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Chief Minister Punjab's decision to restructure ministries and departments



Maryam Nawaz approved the restructuring plan. Under the plan, the institutions that do the same work will be merged, reducing the size of the ministries and facilitating the execution of government affairs. Restructuring and downsizing will make the performance of institutions and public service process simple, easy and fast while restructuring and downsizing will save billions of rupees. A major reduction in the annual expenditure of the government will also create fiscal space.

Soon Times Correspondent Lahore: Restructuring of Ministries and Departments in Punjab has been decided under which downsizing of redundant, unprofitable and loss-making institutions will be done. Chief Minister Punjab

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.

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.

When former Rawalpindi Division Commissioner Liaquat Ali Chatha alleged that the election results were manipulated, Zubair urged the party leadership 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.

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.

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.

Soon Times Correspondent MURREE: Former prime minister and PML-N President Nawaz Sharif has stated that the real guardian of the constitution of Pakistan is not the streets, but parliament.

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 Waseem said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif may dissolve the National Assembly during the next three months.

Manzoor Waseem 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 Waseem, 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, Waseem remarked that the next three months are crucial for national politics. He expressed doubt over

Captain among seven soldiers martyred in IED blast in Lakki Marwat

Pakistan has witnessed a surge in terrorist activities, especially in KP and Balochistan

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 Hussain 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



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. Pakistan has witnessed a surge in terrorist activities, especially in KP and Balochistan, since the intelligence-based operation was outlasted militant group

ended its ceasefire with the government in November 2022. "On 26-27 May 2024, twenty-three terrorists were killed by the security forces in three separate operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province," the ISPR said. It said, "On 26 May, an intelligence-based operation was conducted in general area Hassan Khel, Peshawar District, where six terrorists were successfully neutralized by the security forces and multiple hideouts were busted. Captain Imran Jehangir and Havildar Shafiq Ullah also embraced Shaheedat 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 Bugh, 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 Poonch), Sepoy Taimoor Malik (age 32 years; resident of district Layyah), Sepoy Nadir Sager (age 22 years).

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.

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.

Imran Khan wants supremacy of Constitution: Barrister Gohar

Soon Times Correspondent SWAT: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said party founder Imran Khan wants the supremacy of the Constitution and the rule of law in the country. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf founder has earnestly desired that the Constitution and law should be 'restored' in the country, the PTI chairman said while addressing a rally in Swat. PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar said, "I think the people for

coming to the rally. We want rule of law in the country. Founder PTI is fighting for the country. With the support of the people PTI founder will come out of jail soon." He said the PTI founder said he forgives those who did wrong with him, but he will not forgive those who damaged the interests of the country. Addressing the Pakistan Constitution Protection Movement rally, Barrister Gohar said, "Imran Khan said that there could no talk with those who abused the country."



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.



sorts of distortions and inequity. While the progress of the NTC in achieving the objectives and scope of its terms 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.

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 meagre 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

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 Agricultural Income Tax (AIT) is taxed by the provincial governments, often preferentially as compared to other types of income.

Commissioner directs Revenue Officers to enhance performance

Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: Commissioner of Sargodha Division, Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti, has urged all revenue officers to expedite the handling of cases pending in subordinate courts and other matters related to revenue services delivery centers. He emphasized providing all possible facilities to the citizens at service delivery centers. Bhatti addressed his subordinate officers during a performance review meeting on the other day. The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Captain (Retd.) Arunzeb Haider Khan, ADCR and Assistant Commissioner Revenue. Deputy commissioners of Khushab, Mianwali and Bhakkar participated via video link. The commissioner expressed satisfaction over the revenue. He stressed that ensuring revenue services



and obligations falls squarely on revenue officers. Officers were advised to assess their field staff's performance twice a week. The meeting also covered details regarding transfer fees, condonation fees, agricultural income tax, stamp duty collections, government land directory, crackdown on illegal housing societies, auction of government lands and shops, e-registration and progress on pending cases up to the level of Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue.

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 "reunite" 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.

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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 "reunite" 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.

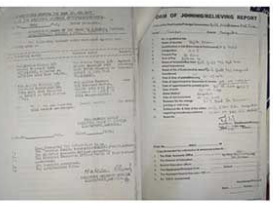
Teachers of Sargodha district are deprived of salaries for census duties

Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: Despite the passage of one and a half years, the salaries of the teachers who performed census duties of Sargodha district could not be paid. According to the details, deputy commissioners of only 26 districts have submitted the

expenditure statements of the teachers who performed census duties across the country to whom the census arrears have been paid. While government employees of many districts including Sargodha are deprived of this compensation. The deprived teachers have demanded the concerned officers to submit the

compensation statements to ensure their payments so that their services can be paid. They have demanded Deputy Commissioner Sargodha Captain Retired Aurangzeb Khan to issue strict instructions to the concerned officers to submit the expenditure statements soon.

Discrepancy in seniority lists of teachers by DEO



Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: According to the details, District Education Officer Secondary Khalid Mahmood has added the favorite teachers to the promotion lists by distorting the basic positions of them. Sajida Parveen daughter of Muhammad Shah Nawaz was recruited as EST in 2004 while receiving office exercised its authority and showed her

SST from the date of appointment. Similarly, several teachers were double-enrolled in the seniority list due to which many entitled teachers were deprived of promotion. For violating the rights of teachers, they have demanded the Deputy Commissioner and other authorities to declare the list invalid, make the matter transparent and remove the District Education Officer Secondary from the post.

TLP organized Labaik Tahafuz-e-Quran March



Soon Times Correspondent Sargodha: Labaik Tahafuz-e-Quran March organized by Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan started from Circuit House Chowk which passed through various highways and ended at Khushab Road City Stop. The march was led by Central Member Shura Patron Supreme Central Punjab Sahibzada Pir Syed Muhammad Touqeer Al-Hussain

Shah. Thousands of workers participated in march in the form of caravans from different cities. The participants strongly condemned the burning of Holy Quran in Mujahid Colony. Speaking on the occasion, the speakers said that they demand the district administration and the government to prepare a comprehensive strategy to prevent such incidents. The real motives of this incident should be

investigated and strict action should be taken against those responsible so that such incidents do not occur in the future. Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan is a peaceful party and will not tolerate such insolence under any circumstances. The District Police should release the innocent Muslims arrested in the Mujahid Colony incident and bring those responsible to justice.

IESCO issued list of defaulting Govt institutions

Soon Times Correspondent Islamabad: Timely payment of electricity bills is crucial to ensure uninterrupted power supply and the timely completion of ongoing system upgrade projects. IESCO has issued a list of defaulting government institutions vide letter number 3886-09 dated June 7, 2024. According to this detail, Government of AJK 54862 million, Ministry of Defence 5295 million, CDA 4063 million, CDA (Pak Secretariat) 1065 million, CDA (Cabinet Secretariat) 116 million, CDA (Chairman Secretariat) 68 million, Cantt Board Chaklala 1642 million, Cantt Board Rawalpindi 256 million, WASA 967 million, Ministry of Railways 295 million, Hospitals under Federal Government 279 million, Pakistan PWD 260 million, Federal Police 251 million, TMA Rawal Town 190 million, TMA

Murree 162 million, Ministry of Interior 143 million, Punjab Police 135 million, Parliament Lodges 118 million, Punjab Jail and Convict Settlement 116 million, Ministry of Health 76 million, PBC 75 million, Ministry of Culture and Sports 75 million, GM Hydrel 66 million, Punjab Health and Welfare Department 54 million, Chief Commissioner Islamabad 51 million, Ministry of Education 48 million, TMA Hassan Abdal 46 million, FIA 32 million, District and Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Rawalpindi 28 million, AG Maintenance (DP) 28 million, Ministry of Hajj and Aqaf 25 million, Health District Government Rawalpindi 24 million, Ministry of Environment and URB 23 million, Balochistan House 23 million, Cantt Board Attock 21 million, Islamabad

High Court 20 million, District Government Rawalpindi 19 million, Health District Government Jhelum 18 million, TMA Potohar Town 18 million, FBR/CBR 16 million, District and Tehsil Headquarters Hospital Attock 16 million, TMA Jhelum 15 million, Director General Special Education 14 million, Meteorological Department 12 million, Ministry of Local Government 12 million, Intelligence Bureau 10 million, NHA 10 million, and Sindh House 10 million are defaulters of IESCO. IESCO administration has requested the heads of all defaulting government institutions to pay their outstanding electricity bills and to contact the relevant revenue office or the Commercial Directorate at IESCO Headquarters for any query or information.

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.

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.

Pakistan's energy shortfall stands at 5,543 megawatts

Soon Times Correspondent ISLAMABAD: The energy shortfall in the country stands at 5,543 megawatts. According to sources in the Power Division, the demand for electricity in the country is recorded at 25,000 megawatts, while electricity production stands at 19,457 megawatts. Of this, 6,890 megawatts are being generated from hydropower, while thermal

power plants are producing 685 megawatts and private sector powerhouses are adding 7,885 megawatts. It is learned that wind power plants are producing 782 megawatts, solar power plants 184 megawatts, biomass 132 megawatts and nuclear power plants 2,894 megawatts. It may be mentioned here that due to the energy shortfall, power outages of up to six hours are being observed nationwide, while areas with line losses are facing power cuts of up to 14 hours.

PAKISTAN ENGINEERING COUNCIL
GOVERNING BODY ELECTIONS-2024

ATTENTION ENGINEERS

All engineers are informed that under provision of Pakistan Engineering Council Act 1976, Elections for various Offices of PEC Governing Body (Term 2024-27) are to be held in August 2024.

Only those engineers will be eligible to participate in the Elections who hold valid registration as on 30th June 2024. Therefore, it is advised to apply/ obtain registration or get the registration renewed by 30th June, 2024, so that your name can be included in the valid voters list. Engineers possessing life time subscription can get their membership renewed without fee.

Any application/ request pertaining to registration or renewal received after 30th June, 2024 shall not be considered for participation in Elections.

Engineers registered with PEC must check their membership status at <https://verification.pec.org.pk>

For registration or renewal of membership, please visit PEC Online Registration Portal at <https://portal.pec.org.pk>, Login

For further details regarding PEC Elections-2024, please visit official website: <https://www.pec.org.pk/elections2024>

Secretary / Registrar
Pakistan Engineering Council
Ataturk Avenue, G-5/2, Islamabad,
UAN: (+92-51) 111 111 732
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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 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



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. 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 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.



Malaysia defends eviction of sea nomads, citing security concerns



KUALALUMPUR
 Malaysian authorities defended their decision to evict hundreds of sea nomads from their homes off the coast of Sabah state this week, saying it was aimed at boosting security and combating cross-border crime. More than 500 people from the Bajau Laut, a mostly stateless sea-faring community who live on rickety houseboats or coastal huts built on stilts, saw their homes demolished or burned by enforcement officials this week, local activists have said. The operation in Sabah's Sepompa district was criticised by rights groups, which called on the government to halt the evictions and ensure the safety and protection of the Bajau Laut.

Heavy rains in Australia's east spark flash flooding, rescues



SYDNEY
 Heavy rain brought flash flooding to Australia's largest city, Sydney, on Saturday, prompting rescues and evacuation orders for several low-lying suburbs. Emergency authorities said they carried out 13 rescues and received 297 calls for assistance from residents in Sydney, the capital of New South Wales state, in the 24 hours to 5 am local time, because of floods sparked by the heavy rain. Ten emergency evacuation orders were in place for suburbs in the city's northwest, the New South Wales State Emergency Service.



Two vessels catch fire after missile strikes off Yemen's Aden



CAIRO
 Two ships caught on fire after being hit by projectiles off Yemen's Aden, two UK maritime agencies reported on Sunday. The British security firm Ambrey said on Sunday an Antigua- and Barbuda-flagged general cargo ship was struck by a missile 83 nautical miles southeast of Aden and caught fire. The fire was later contained. Earlier, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said it had received a report from a captain of a vessel of an incident 80 nautical miles southeast of Aden.

Hamas reports over 200 people killed, while Israel rescues four hostages from Gaza.

Hamas media reports that number of victims from Israeli massacre in Nuseirat camp has risen to 210 martyrs

GAZA/JERUSALEM
 Israel announced its forces had rescued four hostages from a Gaza refugee camp. The operation, according to the Hamas-run government media office, resulted in the deaths of 210 Palestinians and hundreds of injuries. Meanwhile, aid began to trickle back into the devastated Gaza Strip through a rebuilt temporary pier, as reported by the US Central Command (CENTCOM). This pier, constructed by the US military to facilitate the delivery of much-needed relief supplies, had been briefly operational before suffering storm damage at the end of May and was re-established on Friday. CENTCOM reported that approximately 492 tonnes (1.1 million pounds) of humanitarian assistance were delivered via the pier on Saturday morning, emphasizing that the facility was not connected to Israel's hostage rescue operation. The Israeli military identified the rescued hostages as Noa Argamani, 26, Almog Meir Jan, 22, Andrey Kozlov, 27, and Shlomi Ziv, 41, noting that the mission was "complex." Israel released footage and images showing the hostages being extracted by helicopter and reuniting with their loved ones at a Tel Aviv hospital. In Nuseirat, where the hostages were held, Palestinians reported intense bombardment and heavy gunfire. The hostages are among seven that Israeli forces have rescued alive. There are still 116 hostages in Gaza, including 41 who the army says are dead. The news of the freed captives was met with celebrations and cheers in Israel, while concerns about the remaining hostages prompted thousands to gather in Tel Aviv, demanding an end to the eight-month war. "They won't be able to release all of them in a military operation," said Michael Levy, whose brother Oris is still being held. Near Nuseirat, the Hamas media office reported that "the number of victims from the Israeli occupation's massacre in the Nuseirat camp has risen to 210 martyrs and more than 400 wounded."

Polish man held after Danish PM Frederiksen was assaulted



COPENHAGEN
 A 39-year-old Polish man was remanded in custody for 12 days on Saturday over an assault the previous day on Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, which authorities said caused her to suffer a minor neck injury. Frederiksen sustained a minor whiplash injury from the alleged assault, which occurred in a square in Copenhagen centre when a man walked up and hit the politician. "Thank you for the many, many greetings with support and backing. It's incredibly touching," the prime minister told the Ritzau news agency in a written statement on Saturday. "I am saddened and shaken by the episode yesterday but am otherwise safe. For once, I need peace. Both for body and soul. I need to be with my family and need to be myself for a bit," Frederiksen added. Several EU leaders condemned Friday's incident, which happened just three weeks after Slovakia's Prime Minister Robert Fico was seriously injured in an assassination attempt. "This is completely unacceptable and is an attack on our open, democratic societies," Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre told news agency NTB of the assault on Frederiksen. Danish police said the alleged attacker was under the influence of alcohol and drugs at the time and said he was unaware that the victim was Denmark's prime minister.

Sports & Showbiz



Uganda bundle out for 39 as West Indies win by 134 runs



Sports Desk
 West Indies won by a whopping 134 runs against Uganda, their largest margin of victory in terms of runs in a T20 match, on Sunday at the Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas. Chasing a target of 174 runs, Uganda were bundled out for only 39 runs, the joint-lowest team total in the men's T20 World Cup, in 12 overs. The Netherlands were also dismissed for the same score against Sri Lanka in Chattogram in 2014. Left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein bowled a sensational spell as he claimed five wickets for just 11 runs in four overs. He also bagged the award for Player of the Match. "I think I needed this. In the nets and the previous series, I felt the ball was coming out good but I was just not getting the rewards," Hosein said after the match. "I think it is a lot of hard work. When you get success, guys are going to study you and have a plan. You always have to stay a step ahead. For me, it is just about trying to react to what the surface is doing and planning it out. Even if the ball is going both ways, you cannot do much if you don't plan.

Charles Spencer, wife Karen divorcing after 13 years of marriage

(Web Desk)
 Charles Spencer and Karen Spencer are divorcing after nearly 13 years of marriage. The 9th Earl Spencer and younger brother of the late Princess Diana announced his split from his wife to The Mail on Sunday. "It is immensely sad," Charles, 60, told the outlet "I just want to do what is best for all my children, and to my grandchildren, and I wish Karen every happiness in the future." The Mail on Sunday reported that Charles' relationship with the Countess of Spencer, 52, came to an end amid the writing of his memoir, A Very Private School.

CISF woman gets job offer in Bollywood after slapping



(Web Desk)
 Actor-turned-politician Kangana Ranaut was reportedly slapped by CISF personnel Kulwinder Kaur at Chandigarh airport. According to the International Times, after Kangana filed a complaint upon her arrival at Indira Gandhi airport, Kulwinder Kaur was detained and suspended. According to reports, the incident happened as Kangana was preparing to board a flight to New Delhi. Following the incident, Kangana released a statement asserting her safety. And now, music composer and singer Vishal Dadani impressed his support for the CISF personnel involved through his Instagram Stories.

Cristiano Ronaldo hugs Luka Modric after Croatia beat Portugal



Sports Desk
 Former Real Madrid teammates Cristiano Ronaldo and Luka Modric shared a memorable moment after Croatia defeated Portugal in a friendly. Modric, 38, expertly beat goalkeeper Diego Costa from the spot, according to Reuters. After Diogo Jota and Nelson Semedo were introduced as half-time substitutes, both players crossed the ball for an equaliser for Portugal in the 48th minute. The visitors secured the victory in the 56th minute when Ante Budimir headed in a rebound after Mario Palacios' attempt had been deflected onto the crossbar by Costa. Ronaldo, 39, who had been benched in the game, reunited with his former Real Madrid teammate Modric after the match. Real Madrid fans were left swooning as the two exchanged a heartwarming hug and some words. The moment was captured in a video shared on social media. The two also interacted before the match. Ronaldo and Modric became teammates when the Croatia legend joined Real Madrid from Tottenham Hotspur in 2012 and they played 222 matches, combining for 16 goals, according to Sportskeeda. Modric assisted Ronaldo's second goal in the 2016-17 UEFA Champions League final against Juventus, a match they won 4-1 in Cardiff. Their partnership was instrumental in Real Madrid securing four Champions League titles.

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