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Parvez Elahi loses PP-32 seat to Musa Elahi in Gujarat PML-N takes lead as results pour in of by-elections in 21 NA, PA seats

A clash between PML-N and PTI workers in Narowal's PP-54 resulted in death of a PML-N worker; ECP takes notice of PML-N activist killing, 'abduction' of polling staff

LAHORE (INP): The ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) has taken the lead in the by-polls held on nearly two dozen national and provincial seats on Sunday, as per unofficial and preliminary results.

Provisional results of the by-elections in five national and 16 provincial constituencies have begun trickling in as the vote count commenced following the conclusion of polling on Sunday.

Polling continued from 8 am until 5 pm without any break – across five National Assembly seats, 12 Punjab Assembly seats, two Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa As-

sembly seats and two Balochistan Assembly seats – amid stringent security measures.

In a major upset, former Punjab chief minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-backed (PTI) Sunni Ittehad Council candidate Parvez Elahi, contesting from PP-32, faced defeat from Gujarat as Musa Elahi from the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) secured victory.

Musa Elahi emerged victorious with an impressive count of 63,536 votes, as per unofficial results.

In contrast, Chaudhry Parvez Elahi could only manage to secure 18,237 votes, according to the un-

official tally. This outcome marks a significant shift in the political landscape of Gujarat, signaling a change in representation for the constituency.

The results of the 21 by-elections started pouring in as per the unofficial and unverified after polling concluded amid violent incidents reported in Narowal.

Elections were originally scheduled for 23 constituencies. However, the results of two seats, one national [NA-207 Shaheed Benazirabad] and one provincial [PS-80 Dadu], had already been announced.



The ballot casting process is underway at a polling station during the By-Election in PB-22 constituency in Lasbela

Iranian President Raisi to reach Islamabad today with a focus on regional dev., connectivity, trade

This will be the first visit by any head of state to Pakistan after the February 8 general elections

ISLAMABAD (INP): Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will reach Pakistan on Monday for a three-day visit, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Sunday, to become the first head of state to arrive in the country after the Feb 8 general elections.

During his stay, Raisi will meet President Asif Ali Zardari, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Senate Chairman Yousaf Raza Gilani and National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, the statement said, adding that he was also scheduled to visit Lahore



and Karachi, where he would hold talks with the provincial leadership. The Iranian president would be accompanied by his spouse, the foreign min-

ister and other cabinet members, senior officials as well as a large business delegation.

According to the Foreign Office, the two sides will have a wide-ranging agenda to further Pakistan-Iran ties and enhance cooperation in diverse fields including trade, connectivity, energy, agriculture and people-to-people contacts.

"They will also discuss regional and global developments and bilateral cooperation to combat the common threat of terrorism," the statement read.

FM declares negotiations with Int'l financial institutions as positive

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb has expressed the expectation of larger bailout programme from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and considered improving the revenue distribution between the provinces and the Centre.

Addressing a news conference in Washington along with Pakistan Ambassador to the United States Masood Khan, he said that Pakistan Stock Market witnessed a historical bullish trend in recent days due to positive indicators of economy.

The Minister said that the mechanism regarding tax collection was also being improved through reforms.

He said that Pakistan was heading towards financial stability as government's vision regarding revival of economy is quite clear.

M u h a m m a d Aurangzeb also stressed the need for concrete measures to reduce government expenditures.

INP adds: Federal

Minister for Finance and Revenue Muhammad Aurangzeb has expressed the expectation of larger bailout programme from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and considered improving the revenue distribution between the provinces and the Centre.

The minister said, if the loan is approved, Islamabad would revisit its NFC award that allocates revenues between the federation and the provinces.

He said that some of the sectors which need to be brought in a much bigger way into the tax net were provincial markets.

Pakistan is requesting a "larger and longer" multi-billion-dollar loan programme from the IMF and discussions are underway with the Fund's officials, the finance minister said, without specifying how much the nation was trying to secure.



WASHINGTON DC: Finance Minister Mr. Muhammad Aurangzeb's interaction with Pakistani media at Pakistan Embassy.



LAHORE: Eminent religious scholar Dr. Raghیب Hussain Naeemi calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Deputy Commissioner suspended: CM grieved over death of a child due to falling in well in Musakhail

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has expressed sorrow over death of a child due to falling in a well in Musakhail district.

According to an official handout issued here on Sunday, the Chief Minister expressed anguish over delay in rescue operation after the incident.

On the delay in

rescue operation, the Deputy Commissioner Musakhail has been suspended, stated in the hand-out.

The Chief Minister asserted that action would be taken against the officers who committed negligence in this regard.

In a tweet, the Chief Minister asserted that the officers and other employees doing good job would be encouraged.

Saudi citizen abducted in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: A Saudi Arabian citizen has been reportedly kidnapped from Sector F8 of Islamabad, prompting swift action from law enforcement authorities.

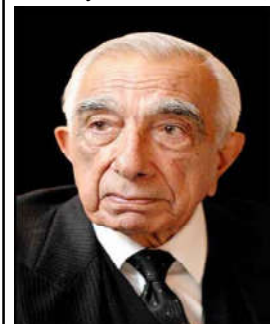
The Margalla police station has registered a first information report (FIR) at the request of an official from the Saudi embassy.

According to the FIR, the accused, identified as Abdul Wahid Shahid Khan, allegedly kidnapped Saudi citizen Hanan Abdullah al-Bashar. The FIR also highlights the urgency of the situation, emphasizing the need for the kidnapper to face legal consequences and for the prompt recovery of the abducted individual.

Former bureaucrat Roedad Khan passes away at 101

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former bureaucrat Roedad Khan passed away at the age of 101 here on Sunday.

Since his entry into the Pakistani Civil Services in 1949, he has held a number of positions, including those of chief secretary of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa,



managing director of PTV, information secretary during Yahya Khan's regime, secretary ministry of labour and tourism, interior secretary of Pakistan, secretary general ministry of interior, federal minister of accountability, and adviser to the prime minister and president.



QUETTA: Former Chief Minister Balochistan Senator Abdul Quddus Bizenjo, Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango and MPA Asghar Rind congratulate Justice Hashim Khan Kakar on becoming Chief Justice of Balochistan High Court.

People rejected PTI's narrative of falsehood by overwhelmingly voting PML-N in by-polls: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar on Sunday called the victory of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) as a manifestation of the people's trust in the people-friendly policies of the government and a clear rejection of the narrative of falsehood worked out by the leadership of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) from behind the bars.

Bugti greets Shahzaib Rind on winning Karate combat fight

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has congratulated the Pakistani karatekz and martial arts player, Shahzaib Rind on winning the karate combat fight against Indian player.

In a felicitation message issued here on Sunday, the Chief Minister said that Shahzaib Rind has made the Pakistani nation proud by defeating Indian player in the karate combat fight.

The Chief Minister noted with pride and contentment that Shahzaib Rind knocked out the opponent player belonging to India. He proudly said that youngsters of Balochistan have always raised the national flag in the sports fields. The Chief Minister also said that we are proud of the youth of Balochistan brightening the name of Pakistan all over the world.

Pakistan Navy continues rescue, relief operation in flood hit areas of Gwadar

GWADAR (INP): Pakistan Navy in the aftermath of recent unprecedented rain spells in Gwadar, Ormara and adjoining villages of Balochistan, was actively undertaking rescue and relief operation named "Operation Madad" from past three days.

Immediate relief was provided to affected families on Sunday upon receiving information

through local sources that large number of people were stranded into houses due accumulated water in vicinity and were in immediate need of ration supplies. Pakistan Navy Rescue teams immediately co-ordinated the efforts and air dropped ration bags to affected people of Muradi, Dando, Kulanch and adjoining isolated areas of Gwadar District.



Pakistan Navy rescue teams air dropping ration bags to trapped people of Muradi, Dando and Kulanch near Gwadar.

Armed men kidnap polling staff in PB-50, Qila Abdullah

QILA ABDULLAH (INP): Armed men have kidnapped the polling staff deputed at several polling stations of PB-50, Qila Abdullah, Balochistan during voting in the constituency in connection with a by-election on Sunday.

Members of the polling staff have been kidnapped from polling station number 33, set up at Girls' Primary School; polling station number 72 set up at Government Primary School; polling station number 96 set up at Government High School Norak; polling station number 97 set up at Rural Health Center Norak, and polling station number 99 set up at Government High School Norak.

On the other hand, talking to the media, Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PMAP) candidate from the constituency Mirwais Khan Achakzai has demanded the immediate recovery of the polling staff.

He has called upon the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to fulfill its responsibilities to ensure free, fair and transparent election.



QUETTA: Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party Central Leader, Abdul Rahim Khan Ziaratwal along with addresses to media persons during press conference held at Quetta press club.

Gohar calls by-elections a farce, slams ECP for failing to ensure transparency

GUJRAT (INP) – Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan criticised the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Sunday, accusing it of failing to conduct the by-elections on 21 national and provincial seats transparently.

Speaking to reporters outside the Khattala polling station in Gujrat's PP-32 constituency, Gohar called the by-elections a farce, arguing that parliament should consist of genuine public representatives with popular support, rather than those installed through electoral malpractice.

Gohar declared that the PTI would not recognise the results of the PP-32 constituency by-

polls. Asked about the death of a political worker from the PML-N in Narowal, Gohar expressed sadness and stressed the importance of respecting differing opinions among political workers from opposing parties.

Responding to a question about the PTI founder, Gohar stated that efforts to distance him from the public would not succeed.

He expressed optimism about the founder's imminent release.

Gohar also mentioned that the PTI founder had been served three sentences within a span of five days, noting that one judge was even compelled to delay his son's walima ceremony.

Punjab Governor says: Supremacy of constitution and law is vital for the development of country

Independent Report
LAHORE: Deputy Chairman Senate Syedal Khan Nasir met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore. Matters of mutual interest and other important issues were discussed in the meeting. During the meeting, Governor Punjab congratulated Syedal Khan Nasir on assuming the

office of Deputy Chairman Senate. Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the supremacy of the constitution and law is vital for the development of country. He said that uniform development of all units is very important for the strength of the federation. Governor Punjab said that we have

to strengthen our democratic institutions for sustainable development of country. He said that the current leadership is taking concrete steps to address the challenges facing the country. Governor Punjab said that an economically self-sufficient, energetic Pakistan and a socially empowered society with high morals and mutual respect is our destination.



LAHORE: Deputy Chairman Senate Syedal Khan Nasir in a meeting with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

Advisor urges Expedited projects, 100% goal achievement for tourism development

Independent Report
ABBOTTABAD: Advisor to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tourism, Culture, and Archaeology Zahid Chanzab on Sunday emphasized the urgent completion of tourism projects and activities, as well as achieving 100% of the set goals for tourism development in the province. He conveyed this message during a meeting and briefing held at Pakhtunkhwa House Islamabad, attended by the Khyber Development Authority (KDA) and delegations from Manshra's elite. The advisor made it clear to the authorities that the current PTI-led KP Government will evaluate departmental performance based on target achievement rather than mere claims.

Chanzab stated that funds and staff of underperforming departments or institutions will be reduced, while those demonstrating excellence will receive strong encouragement and funding. During the KDA meeting, Director General Muhammad Shabbir updated the Tourism Advisor on progress regarding the management of hotels from Manshra to Lake Saif Al-Muluk, tourist facilities along highways, and other tourism-related schemes. Presentations were made on ongoing and new projects for tourism development, with managers of various KDA sections highlighting their contributions to promoting the tourism sector in the region.

Two Dacoits Killed - One injured in Police Encounter

Independent Report
SHIKARPUR: Shikarpur police claims for killing of two Dacoits and one injured in two separate police encounters on Sunday in early hours. According to Press Release issued from SSP office Shikarpur that some group of armed men trying to looting the passengers on Dakhan link road in the jurisdiction of Madeji police station on last late night, while receiving the information, area police rushed to the spot and the criminals opened fires upon police mobile while seeing coming to them. Police also fired in return. As an exchange of firing from both sides, police succeeded in killing two Dacoits on the spot. Two Dacoits were killed in an police encounter, SSP Shikarpur Irfan Samo added. The dead bodies of deceased Dacoits sent to Government Hospital for Medico Legal formalities. The killed Dacoits were identified as Rafique Jeffery of Sukkur District and Ali Jan Sabzoi of Garhi Tegho. Further police is collecting their criminal records from various police stations. Similarly an other police encounter took place between three criminals and police at Madd Khosa road in the limit of Jahan Khan Police Picket.



LAHORE: Leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N) Mr. Nasir Bosal calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Iqbal gave spiritual energy to Muslims of Subcontinent: Qureshi

SARGODHA (APP): Senior Vice President Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Tehsil Sillanwali Makhdoom Shah Kameer Qureshi said on Sunday that Allama Muhammad Iqbal dreamt of a separate country for the Muslims of Subcontinent and gave them spiritual energy and guideline to wage a movement for creation of Pakistan. He said it was Allama Iqbal's dream that the Muslims of Subcontinent should have a country which would be a cradle of peace, political forbearance and brotherhood.

Food Minister visits Sahadi Yateem Khana in Mardan

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Food Minister Zahir Shah Toru along with Member Provincial Assembly Abdul Salam Afridi and Deputy Commissioner Mardan Fayaz Sherpao visited Sahadi Yateem Khana located on Shamsi Road Mardan. The minister distributed prizes and gifts among the children who achieved prominent positions in the annual examinations. On this occasion, Zahir Shah Toru was informed about serious issues and problems of the institution.

Commissioner orders beefing up security for Chinese nationals

Faisalabad (APP): Divisional Commissioner Siwat Saeed has directed the police to beef up security for Chinese engineers, working on various development projects in Faisalabad division. The commissioner paid a visit to Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development & Management Company (FIEDMC) here on Sunday and presided over a meeting there. She took briefing about the security

Two killed, three injured as roof caves in Sargodha

SARGODHA (APP): A roof collapse incident in a nearby village, left two dead on the spot and injuries to two others, in the jurisdiction of Cantonment police station here on Sunday. Rescue-1122 district emergency officer Mazhar Shah said the incident took place in Chak No 78/N-B where the roof of a dilapidated house caved in, as a result of which five members of a family buried under the rubble.

Minister Zeeshan says: Modern system of waste management to be introduced in Punjab

SIALKOT (APP): Provincial Minister for Local Government Zeeshan Rafique has said that a comprehensive and modern system of solid waste management will be introduced on the instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif and a uniform sanitation system will be implemented in the entire province. In this regard, orders were issued to the Chief Officers (Cos) of all waste management companies to report on the operational model by working jointly. While introducing a uniform

and modern sanitation system, planning should be done for the quality and sustainability of local government system and municipal services. He stated this while addressing participants in an "Open Kutcheri" at Camp Office Daska. Assistant Commissioner (AC) Daska Anwar Ali Kanjo, Chief Officer (CO) District Council Ulfat Shehzad, SDO Municipal Committee Daska Uzair, officers of relevant departments, political and social leaders of constituency PP-51 were also present.



LAHORE: Police officials stand alert outside the polling station during the election 2024 at Barf Khana Chowk Railway Road.

BISP registration process continues in Sargodha

SARGODHA (APP): The registration process for the National Socio-Economic Registry (NSER) survey of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) is currently underway in Sargodha, as well as other parts of the country. The tehsil offices of the programme have established registration centres to facilitate the process. Deputy Director BISP Sargodha Malik Mazhar Awan while talking to APP here on Sunday, said that low-income groups could register themselves with the BISP by visiting the registration centres, opened from Monday to Saturday. People have been asked to bring their Computerised National Identity Cards (CNICs) and B forms of their children for registration purposes. Individuals are required to provide their electricity or gas bills to update a database for future government subsidies, he added. The official urged people to provide their accurate data at the time of registration, while those who would provide false information would not be allowed to become part of the programme.

International News

US House okays aid for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The US House of Representatives with broad bipartisan support passed a \$95 billion legislative package providing security assistance to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan, over bitter objections from Republican hardliners. The legislation now proceeds to the Democratic-majority Senate, which passed a similar measure more than two months ago. US leaders from Democratic President Joe Biden to top Senate Republican Mitch McConnell have been urging embattled Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson to bring it up for a vote. The Senate is expected to pass the measure next week, sending it to Biden to sign into law. The measure includes some \$60.84bn for Ukraine as it struggles to fight off

Russian invasion. The unusual four-bill package also includes funds for Israel, security assistance for Taiwan. "The world is watching what the Congress does," the White House said in a statement on Friday.

Zelenskiy says he is grateful for US House approval of Ukraine aid

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy expressed gratitude for the passage by the U.S. House of Representatives of a military aid bill for his country and said the assistance would save lives and "bring a just end" to the war with Russia. "I am grateful to the United States House of Representatives, both parties, and personally Speaker Mike Johnson for the decision that keeps history on the right track," Zelenskiy wrote on X. The president said the bill "will keep the war from expanding, save thousands and thousands of lives, and help both of our nations to become stronger." Minutes later, in his nightly video address, the president said the assistance "will be felt by our soldiers on the front lines" and praised the role of "American leadership" in preserving a rules-based international order.



Lawmakers walk past pro-Palestinian protesters prior to a US House of Representatives vote on legislation providing \$95 billion in security assistance to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan, at Capitol Hill in Washington, US.

Edmundo Gonzalez, Venezuela's low-profile and last-minute opposition candidate

Monitoring Desk
CARACAS: As time was running out, Venezuela's opposition chose low-profile former diplomat Edmundo Gonzalez to run against President Nicolas Maduro in a July election that political analysts said will require Gonzalez to build name recognition among voters. The stakes are high for

the July 28 vote as the US has made holding fair elections a condition of lifting sanctions on the South American nation. Initially named as a placeholder while the opposition struggled to confirm candidates, Gonzalez' candidacy was finalized a day before a Saturday deadline to replace him with someone else.

Palestinians to reconsider US ties after membership veto

Monitoring Desk
RAMALLAH: The Palestinian Authority will "reconsider" its relationship with the United States after Washington vetoed a Palestinian bid for full UN membership earlier this week, president Mahmud Abbas said on Saturday. "The Palestinian leadership will reconsider bilateral relations with the United States to ensure the protection of our people's interests, our cause, and our rights," Abbas told the official Palestinian news agency Wafa. Wafa said his remarks came "on the heels of the United States' use of veto power" at the UN Security Council. Thursday's vote saw 12 countries on the Council back a resolution recommending full Palestinian membership and two — Britain and Switzerland — abstain. Only the United States, Israel's staunchest ally, voted against, using its veto to block the resolution.



Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan meets with Ismail Haniyeh, leader of the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Istanbul, Turkey.

Israeli strikes on southern Gaza city of Rafah kill 18, mostly children, as US advances aid package

Monitoring Desk
RAFAH: Israeli strikes on the southern Gaza city of Rafah overnight killed 18 people, including 14 children, health officials said Sunday, as the United States was on track to approve billions of dollars of additional military aid to its close ally. Israel has carried out near-daily air raids on Rafah, where more than half of Gaza's population of 2.3 million has sought refuge from fighting elsewhere. It has also vowed to expand its ground offensive to the city on the border with Egypt despite international calls for restraint, including from the U.S. The House of Representatives approved a \$26 billion aid package on Saturday that includes around \$9 billion in humanitarian assistance for Gaza. The first strike killed a man, his wife and their 3-year-old child, according to the nearby Kuwaiti Hospital, which received the bodies.

North Korea tests 'super-large warhead'

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea has tested a "super-large warhead" designed for a strategic cruise missile, state media said on Saturday, the most recent test since UN sanctions monitoring against the nuclear-armed nation was upended last month by Russia. The announcement comes after Russia in March used its United Nations Security Council veto to effectively end UN monitoring of violations of the raft of sanctions on Kim Jong Un's government for its nuclear and weapons programme.

1 dead, 7 missing after two Japanese military helicopters crash

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: One person was killed and seven people were missing on Sunday after two Japanese military helicopters collided before crashing into the sea, officials said. A spokesman for Japan's Self Defence Force (SDF) confirmed the incident to AFP, adding that one person was rescued but later confirmed dead. Defence Minister Minoru Kihara said rescuers "spotted what are believed to be part of the aircraft in the sea, and we believe that the two helicopters crashed." "At this point the cause is unknown, but firstly we do our best to save lives," Kihara told reporters. Hours later, Kihara told reporters that the crew member who was rescued "was confirmed dead". He also said the ministry "discovered the flight recorders in places close to each other," and so the "possibility is high that (the two helicopters) collided."

Iran's Khamenei thanks armed forces for attack on Israel

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei thanked the country's armed forces for their operation against Israel, and urged them to "ceaselessly pursue military innovation and learn the enemy's tactics," Iran's official news agency reported on Sunday. Tehran openly targeted Israel for the first time on April 13 with more than 300 missiles and drones in what it said was retaliation for Israel's suspected deadly bombing of its embassy compound in Damascus on April 1.

Erdogan meets Hamas leader in Turkey, discusses efforts for regional peace

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan discussed efforts to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza and reach a fair and lasting peace in the region during a meeting with Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Istanbul on Saturday, his office said. It was the first meeting between Erdogan and a Hamas delegation headed by Haniyeh since Israel began its military offensive in the Gaza Strip. Haniyeh's visit to Turkey took place three days after he met Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan in Doha. "Issues related to Israel's attacks on lands of Palestine, particularly Gaza, efforts for adequate and uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza, and a fair and lasting peace process in the region were discussed," the Turkish presidency said in a statement. The visit took place amid escalating regional tensions following Israel's reported attack on Iran this week. "Erdogan stressed that Israel should not benefit from the developments (between Iran and Israel) and that it is important to make efforts that will draw attention to Gaza again," the statement added. NATO member Turkey has denounced Israel's offensive in Gaza following Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel and called for an immediate ceasefire. Erdogan has called Hamas a "liberation movement" while slamming the West for what he calls its unconditional support of Israel. Ankara has also imposed trade restrictions on Israel.

Russia says US facing humiliation in Ukraine like in Vietnam

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia said on Sunday U.S. lawmakers' support for \$60.84 billion more in aid for Ukraine showed that Washington was wading much deeper into a hybrid war against Moscow that would end in humiliation on a par with the Vietnam or Afghanistan conflicts. President Vladimir Putin's 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine has touched off the worst fallout in relations between Russia and the West since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, according to Russian and U.S. diplomats. On Saturday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed with broad bipartisan support a \$95 billion legislative package providing security assistance to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan, over bitter objections from some far-right Republicans. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said it was clear that the United States wanted Ukraine "to fight to the last Ukrainian" including with attacks on Russian sovereign territory and civilians. "Washington's deeper and deeper immersion in the hybrid war against Russia will turn into a loud and humiliating fiasco for United States such as Vietnam and Afghanistan," Zakharova said. Russia, she said, will give "an unconditional and resolute response" to the U.S. move to get more involved in the Ukraine war. U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Director William Burns warned last week that without more U.S. military support Ukraine could lose on the battlefield, but that with support Kyiv's forces could hold their own this year.

