



Daily The Spokesman

A Leading National Daily



فرمان رسول ﷺ
ایسوی کی شہری رضی اللہ عنہ سے روایت ہے کہ نبی کریم صلی اللہ علیہ وسلم نے فرمایا جو شخص اللہ سے ملے گا وہ پندرہ کروڑ سال تک اس سے ملے گا پندرہ کروڑ سال تک اللہ جس شخص سے ملے گا وہ پندرہ کروڑ سال تک اس سے ملے گا۔
(صحیح بخاری، حدیث نمبر 6508)

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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 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. (Details on Page 8)

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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 consulate in Syria earlier in April.



Photo: IRNA

Seven key points on Iran's attack on Israeli regime

IRNA

TEHRAN: First and foremost, the Iranian attack was the first direct confrontation between the Islamic Republic and the fake Zionist regime. This is very significant in terms of historical issues. Effective attacks deep inside the occupied territories have 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.

The Iranian attack took place at a time when Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, through striking the Iranian diplomatic mission, was trying 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-

ly help increase popular support for Iran in the region. That comes in addition to the fact that both the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation and the Iranian military action 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 defense systems of the US and the UK failed. The scale, precision, and strategic planning of the operation caught the Zionists off guard with shock 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 of missiles and drones in the recent as well as the intensiveness of the punitive operation 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 Iranian consulate.

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 Ramadan, the immediate and unconditional release of hostages and the urgent need to expand the flow of aid into Gaza.

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

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.

President congratulates Sikh community on celebration of Baisakhi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday extended his heartfelt 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 minorities 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 large-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.

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 provincial governments were ensuring provision of all facilities to the Sikh Yatrees who were visiting their religious rituals.

Baisakhi was an occasion showing the colours of spring and an event to exchange feelings like love, affection and joys, PM Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying. The prime minister said that they felt pride that Pakistan comprised the beauty of combination of different faiths and cultures and the event of Baisakhi further added to that beauty. "On the occasion of Baisakhi, I give you all the message of love, affection and peace. Let's play our role in building a peaceful world," he added.

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.

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards 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.

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 country's eastern Punjab province was the worst-hit region where 17 people lost their lives and six others were injured in lightning strikes incidents as heavy rainfall lashed various districts of the province over the past 48 hours, NDMA official Muhammad Umar told Xinhua.

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.

The torrential rains also damaged several houses in parts of the country, with authorities evacuating stranded people to safer places. Heavy rains also caused traffic jams on main roads and highways.

The authorities have urged citizens and tourists to avoid

unnecessary travel in affected 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.



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 places.

The Sikh religion celebrates Baisakhi celebrations, to mark the advent of the order of the *Khalsa by 10th Sikh Guru Gobind Singh Ji, observed at Gurdwara Panja Sahib here today.

Around ten thousand Sikh yatrees – among them over 2400 Indians and others from other parts of the world,



including Pakistan, India, Canada, the United Kingdom, participated in the festivities.

Baisakhi processions called Nagar Keertan were taken out in the premises of Gurdwara Punja Sahib with tradi-

tional performances and religious rites.

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

In their speeches, representatives of various Sikh community organizations in different countries also lauded Pakistan government's decision of opening Kartarpur corridor and thanked the Pakistani government for fulfilling

their longstanding demand.

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) Amritsar party leader Sardar Rawinder Singh told the media that special love for Pakistanis 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 added.

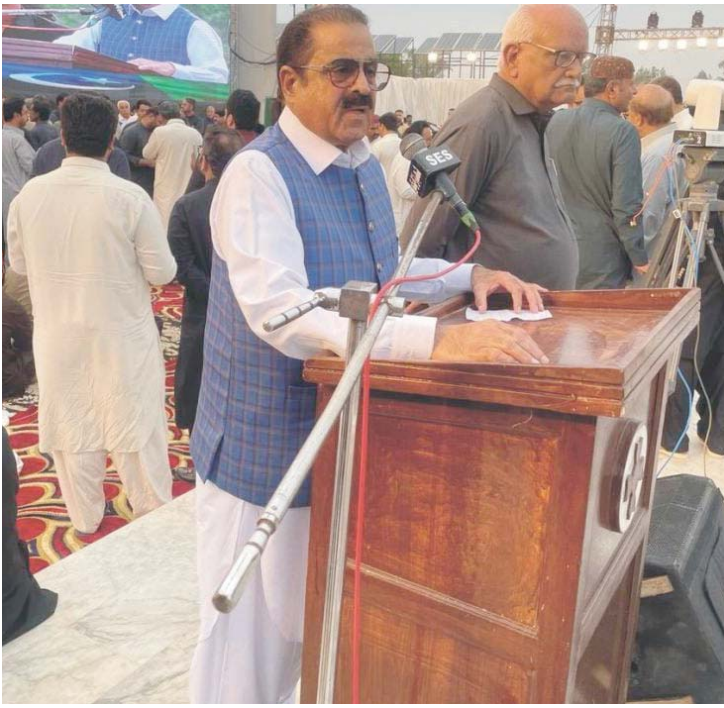
Bhutto is name of a revolution, says Pakistan People's Party

Bureau Report

GARHI KHUDA BAKSH/ MUZAFFARABAD: 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 Yesterday, 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 Ummah.

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 Nushki. 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-Fitr is to include the true happiness of the deprived sections. I am patient on behalf of the Multan Punjnand Lions Club And 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. Zulfikar Ali Rana, and other doctors and staff of the hospital were also present.

Faisalabad increase in crimes, police strategy is very ineffective

Abdul 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 sister-in-law, Deputy Director Public Relations Faisalabad Muhammad Owais Abid and Haris Abid's mother has passed away due to God's will (تاریخاً) (تاریخاً). 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



with ALLAH during his service. After the death of her husband, the deceased brought up her three children, two sons 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 bound by fasts and prayers, who spent

her entire life in piety and piety, and was always patient and grateful while fully trusting in Allah. May Allah grant 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 other bereaved. Various government-

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 Saediya, has said that Pakistan is passing through the most critical period in history. They are ready to make any kind of sacrifice for the establishment of peace today, he was addressing a huge gathering organized at Shahi EidGah Khanewal Road 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 Allama Syed Ahmad Saeed Kazmi. But the inner hall of the Eidgah, the outer courtyard, all the grassy plots and so on the main highway was filled with devotees, due to which there was no place for a sit-in in the entire Eidgah. Allama Mazhar Saeed Kazmi urged the Muslim rulers to show their faith,

honor and importance by helping the freedom of Qibla I and the oppressed Palestinian people of Gaza. Evidence was given by former Federal Minister of Religious Affairs Allama Syed Hamid Saeed Kazmi Said that all political parties and institutions, including the government, should overcome personal and party interests and take urgent measures to solve public problems while working with understanding and compassion. Kazmi said while addressing Arshad Saeed Kazmi said that the Persian language is extinct in religious schools.

The education and teaching of Persian language and literature was done in Jamia Anwar Uloom Professor Dr. Muhammad Siddiq Khan Qadri condemned the recent incidents of terrorism and said that national unity and national unity are the most important need of the hour to remedy them. Hazrat Allama Kazmi's mission for 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 services He 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-



zada Muhammad Mazhar Shah Naqibi, Mufti Muhammad Qasim Faizi, Sahibzada Syed Javed Saeed Kazmi, Sahibzada Dr. Syed Athar Saeed Kazmi, Sahibzada Syed Ahsan Saeed Kazmi, Mufti Ghulam Mustafa Rizvi, Mian Hussain Ahmed Qadri, Sajjada Nasheen of Astana Aliya Qadriya Jalalpur Pirwala, Mian Shoaib Hasan Qadri, Syed Muhammad Ahmad Saeed Kazmi, Syed

Ruh Al-Quds Kazmi, Nazim-e-Ala of Jamaat Ahlus Sunnat Sindh Maulana Muhammad Akram Saeedi, Mufti Muhammad Sharif Saidi Ashrafi, Mufti Muhammad Zaman Saidi Rizvi, Qari Muhammad Salim Ashraf Qadri, 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-Rasool 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

Interview By: Kiran Asim / Syed Nadeem Kazmi

Chairman 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 Muhammad 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 continuous support for infrastructure maintenance and development since 2013 under the USAID program. He added with the support of USAID, we are making MEPCO Musa Pak Division an urban division to be emulated by the whole of Pakistan within a record time. He said there is zero theft of power in MEPCO and advanced technologies including ABC cables, AMR meters, and modern capacitors are used in infrastructure. He informed 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 society.

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 powers and kept him away from the process and entire board members gave their input in the screening to keep the induction process transparent and worthwhile. He said the CEO is a very important position therefore, 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 policy-making and implementation.

He said since he took charge, he introduced quality changes in MEPCO to run the company smoothly and efficiently. He said continuous improvement is his vision and the company's main focus is consumer satisfaction. He said policies consistent and compatible with the board are their priorities. Explaining the management composition, he said the board has different committees. The board has not centralized everything. Rather matters that come up within the board are referred to the committees.

There is a technical initiative and procurement committee, a strategic and marketing committee, an HR committee, and a finance and audit committee. He said the Chairman is not everything and cannot do everything but there are rules, regulations, and policies to manage the company amicably. He said Pakistan takes loans from international bodies and friend countries on very tough conditions and they demand guarantees for re-payments so such negotiations remain always hard for Pakistan therefore, they try hard not to compromise on the country's interest in terms of money and resources. He said the other critical element is poverty in the country which is also a matter of prime concern.

In response to a question, Sardar Jamal Khan Leghari said that consumers under the MEPCO's jurisdiction are very poor but regrettably the company is bound to implement the rates



of NEPRA in all circumstances. He said it is very difficult for us to justify these high rates but as per the policy of NEPRA, we have to implement these rates in all cases. Since they are unable to give relaxation in terms of energy price, then they try to ensure at least the best customer service and to address all complaints professionally on priority.

He said MEPCO has reached 15 districts so we have had meetings with SEs of nine circles and have issued strict orders to SDO, LS, meter readers, etc. against corruption that if anyone is involved in corruption strict action will be taken against the culprits. He further said we need to ensure that the service we provide to our customers is satisfactorily within the tariff they are paying to the company. He added, "I have a political background, therefore, I have to consider that policies being formulated are not against the interest of MEPCO and poor consumers as well so that we can provide maximum service and satisfaction to our

consumers".

Sardar Jamal Khan Leghari further said that according to the vision of Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, 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 per law.

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

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 a call away.

Talking about flood-hit areas including 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 supply during outages.

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 Pakistan.



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

of Iran tactfully and intelligently targeted some of the military bases of the occupying, anti-security, and anti-stability regime in its drone and missile operation," he noted.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran considers 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-

tion to defending the interests of countries and nations in the region. The Islamic Republic of Iran is resolute in advancing neighborly policies and promoting friendship and cooperation with neighboring countries."

Calling resistance "key to reviving 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



IRNA

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 and world.

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 European countries.

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 catastrophe."

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 Friendship Year."

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.



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

News Desk

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, Kazygurt, Kaplanbek and Tajen, upon the actual arrival of vehicles at the state border.

This is a significant event in the history of road transport in both coun-

tries, which significantly simplifies logistics processes and increases the efficiency of cargo transportation. Such innovations will help reduce waiting times and avoid problems associated with speculation.

45th anniversary of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto celebrated in AJK

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 Zulfiqar 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 gathering was held at the shrine of Shuhday. Chairman of the

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 Zulfiqar 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 made the flag of Pakistan's good name and dignity and the green

crescent flag red-hot around the world.

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 Zulfiqar 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

Chief Justice of the Supreme 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 Zulfiqar 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.

The fall of struggle and the color of blood are considered as the destination of historical sacrifices. People's Party will continue to play the role of Harwal Dasta for 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 prosperity.

Pakistan Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Architect of Pakistan, Leader of the People, Shaheed Zulfiqar 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, Secretary Tehsil Lipa Member Local Council Sheikh Siddique Ahmed, Youth Leader Ehsan Alam Awan, Member Local Council Azhar Mir, President Union Council Lipa Arif Mughal, Waqar Alam Awan, Uncle Rafi Awan, Asif

Aziz Alvi, Ishtiaq Mir. Speaking, Afzal Qureshi, Arshad Qureshi and other speakers paid tribute to the national and international achievements of the Leader of the People, Shaheed Zulfiqar 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 forty-five 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 elected Chairman of the Senate. were congratulated and appeals were made to appoint the central leaders of the party, Qamar-ul-Zaman Kaira, as Governor of Punjab and Chaudhry Riaz as Advisor on Kashmir Affairs to the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

