Barkat Rice Mills

Saudi Foreign Minister visits Pakistan

A high-level Saudi delegation, led by Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, will visit Pakistan from 15 to 16 April 2024. The delegation consists of Saudi Minister of Water and Agriculture, Eng Abdul Rahman Abdul Mohsen Al-Fadley, Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources, Bandar Ibrahim AlKhorayef... (Details on Page 8)



Senate chairman expresses deep grief over loss of lives in Punjab due to rains

Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the loss of precious lives in var accidents during rains in different parts of the country inclu

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

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(@daily spokesman



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Retaliatory Attack

TEHRAN: Iran launched its retaliatory attack on Israeli targets late on Saturday in response to the regime's strike on the Iranian con-



Seven key points on Iran's attack on Israeli regime

Islamic Republic and the fake Zionist regime. This is very significant in terms of historical issues. Effective attacks deep inside the occupied territories has been an unfulfilled dream of Islamic countries since 1967, which have now come true thanks to efforts by the cradle of resistance in the region. For the first time ever, Iranian aircraft attacked enemies of Al-Aqsa Mosque in the skies over this holy site.

The second point is that the Iranian military action, which was in response to the Israeli aggression on the country's diplomatic premises in Damascus, displayed the Islamic Republic's fulfillment of its promise to punish the aggressor.

TEHRAN: First and foremost, minister Benjamin Netanya- in addition to the fact that both sion, and strategic planning of recent as well as the intensivethe Iranian attack was the first hu, through striking the Iranian the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation the operation caught the Zionness of the punitive operation direct confrontation between the diplomatic mission was trying and the Iranian military action ists off guard with shock and to escape the pressure caused by the regime's heavy defeat in Gaza and attract the attention of fragmented public Zionist opinion to sham victories. But the firm punishment of the Zionist regime left Netanyahu's far-right cabinet with empty hands to gain any achievement.

The third point is that the Islamic Republic's attack on Israeli positions is the second strategic assault on the regime following the Palestinian Al-Aqsa Storm Operation on October 7. The Al-Aqsa Storm Operation increased the popularity of Palestinian resistance groups. The military action to show the Islamic Republic's fulfillment of its promise will also significant-

eliminated the fake grandeur and prestige of the Zionist regime.

Fourth, the IRGC operation was carried out as world media outlets earlier reported the imminent occurrence of the attack. The maximum readiness by the Zionist regime and the political, diplomatic, intelligence, and military supports by the US and other allies of the regime had shaped the speculation that Iran's military operation would be defused by the defense systems of the regime and its allies. But, despite the Zionists' expectation to be able to counter Iran's weapons, numerous images prove that Iranian drones and missiles successfully hit predetermined military targets and that

The Iranian attack took place ly help increase popular support the defense systems of the US and surprise.

Fifth, the punitive operation from Iran to the occupied territories was carried out encompassing two vast geographical areas in both regions (the launching points and the destinations), clearly demonstrating Iran's full readiness for any circumstances.

Sixth, the publication of the early announcement by the IRGC concerning the commencement of the hybrid operation against Israel, hours before the reaching of the missiles and drones to the occupied territories, indicates the level of Iran's preparedness, self-confidence, and assurance of the successful punishment of the regime as well as the Islamic country's internal consolidation.

Seventh, the usage of hundreds at a time when Israeli prime for Iran in the region. That comes the UK failed. The scale, preci- of missiles and drones in the will likely make the authorities of the Zionist regime realize that any reaction or response to Tehran can pave the ground for even more devastating attacks by Iran against Israel.

Initial evidence and reports from Western media outlets on the lack of support by US President Joe Biden for the Zionist regime in the event of its aggressive reaction against Iran, if true, indicate an understanding of this matter by the main supporter of the Zionist regime. Now, the authorities of the regime must decide whether they intend to face destruction before the set day or reconsider their irrational policies by accepting the consequences of the attack on the

PM felicitates Sikh community on celebration of Baisakhi

😂 City Desk

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday felicitated Sikh

community living in Pakistan and across the globe on the celebration of Baisakhi. In a message, the prime minister said that the Government of Pakistan and all the provinprovision of all facilities to the Sikh Yatrees who were visiting

Basakhi was an occasion showing the colours of spring ings like love, affection and joys, press release, quoted the prime minister said that they felt pride beauty of combination of different faiths and cultures and the event of Baisakhi further added sion of Baisakhi, I give you all and peace. Let's play our role in

China deeply concerned about Iran-Israel situation, calls for restraint Spokesman Report

BEIJING: China is deeply concerned about the current escalation of the Iran-Israel situation and calls on relevant parties to remain calm and exercise restraint to avoid further escalation of tensions, the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson said on Sunday. China expresses deep concern over the current escalation and calls on relevant parties to exercise calm and restraint to prevent further escalations, the spokesperson said in a statement in response to a question about the Iran-Israel conflict. The spokesperson said that the ongoing situation is the latest spillover of the Gaza conflict.

There should be no more delays in implementing UN Security Council Resolution

2728 and the conflict must end now. China calls on the international community, especially countries with influence, to play a constructive role in the peace and stability of the region, the spokesperson added.

The UN Security Council passed a resolution on March 25, demanding an immediate ceasefire for the month of Ramazan, the immediate and unconditional release of hostages and the urgent need to expand the flow of aid into

There were 14 votes in favour to none against, with one abstention. According to reports, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps launched a military strike against Israeli territory on April 14 using ballistic missiles and drones.

Pakistan concerned over ongoing developments in ME, calls for restraint

跨 City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sunday said that Pakistan was watching with deep concern the ongoing developments in the Middle East (ME) and called upon all the parties to exercise the utmost restraint and move towards de-escalation. "Today's developments demonstrate the consequences of the breakdown of diplomacy. These also underline the grave implications in cases where the UN Security Council is unable to fulfill its responsibilities of maintaining international peace and security," the Foreign Office Spokesperson

said in a press statement. It was now critically urgent



to stabilize the situation and restore peace, it was further stressed.

The spokesperson said that for months, Pakistan had underlined the necessity of international efforts to prevent the expansion of hostilities in the region and for immediate ceasefire in Gaza. On April 2, Pakistan had pointed to the dangers of an attack on the Iranian consular office in Syria as a major escalation in an already volatile region, it was added.

30 killed in rain-related incidents in Pakistan

👺 Xinhua

ISLAMABAD: At least 30 people were killed and several others injured in rain-related incidents in the last 48 hours in Pakistan, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) said on Sunday.

The authorities have urged citizens and tourists to avoid

The torrential rains also

damaged several houses in

parts of the country, with

authorities evacuating stranded people to safer places.

Heavy rains also caused traf-

fic jams on main roads and



highways.

lightning strikes incidents as unnecessary travel in affected heavy rainfall lashed various districts of the province over the past 48 hours, NDMA official Muhammad Umar told Xinhua.

injured

In southwest Balochistan province, eight people were killed due to lightning and heavy rains. At least five people were killed and more than 10 others injured in northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, said the official, adding that women and children are among the victims.

districts for several days.

The NDMA along with other civil departments and volunteers have launched rescue and relief operations in affected areas.

Earlier, the Pakistan Meteorological Department predicted heavy rains with thunderstorms in parts of the South Asian country until Monday, saying the heavy rainfall may generate flash floods and landslides and cause damage to standing crops.

President congratulates Sikh community on celebration of Baisakhi

👺 City Desk

ISLAMA-BAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday extended his heart-



felt felicitation to the Sikh community on the celebration of Baisakhi. In a message, the president said that the occasion gave a message of love, happiness, peace and affection.

Pakistan felt pride over its diverse cultural heritage, President Secretariat Press Wing, in a press release, quoted the president as saying. Pakistan would ensure all steps to facilitate the Sikh community, he further added. The president said that Pakistan was committed to safeguarding the rights of all minor ities and they acknowledged the contributions made by the minorities in the progress and development of the country.

Palestinian death toll in Gaza rises to 33,729: ministry

👺 Xinhua

GAZA: The Palestinian death toll in the Gaza Strip from ongoing Israeli attacks has risen to 33,729, the Hamas-run Health Ministry said on Sunday. In a press statement sent to

Xinhua, the ministry said that the Israeli army killed 43 Palestinians and wounded 62 others during the past 24 hours, bringing the total death toll to 33,729 and injuries to 76,371 since the Israel-Hamas



conflict broke out on Oct. 7, 2023. Meanwhile, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich called for "invading Rafah and imposing control over the entire Gaza Strip." Smotrich said on social media

platform X that "abandoning the Israeli red lines and pursuing Hamas in order to reach an agreement will only eliminate the opportunity to return everyone (Israeli hostages) to their homes."

Israel has been launching a arge-scale offensive against Hamas in the Gaza Strip to retaliate against a Hamas rampage through the southern Israeli border on Oct. 7, 2023, during which about 1,200 people were killed and more than 200 were taken hostage.

Hamas says Iranian attack on Israel 'natural right'

№ Xinhua

GAZA: The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) said on Sunday that Iran's attack against Israel overnight was "a natural right" to defend the Israeli airstrike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus, Syria.

"The military operation carried out by the Islamic Republic of Iran against Israel is a natural right and a deserved response to the crime

of targeting the Iranian consulate in Damascus and assassinating a number of Revolutionary Guard leaders there," the movement said in a press statement. Meanwhile, Hamas called on

the Arab and Islamic nations and people of the world to continue to support the right of the Palestinian people to pursue freedom and independence and to establish the Palestinian state.

Corps (IRGC) confirmed Saturday night that it launched dozens of missiles and drones against Israel. Israel has been on heightened

alert over the past few days following Iranian threats to retaliate against the Israeli airstrike on its consular building in the Syrian capital Damascus on April 1, which killed seven Iranian officials, including two veteran commanders.

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards

cial governments were ensuring their religious places in Pakistan to perform their religious rituals. and an event to exchange feel-

PM Office Media Wing, in a minister as saying. The prime that Pakistan comprised the to that beauty. "On the occathe message of love, affection building a peaceful world," he

Monday, April 15, 2024

Sikhs celebrate Baisakhi at Gurdwara Punja Sahib

👺 Raza Naqvi

ATTOCK: Federal Minister for Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said the present government was committed to providing complete religious freedom to people of all faiths living in the country.

He was talking to newsmen after participating in the Bhog ceremony in connection to the Baisakhi festival at Gurdwara Punja Sahib Hasan Abdal on Sunday. He added that the Sikh Marriage Act had been passed in 2018 and now it would be implemented soon after the approval of the provincial cabinet.

He said that around six gurudwaras across the country would be open and handed over to the local Sikh community for observance of rituals. Earlier speaking at the Bhog ceremony, Mr Asif has said that Pakistani people and government are proud to host the Sikh pilgrims on their holy land.

He said that the present government believes in freedom of the minority and would extend all out resources for better preservation of their sacred

The Sikh religion celebrates Baisakhi celebrations, to mark the advent of the order of the *Khalsa observed at Gurdwara Panja Sahib here today.

Around ten thousand Sikh yatrees others from other parts of the world, of Gurdwara Punja Sahib with tradi-Sikh pilgrims.



by 10th Sikh Guru Gobind Singh Ji, including Pakistan, India, Canada, the tional performances and religious rites. United Kingdom, participated in the festivities.

Baisakhi processions called Nagar - among them over 2400 Indians and Keertan were taken out in the premises

The leader of Indian Sikhs contingent, Sardar Kulwant Singh in his address has expressed their satisfaction over the arrangements made for

In their speeches, representatives of their longstanding demand. various Sikh community organizations in different countries also lauded Pakistan government's decision of opening Kartarpur corridor and thanked

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) Amritsar party leader Sardar Rawinder Singh told the media that special love for Pakistanis the Pakistani government for fulfilling compelled them to visit the country

again and again.

"We are grateful to the Pakistan government, particularly the ETPB, for making arrangements for protection of Gurdwaras in Pakistan," he

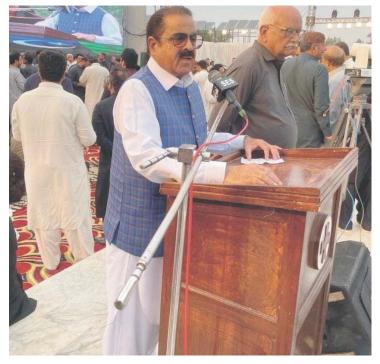
Bhutto is name of a revolution, says Pakistan People's Party

👺 Bureau Report

GARHI KHUDA BAKSH/ MUZAF-FARABAD: President Pakistan People's Party Azad Kashmir and senior parliamentarian Chaudhry Muhammad Yasin has said that founder chairman Pakistan People's Party former Prime Minister of Pakistan Quaid Awam Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was judicially murdered forty-five years ago under an international conspiracy at the behest of the then dictator.

According to the opinion of the full bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, milk has become milk and water has proved water, but today there is no mention of the name of the dictator and even today millions of Bhuttos are present in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh.

He expressed these views Yesteray, while addressing the big mammoth held after reciting Fatiha, he said that Bhutto is the name of a revolution, Bhutto is the name



of consciousness, Bhutto is a History is the name, he said that Bhutto was a charismatic personality, a political thinker, a visionary, understanding of matters and a covenant maker, who gave a unified constitution to Pakistan, made Pakistan invincible by creating nuclear power, laid the foundation for the unity of the Muslim Ummah, and laid the foundation for the unity of the Muslim

Declared Muslim, laid the foundation of Pakistan-China friendship, made the parliament supreme, he said that if Bhutto had not been martyred under the international conspiracy, today Pakistan would have been an economic superpower, Kashmir would have been freed, today we are on our side.

On behalf of the entire Kashmiri nation, the benefactor of Kashmiris, who fought for the freedom of Kashmir for a thousand years, pays tribute to the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto he added.

Nation to be leaden wall against terrorism: Sardar Attique

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: President of All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference and former Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmad Khan has said that the nation should become a leaden wall to fight terrorism, terrorists are playing the role of Islam Pakistan and the enemy of peace, terrorism in Nush-



ki. While expressing his reaction against the incident, he said that the attack on the workers and foreign workers of the Pakistan Army in Balochistan is a conspiracy of the enemies of Pakistan and this conspiracy can only be countered by unity and solidarity to protect the entire nation from terrorism. There should be a language against Pakistan Army soldiers are playing their full role to fight terrorism, martyrs and Ghazi Mohsin who are sacrificing their lives to defend Pakistan. He has said that the government should We should take the nation together to crush terrorism because this honor can be defeated through military leadership as well as people's power. We will always pray for the defenders of the Pakistani borders, we share the grief of the heirs of the martyrs of Nushki.

Punjnand Lions Club presents Eid cash and medicines to children



😂 Quratul Ain Asim

MULTAN: President of Punjnand Lions Club, Sharaf Hanif, has said that the main purpose of Eid-ul-Fitar is to include the true happiness of the deprived sections. I am patient on behalf of the Multan Punjnand Lions ClubAnd financial support for medicines project was started for poor people and 100 people have been provided medicines in this regard. Apart from this Eid cash and gifts were also given to children. These views were expressed by the Multan Punjnand Lions Club. On the joyous occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, among the patients in Multan Children's Hospital Speaking on the occasion of Eid gift and supply of medicines, Lions Club ex-governor Sheikh Saqib Rahim Sheikh, Waqas Saleem, Secretary Abdul Karim, Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Rana, and other doctors and staff of the hospital were also present.

Faisalabad increase in crimes, police strategy is very ineffective

Majid Majid

FAISALABAD: During the first 3 months of this year, the strategy of the police to control the serious crimes like theft, robbery, robbery and murder during robbery appeared to be ineffective, while in this regard last year.

Widow of late Deputy Director Public Relations-passes away

Spokesman Report

TOBA TEK SINGH: Widow of late Deputy Director Public Relations Department Muhammad Abid, Senior International Photojournalist Zahid Hussein (Karachi), late Professor Shahid Chaudhry (Lahore), Senior Sports Reporter Abdul Wahid, Senior Photojournalist Abdul Majid of sisterin-law, Deputy Director Public Relations Faisalabad Muhammad Owais Abid and Haris Abid's mother has passed away due to God's will إِنَّالِلْهِ وَإِنَّا) رَالَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ. The deceased was buried in the shrine Baba Qaim Sain cemetery in the presence of hundreds of mourners. Late Deputy Director Public Relations Toba Tek Singh was the widow of late Muhammad Abid who fell in love bound by fasts and prayers, who spent other bereaved. Various governmen-



the death of her husband, the deceased brought up her three children, two sons fully trusting in Allah. May Allah grant and a daughter, with all her heart and soul in difficult circumstances and gave them high education. The deceased was a very virtuous woman and was

was always patient and grateful while the deceased a high place in Jannat al-Firdous and make her next journey easy. May Allah grant patience and great reward to the family and

with ALLAH during his service. After her entire life in piety and piety, and tal and non-governmental, journalistic, political, social and business circles have expressed deep sorrow and grief to Deputy Director Public Relations Muhammad Owais Abid on the death of his mother Majda and prayed for the elevation of the deceased and the patience of the bereaved.

Allama Mazhar Saeed Kazmi calls for urgent steps to address Pakistan's critical situation

Asim Tanveer

MULTAN: Allama Syed Mazhar Saeed Kazmi the Chief of Jamaat Ahle Sunnat Pakistan and the patron of Darbar Kazmiya Saeediya, has said that Paki- Hamid Saeed Kazmi Said that all politstan is passing through the most critical period in history. They are ready to make any kind of sacrifice for the personal and party interests and take establishment of peaceToday, he was addressing a huge gathering organized at Shahi EidGah Khanewal Road ing and compassion. Kazmi said while Multan in connection with the 39th annual Urs of Jamiat Ulema Pakistan and Jamaat Ahle Sunnat and the founder of Al Madaris Ahle Sunnat, Hazrat courtyard, all the grassy plots and so Allama Mazhar Saeed Kazmi urged the Muslim rulers to show their faith, Hazrat Allama Kazmi's mission for the

freedom of Qibla I and the oppressed Palestinian people of Gaza. Evidence was given by former Federal Minister of Religious Affairs Allama Syed ical parties and institutions, including the government, should overcome urgent measures to solve public problems while working with understandaddressingSayed Arshad Saeed Kazmi said that the Persian language is extinct in religious schools.

The education and teaching of Allama Syed Ahmad Saeed Kazmi. But Persian language and literature was the inner hall of the Eidgah, the outer done in Jamia Anwar UloomProfessor Dr. Muhammad Siddiq Khan Qadri on The main highway was filled with condemned the recent incidents of devotees, due to which there was no terrorism and said that national unity place for a sit-in in the entire Eidgah. and national unity are the most important need of the hour to remedy them.

honor and importance by helping the stability of Pakistan and the unity of the Ummah has always continued. Jamaat Ahl-e-Sunnat provincial

> Nazim Allama Muhammad Farooq Khan Saeedi said that Hazrat Allama Syed Ahmed Saeed Kazmi was a great asset of the Nation of Islam, whose services will always be remembered. Prominent jurist Waseem Mumtaz Advocate said in the resolution that the belief in the end of Prophethood is the foundation of our religion, which must be protected. Our Akbar has rendered unforgettable servicesHe said that the Chief Justice or any government section will not tolerate the amendment or repeal of the Khatamian Nabuhat Ordinance, Allama Shah Ahmed Noorani, Mujahid Millat Maulana Abdul Sattar Khan Niazi From the gathering, Sahibzada Syed Mahmoodul Haq Shah, Sheikh Al Hadith Mufti Abdul Sattar Saeedi of Jamia Nizam Lahore, Sahibzada Hamad Arshad Shah Naqibi, Sahib-



Ahmed Qadri, Sajjada Nasheen of

Astana Aliya Qadriya Jalalpur Pirwa-

la, Mian Shoaib Hasan Qadri, Syed

Muhammad Ahad Saeed Kazmi, Syed

Jamaat Ahlus Sunnat Sindh Maulana Muhammad Akram Saeedi, Mufti Muhammad Sharif Saidi Ashrafi, Mufti Muhammad Zaman Saidi Rizvi, Qari Muhammad Salim AshrafQadri, Prof. Ehsan Ahmad Qadri, Maulana Syed Muhammad Jahangir Shah Saeedi, Sahibzada Ahmad Raza Gilani, Mufti Manwar Hussain Saeedi, Sahibza-

da Ahmed Raza Saeedi, Muhammad Athar Saeedi, Qari Khadim Hussain Saeedi, Qari Mati-ul-Rasoool Qadri and Maulana Ghulam Farid Azhari also spoke. While Hameed Nawaz Asim brothers, Qari Muhammad Saeed Naqshbandi, Shaukat Hussain Saeedi, Muhammad Amin Sajid Saeedi, Qari Muhammad Salman Umar Saeedi presented the offering.

MEPCO focuses on quality services & customer satisfaction: Sardar Jamal Laghari

MEPCO became Pakistan's leading company that ensures transparency and services by safeguarding national interests

An Exclusive Interview of Chairman Board of Directors Multan Electric Power Supply Company Sardar Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari

跨 Interview By: Kiran Asim / Syed Nadeem Kazmi

hairman Board of Directors MEPCO (Multan Electric Power Supply Company) Mr. Sardar Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari is one of the known personalities of Pakistan. He is the eldest son of former President of Pakistan, Mohammad Farooq Khan Leghari. He is a former Senator, MPA, and District Nazim of Dera Ghazi Khan as well as former District Chairman of the Social Action Board, Dera Ghazi Khan, He is a member of Pakistan's first-class shooting team, chief of his tribe and possesses exceptional skills in wildlife photography.

In July 2022, Mr. Sardar Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari assumed the post of Chairman Board of Directors, MEPCO. As soon as he took charge of the post, he held a high-level meeting with all the directors of the board and formulated a safety policy for MEPCO employees. Similarly, he formulated the best policy to eradicate poverty and provide maximum relief to the consumers. Ms. Kiran Asim and Mr. Syed Nadeem Kazmi conducted a panel interview of Sardar Muhammad Jamal Khan Leghari in his office.

Talking about his role as Chairman Board of Directors MEPCO, Sardar Mohammad Jamal Khan Leghari said when I took charge, there was room for improvement in MEPCO's policies which were improved through mutual consultation and the efforts of engineers. He said special focus was given to customer care because the provision of good service, trust, and satisfaction to the public was his top priority

In response to a question, he said that MEPCO is the largest power supply distribution company in Pakistan. He thanked the US Government in general and particularly to the American Ambassador and Consul General and on behalf of the Board of Directors, CEOs, and engineers for visiting MEPCO and providing record time. He said there is zero theft that USAID has also set up a customer care center which is managed by female staff taking steps

towards the mission of women's empowerment in Pakistani

He further said that earlier the CEO was selected by the Ministry however, according to revised SEOs, we have approached the market and as per the rules and regulations the CEO who fulfills their terms and

conditions was selected. Explaining further the CEO selection process he said formal presentations and interviews were conducted to shortlist the top 3 best candidates to forward their names to the ministry for selection. He said he did not use discretionary process and entire board members gave their input in the screening to keep the induction process transparent and worthwhile. He said the CEO they aimed to select the best person to deliver with his performance. He said

MEPCO has now an efficient CEO Mr. Rana Ayub Khan. He commented that our job is not micro-financing but poli-

cy-making and implementation. He said since he took charge, he continuous support for infrastructure introduced quality changes in MEPCO maintenance and development since to run the company smoothly and effi-2013 under the USAID program. He ciently. He said continuous improveadded with the support of USAID, we ment is his vision and the compaare making MEPCO Musa Pak Divi- ny's main focus is consumer satisfacsion an urban division to be emulat- _ tion. He said policies consistent and ed by the whole of Pakistan within a compatible with the board are their priorities. Explaining the manageof power in MEPCO and advanced ment composition, he said the board technologies including ABC cables, has different committees. The board AMR meters, and modern capacitors has not centralized everything. Rathare used in infrastructure. He informed er matters that come up within the board are referred to the committees. There is a technical initiative and

> procurement committee, a strategic and market-

consumers".

Sardar Jamal Khan Leghari further said that according to the vision of Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and Puniab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, the officers and staff of MEPCO are working on a war footing to prevent electricity theft. He added we also have the support of the Police, FIA, and other security agencies. MEPCO is ending the facility of double source i.e. two meters on behalf of the people in their residential and commercial centers. He said If any MEPCO employee found involved in malpractice would be punished as

He shared views that the Federal Minister for Power & Energy, Sardar Awais Khan Leghari has a zero-tolerance policy regarding corruption and took the charge of the ministry as a challenge. He said the top priority was the elimination of load shedding which we ended with day and night efforts during the last tenure of government in 2018. Also, he informed that a law was proposed in the parliament that whoever gives a wrong bill to a customer will be imprisoned for three years leading to dismissal from service. He said the implementation of the law is very significant to curb such issues. He admired the role and services of Awais Khan Leghari to expedite net metering cases where people can take full advantage of solar systems.

He said we have a zero-tolerance policy on corruption and safety. He added MEPCO employees and officers are strictly warned to follow SOPs to maintain the safety standards during their field duties to avoid any damage to public life, property, or the company's assets and employees' lives. He further informed that MEPCO follows a formal procurement plan as per government-prescribed rules and regulations. We have a total of nine circles covering Sahiwal to Sadiqabad, Bahawalnagar to the boundary area, and Multan to Bhakkar besides Rajhan. MEPCO is Pakistan's largest power supply distribution company. Which ensures an uninterrupted supply of electricity to millions of consumers

a call away. Talking about flood-hit areas includ-

supply during outages.

24/7. He said for safety and maintenance, in every weather, be it extremely cold, hot, lightning, storm, earthquake, or flood, the engineers and employees of MEPCO remain busy in public service, and apart from this, during all festive occasions, MEPCO staff is just

ing Dera Ghazi Khan, Muzaffargarh, and Rajanpur in the region of MEPCO, he said through mutual consultation of the Chief Executive Officer, other Board Directors and engineers are trying to make arrangements before the flood. He informed that 500 KVA poles are the most damaged in floods due to which the flood victims in the flood-affected areas are at risk of electrocution. While the infrastructure of other departments is also destroyed due to floods including grid stations, and electricity poles. He said during such extreme emergencies MEPCO staff makes all out efforts to restore electricity in the flooded areas. He also appealed to the public to cooperate with the staff to ensure power

He further said that there are about 19 districts of MEPCO and during the maintenance workshop, we chalk out a complete plan to assess the required resources. He said that transformers that are damaged, burned, working on single phase, dim light, and overload transformers we see all this augmen-

tation in the transformer repairing workshops of MEPCO. Accordingly, we have to carry out this whole process, with the board meetings. He said due to the limited power of the CEO and other management, board meetings are called to sort out the important matters and make policy and financial decisions. The board comprised of directors has the approving authority and the board has certain boundaries too to intact the transparency. He said Chief Minister Punjab, Mohtarma Maryam Nawaz also conducted a meeting and made positive decisions.

He said on the Ministry's direction, they are working hard to make MEPCO the number one company by achieving the goals of providing better services to consumers in Southern Punjab including Multan. He said despite the lack of staff in the MEPCO region, the set targets are being achieved. Pending for new domestic and commercial connections has been waived and new connection applicants are getting meters installed in the shortest possible time.

It is pertinent to mention for readers that Sardar Jamal Khan Leghari is a world award-winning Pakistani for his photography. He has made Pakistan famous in the fields of wildlife, culture, and tourism through photography. He has also won an award from National Geographic and brought laurels to







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UNSC to meet in emergency session

he United Nations Security Council will hold an emergency meeting Sunday evening over Iran's retaliatory drone and missile attack on Israel, the 15-member body's president has said. A spokesperson for Malta, which holds the rotating presidency this month, said Saturday evening that the Security Council was aiming for the meeting to be held at 4:00 p.m. (01 am Pakistan time Monday) after Israel requested the Council condemn Iran's attack and designate the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps a terrorist organization.

Iran had vowed retaliation for an Israeli strike on its Damascus consulate on April 1 that killed seven officers of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, including two senior commanders, and said its strike was a punishment for "Israeli crimes". "Should the Israeli regime make another mistake, Iran's response will be considerably more severe," the Iranian Mission to the United Nations said, warning the U. S. to "stay away".

However, it also said Iran now "deemed the matter concluded". UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres slammed Iran's attack, saying he was "deeply alarmed about the very real danger of a devastating region-wide escalation." "I strongly condemn the serious escalation represented by the large-scale attack launched on Israel by the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said in a statement. "I am deeply alarmed about the very real danger of a devastating region-wide escalation. I urge all parties to exercise maximum restraint to avoid any action that could lead to major military confrontations on multiple fronts in the Middle East." Iran launched a swarm of explosive drones and fired missiles at Israel late on Saturday in its first-ever direct attack on Israeli territory, risking a major regional escalation as the United States pledged "ironclad" backing for Israel.

The Iranian strikes came as Tehran's allies in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen have carried out a flurry of attacks on Israeli and Western targets since October 7 when Israel attack Gaza. Israel's Ambassador to the UN, in a letter to the Security Council president, called Iran's air action a "flagrant violation of Israel's sovereignty." "Today, Iran has launched a direct attack from within its territory of more than 200 (drones), cruise missiles and ballistic missiles towards Israel," Israeli Ambassador to the UN Gilad Erdan

"The attack is a severe and dangerous escalation," he said. Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke by phone with President Joe Biden early Sunday, his office said, after wrapping up security cabinet and war cabinet meetings in Tel Aviv. The conversation lasted for around 25 minutes, according media reports. There was no immediate readout from the White House on the call, which was held after Biden convened a principals meeting of the National Security Council to discuss the attack. The US president returned to Washington earlier in the day after cutting short his weekend stay in Delaware. "Our commitment to Israel's security against threats from Iran and its proxies is ironclad," Biden said on X after the National Security Council meeting.

Strengthening Bonds in a Changing World - II

he Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a regional intergovernmental organization founded in 2001. It comprises eight member states, including China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The SCO aims to enhance cooperation among its members in various fields, including politics, economics, security, and culture. One of the primary roles of the SCO is to promote regional stability and security by addressing common security threats, such as terrorism, separatism, and extremism. Member states conduct joint military exercises and share intelligence to combat these challenges effectively. Additionally, the SCO facilitates economic cooperation among its members through initiatives such as trade promotion, investment facilitation, and infrastructure development projects. The SCO also serves as a vital nexus for fostering unity and cooperation among its member states through a myriad of cultural exchanges and intimate people-to-people interactions. In its overarching mission to promote peace, stability, and development in the region, the SCO stands as a bastion of collaboration and mutual understanding. Moreover, it provides a platform for diverse voices to converge, igniting fruitful cooperation and dialogue among its members, thereby paving the way for a more prosperous and harmonious future.

vers, China's currency (yuan) faces pressure against the U.S. dollar, reflecting broader economic dynamics. Despite efforts by the People's Bank of China to stabilize the yuan, widening interest rate differentials and policy divergence between the two largest economies have weighed on the Chinese currency. Investors await key economic data releases

could provide insights into future monetary policies. As diplomatic engagements continue and efforts for a political settlement in Ukraine persist, China's special representative for Eurasian affairs prepares to tour several countries, including Russia, show-

casing China's commitment to diplomatic solutions in the region.

Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani

Strength in Unity: In an era marked by geopolitical uncertainties and rapid shifts in global dynamics, the enduring partnership between China and Russia stands out as a cornerstone of stability and resilience. Beyond mere diplomatic rhetoric, their alliance embodies a steadfast commitment to weathering storms and overcoming challenges together. Encountering diplomatic hurdles and external pressures, both nations remain resolute in their determination to deepen their bond, reflecting the profound strategic significance of their alliance. As

national relations, their joint endeavors in economic and strategic cooperation not only fortify their bilateral ties but also contribute to shaping the future trajectory of global affairs. Through collaborative efforts aimed at fostering mutual prosperity, China and Russia set a precedent for constructive engagement amidst an ever-evolving from both China and the U. S., which world order. Their enduring friendship

serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring power of diplomacy, offering a beacon of hope and stability amid turbulent times.

Pakistan, with its strategic location and historical ties with both China and Russia, plays a crucial role in bolster-

ing this shared vision for the world. As a longstanding ally of China through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the broader Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Pakistan serves as a key link in China's efforts to enhance connectivity and promote economic development across the region. Additionally, Pakistan's strategic partnership with Russia, particularly in defense and energy cooperation, further strengthens the trilateral relationship. Pakistan stands to benefit significantly from the deepening collaboration between China and Russia. Enhanced economic and strategic cooperation among the three nations

Amidst recent diplomatic maneuthey navigate the intricate web of intercan unlock new opportunities for trade, investment, and infrastructure development in Pakistan, contributing to its economic growth and regional stability. Moreover, closer ties with China and Russia offer Pakistan greater leverage in navigating complex geopolitical dynamics and addressing common challenges, such as terrorism and extremism. Furthermore, Pakistan's participation in initiatives like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) provides a platform for closer cooperation and dialogue with China and Russia on regional security and development issues. As a member of the SCO, Pakistan can contribute to efforts aimed at promoting peace, stability, and connectivity in the broader Eura-

> Pakistan's strategic alignment with China and Russia underscores the importance of trilateral cooperation in shaping the future of global affairs. By leveraging its unique position and strengthening ties with both nations, Pakistan can harness the opportunities arising from this partnership to advance its own economic and strategic interests while contributing to peace and prosperity in the region and beyond.

sian region.

(The Peshawar based writer is a foreign affairs commentator and media advisor, as well as the Secretary-General of the Pakistan-China Friendship Association, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chapter. He can be reached at syeed.gilani@ gmail.com.)



Cartoon by Amjad Rasmi. (Courtesy of Asharq Al-Awsat)

Billion Trees: A bygone story

Fakhar-e-Alam

naware of the adverse effects of deforestation and climate change, Amanullah, a 71-yearold wood seller had expedited cutting of timber with a big saw machine in his wood taal eying to earn maxi-

Engaged extra laborers to cut native and indigenous species into pieces in his wood tall located on main GT Road at Pabbi station in Nowshera district, Amanullah Khan alias Hajji Sahib is working against the clock to fulfil the orders placed by the marriages halls, tandoors, hotels and restaurants in Nowshera and Peshawar districts

where weeding season will start soon. The sons of well off wood seller and labourers are working against the clock by preparing bundles of endangered shisham, pulai, ber, kikar, poplar, neem, amaltas, soru and jaman in wood taal with plenty of trees' trunks brought from Nowshera, Peshawar, Mardan, Charsadda and other nearby districts scattered all around on his business place where wood dust are exposing

labourers to serious health hazards Dr Mumtaz Malik, former Chief Conservator Wildlife KP said that every year around 10 million hectares of forests were deforested equal to area of Portugal at global level, adding around half of this deforestation was counterbalanced by re-growing of forests, which means that an overall around five million hectares of the green gold was lost per year worldwide.

Terming overpopulation, poverty and unnecessary trees logging as one of the major causes of deforestation in KP. Dr Mumtaz Malik said that in 1947, Pakistan's population was only 37 million that jumped to record 241 million in 2024 and if it continued growing with such high pace it is expected to touch 260.3 million in 2030 and 330.8 million by 2050, resulting vanishing of the green gold, wildlife and bees population from the country.

"The arrival of influx of over four million afghan refugees after USSR Invasion in 1979 had made negative effects on forest resources in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including erstwhile Fata where even roots of thousands of trees were dig out by afghan refugees for monetary gains," he said, adding the world community had made no significant contribution for revival of forestry sector in these areas that was a matter of great concerns.

Dr Mumtaz said about 68 percent forests in the country were being used as firewood and 15 percent trees were being lost due to urbanization and community-driven demands.

He warned that if we do not change our green sector policies and shift to adaptation of alternative energy resources including solar, hydroelectric, biomass and wind then there is every possibility of losing existing forests in the next two decades besides witnessing frequent climate change's disasters. "Pakistan is highly susceptible to climate change and 2010 viz a viz 2022 floods were testimony of it," said Fazl Elahi, Chief Conservator of Forests KP while talking to APP.

To counter climate change and deforestation, he said the green growth initiative (GGI) was launched with a main focus on six focal sectors including forestry, national parks, clean energy, climate resilience, water and sanitation besides water management. Capitalizing on the GGI, he claimed that billion trees afforestration project was launched on November 2014 under which 1208 million saplings including 732 million through enclosures on 306,983 hectares land, 316 million through plantation on 263,213 hectares land and 160 million through farm forestry were planted in KP where 6.3 percent increase in forest covered areas were registered.

He said the project was later extended to the entire country with a plantation target of 10 billion including additional one billion plants to KP for 2018-2023.

The Forest Department documents however revealed that the PTI led government has fallen short of the said target by planting only 707.36 challenges posed by deforestation and climate million saplings in KP till December 31, 2023,

thus facing a major shortfall of 292.64 million.

Wajid Ali Khan, former Environment and Forest Minister said that thousands of trees planted under the billion trees afforestration project were prematurely cut in the province which was a clear violation of the agreement signed between KP forest department and farmers.

He further claimed that these agreements were made in haste as these plantations were not meant for immature cutting of trees by the landowners and farmers under mutual agreements with the

Forest Department. He alleged that billion trees plantation sites were badly affected in Peshawar, Haripur, Abbottabad, Manshera, Kohistan, Kohat, Bannu, Kurrum, Orakzai and South Waziristan due to wrong selection of sites by the 2022 floods, thus inflecting million rupees financial losses to the

Alike reports of flood damages to dozens of plantation sites including avenue and moist afforestation were also reported due to alleged bad land destabilization schemes, nurseries and bio engineering from Swat, Shangla, Dir Kohistan, Dir and Chitral districts due to improper selection of afforestration sites while short spacing between

plants in hilly areas caused negative on its growth. The ex minister said that PTI leadership's tall slogans about transparency in the BTAP project were exposed after the project was taken over by NAB and Peshawar High Court and demanded speedy completion of the investigation.

He said shortage of water resources for young plantations have allegedly caused mortality of species. 10 BTAP was a Rs27.3 billion project with equal share of Rs13.5 billion of federal and KP governments.

KP Forest Department Chief Fazl Elahi said KP CM has principally decided to initiate the Billion Tree Plus project in order to enhance forest cover area and direction were issued to the quarters concerned to complete homework for launching of the project at earliest to offset the monster change to the region.

'Green Emergency' vital to combat environmental degradation

Naveed-ul-Haq

n a world grappling with environmental challenges and global warming, reforestation stands out as a powerful solution that offers numerous benefits to combat climate related hazards.

By planting trees in areas that have been deforunlock a range of positive effects: from combating climate change to fostering biodiversity, as it holds a key to a healthier planet and thriving communities.

Climate change is one of the most pressing global issues, and reforestation plays a crucial role in mitigating it. Trees are champions in absorbing carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere through the process of photosynthesis — that's why forests are called carbon sinks.

By planting trees and restoring forests, it is possible to effectively sequester carbon to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Forests had a remarkable ability to regulate local and regional climates.

The shade provides by tree canopies helps reduce temperatures, creating a cooling effect release water vapor into the air, further cooling the surrounding environment.

By increasing tree cover in urban areas and near industrial zones, we can create cleaner and healthier environments for communities.

Biodiversity is vital for all life on Earth, and forests are vibrant ecosystems that support a wide array of plant and animal species. Humans use at least 40,000 different species of plants and animals daily for food, shelter, clothing, and medicinal needs.

Reforestation plays a pivotal role in preserving and restoring biodiversity. By planting a diverse range of tree species, we create habitats for various plants, insects, birds, and mammals, fostering a balanced and resilient ecosystem. Researchers have discovered that up to 2.3 million living en the AQI during peak smog period.

Healthy soil is the foundation for sustainable agriculture and thriving ecosystems. Reforestation helps protect and restore soil health by preventing erosion and improving its structure. The extensive root systems of trees bind the soil, reducing the risk of landslides and soil degra-

The Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz-led ested or are devoid of forests, reforestation can Punjab government has initiated "Plant for Pakistan" campaign, considering the trees plantation vital to combat environmental degradation, smog destructions and other climate-related issues in Pakistan.

> Almost all provincial departments including Civil Secretariat, Forest Department, Parks & Horticulture Authority, Lahore Development Authority, Water and Sanitation Agency and City District Administration have also launched the campaign, following the directives of the Punjab Chief Minister.

Besides planting trees or speaking to grow plants, actually, Pakistan needs an immediate 'Green Emergency' to meet climate changes and reduce smog destructions. Every year, Pakistan loses almost 27,000 hectares of natural forest in urban areas. Through evaporation, trees area, as approximately 68 per cent of Pakistan's population still depends on firewood as the main source of energy in households.

"Since March of last year, when I assumed charge as Director General, the Parks & Horticulture Authority (PHA) of Lahore has planted over a million saplings across the city with a focus on untended neighborhoods and became the first government department to distribute electric bikes to combat air pollution", said DG Parks & Horticulture Authority Lahore while talking to APP.

He said that PHA has also developed the city's largest government-owned commercial nursery at Gulberg, adding that this year; the authority aims to increase the target by manifold to increase Lahore's green cover to eventually less-

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President Raisi: IRGC warriors taught Israel 'unforgettable lesson'

₿ IRNA

TEHRAN: Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi says the warriors of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) taught the Zionist regime "an unforgettable lesson" with their drone and missile operation.

"Last night, your zealous and courageous children in the IRGC, with the cooperation and coordination of all the defense and political sectors of the country, turned a new page in the history of Iran's authority and taught a lesson to the Zionist enemy," Raisi said in a statement on Sunday.

He said the operation was within the framework of Iran's right for "legitimate self-defense" in response to the aggressive actions of the Zionist regime against the objectives and interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially the attack on the Iranian consulate in Syria, which led to the martyrdom of a number of IRGC warriors.

"During the last six months and especially the last ten days, the Islamic Republic of Iran has used all the available regional and international tools and facilities to draw the attention of the international community to



the deadly dangers resulting from the inaction of the United Nations Security Council against the continuous violations committed by the Zionist regime," he wrote. "But unfortunately", Raisi hastened to add, "the Security Council, under the influence of the United States and some other supporters of the Zionist regime, has been prevented from fulfilling its duties."

"In the first step, the Islamic Republic

Islamic Republic of Iran is resolute in advancing neighborly policies and promoting friendship and cooperation with neighboring countries." Calling resistance "key to reviving

tion to defending the interests of countries and nations in the region. The

peace and security in the region and countering any form of occupation and terrorism", he said, "Iran attributes the root cause of the crisis in the region to the genocidal and violent policies of the Zionist regime.'

President Raisi went on to say that "any new adventure against Iran's interests will be met with a firm and regrettable response", and added, "Should the Zionist regime or its supporters display reckless behavior, they will face an even more resolute reaction."

He also advised the backers of the occupying regime "to appreciate this responsible and proportionate action by the Islamic Republic of Iran and refrain from supporting the aggressive Zionist

regime blindly." "We underscore that Iran's robust defense against external hostilities is a result of the unity and solidarity of our great and beloved nation, as well as the brave efforts of the IRGC and the Army."

Bakhtiyor Saidov meets with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan



News Desk

TASHKENT: Today, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Bakhtiyor Saidov held a meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan Sirojiddin Mukhriddin.

The Foreign Ministries of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are directing all their resources to further strengthen good neighborliness, strategic partnership and alliance between our countries. Further development of ties, building up trade relations, ensuring regular exchanges in all directions remain among our main priorities," noted the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan in his telegram channel.

Hamas representative says Zionist regime totally isolated in region, world



TEHRAN: Representative of the Palestinian Resistance Movement Hamas in Tehran Khalid Qaddoumi has said that diplomatic measures have caused the Zionist regime to be totally isolated in the region

In an exclusive interview with IRNA on Tuesday, Qaddoumi said that the diplomatic measures taken during this period have been effective because today Zionist regime is totally isolated in the region and world, whether among the UN members or in its ties with the US and

He added that the diplomatic actions of pro-Palestinian countries should be in a way that they force the Zionist regime to stop the war and genocide against the Palestinian people.

Qaddoumi described the diplomatic actions of the Islamic Republic of Iran from the beginning of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against diplomatic measures of the US as the main supporter of the Zionist regime as good and constructive.

Referring to the necessity and importance of rebuilding Gaza after the end of the war, he said, "According to some reports and announced statistics, the casualties and material damage to Gaza have been estimated at more than \$30,000 billion which shows the depth of the

He concluded, "It is necessary to reach a definitive conclusion regarding the cessation of genocide and the crimes of the Zionist regime before addressing the issue of rebuilding Gaza."

Azerbaijan Army holds seminars on gender equality

№ News desk

ISLAMABAD: The meetings focused on educating military personnel in the Azerbaijan Army, improving their moral-psychological training and promoting national and moral values continue under the instructions of Defense Minister, according to the Defense Ministry.

Seminars on gender equality in the Azerbaijan Army, activities in this field, human rights and other topics are held by the representatives of the Office for Women and Families of Servicemen of the Main Department for Personnel of the Defense Ministry.



As part of the enlightening activities, the opinions of military personnel and civilian employees were heard and their questions were answered.

DPRK top leader attends special concert by Chinese traditional orchestra

👺 Xinhua

SEOUL: Kim Jong Un, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the State Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), attended a special concert presented by China National Traditional Orchestra, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said Sunday.

The orchestra was on a visit to the country to participate in the opening ceremony of the "DPRK-China Friend-

Visiting performers presented music featuring Chinese traditional culture and impressed the audience with Korean songs and a chorus "China-DPRK Friendship Will Be Immortal" at the East Pyongyang Grand Theater on Saturday evening, according to the KCNA report.

Chinese Minister of Culture and Tourism Sun Yeli and Chinese Ambassador to the DPRK Wang Yajun, as well as officials and representatives from various sectors in Pyongyang and foreign diplomats in the DPRK, watched the performance.



of Iran tactfully and intelligently target-

ed some of the military bases of the occu-

pying, anti-security, and anti-stability

regime in its drone and missile opera-

ers regional peace and stability essential

for its national security and spares no

efforts to restore and maintain peace

and stability. Iran's strength lies in its

commitment to security and its dedica-

"The Islamic Republic of Iran consid-

tion," he noted.

Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan issue the first electronic permit forms to road carriers

TASHKENT: Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan launched a simplified process for issuing permit forms for international road transport of goods using digital permit forms on 13 April 2024.

Representatives of the Ministries of Transport of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan introduced a system for electronic exchange of permit forms.

Digital permit forms for the transportation of goods to/from third countries will be issued at checkpoints such as Atameken, B. Konysbaeva, Kazyactual arrival of vehicles at the state

history of road transport in both coun-

tries, which significantly simplifies gurt, Kaplanbek and Tajen, upon the logistics processes and increases the efficiency of cargo transportation. Such innovations will help reduce waiting This is a significant event in the times and avoid problems associated

45th anniversary of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto celebrated in AJK 跨 Abdul Majeed Tahir

LIPA VALLEY: Like the rest of the country, despite the heavy rains and cold weather in Lipa Karna, including the entire Azad Kashmir, the founding chairman of the People's Party, the first elected prime minister of the country, the nuclear program, the founder of the consensus constitution of 1973 and the implementation of numerous revolutionary reforms.

The 45th anniversary of the leader of the people, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was celebrated with great devotion and respect. After the death of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, founder chairman of Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Party, founder chairman of the People's Party, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, received justice from the Supreme Court of Pakistan, a nationwide

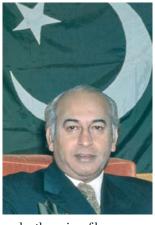
party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, addressed on the occasion of the anniversary at the party secretariat in Wadi Lipa organized by People's Party Azad Kashmir Tehsil Lipa Valley under the title, Stability of Democracy, Prosperous Pakistan, Story of Kashmir and Shaheed Quaid of the People. A seminar was organized in which the chief guest of the party, Central Deputy Secretary of Information, Shaukat Javed Mir, nominated candidate for the Assembly Constituency of LA Thirty-Lipa Valley Seven, while addressing the seminar, said that the leader of the people, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, was delivered after almost half a century.

On justice, the Supreme Court of Pakistan has not only done a great favor to the nation by cleaning up the stigmatized spots on the judicial system and correcting the historical wrongs, but also gathering was held at the shrine made the flag of Pakistan's good of Shuhday. Chairman of the name and dignity and the green

crescent flag red-hot around the

President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister of Pakistan Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif should issue orders to implement the decision passed unanimously by the Senate and the four provincial assemblies without delay and to the shrines of martyred leader of the people, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, daughter of the East, Ms. Benazir Bhutto. They should be taken into official custody and given the status of national heroes, Parliament House, President's House, Prime Minister's Secretariat, Ministers' Block, apart from the four Provincial Assemblies, Governor's Chief Minister's Houses, all departments, embassies, government and private educational institutions should display

pictures of national heroes. He said that if the Leader of the People, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, had not been hanged



under the guise of bogus cases on the initiative of international imperialist forces, Pakistan would have been among the developed countries and one and a half million Kashmiris would have gained independence from India by taking their birthright and right to self-determination. After the unanimous decision of the larger bench headed by the

Court of Pakistan, Justice Qazi Faiz Isa, which had joined the nations, treason cases should be instituted against the marshals and their facilitators under Article Six of the Constitution. And their effigies should be hanged symbolically on Dastur Highway.

Shaukat Javed Mir said that if the leader of the people, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, had not foiled the terrible plot of dividing Kashmir on the occasion of the Tashkent Agreement, the people of Kashmir would have been given 75,000 coins of Nanak Shahi. It would have been sold as if the leader of the people had changed the war lost in the Shimla agreement into a victory through negotiations and released 90 thousand prisoners of war from India and took back the conquered areas.

The revolutionary leader Mrs. Benazir Bhutto Shaheed laid the foundations of the nuclear program for invincible defense.

Chief Justice of the Supreme The fall of struggle and the color Aziz Alvi, Ishtiaq Mir. Speaking, destination of historical sacrifices. People's Party will continue to the stability of democracy, the rule of law, the independence of Occupied Kashmir, the independence of occupied Kashmir, the protection of nuclear assets, the stability of democracy and the national

Pakistan Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Architect of Pakistan, Leader of the People, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Daughter of the East, Ms. Benazir Bhutto's thoughts and ideas are the safe path to national development. Ticket Holder District Council Rafafat Awan, Secre- ed Chairman of the Senate. were tary Tehsil Lipa Member Local congratulated and appeals were Council Sheikh Siddique Ahmed, Youth Leader Ehsan Alam Awan, ers of the party, Qamar-ul-Zam-Member Local Council Azhar an Kaira, as Governor of Punjab Mir, President Union Council Lipa Arif Mughal, Waqar Alam on Kashmir Affairs to the Prime Awan, Uncle Rafi Awan, Asif Minister of Pakistan.

of blood are considered as the Afzal Qureshi, Arshad Qureshi and other speakers paid tribute to the national and internationplay the role of Harwal Dasta for al achievements of the Leader of the People, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Daughter of the East, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, and the Supreme Court of Pakistan for giving justice to the People's Party and the Bhutto family after fortyfive years. thanked and appreciated the decision of President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari Political Affairs Chairperson Ms. Faryal Talpur for filing the Bhutto Reference Case and former Prime Minister of Pakistan Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani for being electmade to appoint the central leadand Chaudhry Riaz as Advisor

Bull & Bears PSX 100-Share

index Fluctuation				
Pakistan: PSX 1	00-Share Index			
Current	Prev. Close			
70,314.71	69,619.98			
Day's High	Day's Low			
70,677.29	69,857.14			
Index Value	Change			
11,887,576,551	+694.73			
Percentage	Time			
+1%	9 Apr, 2024 5:00 pm			
Europe: FTS	E 100 Index			
Index Value	Change			
7,934.79	-8.68			
Percentage	Time			
-0.11%	9 Apr, 4:35 pm GMT+1			
USA: Dow Jones I	ndustrial Average			
Index Value	Change			
38,755.40	-137.40			
Percentage	Time			
-0.35%	9 Apr, 1:07 pm GMT-4			
Asia Pacific: Nikk	ei Stocks Average			
Index Value	Change			
39,773.13	+426.09			
Percentage	Time			
+1.08%	9 Apr, 3:15 pm GMT+9			

0000	Market	EGROV	Datas
Oben	Market	rorex	Rales

Currency	Buying	Selling
Australian Dollar	182.7	184.5
Bahrain Dinar	739.38	747.38
Canadian Dollar	204	206.2
China Yuan	38.45	38.85
Danish Krone	40.45	40.85
Euro	299.95	302.9
Hong Kong Dollar	35.57	35.92
Indian Rupee	3.33	3.44
Japanese Yen	1.86	1.94
Kuwaiti Dinar	903.91	912.91
Malaysian Ringgit	58.92	59.52
NewZealand \$	167.63	169.63
Norwegians Krone	25.38	25.68
Omani Riyal	722.1	730.1
Qatari Riyal	76.35	77.05
Saudi Riyal	73.3	74.05
Singapore Dollar	206	208
Swedish Korona	25.72	26.02
Swiss Franc	307.11	309.61
Thai Bhat	7.61	7.76
U.A.E Dirham	75.45	76.2
UK Pound Sterling	349.5	353
US Dollar	277.5	280.5

Economic growth linked to durable regional peace



Example 2 Commerce Desk

LAHORE: SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry's former president Iftikhar Ali Malik has advocated the cause of achieving durable peace in the region, a prerequisite to economic growth, prosperity and development for all countries of South Asia.

Talking to a delegation of traders led by Muslim Khan Buneri from KP here Sunday, he said South Asia has long been plagued by instability and conflicts that have hindered the region's progress and potential. One of the major concerns contributing to this instability has been the presence of terrorist sanctuaries on Afghan soil, which have posed a severe threat not only to Afghanistan but to neighboring countries including Pakistan, he added.

He said counterterrorism cooperation and collaboration closely with regional and international stakeholders, especially Pakistan, to eliminate terrorist sanctuaries can help eradicate the breeding grounds for extremist elements and bring about much-needed stability.

About economic integration, he said, "We must embrace economic integration initiatives within the South Asian region and enhanced economic cooperation can create an environment conducive to peace, prosperity, and development for all.

He believed that by taking these steps, the Afghan government can play a pivotal role in shaping a more secure and prosperous South Asia, as this in turn, will foster economic growth, improve living standards, and create a brighter future for all nations in the region. Iftikhar Ali Malik said, "We are committed to supporting any positive efforts towards peace and development in South Asia."

Ahsan Iqbal to receive APO Meritorious & Distinguished Award-2024 next month

Commerce Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal would formally receive the Asian Productivity Organization (APO) Meritorious and Distinguished Award-2024 during its Governing Body's 66th session to be held in Kuala Lumpur next month for his inspiring, exemplary achievements and contributions leading to centrality of productivity.

"The APO has revealed the winners of the APO, Regional Meritorious and Distinguished Awards, 2024 and Planning Minister Professor Ahsan Igbal is one of the recipients in Asia Pacific who is the winner among the others," a news release by the Planning Ministry said

These prestigious awards honor individuals who have made significant contributions to productivity improvement across the Asia Pacific. This was the fourth time that Professor Ahsan Iqbal has assumed the charge of the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives. First time he became the planning minister in 1997 and continued this responsibility till 1999 then served from (2013-2017), and again from (2022-2023). Besides, he served as a Deputy Chairman Planning Commission

Previously, Ahsan Iqbal was also appointed as the United Nations Development Programme's

"Champion Minister" for the Asia Pacific region, for his tireless efforts in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In Addition, Ahsan Igbal was hailed as the "Hero of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor" (CPEC) by the Chinese Government, a testament to his pivotal role in fostering bilateral relations and economic prosperity. He was also give the title of "Mr. CPEC" by China.

Under his dynamic leadership, several initiatives were taken which includes vision 2010, vision 2025, Outlook 2035, 5Es framework, 4RF framework for flood, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), five New Economic Corridor and their alignment with 5Es framework, National Centers for Excellence, Main Line-1 (ML-1) railway project, Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) KCR and others.

Furthermore, other remarkable achievements, includes, initiating the PQI (Productivity, Quality, and Innovation) initiative, driving excellence in Pakistan's industries, increasing the development budget for higher education by an impressive 68 percent, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to the future of our vouth. The APO awards have celebrated the achievements of productivity champions who have significantly contributed to productivity improvement across the Asia Pacific.

In commemoration of the APO's 60th anniversary in 2021, several enhancements have been made to the award schemes to reflect the



evolving landscape of productivity and innovation.

The presentation of the awards would be conducted at the conferral ceremony during the 66th Session of the APO Governing Body in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, May 28–30, 2024 as well as the designated occasions by the APO Directors of respective countries of awardees based on the APO Regional Meritorious and Distinguished, and National Awards.

The APO is dedicated to leveraging the knowledge and experience of these awardees to inspire and steer future productivity initiatives, thereby foster learning, innovation, and collaboration among APO members.

The APO is a regional intergovernmental organization dedicated to improving productivity in the Asia-Pacific region through mutual cooperation. It is a nonpolitical, nonprofit, and nondiscriminatory organization.

Established in 1961 with eight founding members, the APO currently comprises 21 member economies including Bangladesh; Cambodia; the ROC; Fiji; Hong Kong; India; Indonesia; Iran; Japan; Republic of Korea (ROK); Lao PDR; Malaysia; Mongolia; Nepal; Pakistan; Philippines; Singapore; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Turkiye and Vietnam.

The other awardees are Dr Pao-Cheng Chang, President of the China Productivity Center, Anilkumar Manibhai Naik, Chairman Emeritus of Larsen & Toubro Limited; Dr Bountheung Douangsavanh, Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce in Lao PDR; Datuk Wira (Dr) Haii Ameer Ali Mydin, Managing Director of Mydin Mohamed Holdings Berhad; Yamaaranz Erkhembayar, Chairman and CEO of the Mongolian Productivity Organization; and Dr Ha Minh Hiep, Acting Director General of the Directorate for Standards, Metrology, and Quality in Vietnam.

The APO is shaping the future of the region by fostering the socioeconomic development of its members through national policy advisory services, acting as a think tank, institutional capacity-building initiatives, and knowledge sharing to increase productivity.

ISLAMABAD: A view of Saudi Arabian and Pakistani national flags fixed on a green belt in front of President House in the Federal Capital, in connection with Saudi delegation, led by Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan will visit in Pakistan.



FBR collects traders' data as drive to widen tax net picks up pace

№ PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has collected 10 years traders data, sources said on Sunday as the tax collection authority takes action against

The lifestyle and extravagant expenses of such traders do not match their tax data. they said and added that the FBR would send final notices to non-filers, including

Moreover, such tax evaders pay a small is in millions of rupees. Many traders and

industrialists own multiple plots and also have business abroad.

The development comes a couple of weeks after the authority launched the Tajir Dost Scheme, designed to integrate traders and wholesalers into the formal tax framework by April 30. The initiative facilitates free registration and extends a variety of tax-related benefits to incentivise participation.

It is separate from the FBR's decision to block 500,000 mobile phone SIMs of tax evaders. The authority has identiamount of tax while their annual income fied two million tax evaders, but mobile that would reject the stay order taken by service-providing companies requested the

tax authority that they could not afford to block such a large number of SIMs.

While facing the daunting task of bringing defaulters into the tax net, the FBR has prepared a list of traders in Lahore's markets. They are from Akbari Mandi, Shah Alam Market, Azam Cloth, Anarkali, Liberty, Mall Road, Gulberg, Ferozepur Road, and Model Town.

In the second stage, traders from markets and bazaars across Punjab would be included in the list. Sources said that the authority has approached the courts

to Rs16 **№** PPA LAHORE: The Punjab

Punjab government

decreases roti price

government decreased the roti price from Rs20 to Rs16 across the province, chief minister Maryam Nawaz said on Sunday.

In a post on social media platform X, she said that all districts and departments concerned in the province have been issued directives related to the new price of the roti. He directed them to ensure strict implementation of the decision.



the price of flour. The rate of a 20kg flour sack fell from Rs2,800 to Rs2,300 after a fall of Rs500 in the price. Asim Raza, the Pakistan

Flour Mills Association chairman, attributed the slash in prices to the decrease in the price of wheat. It is expected the price

of a 20kg flour sack would On Saturday, Maryam, further decrease by Rs300 advised her team to decrease after the arrival of wheat the rate of roti after cutting from Punjab in the market.

'Asia has consequential position in the world'

LAHORE: Kyrgyzstan's Honorary Consul Meher Kashif Younis has said that Asia holds a consequential position in the world due to its large population, strategic locations, rich mineral

resources and diversity. Presiding over a workshop on "Importance of BRICS for Pakistan" organized by Gold Ring Economic Forum here Sunday, he added that Pakistan, as an important partner in the region has sought membership in order to align with this trend. With its abundant natural resources, strategic location and fifth-largest world population, Pakistan's absence from BRICS could have repercussions in the future if not addressed. He said Pakistani leadership should consider BRICS while assessing ground realities. He said BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) can pave the way for sustainable development and growth in from January 1st, 2024.

the region. New doors for trade and investment will be opened under the supervision of developed countries like China and Russia.

He said the individual who coined BRICS has predicted that these nations' economies will dominate the world by 2050. He said a golden opportunity has been presented to these advancing countries under the leadership of this group. Meher Kashif said that multilateralism, trade and investment, loan provision. and a burgeoning economy are the future progressing in the right direction. He mentioned that one of the main components of this forum is the NDB, New Development Bank. The emergence of a BRICS currency is also expected to tackle and mitigate the dominance of the dollar. Six other countries have been invited to join this union: Argentina, Ethiopia, Egypt, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab

Oil seen opening up after Iran's attack on Israel, but further gains may depend on response

Reuters

Oil prices are expected to rise on Monday after Iran's attack on Israel over the weekend, analysts said on Sunday, but further gains may depend on how Israel and the West choose to retaliate.

Iran launched explosive drones and missiles at Israel late on Saturday in retaliation for a suspected Israeli attack on its consulate in Syria on April 1, a first direct attack on Israeli territory that has stoked fears of a wider regional conflict.

Concern of a response from Iran to the strike on its embassy compound in Damascus supported oil last week and helped send global benchmark Brent crude on Friday to \$92.18 a barrel, the highest since Octo-

It settled that day up 71 cents

64 cents to \$85.66. Trading is Giovanni Staunovo. closed on Sunday.

stronger prices when trading li response," Staunovo added. resumes," said Tamas Varga of oil broker PVM. "Having said that, there has been no impact on production so far and Iran has said that 'the matter can be deemed concluded'.

"However fierce and painful the initial market reaction will be, the rally could prove to be short-lived unless supply from the region is materially disrupt-

US President Joe Biden said he would convene a meeting of leaders of the Group of Seven major economies on Sunday to coordinate a diplomatic response to the Iranian attack. "Oil prices might spike at

Intermediate crude futures rose its territory," said UBS analyst

"How long any bounce will "It is only reasonable to expect last will... depend on the Israe-"Also today's G7 virtual meeting needs to be monitored, with an eye on if they target or not Iranian crude exports.

Iran has steeply raised oil exports-its main sources of revenue-under the Joe Biden administration. Exports were severely reduced under Biden's predecessor Donald Trump, who will face Biden in a presidential election rematch in November.

The Biden administration has argued it is not encouraging Iran to raise exports and is enforcing sanctions.

Lower Iranian exports would lead to a further rise in oil pricthe opening as this is the first es and the cost of gasoline in the

at \$90.45, while US West Texas time Iran has struck Israel from US, a politically sensitive subject ahead of the elections.

Another factor to watch will be any impact on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. through which about a fifth of the volume of the world's total oil consumption passes daily.

The commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guard's navy said on Tuesday Tehran could close the strait if deemed necessary, and earlier on Saturday, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported a Guards helicopter had boarded and taken into Iranian waters a vessel, the Portuguese-flagged MSC Aries.

"Crude prices already includregard. ed a risk premium, and the extent to which it will widen further almost exclusively depends on developments near Iran around the Strait of Hormuz," said Ole Hansen at Saxo Bank.

Saudi Arabia to invest \$1b in Reko Diq project

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: A Saudi investment of up to one billion dollars is likely next month in the Reko Diq Copper Gold project located in Chagai district in Balochistan.

Special Investment Facilitation Council is trying to remove obstacles in this

In order to ensure the smooth completion of Saudi investments, the Prime Minister will constitute a committee of Finance Ministry, comprising all stakeholders of country.

Following this investment, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia will sign agreements for further investment in the mining sector. "Reko Diq is one of the

bigger copper-gold undeveloped projects in the world," said Mark Bristow, chief executive of Barrick, which aims to start mining in 2028 subject to an ongoing feasibility study. "It's a very big deal. Any copper mine right now is a big deal."

Last year in December, Pakistan and Barrick Gold Corporation signed \$8 billion landmark agreement on Reko Diq project.

Mahnoor Ali and Mahwish Ali win big at the Australian Junior **Open 2024**

Sports Desk

LAHORE: The young Pakistani squash players, Mahnoor Ali and Mahwish Ali, sponsored by the Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood (BARD) Foundation, achieved remarkable success by winning gold medals at the Australian Junior Open 2024. The championship took place at the prestigious Melbourne Sports & Aquatic Centre in Albert Park,

The tournament highlighted young Pakistani female players' exceptional performance across diverse categories, bringing pride to our nation and reaffirming its longstanding position in the sport.

Mahwish Ali, a 15-year-old rising star in the world of squash, is the newest BARD fellow of the Bilguis & Abdul Razak Dawood Foundation. With several victories and titles to her name, including 21 gold medals and multiple

championships, she embodies determination and perseverance. Similarly, Mahnoor Ali, also a recent recipient of support from the Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood (BARD) Foundation, has established herself as a significant figure in the squash world at the age of 11. She has won 11 gold medals to date. Her dedication and extraordinary skill have propelled her to numerous victories, such as the Asian Junior Gold Medal, Scottish Junior Open Gold Medal, and much more, serving as an inspiration to us all.

In this impressive series of matches, these two young Pakistani female players fully showed their dominance and diligence at the Australian Junior Open 2024 with notable victories. Mahnoor Ali and Mehwish displayed outstanding skills in the Girls U-13 and Girls U-17 divisions respectively.

Abdul Razak Dawood, President of the Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood



(BARD) Foundation, expressed, "It's incredibly gratifying to witness Paki-The achievements of these two talent-

ed girls exemplify the limitless capabilities of Pakistani women and girls. We're honored to have them as BARD fellows and are committed to providing constant support throughout their journey. Their success serves as an inspiration for other young girls to move forward and pursue their dreams."

The Bilquis and Abdul Razak Dawood (BARD) Foundation has always played a vital role in promoting talent and paving the way for successful careers for many. The initiative undertaken by the Foundation believes in changing fortunes by helping competent individuals realize their potential as champions in their chosen fields. The purpose of the Foundation is to develop strong and confident individuals, with a special emphasis on skill construction and improvement. The Foundation extends assistance to anyone who has the spirit of adventure stani girls embracing their potential. by becoming a part of their transform-

Main Raod closed

ISLAMABAD: A view of road closed near a local hotel where stays New Zealand cricket team, in the Federal Capital.



'It's a joy': Rafael Nadal returns to action in Barcelona

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Rafael Nadal said it will be "a joy" to return to action for the first time since January when he takes part in the Barcelona Open next week where he is a 12-time champion.

The 22-time Grand Slam winner has played just once, in an exhibition match, since he felt a hip injury flare-up during a quarter-final defeat by Jordan Thompson in Brisbane on the eve of the Australian Open.

"I'm happy to be here, of course, Barcelona is a place that has brought me a great June, will be looking for deal of joy, and where I have spent periods of my life," said Nadal at Saturday's draw ceremony.

will Nadal play 63rd-ranked Flavio Cobolli of Italy in his opening to 646 after missing all of The tournament has some

Nadal, who turns 38 in the Australian Open.



a problem-free return as I've had very few days on he builds towards seeking tour, so spending days here, a record-extending 15th French Open title.

The former world number added Nadal. one has seen his ranking slip the 2023 season following incredible players."

"Over the last two years seeing people, being able to practise with players is a joy,

"I'm keen to carry on.

The 2022 and 2023

Barcelona champion Carlos Alcaraz will begin his claycourt campaign after missing the Monte Carlo Masters due to a right arm injury.

Photo: Online by Sultan Bashir

World number three Alcaraz is the top seed and has a bye in the first round before facing either China's Zhang Zhizhen or Luca Van Assche of France.

Nadal has never played Cobolli, 16 years his junior. If he gets past him, he will face the tougher task of 11th-ranked Australian Alex de Minaur in the second

There is the prospect of a tantalising semi-final meeting with Alcaraz on the centre court which now bears Nadal's name.

On Saturday afternoon, Nadal trained with sixthranked Andrey Rublev of Russia and appeared to move smoothly around the

NZ team arrives in Pakistan to play T20 series



Sports Desk

ISLAMABAD: The New Zealand T20 squad arrived in Islamabad, where PCB officials welcomed them. Pakistan and New Zealand teams will compete in five T20

At least nine players of Kiwi squad are busy playing Indian Premier League. All-rounder Michael Brees will lead the Kiwi team for the first time in the T20 series against Pakistan.

The first T20 match between the two teams will be played on April 18 at the Rawalpindi Stadium.

The national T20 squad will start the practice session from Monday. Azhar Mehmood will join the squad on the morning of April 15 and will be head coach for

It's official! Conor McĞregor will return to UFC but when will he fight?

President of Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) Dana White made a significant announcement about during Saturday's landmark UFC 300 event.

After keeping fan sin the dark for months, White, 54, on Saturday officially announced that UFC star Conor McGregor, 35, will be returning to fight against his longtime rival Michael Chandler, 35, inside the Octagon, Daily Mail reported.

The two fighters have been scheduled to face each other for several months and even coached The Ultimate Fighter TV show against each other.

Although speculation has been rife, White officially declared that the match will take place on June 29, as a five-round main event, at a weight of 70lbs.

When asked why the fight had been postponed for such a long time, the UFC president explained that McGregor was only recently able to train for his return to the

PCB provides update on Ihsanullah's elbow injury



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan fast bowler Ihsanullah has departed for Manchester, England to see a renowned orthopedic surgeon about his elbow injury, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed on Sunday.

Ihsanullah, who has featured for Pakistan in one ODI and four T20Is, suffered an elbow injury last year.

The 21-year-old has been out of action since playing for Pakistan in the ODI series against New Zealand at home last year

"Fast bowler Ihsanullah left for Manchester, England, on Sunday morning for his crucial appointment on Monday with esteemed orthopedic surgeon, Professor Adam Watts, regarding his elbow injury," PCB stated in a press release.

"Professor Watts specialises in hand and wrist surgery, shoulder and elbow procedures, sports injuries, and trauma surgery. "Ihsanullah's franchise, Multan Sultans, has collaborated with

the PCB to secure this appointment. The PCB, as Ihsanullah's parent body, will cover all expenses for his treatment and rehabilitation.

"Further updates will be provided by the PCB following Professor Watts' assessment and diagnosis.

Notably, the right-arm pacer was bowling in the nets ahead of the Pakistan Super League (PSL) season nine but could not receive the green signal from the medical team and was consequently ruled out of the entirety of the tournament.

Ihsanullah played a pivotal role in Sultans' run to the final of last year's edition as he ended up as the second-highest wicket-taker of the tournament, picking up 22 wickets in 13 matches.

Fakhar Zaman impressed by Azam Khan during Kakul fitness camp

№ A Sports

LAHORE: Pakistan's top-order batter Fakhar Zaman has appreciated young wicketkeeper batter Azam Khan for his courage and hard work the during



recently concluded physical fitness camp in Kakul. Twenty-nine cricketers attended the pre-season camp at the

historic and iconic Pakistan Military Academy in Kakul from March 26 to April 6, with the training and drills designed by Pakistan Army experts and strategists. During the camp, there was a focus on team building aimed to

phance the physical and mental strength of the players, ensuring they were in the best condition to face the challenges ahead.

Under the guidance of experienced trainers and coaches, the players underwent a comprehensive training regime tailored to elevate their fitness levels, agility, leadership, strategic thinking and overall performance on the field.

Azam Khan's consistent hard work during the fitness camp brought him to the forefront, despite being criticized for his fitness issues in the past. Fakhar Zaman praised the explosive wicketkeeper highly

in an interview on the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) official YouTube channel. "What impressed me the most is what Azam Khan has done.

We were not expecting him to undergo such tough training, and naturally, his physique is such that we didn't anticipate him to take up such challenges," Zaman said. "Despite that, the way he has pushed himself, even climbing

mountains when we were hiking, I mean, we couldn't believe he would make it to the top. If we all show such courage, it could be very beneficial. Zaman also reflected on the experience of undergoing a rigor-

ous fitness regime at Kakul during the holy month of Ramadan while fasting. "It was quite tough when I was here back in 2018, but this

time, it wasn't so tough, due to the holy month of Ramadan,"

"The training they conduct here is tough, but since it was Ramadan, they took great care and lightened the workload a bit. When your fitness is good, you also get good results, and our aim here was to build team bonding, which worked well. The training sessions, both on and off, have been excellent, and of

course, there will be benefits from that," he added. Notably, both Fakhar Zaman and Azam Khan are part of Pakistan's squad for the upcoming five-match home T20I series against New Zealand, starting from 18 April.

Tchouameni helps Real Madrid see off Mallorca to stay on title course

Sports Desk

LAHORE: long-range goal to help Real Madrid secure a 1-0 victory over Mallorca in their La Liga 2023-24 match at Estadi Mallorca Son Moix on Saturday. The victory helped Real

Madrid to stay eight points clear of Barcelona at the top of La Liga points table ahead of the upcoming El Clasico. The France midfielder, who

is suspended for the second leg of Madrid's Champions League quarter-final away to Manchester City next week, scored three minutes into the second half with

a deflected 25-metre drive. Jude Bellingham rattled the

the area as coach Carlo Ance- run to 25 games, keeping Barcelotti reshuffled his attack with lona a safe distance behind ahead Wednesday's trip to England in mind, leaving out Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo.

Tchouameni's third goal of the season put Real Madrid ahead, with Brahim Diaz denied a second by the legs of Mallorca goalkeeper Predrag Rajkovic and Fede Valverde's attempt cleared off the line.

Vinicius appeared off the bench for the last 30 minutes but Rodrygo and Toni Kroos were unused substitutes after a thrilling 3-3 draw with Manches-

ter City in Tuesday's first leg. Sergi Darder's spectacular dipping shot forced a flying stop crossbar in the first half with a from Andriy Lunin as Madrid rasping effort from just outside extended their unbeaten league

of next week's Clasico in the Spanish capital.

"It's a very important victory, which brings us closer to the title. We're on a good run and now we're going to think about Wednesday, that we have time to recover well and try to do our best," said Ancelotti.

"Having an advantage before (next) Sunday's game is very important and that was the goal." Copa del Rey runners-up Mallorea stay in 15th, six points

above the relegation zone. Meanwhile, Barcelona, who are desperately trying to force their way back into the title race, matched Madrid's result with a

1-0 win of their own at third-bot-

Joao Felix's clever overhead late in the first half secured the points as coach Xavi Hernandez made sweeping changes to the team that beat Paris Saint-Germain 3-2 in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final.

The Portugal international led the attack in the absence of the suspended Robert Lewandowski, acrobatically hooking in the only goal after a Cadiz defender's looping header from a corner fell directly to him.

Fermin Lopez had an effort scrambled off the line and Marc-Andre ter Stegen's sprawling save to claw away a Diadie Samassekou piledriver preserved a sixth successive clean sheet in the league for the visitors.



The Spokesman

Addressed

LARKANA: Chairman Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing a large crowd in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh.



Bilawal calls for 'Charter of Reconciliation' among all political parties

Spokesman Report

LARKANA: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that all politicians and political parties should work on a 'Charter of National Reconciliation' to avoid fighting with each other and shun Pishin and Chaman on Saturpolitics of foul language.

"Rather than playing dharna dharna, we should sit on multi-party confab, Bilawthe table and have a political dialogue to bring improvement in our system, democracy, and institutions through ance was beating drums for amendments," he said while addressing a large crowd in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh, Sindh bility." on Sunday

parties Tehreek Tahafuz-e-Aa-

This alliance kicked off its protest movement against alleged rigging in the February 8 general elections from

Without naming the

al described it as the "PNA (Pakistan National Alliance) 2" and added that the allialleged vote-rigging to cause "economic and political insta-

He reminded the parties of The PPP chief's recomment the result of such movements, cians to "come to their senses", dation comes as the newly warning them of the risk of he called for dialogue between Pakistan was a poor country formed alliance of opposition dictatorship in the country, political parties. The PPP chief, and blamed the "thinking."

some conspirators like 'nine stars' started a campaign and thought that they would oust Bhutto and come into power. But because of their campaign Balochistan by staging two Pakistan had to bear dictatorseparate public gatherings in ship for 10 years and this risk exists today," he said while addressing a large crowd in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh, Sindh on Sunday.

> The country would not develop and democracy would be at the receiving end if politicians make such an environment and not focus on national reconciliation and are involved in politics of bad-mouthing.

While advising the politi-

in will launch a massive move- to was the PM of this country, to provide relief to the people in the provinces ruled by them.

He also mentioned about the 'Charter of Democracy', saying that the party achieved 90% of its target under the agreement. The remaining 10 per cent was related to the judicial reforms, he said and hoped to do it with all parties, legal fraternity, and civil soci-

Bilawal called for reviving people's trust in the national institutions. Every worker of the PPP wants the implementation of the charter of democracy, he said.

President Asif Ali Zardari also addressed the people. He shunned the impression that ed" of 'Babus in Islamabad". Bilawal sees legal trouble for President Alvi over 'violation of

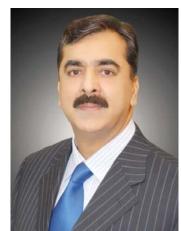
Constitution' He said that such thinking has made Pakistan a poor state, reiterating that the country was not poor.

The country has everything, but lacks intellectual capacity, Zardari said and called for sitting together. "What is in power? Power is about people's service and we fight for it," he said and stressed the need for dialogue.

"If you cannot come to that point then withdraw. The PPP for the past 40 years have been fighting. Sometimes it withdraws, advances, sidesteps and takes a front step," the president said and called for think-"When Zulfikar Ali Bhut-added that the party would try understanding and soft head-ing before taking any step.

Senate chairman expresses deep grief over loss of lives in Punjab due to rains 👺 Kiran Asim

MULTAN: Chairman Senate Sved Yousuf Raza Gillani has expressed deep sorrow and grief over the loss of precious lives in various accidents during rains in different parts of the country including Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. He has also expressed his concern over the incidents of lightning strikes in the country during rains. Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani Said districts of South Punjab Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Rahim Yar Khan, Muzaffargarh, Rajanpur. Leah. Expressed deep grief over the loss of lives due to lightning strikes during rains in Dera Ghazi Khan and Lodhran and urged the provincial government to use all its resources to help the rain victims across Punjab. Take responsibility. Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani expressed regret over the loss of lives in accidents during rains in various areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including lower and upper Chitral areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and urged the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and relevant disaster management agencies to provide immediate assistance to the rain victims. Landslides with Help citizens stuck in various difficulties including He also expressed regret over the loss of



life and property caused by lightning strikes and other accidents in various areas of Balochistan including Chaman, Dera Bugti and Kohlu and said that he is sure that the people's government of Balochistan will help the rain victims in their difficult times. Will not leave alone. Chairman Senate Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani He said that the increase in lightning incidents across the country is a sign of climate change and universities and research institutions should play their role in this regard. He said that extraordinary spirit and leadership is needed at the government level to protect the countrymen from climate

Biden says US helped Israel down nearly all Iran attacks



Biden said US forces helped Isra- threat following a presumed Israeel shoot down nearly all the drones li strike on Iranians in Damascus and missiles fired by Iran Saturday, but appeared to guide the key US ally by saying Israel had now shown its

Biden added that he was convening fellow G7 leaders on Sunday to coordinate a diplomatic response against Tehran, in another sign that he is trying to avoid any further military escalation that could ignite a wider Middle East conflict.

The US president said he had called Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to reaffirm Washington's "ironclad" support for Israel, after recent tense relations over Israel's war in Gaza.

"I told him that Israel demonstrated a remarkable capacity to defend against and defeat even unprecedented attacks — sending a clear message to its foes that they cannot effectively threaten the security of Israel," he said.

He said he had ordered US mili-

ing the case but the attempt did

not work as planned as it would

tary aircraft and ballistic missile defense destroyers to the Middle WASHINGTON: President Joe East in recent days, as the likely became clear.

"Thanks to these deployments away from retaliating against Tehran and the extraordinary skill of our servicemembers, we helped Israel take down nearly all of the incoming drones and missiles," Biden said.

Biden said he would on Sunday 'convene fellow G7 leaders to coordinate a united diplomatic response to Iran's brazen attack."

His comments hinted at the US balancing act between supporting its ally and wanting to deescalate tensions, amid fears of Washington being dragged into another Middle East war

Those fears have mounted ever since a presumed Israeli strike on April 1 leveled an Iranian diplomatic building in Damascus, killing seven members of the elite Revolutionary Guards including two generals.

After launching the drone strikes, Tehran warned the United States Sunday to "stay away" from its conflict with Israel.

Saudi Foreign Minister visits Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: A high-level Saudi delegation, led by Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan bin Abdullah, will visit Pakistan from 15 to 16 April 2024. The delegation consists of Saudi Minister of Water and Agriculture, Eng Abdul Rahman Abdul Mohsen Al-Fadley, Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources, Bandar Ibrahim AlKhorayef, Deputy Minister of Investment, Badr AlBadr, Head of Saudi Special Committee, Mohammad Mazyed Al Towaijri, and senior officials from Ministry of ing reached between Prime Minister



Investments.

The visit takes place essentially to expedite follow up on the understandMuhammad Shehbaz Sharif and HRH Mohammad bin Salman, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during their recent meeting in Makkah Al Mukarramah to enhance bilateral economic cooperation between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi delegation is expected to hold meetings with the President, the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister and counterpart Ministers, COAS, Apex Committee of SIFC. This visit is aimed at lending positive impetus to enhanced bilateral cooperation and mutually rewarding economic partnership.

President witnesses flag hoisting ceremony at Naudero House

E Correspondent



Asif Ali Zardari Sunday witnessed the national flag hoisting ceremony at Naudero House here.

NAUDERO: President

On the occasion, a smartly turned out contingent of Sindh Police presented guard of honour to the President. He prayed for the progress and prosperity of the country. Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Faryal Talpur and officials of Sindh government were also present.

Adil Raja loses crucial stage of defamation case to Brig (R) Rashid Naseer

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Controversial Youtuber Major (Retd) Adil Raja has suffered a crushing blow as a UK High Court Judge rejected all his applications including his application to stay a defamation trial progressing against him by former senior military officer Brigadier (retired) Rashid Naseer. The judge ruled that Mr Raja had published words which were seriously defamatory of Rashid Naseer in nine publications on social media sites YouTube, Facebook and Twitter/X.

Deputy High Court Judge Mr Richard Spearman KC ruled that Adil Farooq Raja should pay £5,000 to the now retired Brigadier for the rejected application to stay the defamation trial and the judge also ordered Adil Raja to pay a further interim payment on account of costs in the sum of £5,000 for the failed security for costs application. Adil Raja, the defendant, has until 17 April 2024 to pay this money. With help from his lawyer and PTI UK leader Mahtab Anwar Aziz who also represents PTI activist at UK common law when Adil

before the court remotely by video link and argued that the case of Brig (R) Rashid Naseer should be staved on a number of grounds but the court rejected all his arguments which included allegations that Pakistan was an authoritarian state in which the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) controlled the Judiciary and the Government and allegations of election rigging in Pakistan. In the case on meaning, the High Court Judge ruled that 9 out of the 10 publications published by Adil Raja were defamatory of Brig (R) Rashid Naseer at common law and were matters of fact, rather than expressions of opinion. Brig (R) Rashid Naseer's name had surfaced when former PM Imran Khan named him as Mr'X' in making wild and baseless allegations – the allegations Khan and his party stepped back from and failed to prove at any forum. In deciding the meaning of the publications, Deputy High Court Judge Mr Richard Spearman KC ruled that Brig (R) Rashid Naseer was defamed

Shayan Ali, Adil Raja appeared Farooq Raja made the following allegations, without any evidence, in the publications in June 2022: (1) The reasons why the elections were not proceeding as they should was because Brigadier Rashid Naseer had taken complete control of the Lahore High Court; (2) Brigadier Rashid Naseer had allegedly had several meetings with Asif Ali Zardari during his stay to discuss election manipulation; (3) Brigadier Rashid Naseer will be eliminated at the right time by soldiers working covertly leaking information about the actions and movements of such people; (4) Brigadier Rashid Naseer has set up an election cell in the Sector Headquarters in Lahore tasked with gathering daily progress reports of PDM and PMLN candidates, summoning local influencers and pressurising and bribing them into casting votes against PTI candidates; (5) Brigadier Rashid Naseer is part of a meticulously contrived process set up by military and intelligence officers to rig elections in Pakistan; (6) Brigadier



ing his position, using huge unaccounted funds to ensure the victory of PDM and PMLN and manipulating elections in Pakistan; (7) Brigadier Rashid Naseer will be abusing his position and power to use the Police and Dolphin Force to harass PTI supporters during the PTI election; (8) Brigadier Rashid Naseer has sinned and destroyed his chances of the promised life in the hereafter just to serve one person; (9) Brigadier Rashid Naseer had caused the police to do his bidding by making a baseless allegation of bribery against Adil Raja; (10) Brigadier Rashid Naseer is directly involved in political interference; (11) Brigadier Rashid Naseer registered

a complaint against Adil Raja in (R) Rashid Naseer from pursuorder to defame him and prevent him receiving his identity card and passport because Adil Raja had exposed his plans to rig elections and this is how Brigadier Rashid Naseer, a fraudster from Lahore, operates; (12) On the instructions of Brigadier Rashid Naseer a fake case was registered against Adil Raja and his brother in law was arrested; and (13) Brigadier Rashid Naseer played a prominent role in regime change.

Brig (R) Rashid Naseer denies all these allegations. As a result of the Judge's ruling, Adil Raja will now have to prove that the substance of each and every allegation is true. In a separate application, Adil Raja had asked the court to make Brig. (retired) Rashid Naseer pay a sum of £250,000 as security for his costs because Mr Rashid Naseer is based in Pakistan and suing in the UK but the Judge rejected this and agreed with the lawyers for Brig (R) Rashid Naseer that he will give an undertaking that his solicitors will hold only £4,000 as security. This was a tact by Raja to stop Brig Mr Raja's application which was Chambers Law Solicitors.

not be possible for Mr Naseer to arrange an amount of £250,000 to keep in the UK account of his lawyers. In his application, Adil Raja had also sought anonymity for his witnesses to trial but the court agreed with the position that Brig (R) Rashid Naseer's lawyers adopted and allowed Mr Raja's application to anonymise his witnesses but only up until the witness statements are exchanged. Thereafter if Raja wants his witnesses anonymity to continue he will need to make a further application and convince each and every allegation as false the court to allow his witnesses to remain anonymous, at which stage Brig. (retired) Rashid Naseer can challenge the anonymity should he choose to do so. In another setback for Adil Raja, he had also asked the court in a separate application to dismiss David Lemer of Doughty Street the claim brought by Brig (R) Rashid Naseer on the grounds that he had not suffered serious harm. The Judge did not deal with this and simply adjourned

agreed by Brig (R) Rashid Naseer's lawvers. The retired military officer

sued Adil Raja, asserting that the fugitive retired major deliberately spread false information about him to cause harm and profit from fake news on social media. Adil Farooq Raja initiated his campaign against the officer on June 14, 2022, through tweets and videos of YouTube and Facebook, Court documents reveal that the retired brigadier filed his case through his UK lawyers on August 11, 2022. In his defamation claim, the senior military officer refuted and stated that he had suffered significant damage to his reputation, with the potential for further harm in the future. Adil Raja has been living in the UK since April 2022. Brig (R) Rashid Naseer was represented by Counsel Chambers and Ushrat Sultana and Sadia Qureshi of Stone White Solicitors. Major (R) Adil Faroog Raja was represented by Mahtab Anwar Aziz of Central

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