# nachenach

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### 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



nian President Ebrahim scheduled to visit Lahore 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

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 Iran ties and enhance coop-Sadiq, the statement said, eration in diverse fields in-

and Karachi, where he would hold talks with the provincial leadership.

The Iranian president would be accompanied by his spouse, the foreign minister 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-

cluding trade, connectivity, energy, agriculture and people-to-people contacts.
"They will also dis-

cuss regional and global developments and bilateral cooperation to combat the common threat of terrorism," the statement read. It noted that the two

countries "enjoy bilateral ties anchored by history. culture and religion" and "the visit provides an important opportunity to further strengthen Pakistan-Iran relations". The high-profile visit follows the recent trip by Saudi For-eign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud during which Islamabad invited Riyadh for joint business ventures like privatisation of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and airports as Pakistan aims at bolstering foreign investment to

stabilise shaky economy



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

### **Provisional results of** by-elections trickle in

Parvez Elahi loses PP-32 seat to Musa Elahi in Gujarat

LAHORE (INP): Provi- League (PML) secured vicsional 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 Assembly seats and two Balochistan Assembly seats - amid stringent security mea-

In a major upset, former Punjab chief minister and Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf-backed (PTI) Sunni Ittehad Council candidate Parvez Elahi, contesting from PP-32, faced defeat from Gujarat as Musa Elahi from the Pakistan Muslim results of two seats, one

في للتوقيق ١١-١٢ من الملكالم في وللهام ١٠١٠ من ١١٠١ أوسية

Conference of Muslim World League.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ishaq Dar on Sunday said

that Pakistan dispatched

8th tranche of humanitar-

ian assistance for the

tance consisted of winter-

ized tents, tarpaulins, blan-

kets, medicines and food

supplies through sea, the

The 400 tons assis-

foreign minister posted on further posted.

people of Gaza.

Pakistan sends

humanitarian assistance

tranche for Gaza: FM

his X account.

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 constitu-

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

Elections were originally scheduled for 23 constituencies. However, the

RIYADH: Senator Prof. Sajid Mir representing Pakistan in International

"The shipment will be received by the Pakistani

Ambassador at Port Said,

Egypt and handed over to

the Egyptian Red Crescent

for onward delivery to the

people of Gaza. Pakistan

remains committed to ad-

dressing the urgent humani-

tarian needs of our broth-

ers and sisters in Gaza," he

national [NA-207 Shaheed Benazirabad] and one provincial [PS-80 Dadu], had already been announced.

PPP's Aseefa Bhutto Zardari was elected unopposed on the NA-207 Shaheed Benazirabad seat while the PS-80 Dadu seat was secured by Zubair Ahmad Junejo.

During the polling today, cellular and internet services remained suspended in 13 cities of Punjab and are likely to remain off till late night.

As per unverified and unconfirmed reports coming in shortly after by-polls closed, the PML-N is riding the tide in Punjab, with its election candidates attaining lead over competitors mainly from the Sunni Ittehad Council which is backed by the PTI.

### **Finance Minister** declares negotiations with Int'l financial institutions as positive

Muhammad Aurangzeb has declared negotiations with international financial insti-

tutions as positive.
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

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

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

Muhammad Aurangzeb also stressed the need for concrete measures to reduce government expenditures.

Minister for Finance 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.

Karachi

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 "larger and longer" multibillion-dollar 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.



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

### PML-N worker killed, three injured in violence at polling stations in Punjab

ECP takes notice of PML-N activist killing, 'abduction' of polling staff

ZAFARWAL (INP): At least one dead in clashes between Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz

(PML-N) workers in PP- refrain from violence. 54 Zafarwal during by-elec-As per details, the police officials said that the

deceased was identified as 60-year-old Muhammad Yousuf, a PML-N worker. Following the tragic

incident, the police took the dead body into custody for further investigation.

Reacting to the incident, the Punjab Election Commissioner's spokesperson said that the polling continued uninterrupted despite the incident as it occurred 200 meters away from the polling station.

Election Commissioner Punjab, Ejaz Anwar Chohan, urged political parties to remain tolerant and appealed to workers to It is worth mentioning

that voting for the by-elections on twenty-one vacant seats of National and Provincial Assemblies is underway in Pakistan on Sunday under strict security.

According to Élection Commission of Pakistan, the polling is being held on five National Assembly seats, twelve Punjab Assembly seats, two seats of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly and two seats of Balochistan Assembly.

The polling will continue till five in the evening without any break.



KARACHI: Supporters of PTI take part in a rally

### Complaints of clashes in Gujrat, Rahim Yar Khan addressed promptly: ECP

ISLAMABAD (INP): The by-election for 21 seats of National and provincial assemblies is underway across Pakistan, with reports of clashes from some areas of Punjab in which one person has been killed.

The ECP says that there were some complaints of clashes among workers from Gujrat and Rahim Yar Khan reported in the media, adding that the polling process was stopped for some time, but resumed after taking immediate action.

The ECP spokesperson said their control room had not yet received any written or telephonic complaints, and the polling process was underway in all 21 constituencies.

The director general of the control room said the polling process remains uninterrupted and peaceful across all constituencies. He emphasized that they are fully prepared to address any issues that may arise.

The spokesperson

said control rooms at provincial, divisional, and district levels are operational, with staff available to assist individuals in registering complaints. Citizens are encouraged to contact the control room directly at 051111327000 or send complaints via email or fax to 0519204404. The control room will work 24 hours on the day of polling until the results are received, the spokesperson said.

### KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing a commemoration ceremony of Nishan-e-Imtiaz conferred on Olympian Islahuddin Siddiqui. 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 malprac-

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

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

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 re-



SHOUGUANG: Ambassador of Pakistan to China H.E. Mr. Khalil Hashmi paid a one-day visit to Shouguang County, renowned for being China's "vegetable capital" at the invitation of the Shouguang government. Ambassador Khalil Hashmi also delivered remarks at the opening ceremony of the 25th China (Shouguang) International Vegetable Science and Technology Expo. He took a tour of the expo and visited the Pakistan pavilion.

### **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 fami- munities in every crisis situlies 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 coordidropped ration bags to af- men in every hour of need.

fected people of Muradi, Dando, Kulanch and adjoining isolated areas of Gwadar District. Pakistan Navy Sea King helicopters undertook multiple sorties to ensure ration supply to hundreds of stranded fami-

Pakistan Navy has always assisted Coastal comation and was committed to continue rescue operation until normalization of ongoing situation. Prompt relief operation on the call of locals was practical manifestation of Pakistan Navy's strong ties with Coastal communities and demonstrates PN's resolve nated the efforts and air to assist fellow country-

### CM grieves over death of two Rangers jawan

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah expressed grief over two Rangers jawans' death Nangarparkar accident on

Sunday According to the Spokesman, CM Murad said, 'I am very saddened by the death of two jawans'. He directed to provide the best medical treatment to the injured

The accident occurred due to tyre bust in the Nangarparkar, the Spokesman added.

### Two Rangers personnel martyred after their truck tipped

over in Tharparkar THARPARKAR (INP): Two Rangers jawans were martyred and 18 others injured when their truck overturned near village Ade Jotar, a suburb of Islamkot Tharparkar on Sunday. According to MS Islamkot Hospital, two officers Qasim and İbrahim were martyred in the accident. MS Islamkot Hospital said that the injured youths underwent treatment at Islamkot Hospital.

### Saudi citizen abducted in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (INP): A Saudi national was reportedly abducted from F-8 area, Margalla police station jurisdiction Islamabad on Sunday.

The Margalla police station at the request of the foreign embassy has registered an FIR into abduction of Hanan Abdullah Al-

The foreign missing approached the law enforcement seeking recovery of the abducted citizen and also named an accused.

As per FIR, accused Abdul Wahid Shahid Khan kidnapped the foreign citizen from the F-8 area

innocent PML-N worker NAROWAL (INP): Federal Minister for Planning,

Ahsan alleges PTI

activists of killing

Ashan Iqbal has alleged that activists of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have said that PML-N workers killed innocent PML-N are our soldiers who started worker and I will call him a political martyr. Talking to media per-

sons in Narowal on Sunday, he pledged to root out all kinds of oppression and hooliganism from Zafarwal Ahsan Iqbal said that he strongly con-

demns the hooliganism

that PTI has done against the PML-N workers in the He alleged that PTI high tactics after seeing the defeat of their thuggish do-The federal minister

movement for development of peace. Ahsan Iqbal said, "I will call them political martyrs. They stood for a good

cause and were punished for it. Murderers of the party workers can't escape the grip of law. He said that those

who were supervising all what was happening would be brought to book and all kinds of oppression and hooliganism will be eradicated from Zafarwal

### Former bureaucrat Roedad Khan passes away at 101 ISLAMABAD (INP)

Lanjar grieves

over killing of

Rangers jawans

in road accident

KARACHI (APP): Sindh

Home Minister Ziaul

Hasan Lanjar on Sunday

expressed grief and sor-

row over the killing of

two Rangers jawans in a

road accident in the

Nangarparkar area of

ing courage to the bereaved family members of jawans.

He prayed for grant-

Former bureaucrat Roedad Khan passed away at the age of 101 here on Sun-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 minis ter of accountability, and adviser to the prime minister and president



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

desperate

# Daily soice of Masse Independent

### **Elections in India**

India's mammoth multi-stage elections have begun and the popular issues gripping the voters this time are unemployment, inflation and related economic despair.

This is far removed from the divisive polls of 2014 and 2019, and it is not because pro-Hindutva campaigners are not trying to kindle the fires of communalism. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has personally signalled the intent by using an election speech to attack opposition leaders as Mughal-like meat-eaters, not just ordinary lovers of mutton and fish.

Despite the enormous funds and the hard advertising put into it, the controversial Ram temple inauguration is being listed by analysts as way down in the voters' list of priorities. The perceptible absence of polarisation — usually derived from Muslim-bashing, often by falsely conjuring a Pakistan link — could bring surprises when votes are counted on June 4.

Consider the case of Navneet Rana, a feisty woman candidate for the BJP from Amravati in Maharashtra. She has been unfailingly reminding her supporters to not rest on their oars in the delusion that there is a Modi wave, or that he would see her through. "There is no Modi wave this time. Stay very vigilant." The Rana video is not the only call to toil for BJP support-

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is a member of the Rajya Sabha and she has been quoted as turning down the BJP's offer to fight the Lok Sabha polls, saying she simply did not have the kind of money needed for the elections. This is being seen as an oblique criticism of the electoral bonds scam in which the BJP was a major beneficiary.

Ms Sitharaman is tame compared with her political economist husband Parakala Prabhakar. His book The Crooked Timber of New India: Essays on a Republic in Crisis is a critique of the Modi years and has predictably baffled many. Mr Prabhakar has claimed in TV interviews there would be no constitution if Mr Modi returned to power. However, he also predicts that the BJP would not cross 200 seats, 72 short of the halfway mark. Similar claims have been made by Rahul Gandhi and other opposition leaders.

Independent accounts by online media outlets and spot reports circulating on the alternative media channels are at variance with Modi-friendly TV anchors and they do not see easy victory for the prime minister. Parallel accounts share much with the reliable pre-poll survey by the Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies. Even as it places Mr Modi ahead of any rival for the top job, the survey lists issues in the elections that make him vulnerable. Barring a game-changing event like Pulwama or the Muzaffarnagar riots, these Indian elections look poised to surprise everyone in the fray and in the galleries.

### Plan for Pakistan

#### Aisha Khan

We are living through a turbulent time in history. The changes that have taken place in the last 100 years are both a cause for celebration and a matter of concern. From the wounds of world wars to the economic transformation, and from the miracles of science and technology to the climate crisis — all are part of a lived experience that has altered the geopolitical and geo-economic landscape of the planet that we call home.

Today, we face a troubling convergence of climate crisis, armed conflict, soaring interest rates, and escalating debt burdens in many nations. The lingering effects of the Covid-19 pandemic has further exacerbated these challenges. This complex scenario poses significant obstacles to achieving the global climate objectives outlined in the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Broadly speaking, the challenges are myriad and solution pathways vary. However, there is a need for prioritising actions and coalescing multiple streams into a point of convergence for strengthening resilience. In moving forward, it is important to leverage learning to set priorities for an implementable action agenda. Right now, all actors should focus on designing their diplomatic strategies to increase space for multilateral discussions and action on climate and nature Future on the road to taking into account the need for:

Increasing ambition on Nationally Determined Contributions and implementing commitments through national and subnational policies informed by the Global Stock-take and the findof Inter-governmental Panel

on Climate Change.

current fossil fuel approaches in a just, orderly and equitable manner, making sure that ambition and commitments at implementable at the do-

mestic level.

Unlocking finance and making it fit for purpose by building a fairer economic and financial system that ensures scaling up public and private finance and making it available equitably to meet the escalating need for mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage and nature conservation. This includes negotiations on a 'New Collective Quantified Goal' for climate finance, growing momentum for connecting the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity

cial architecture. Accelerating technology development for transitioning to renewable energy and investing simultaneously in technologies for capturing and storing carbon dioxide emissions.

Framework, and ongoing

focus on the urgency for

reform in the global finan-

A sequence events this year will provide opportunities to move forward on these priorities with a focus on implementation. This includes meetings of the G7, G20, UNFCCC work programmes intersessional sessions in Bonn as well as the IMF-World Bank meet-

ings, Clean Energy Min-

isterial and Summit of the

COP29. The year 2025 will mark the halfway point in this 'critical decade'. It will also be the next forcing moment of the Paris Agreement ambition cycle with the parties expected to submit new

and enhanced climate

need to move away from difficult decisions. Living on the arc of vulnerability that stretches from the cryosphere to the coast, the impacts on the Third Pole will not the international level are remain confined to the two billion people who share water, air and land resources. Its cascading impact will destabilise the global climatic regime, disrupt supply chains, and throw the global economy in a flux,

creating conditions for

South Asia caught in a climate crisis me--ans pushing one quarter of the global population into turmoil. Ît also means depriving a large young cohort of a fair future and exposing women, who constitute approximately half the populato higher tion, risks.Fintech provides yet another opportunity for bringing countries in South Asia on one platform. It is a critical component of any climate solution strategy to ensure a better, brighter and beneficent future. Fintech integration should not be seen only as an instrument for meeting climate targets but as an investment in regional peace, security

and stabilisation. We are living in unusual times where it is imperative to overcome divisions and work together to achieve objectives shared under the Paris Agreement. We need to uphold the spirit of deep cooperation that led to its conclusion in 2015, and see it as essential to any climatewin scenario.

Pakistan needs to plan for a future in which business as usual may not be the best option to cope with a future beset by challenges. This is a realisation that needs to be acknowledged across party lines, society and For countries in diaspora to survive this Climate Change. South Asia, this is go-critical decade. -- Cour-Emphasising the ing to be a decade of tesy Dawn

### No good options

#### **Aizaz Ahmad** Chaudhry

For over six months, Israel has been on a killing spree in Gaza, bombing residential buildings, hospitals, mosques, even refugee camps. The overwhelming majority of casualties are civilians, mostly women and minors. Adding to Israel's crimes against humanity are the restrictions on the Gazans' access to humanitarian assistance, including food and medicine supplies, and the killing of aid workers. The harrowing details of the apocalyptic, faminelike conditions in Gaza are heartbreaking.
Initially, after the

Hamas attack on Israel last October, Western countries justified the ferocious assault on Gaza's people as Israel's right to self-defence. However, when the bombings intensified and the killings multi- has made it clear to Isplied, massive protests rael that it is opposed to erupted across the a wider war, even though world, including in major the Western countries American and European cities. Public opinion in the West began to swing sanctions against Iran. against the Israeli government for the brutalities it was committing. A series of Security Council resolutions were satisfied that its determooted, calling upon Israel to effect an immediate ceasefire, but the US veto prevented their adoption. In January, the International Court of Justice ruled that Israel must take measures to prevent the crime of genocide against the Palestinians. The ICJ is considering charges against Ger-

many for facilitating Israel's genocide by supplying weapons.
With public pressure growing, the US

modulated its position and abstained on the Security Council resolution of March 25 that called for an immediate ceasefire. President Joe area. If this confrontareach a deal with Hamas again get involved. In -- Courtesy Dawn

families of the hostages.

attack on the Iran embassy premises in Damascus on April 1, ostensibly to shift global attention from Gaza to Iran, and bring the US into the war. Iran gave a measured three-step sequential through the launch of drones and missiles, some of which pierced Israel's iron dome defence system and hit the nian assets, evoking are reports of Israel's missile strike near Isfahan, which Iran has

downplayed. The world now are relevant. First, the US stand firmly behind Israel and are reinforcing Second, both countries have tested each other's offensive and defensive capabilities and Iran is rence has been established. Third, Israel's effort to divert attention from Gaza and drag the US into the war have failed. Global attention will shift back to the situation in Gaza, in particular Rafah.

However, given that the war in Gaza is still continuing, further escalation of confrontation be ruled out. In the days ahead, Israel might carry out a major strike against pro-Iran militant groups, Lebanon, obliging Hezbollah to respond

also became more em- such circumstances, if phatic. At home, Prime Israel attacks the Iranian Benjamin nuclear installations de-Netanyahu is losing liberately, covertly, or by popularity, and has been mistake, the ambit of facing protests from the conflict would escalate sharply. A nuclear war would engulf not only Netanyahu ordered an the region but the entire world. The consequences of this scenario are so horrendous that Israel would be careful not to move in this direc-

A more likely scenario, however, is that Isresponse rael will continue its lowkey attacks on Iranian regional proxies, coupled with intensified covert operations against Iraintended target. There similarly covert responses from Iran. Since Israel's efforts to expand the ambit of war have failed, the US pressure on Israel would grow to waits with anxiety as Iran end the war in Gaza, and and Israel weigh their allow humanitarian acoptions. Three factors cess, particularly because of America's election dynamics.

In every scenario, Israel emerges as the loser. It has killed tens of thousands of innocent civilians, reminiscent of what the victims of apartheid and the Holocaust faced. Israel's hubris about the invincibility of its military machine has been shattered. Given that Iran could penetrate Israel's high-tech defence, the people of Israel are feeling increasingly worried.

The Arab countries have not been able to exert much pressure on Israel beyond efforts to facilitate negotiations for ceasefire. All said and done, Israel has failed to achieve its objectives of by other means cannot creating a 'Greater Israel' or eliminating Palestinian resistance. For its part, Pakistan can take pride in having extended conparticularly Hezbollah in sistent and unwavering support for the right of Palestinians to have a with force, aided by other sovereign state of their militant groups in the own within pre-1967 borders and with East Biden's calls for Israel to tion expands, Iran would Jerusalem as its capital.

# Commerce News

### Ambassador Hashmi visits **Shouguang Vegetable Science** and Technology Expo

BEIJING (APP): As a part cooperation. He of his orientation tour to commended Shouguang's Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi paid a oneday visit to Shouguang international reputation as the potential for mutually county, renowned for being China's "vegetable capital" at the invitation of the

Shouguang government. The ambassador also longstanding partnership delivered remarks at the between China and opening ceremony of the 25th China (Shouguang)

Pakistan, particularly in agriculture, recognizing it as International Vegetable Science and Technology deeper collable exchanges agrarian Pakistan pavilion deeper collable exchanges agrarian deeper collable exchanges agraria Pakistan pavilion.

agricultural innovation and

highlighting

also underscored the technology bilateral relations

facility vegetables.

Pakistan's agrarian agricultural sector. landscape, showcasing its Ambassador Speaking at the substantial contributions also extended a warm opening ceremony of the to GDP and employment, Ambassador and emphasized the Hashmi praised the Expo's country's commitment to role in promoting global enhancing agricultural productivity through

He collaboration with Chinese partners. He outlined Pakistan leadership in the field of favorable policies and vegetable production, conducive frameworks for its collaboration, emphasizing a center for excellence in beneficial partnerships and continued growth in Ambassador Hashmi agricultural trade and

> He also highlighted the upcoming Food and Agri Expo in August 2024, where China would be a cornerstone of their honored, as a platform for deeper collaboration and

Ambassador Hashmi invitation to stakeholders. experts, businessmen, and investors to explore opportunities in Pakistan's agriculture sector.

### **Excise Dept** sends letter to 26 banks for payment of token tax

MULTAN (APP): Excise and Taxation Department Punjab sent a letter to 26 bank heads of Pakistan over not paying token taxes of more than 20,000 vehicles.

According to ETO Admin Khalid Hussain Qasoori, as per the letter, the vehicle registration could be cancelled, 100 percent fine and banks' properties may be seized and auctioned and bank

The letter further stated that banks receive monthly installments of their leased vehicles along with markup but neither they pay token tax of Punjab excise themselves nor encourage those who buy vehicles to pay in installments.

not be collected despite repeated notices, meetings and reminders through n e w s p a p e r advertisements. The token tax with 100 percent fine would be collected along with cancellation of registration and banks sealing in case.



paid a one-day visit to Shouguang county, renowned for being China vegetable capital at the invitation of the Shouguang government. Ambassador Khalil Hashmi also delivered remarks at the opening ceremony of the 25th China (Shouguang) International Vegetable Science and Technology Expo. He took a tour of the expo and visited the Pakistan pavilion.

### **SAARC Chamber urges Afghan** Taliban to fulfill their Doha pledges

LAHORE (APP): The SAARC Chamber has called upon the Afghan Taliban to fulfill their commitment, made in Doha, which was aimed at promoting peace in the region, particularly between Pakistan and Afghanistan, and preventing the Afghan soil from being used against

Talking to a delegation of traders, led by Muslim of traders, led by M

Pakistan.

Khan Buneri here on Sunday, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry individual to threaten the security of other countries, including Pakistan, he added. By urging the Taliban to former president Iftikhar Ali honour the commitment, the Malik said the Doha agreement, signed between the United States and the trade leader emphasised the significance of stability and cooperation between Muslim Taliban in February 2020, outlined various nations.

commitments from both soil from being used for sides. One key aspect of the activities that could harm agreement was the Taliban's assurance that they would Pakistan, he believed that both

#### prices, urging the government to give the solid plan of low cost energy provision in the country to improve economic growth. In a statement on

and Traders Associations

Front (PIAF) took strong

exception of the continued

escalation in the petroleum

Sunday, Chairman PIAF Faheemur Rehman Saigol said that oil and electricity consumers were very easy targets for taxation, with the government preferring to levy higher taxes on them rather than expanding the tax net. He said that consumers may face increased taxes in the liter.

ISLAMABAD (INP): upcoming budget due to The Pakistan Industrial IMF pressure. There were indications that the government may raise the petroleum levy rate in the forthcoming budget to bolster revenue collection from oil consumers, he Faheemur Rehman

Saigol said that the federal government raised the prices of petroleum products by up to Rs8.14 per liter this week, marking the second price hike in petroleum products this month.

According to a notification, the price of petrol has been raised by Rs4.53 per liter, from Rs289.41 to Rs293.94 per



PIAF takes strong

exception to continued

hike in POL prices

**HYDERABAD:** A vendor displaying the inflatable pools to attract the customers at roadside.

#### Cattle farming vital to alleviate poverty in rural areas milk producing country. 63,698million tonnes to The production of milk and 69,784 million tonnes. Sunday while talking to Apart from this, meat could be enhanced APP. He said that livestock district Sargodha owned

About 67 percent of the rural population in the culturally rich region of Sargodha division is directly linked to the livestock sector. The

> encashed at any time. Livestock has over a 14pc share in gross domestic product (GDP) of the country. It has immense potential not to alleviate poverty in rural areas but can also revolutionize the living standards of the people. Pakistan is ranked fifth in

> presence of animals is like

significantly by working on animal genetics. The best semen quality could play a vital role in improving animal health, milk and meat production. Similarly, it could also help generate maximum income for the farmers as well as the country's economy.

At the national level, about 10 million people are rearing cattle. According to the animal census and Economic Survey Report, there are 58.7million big animals in the country. Similarly, the country has 83.3 million small animals (goats). As per the last Economic Survey Report, the production of milk

(buffaloes, 2,882,689 small animals (goats, sheep) and 1,975,816 rural poultry. Besides this, the farmers also rear 919 camels, said sources in the Livestock Department. In rural areas, it is easy to rear animals because of the cultural environment, easy access to infrastructure nutrition. In communities, the role of women farmers in cattle rearing is highly important. Without women farmers participation, the livestock sector could not be

By preventing Afghan

was performing an important role in poverty alleviation in rural areas. He recalled that the government had launched a special initiative to provide buffaloes and cows to widows, especially hailing from rural areas. The government had a very unique idea to provide animals to widows whose children were availing school education. The Livestock Department provided a good number of small and big animals to widows after thorough verification from schools concerned. The widows are

Shah Nikdur in Sillanwali, who got a big animal in 2020, told APP, "I own one buffalo and one calf and it is a good source of my regular income" She said that she had

also earned Rs180,000 by selling three calves. She expressed pleasure and thanked the government for the provision of the buffalo which helped her overcome economic woes. Rauf, a resident of

Farooqa, said that he was eager to sacrifice an animal on Eid ul Azha. He said that he had purchased a small animal against Rs20,000 and nurtured it for the whole year. He expressed pleasure that he had sacrificed the animal Kosar Noureen, a for first time in his life.

### PHMA terms rising energy cost major issue of textile exporters LAHORE (INP): The this while chairing an Pakistan Hosiery interactive session held

GILGIT: A blacksmith busy in making saw in

traditional way on his work place at River view road.

Manufacturers Exporters Association on Sunday to review the (PHMA) has termed the challenges faced by the high cost of doing business dangerous for the valueadded export-oriented knitwear industry, as the ever-increasing gas and power tariffs are the real threat to the economy amidst frequent unward revisions in policy rate and continuous fluctuations in rupee against dollar.

Senior Vice Chairman PHMA North Zone more inclusive and resilient Amanullah Khan stated

& here at PHMA Zonal office PHMA members. Participants of the

meeting urged the Central Bank to allocate funds for renewable energy schemes, including solar energy financing exclusively to the export-oriented valueadded textile sector. This strategic allocation will not only boost apparel sector's growth but also promote a economy

SARGODHA Livestock is considered a precious asset not only to run the kitchen smoothly on a daily basis but also help meet expenditures in emergency situations.

a cheque which can be The token tax could

4,611,324 big animals

managed properly, said Deputy Director Livestock

now successfully running their kitchen.

**Food Minister** 

visits Sahadi

Yateem Khana

in Mardan

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Food Minister Zahir Shah Toru along with

Assembly Abdul Salam

Afridi and Deputy

Commissioner Mardan

Fayaz Sherpao visited

Sahadi Yateem Khana

located on Shamsi Road

distributed prizes and gifts

among the children who

achieved prominent positions in the annual

Zahir Shah Toru was

informed about serious

issues and problems of the

Two killed,

three injured

as roof caves in

SARGODHA (APP): A

roof collapse incident in

a nearby village, left

two dead on the spot

and injuries to two

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

in

On this occasion,

Provincial

minister

Member

Mardan.

examinations.

institution.

others,

jurisdiction

**Punjab Governor says:** 

## Supremacy of constitution and law is vital for the development of country

Deputy Chairman Senate Syedal Khan Nasir met Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman at supremacy of the Governor House Lahore. constitution and law is Matters of mutual interest and other important issues of country. He said that

were discussed in the uniform development of all

Senate. Speaking on the democratic institutions for occasion, Punjab Governor sustainable development Muhammad Balighur of country. He said that the Rehman said that the current leadership is taking concrete steps to address the challenges facing the vital for the development country. Governor Punjab said that an economically self-sufficient, energetic meeting. During the units is very important for Pakistan and a socially meeting, Governor Punjab the strength of the empowered society with congratulated Syedal Khan federation. Governor high morals and mutual empowered society with respect is our destination.



LAHORE: Deputy Chairman Senate Syedal Khan Nasir in a meeting with Governor Puniab 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 Chanzeb 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 Kaghan Development Authority (KDA) and delegations from Mansehra's elite.

The advisor made it clear to the authorities that the current PTI-led KP Government will evaluate departmental performance contributions based on target achievement rather than mere claims.

Chanzeb 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 Mohammad Shabbii updated the Tourism Advisor on progress regarding the management of hotels from Mansehra 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 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 the criminal records from various police statios. Similarly an other police encounter took place between three criminals and police at Madd Khosa road

in the limit of Jahan Khan



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.

Kameer Qureshi, stressing renewal of a pledge to achieve Iqbal's vision, said the Poet of the East wanted the vouth to take the country to acme of progress and development with their constructive approach. On the 86th death anniversary of Dr anniversary of Dr Muhammad Iqbal, the PML-N leader said the entire nation had been praying for high ranks of the departed soul in Heaven. Dr Muhammad Iqbal through his thoughts and teachings, stressed the unity of Muslim Ummah," Qureshi recalled.

### **Commissioner orders** beefing up security for Chinese nationals

FAISALABAD (APP): Divisional Commissioner Silwat Saeed has directed the police to beef up security for Chinese engineers, working on various development projects in Faisalabad

The commissioner paid a visit to Faisalabad Industrial Development Management Company (FIEDMC) here on Sunday and presided over

a meeting there. She took

of Chinese engineers in FIEDMC and Allama Iqbal Industrial Estate and said that the police heads were bound to provide foolproof security to the Chinese and other foreigners.

She directed the Regional Police Officer (RPO), City Police Officer (CPO) and other police officers to ensure tight security in addition to keeping vigil eye on the suspects in and around the project sites where the briefing about the security Chinese were working.

### Modern system of waste management to be introduced in Punjab (APP): and modern sanitation

Minister Zeeshan says:

Provincial Minister for Zeeshan Rafique has said that a comprehensive and modern system of solid waste management will be introduced on 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 jointly. introducing a uniform also present

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 Kutchery" at Camp Office

**Page** 

Commissioner (AC) Daska Anwar Ali Kanjo, Chief Officer (CO) District Council Ulfat Shehzad, Municipal Committee Daska Uzair, officers of relevant departments, political and social leaders While constituency PP-51 were



LAHORE: Police officials stand alert outside the polling station during the by-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.

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 members of a family themselves with the BISP allowed to become buried under the rubble. by visiting the registration the programme. themselves with the BISP

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 The tehsil offices of to provide their electricity the programme have or gas bills to update a database for 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

# International News

# US House okays aid for Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan

**Monitoring Desk** WASHINGTON: The US House of Represe-ntatives 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 Democ-ratic President Joe Biden to top Senate Republican Mitch McConnell have been urging embattled Republican House Spea-ker 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 struggles to fight off

Russian invasion. The unusual four-bill package also includes funds for Israel, security as-

"The 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



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

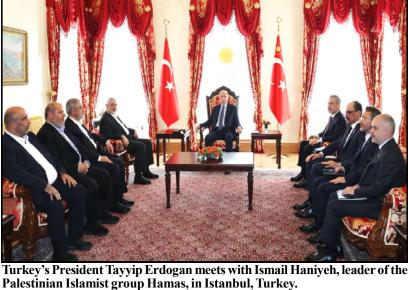
the July 28 vote as the US has made holding fair elections a condition of lifting sanctions on the South

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 some-

### **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.



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 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

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

The first strike killed a man, his wife and their 3-year-old child, according to the nearby Kuwaiti Hospital, which received the bodies.

### has also vowed to expand 1 dead, 7 missing after two Japanese military helicopters crash

**Monitoring Desk** OKYO: 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 be-

lieved 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."

### 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 vio lations of the raft of sanctions on Kim Jong Un's government for its nuclear and weapons programme.

### 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** ish presidency said in a

ISTANBUL:

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 Turk-

Turkish statement.

The visit took place amid escalating regional tensions following Israel's reported attack on Iran this

'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

### 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 in-vasion 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 own this year.

Maria Zakharova said it was clear that the United States wanted Ukraine "to fight to the last Ukrainian' including with attacks on Russian sovereign terri-

tory 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

Russia, she said, will give "an unconditional and resolute response" to the U.S. move to get more involved in the Ukraine

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

### **Hafiz Naeem says:** Normalizing relations with Israel for financial gains not acceptable

Jamaat-e-Ìslami (JI), Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman has said that any attempt to normalize relations with Israel for financial gains and the two-state solution to the Palestine issue is not acceptable at

Addressing a Palestine Solidarity March in Lahore, he reiterated his stance against the government, which he said came to power through fraudulent means, asserting that the people have lost faith in it to champion the cause of Palestine.

Nevertheless, Hafiz Naeem u Rehman emphasized that the JI demanded the government to raise its voice for Palestine or brace itself for the wrath of the people.

Referring to Quaid-i-Azam's stance, he denounced Israel as an illegitimate state, formed by seizing Palestinian Muslim land. He said Pakistani rulers now are being offered dollars to recognize Palestine and relinquish Kashmir, warning that the nation would vehemently resist such schemes.

The Ameer JI called for a summit of Muslim nations and non-Muslim states sympathetic to the Palestinian cause to advocate for a ceasefire. He

LAHORE (INP): Ameer medical assistance to Gazans, especially children, as a minimum gesture of support.

This march marked the first public gathering led by JI Emir after assuming office. Thousands, including children and women, attended the solidarity rally.

Hafiz Naeem condemned the US, Israel, and India as the three foremost terrorist countries responsible for civilian bloodshed and gross human rights violations. He hailed the people of Gaza for their historic resilience, considering it a lesson for the entire Muslim commu-

He emphasized that a cowardly life held no honour and respect, foreseeing a not-too-distant future where Palestine would be liberated, reshaping the map of the Middle East. He decried Israel's indiscriminate killing of civilians, lamenting US support for its aggression while Muslim leaders looked to Washington for

Ameer JI highlighted global solidarity with the people of Gaza, with many in Western nations speaking out against the injustice and advocating for a ceasefire, contrasting sharply with their leaders



LAHORE: President Al-Khidmat Foundation Pakistan Dr. Hafizur Rehman sending 8th consignment of relief goods for people of Palestine.

### Pakistan makes case for infrastructural development to achieve SDGs

UNITED (APP): Pakistan has called for the development of infrastructure connectivity to fortify global resilience and promote sustainable development, especially in developing countries. Ambassador Munir

Akram made the call in his capacity as co-chair of the Group of Friends of Sustainable Infrastructure Investment, while delivering a statement during the U.N, General Assembly's Sustainability Week in New York, on the theme: "Informal dialogue on building global resilience and promoting sustainable development through infrastructure connectivity." "The achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and our climate

port, housing, communications and industrial and agricultural production and consumption," the Pakistani envoy said, noting that this was recognized in the 'Just Energy Transition' document adopted at COP-28. "Yet," he said, "pub-

lic and private investments in sustainable infrastructure are not commensurate to realize either the SDGs or the climate goals, pointing out that a majority of developing countries do not have the public resources to finance infrastructure investments nor are they able to secure sufficient private investment. To achieve a 'just transition', he called for mobilizing significantly larger concessional finance to mitigate country and project risks, enhance credit quality, improve financing create a pipeline of viable and

Finance and Revenue,

Muhammad Aurangzeb.

met with the representa-tives of S&P Global and

Fitch Ratings on the side-lines of the IMF/World

Bank Spring Meetings in

he highlighted positive in-

dicators of the country on

the back of the Standby Ar-

rangement (SBA) signed

with International Mon-etary Fund (IMF), said a

press release issued here on

including taxation, energy,

He provided details on

During the meetings,

Washington D.C.

Sunday.

vestment in the developing countries. In this regard, Ambassador Akram cited the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which said there was a funding gap of \$2.5 trillion annually in infrastructure, two-thirds of which is in the

developing countries. "Cumulatively, for a 1 5°C Scenario, financing needs for clean energy are estimated to be about USD 4.3 trillion per year up until 2030, increasing thereafter to USD 5 trillion per year up until 2050," he said, pointing out that investment in renewable energy only reached USD 0.5 trillion in 2022, the majority concentrated in developed countries.

The Pakistani envoy also underscored the need to

He also referred to his

recent engagements with

Managing Director of the

IMF, President of the World

Bank, and heads of multi-

lateral institutions including

Asian Infrastructure In-

vestment Bank (AIIB) and

Asian Development Bank

World Bank's agenda aligns

with Pakistan's priorities

on climate change, digitali-

zation, and human develop-

from Saudi Arabia.

He reaffirmed that the

The Finance Minister

Finance Minister met to

representatives of S-P

Global, Fitch Ratings

(SLAMABAD (APP): and privatization over

The Federal Minister for short, medium and long-

term horizons.

(ADB).

the government's ongoing also mentioned potential in-

reforms in priority areas, vestments in the pipeline

NATIONS structure – in energy, trans- terms and thus incentivize bankable projects in the deprivate infrastructure in- veloping countries which can attract public and private investments. Pakistan, he said, advocates the establishment of a public-private entity under UN auspices to help developing countries formulate and structure such a pipeline of viable infrastructure projects utilizing the UN country offices. "Such a public private entity could bring together all stakeholders – recipient and donor countries, development institutions and the private sector; develop a template for national and international regulatory frameworks and develop de-risking measures to incentivize private investment in developing countries and present the projects for financing to the appropriate public and private sources of investment capital."

### Lawyers elects office bearers, members of bar association

HYDERABAD (APP) The Hyderabad District Bar Association (HDBA) has elected advocate Ziauddin Shaikh and advocate Shakir Nawaz Shar as its President and General Secretary, respectively, in the election which was held on April 20.

According to the official result which was announced here on Sunday by 2<sup>nd</sup> Additional District and Session Judge Karamuddin Junejo, Shaikh bagged 821 votes and Shar 468 votes to win their seats.

On the seats of Vice President, Joint Secretary, Library Secretary and Treasures the lawvers Zaheeruddin Sahito, Ásad Ali Mari, Wazir Hussain Chandio and Jahanzeb Laghari, respectively, had been elected.

### Mayor Larkana reviews sanitation arrangements

LARKANA (APP): Mayor Larkana, Advocate Anwar Ali Khan Lohar vis-LARKANA ited various areas of the city here on Sunday and reviewed sanitation arrangements

The mayor was accompanied by the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board and officials of Chi nese Ginso Company officials including Gul Muhammad Sheikh, Muhammad Sheikh, Iftikhar Narejo, Sadaqat Junejo, Darya Khan Jalbani and Municipal Officer Javed Ahmad Abbasi.

He reviewed the sani tation arrangements and remarked that the Management Board and Chinese Ginsu Company are fulfilling their responsibility to make the whole city clean and their staff is taking dirty garbage in all areas of the city.

### Man shoots friend dead in DHA Karachi over personal grudge

KARACHI (INP): A man killed his friend near Phase 5 of the Defence Housing Authority (DHA), Karachi a few minutes after he had an altercation with him. police said on Sunday

Fahad Khan made 55 year-old Humayun get out of the car he was driving and then sprayed him with bullets, resulting in his instant

the police said that the deceased was sitting with his friends in an apartment near Sea View area of the city when Fahad came there and had an exchange of hot words with him.

along with his friend in a car. Fahad followed him to his home, the Force said bullets into his body

### By-elections is 'big message for PTI as supporters did not come out?: Sanaullah

Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader parties. Rana Sanaullah said on Sunday that the voter turnout tion over the by-polls and of today's by-elections is a "big message" for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

"PTI voters have not come out today [during by-elections]," Sanaullah claimed while speaking to a private tv channel, adding that his party was satisfied with the poll results and had always accepted the election outcomes.

Calling upon political parties to use relevant forums for addressing the election-related complaints, he was of the view that the Nawaz Sharif-led party used to raised objections to the election results "within the system" but the PTI founder Imran Khan always tried to "bulldoze" the existing mechanism.

Commenting today's electoral event, the PML-N stalwart said that voter turnout is usually low in by-polls and only loyal

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan supporters head towards the polling stations for their

He expressed satisfacsaid that results were pouring in from all polling stations, as well as Form 45

was being issued. Sanaullah said the complaints would be lodged if any wrong doing was committed on the polling

The former interior minister, who faced defeat by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf backed independent Dr Nisar Jutt in the February 8 nationwide polls on Faisalabad's NA-100 seat, urged PTI central leader Ali Muhammad Khan that he should sit with the PML N to identify and address flaws via reforms in the electoral system instead of "bulldozing" the system. He added that his

party has always worked for the betterment of the country and invited political stakeholders to resolve issues via dialogues



**RAWALPINDI:** Ex Servicemen Society President General (Retd) Abdul Oavvum Malik addressing the National Council meeting held at a private hotel.

### 63 persons killed, 78 injured due to torrential rains in KP: PDMA

PESHAWAR (APP): The occurred in various dis-Provincial Disaster Man-(PDMA) issued a report on Sunday of the loss of lives and property in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) due to

So far, 63 people have died and 78 people have been injured, the report

According to the report, "Around 33 children, 15 men, and 15 women are among the killed, while 17 women, 37 men, and 24 children are among the in-

houses were damaged due to the collapse of walls and roofs in different districts, of which 477 were completely damaged and 2,725 were partially damaged.

life and financial accidents as well.

tricts, including Khyber, Dir Upper and Lower, Chitral Upper, Swat, Bajaur, Shangla, Mansehra, Mohmand, Malakand, Karak, Tank, Mardan, Peshawar, Charsadda, Nowshera, Buner, Hangu, Batagram, Bannu, North and South Waziristan, Kohat, DI Khan, and

On the special instructions of the Chief released Rs 110 million to affected districts in the re A total of 3,202 cent rains for financial assistance and relief activities for the affected fami-

least 90 million rupees have been released for relief ac-Due to heavy rains, tivities in the tribal districts

rearing its head again in ab-

authorities concerned.

sence of any action by the

action could be seen from

He deplored that no

### **HMC** urged to curb resurging soft encroachment

HYDERABAD (APP): of Sindh High Court was The Honourary Secretary of District Traffic Management Board Javed Iqbal has written a letter to Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (HMC) to draw its attention towards resurgence of the soft encroachment in the city.

Iqbal suggested the Municipal Commissioner Zahoor Lakhan to revive the HMC's anti encroachment cell by posting officials of good repute in the cell. He pointed that the soft encroachment which

the cell in any part of the Igbal said those encroachment were blocking the movement of traffic in the city which was witnessing an incessant rise of

its roads.

He submitted a list of 26 areas where urgent action was required against was removed on the order encroachment.

the number of vehicles on



KARACHI: Gilgit-Baltistan Youth workers protesting outside the Karachi Press Club for the arrest of Shahzad's killers in the Provincial Capital.

### NDF condemns suicide case of disabled employee in Matiari

President NDF Pakistan Nawabshah Abid Lashari has deplored the incident of a disabled employee of Colege Education Matiari, Khadija Nusrat Memon suicide, committed on malattitude of college adminis-

In a statement Abid Lashari said that It is tragic and should be investigated transparently.

He added that nondisabled employees tend to disabled employees are unable to work

have misunderstanding that

Meanwhile disabled people can perform their work in a slightly different manner according to their disability and they have to be given a conducive environment so that they can perform their work easily.

The case of Khadija Memon should be investigated in a transparent and fair manner and the accused should be truly punished so have very strict attitudes that such painful incidents towards disabled people, can be avoided in the future.

goals requires a major tranurged Islamabad to extend support for Israel's actions. sition to sustainable infra-

LAHORE: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Hafiz Naeemur Rehman addressing "Labaik

### **Bohra Community, SEPA** collaborate to commemorate Earth Day

KARACHI (APP): In a significant move to foster en-stressed the importance of Qasim Umar has visited vironmental stewardship, the Dawoodi Bohra Community has partnered with the Sindh Government's Environment, Climate Change, Coastal Develop-Department (ECC&CD) and the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) to com-

memorate Earth Day. The joint initiative was marked by an informative workshop aimed at raising environmental awareness, held at the lush Rahat Bagh in Karachi, under the management of the Dawoodi Bohra Community.

The event was honored by the presence of Nabeela Umer, Secretary of ECC&CD, who served as the Chief Guest. She highlighted the urgency of collective efforts to combat environmental issues pledged government's dedication to the cause of environmental conservation.

grassroots communication to mitigate plastic usage and the role of consistent actions in amplifying the environmental message. The ECC&CD vowed to continue its collaborative efforts with the Bohra community to enhance environmental consciousness.

The workshop featured insightful presentations from environmental specialists and representatives of the Dawoodi Bohra Community and SEPA.

Murtiza Jeetpuri, member of the Bohra Community's environmental organization shed light on aims and objectives of his organization and presented a bird's eye view o

its recent performance. Assistant Director of SEPA Farzana Naseem shed light on the challenges and potential of Pakistan's budding recycling industry. emphasizing the critical role of community engagement.



KARACHI: Railway porters are waiting for the passengers sitting under the shade of a tree at the Cantt Railway Station in Provincial Capital.

### Intellectuals, writers accolades Naseer Mirza on his literary contribution

HYDERABAD (APP): Intellectuals, writers and poets have paid glowing tribute to Naseer Mirza in an impressive ceremony hosted by Bazm-e-Rooh Rihan here in Qasimabad Business forum hall on

In his presidential address, eminent intellectual Dr. Qazi Khadim said that Naseer Mirza was polite nature writer and always shared love among people.

He felicitated Naseer Mirza on receiving the Presidential award Naseer Mirza expressing gratitude to Bazm-e-Rooh Rihan said that he consid-

and that he is proud to be the member of Mirza

Qalech Baid family. He said that he will always play his role for the uplift of Sindhi Lan-

Eminent Researcher Shahnawaz Mahesar said that Naseer Mirza has written many books in Sindhi Language and was a silent server of literature and language. Daughter of Comrade Jam Saqi Bakhtawar Jam said that Naseer Mirza has written memorable books on female writers like Sumera Zareen, Jeeji Zareena Baloch, Khair-u-Nisa ers G.M Syed his mentor Jafferi.

### Umer Test cricketer and legend Pakistan Television (PTV) Centre Karachi. The media Manager

Former test

cricketer Qasim

**Umar visits PTV** 

Karachi centre

KARACHI (APP): Former

PTV Ali Akber Arbab received the legendary crick-eter and presented PTV Times Newsletter to the cricket legend. Qasim Umar, who

was a top class batsman of Pakistan Cricket team, showed pleasure in visiting PTV and glad to see old cameras and equipment once used for the coverage of international cricket marches here at the National Stadium.

Kenyan born cricket star Qasim Umar played for Pakistan for several years and left cricket in 1987.

### Students protest over closure of **IBA Sukkur** Mirpurkhas

Campus MIRPURKHAS (APP) Students of IBA Sukkur Mirpurkhas Campus including over 155 middleclass students, mostly girls protested against the sudden closure of their campus

on Sunday. According to APP Correspondent, braving the scorching heat, they held placards and banners, urging authorities to reconsider their decision.

The students emphasized that IBA Sukkur Mirpurkhas Campus is the only standard educational institution in the area and its closure would deprive them of quality education.

They appealed to top officials including the President, Prime Minister and Education Ministers to intervene and save their campus, ensuring a secure future for over 150 students.

### Dry weather likely to persist in Sindh

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Meteorological Department on Sunday predicted dry weather for most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours. While, dust raising wind is predicted in the after-

Mainly, weather is likely to prevail in the province.

### LARKANA: Members of Sindhi Adabi Sangat (SAS) are holding protest demonstration for recovery of innocent hindu girl Priya Kumari held at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

### Farooque Shaikhani underscores pivotal role of Autobhan, latifabad

HYDERABAD (APP): from both sides, further Èarooq Muhammad President, Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry underscores the pivotal role of Auto Bhan, Latifabad Hyderabad, in fostering vibrant commercial activities. As the bustling heart of Sindh's second-largest city, it serves as a beacon for economic

growth in the region. However, the current state of its infrastructure poses a significant challenge, impeding not only business operations but also disrupting the smooth flow of traffic. Urgent measures are imperative to revitalize this vital artery of commerce and ensure seam-

less connectivity for all. Chamber President Farooq Shaikhani has drawn attention to a significant oversight in the design of the Auto Bhan sewage drain, where crucial features were neglected, leading to its current inefficiency.

Now, with water being directed into L.D One

tions and sewers. Furthermore, He said that in anticipation of heightened rainfall due to climate change, proactive planning and preventative measures are paramount, starting today to ensure the resilience of infrastructure in the face of future chal-

burdening its already

strained capacity, urgent

intervention is imperative.

proactively reached out to

all relevant departments,

proposing the construction

of a new, state of the art

pumping station along the

Auto Bhan sewerage drain,

adhering to international

suggested to encroach on

the school boundary wall 30

to 35 fit by rolling back, fa-

cilitating this development.

The antiquated sewerage

Additionally, they are

standards

The Chamber has



KARACHI: Vehicles stuck in worst traffic jam due to PTI rally on Shahra-e-Faisal, in the Provincial Capital.

systems, incapable of handling the demands of the burgeoning population, necessitate the construction of modern pumping sta-

Giving further details,

However, their friends intervened and calmed them

And when later Humayun left for his home adding there he intercepted him, made him alight from the car and then pumped