by the CCP. "One China" Policy The One China principle is a diplomatic stance acknowledging the People's Republic of China (PRC) as the sole legitimate government representing the entirety of China, including Taiwan. It asserts the idea of a unified China and considers Taiwan as an integral part of it. This principle has served as a fundamental aspect of China's foreign relations, especially concerning Taiwan-related matters. Adhering to the One China principle typically involves countries recognizing the PRC as the legitimate authority over China and terminating official diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

Provide security to doctors & staff in emergency ward: UAC & Businessmen



Ulema Action Committee and business community Mirpurkhas have expressed

administration of Mirpurkhas and District Health Officer Mirpurkhas should immediately provide security to doctors and paramedical staff. Doctors and staff of the Old Civil Hospital are afraid of beating and do not give duty in the emergency ward. If people come and disrespect them or beat them, who will take over the emergency ward of the doctor or staff. The Ulema Action Committee and businessmen are standing with the doctors and staff of Mirpurkhas. Justice should be given to them. No one has any right to disrespect them, kill them and beat them. The district administration Mirpurkhas and SSP Mirpurkhas are requested to deploy the police on a permanent basis to ensure the provision of security to the doctors and staff in the Old Civil Hospital Mirpurkhas.

their concern over the incident that took place in the emergency ward of Old Civil Hospital Mirpurkhas last night. They said in their statement that the district

SSUET takes part in The News Education Expo 2024; Tessori & Shah visit SSUET Stall



Soon Times Correspondent Karachi:

Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology (SSUET) took part in the News Education Expo 2024 held at the Karachi Expo Centre and the stall of the university was centre of attraction. Governor Sindh Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori and Provincial Minister Sindh for Education, Syed Sardar Ali Shah visited the SSUET stall and appreciated the knowledge-based skills of SSUET students reflected on their projects. Governor Sindh was impressed by the demonstration of the project Reverse Vending Machine, designed and prepared by SSUET students and hinted for the inclusion of this project into his technological initiatives. He took Hashir's number to invite him to the Governor

House, while Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah enjoyed the ride of a simulator bike. Speaking to the media, Provincial Minister Sindh for Education, Syed Sardar Ali Shah said, "This event is an example of the media's social responsibility and commitment to future generations to providing access to quality education. Sindh is the only province that offers 7,000 scholarships under the government's Peoples Scholarship Programme. We are planning to celebrate "Science in Sindh" year at the schools and college levels." Managing Director of Jang Media Group, Sarmad Ali said that there are about 65 stalls of various universities. This expo has been taking place since 2008, marking the 10th year of the event this year."

PTI to challenge Punjab defamation law in court

Opposition Leader in Punjab Assembly Bhachar criticises PML-N govt's 100-day performance



Soon Times Correspondent LAHORE The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has decided to challenge the Punjab defamation law in court. This announcement was made by Malik Ahmed Khan Bhachar, the opposition leader in the Punjab Assembly, in a statement on Sunday. Commenting on the Punjab government's performance, Bhachar said that turning the Punjab

with the journalist fraternity and would challenge the defamation law in court. Bhachar said that the Punjab government announced Rs30 billion for the establishment of a cancer hospital, but allocated funds of just Rs300 million which, according to him, were insufficient even for a stretch of five-kilometre road. He further said that health cards and farmer cards were projects of the PTI, but the PML-N was presenting them as their own. Bhachar questioned whether the PML-N had actually initiated any projects, adding that the Punjab government was merely placing their plaques on projects in hospitals that had originally been launched by the PTI. He stated that the Punjab government also renamed the farmer card as the Nawaz Sharif card. The opposition leader asserted that taking action against the PTI was the PML-N's overall consideration. Bhachar said that his party has demanded a 10 percent increase in the wages of government employees, noting a 25 percent increase in inflation in the past three months.

Death toll reaches four in Sahiwal hospital fire incident

Soon Times Correspondent SAHIWAL

With the demise of two more children, the death toll reaches four in District Headquarters and Teaching Hospital fire incident. Two more under treatment children died due to a fire in the District Headquarters and Teaching Hospital of Sahiwal. There was a fire incident in the Children's Ward on Friday in the District Headquarters and Teaching Hospital of Sahiwal which claimed the lives of two children. During the fire, 69 children out of 75 were shifted to another ward, but after several hours, two more affected children died, after which the total number of dead children reached 4. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz said



took notice of the fire in the hospital. Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif called for a report from Sahiwal Commissioner and expressed her heartfelt sympathy and condolence to the bereaved family and said that a full investigation should be conducted and strict action should be taken to identify those responsible.

Three of a family killed, two injured in Bahawalnagar accident

Reckless driving is stated to be the reason for the accident

Soon Times Correspondent BAHAWALNAGAR Three members of a family were killed and two injured when a speeding car rammed into a tractor-trolley on Haroonabad Road, Dunya News reported here on Saturday. The accident took place due to reckless driving. The dead included a child. Those injured in the crash were women. The ill-



fated family was riding a car when it collided with a tractor-trolley.

As the result of the accident, two men and a minor were dead on the spot. On information, Rescue 1122 reached the spot and started rescue operation by shifting the injured and the dead to hospital. Two of the dead are stated to be brothers and lived in Sahiwal. Police reached the spot and started investigation.

Punjab governor opposes passage of controversial defamation law

"I tried to stop the [passage] of the defamation bill as governor," says Sardar Saleem Haider Khan



Soon Times Correspondent Lahore Punjab Governor Saleem Haider has said that the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is against the controversial defamation law passed by the provincial legislature earlier this month. "I tried to stop the [passage] of the defamation bill as governor," he said while speaking to the media in Dubai on Sunday. His statement comes a day after interim Punjab Governor Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan signed the bill into law in the absence of Haider. The Punjab Assembly, on May 20, passed

A day earlier, the central Joint Action Committee (JAC) of the media bodies announced boycotting the coverage of government affairs including official events, such as National Assembly and provincial assembly sessions and upcoming federal and provincial budgets to protest the approval of the defamation law. The Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) and Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors (AEMEND), held an emergency meeting to discuss the development and decided to record their protest against the law. Termining the Punjab Defamation Bill, w and to take effective legal action against it. 2024, against human values, the meeting announced to lead a joint struggle against the "black law" and to take effective legal action against it. The media bodies decided to hold consultations with political parties and bar councils, and approach the United Nations and other national and international human rights organisations against the controversial law.

the Punjab Defamation Bill, 2024 amid a strong and noisy protest by the opposition as well as immense backlash from journalists and rights bodies including those based internationally. "I did not sign the bill. However, it will become law automatically after the passing of 15 days," the incumbent governor added. However, according to him, legislation is required to stop the defamation of the people on social media. Governor Haider also said that he would meet the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of the media bodies to address their concerns after returning to the country.

Gas theft crackdown: SNGPL disconnected 71 connections & imposed fine of Rs. 0.91 million

Soon Times Correspondent Lahore:

During the ongoing crackdown against gas pilferers, SNGPL continued raids in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Islamabad. It disconnected 71 connections and imposed fine of Rs 0.91 million. In Lahore, the team disconnected 8 connections on illegal use of gas, imposed fine of Rs 0.51 million and lodged 1 FIR against gas pilferer. In Multan the team disconnected 09 connections on illegal use of gas and 03 on use of Compressor. In Peshawar the company disconnected 39 connections on direct use and illegal use of gas and booked Rs 0.07 million against gas theft cases. The regional

team of Shiekhpura disconnected 04 connections on illegal use of gas and booked Rs 0.19 million against gas theft cases. In Faisalabad the team disconnected 02 connections on illegal use of gas and imposed fine of Rs 0.07 million against gas theft cases. In Karak the team disconnected 01 connection on illegal use of gas and booked Rs 0.07 million against gas theft cases. In Bahawalpur the team disconnected 01 connection on illegal use of gas and 01 on use of the compressor. The regional team of Sahiwal disconnected 02 connections on illegal use of gas. In Gujrat the team disconnected 01 connection on illegal use of gas.

IESCO Power suspension schedules 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 10th June 2024, From 07:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Rawalpindi City Circle, Katarian feeder,

Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, Media Town-II feeder, On 11th June, From 07:00 AM to 10:00 AM, Rawalpindi City Circle, F-Block Feeder, Rawalpindi Cantt Circle, CBR-I Feeder 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.

