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GARHI KHUDA BAKHSH: President Asif Ali Zardari addressing a gathering on the occasion of the 45th death anniversary of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto

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

PPP chief warns of dictatorship if politicians do not focus on national reconciliation from Balochistan by stag-

KHUDA democracy, and institutions GARHI BAKHSH (INP): PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto said while addressing a large crowd in Garhi Khuda

### President Zardari says **PPP** will continue to support govt to achieve economic stability

GARHI KHUDA BAKHSH (INP): President KHUDA Asif Ali Zardari says Paki-stan People's Party will continue to support the

ing two separate public gatherings in Pishin and government for economic stability and prosperity in Chaman on Saturday. the country.

Without naming the multi-party confab, Bilawal described it as the "PNA (Pakistan National Alliance) 2" and added that the alliance was beating drums for alleged vote-rigging to on Sunday. cause "economic and politi-

cal instability." He reminded the parties of the result of such movements, warning them of the risk of dictatorship in the country. "When Zulfikar Ali

sources. Bhutto was the PM of this country, some conspirators

ing their confidence on Pakistan People's Party in general elections.

He was addressing the public gathering on 45th

death anniversary of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto at Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Bhutto in Larkana The President said Pa-

kistan is blessed with vast potential of minerals and natural resources and we will emerge from current economic crisis through exploitation of these re-

people.

Paying tribute to

Bhutto, he said Bhutto fam-

ily always sacrificed their

lives for the country and

The President assailed

the bureaucracy in Islamabad saying Pakistan was not a poor country but it had been made so by mindset of the 'babus' [officers] sitting in the capital. Zardari recounted how former prime minister Benazir Bhutto had appointed him as the chairman of the Pakistan Peoples

Party, despite doubts from some friends about his leadership capabilities. The pro-The president emphasised that Pakistan's status as a poor nation was not predetermined, adding that despite Allah's provi-

sion of abundant wealth, the

CM pledges to fight war of State against terrorism with political responsibility and under joint course of action

*Mir Sarfraz Bugti chairs high level meeting on law & order:* strongly condemns Noshki incident; decides to revisit security plan for curbing such incidents in future

**Independent Report** 

emies QUETTA: The Chief He stressed that this Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has the politicians, civil armed reiterated his forces, judiciary and megovernment's resolve to fight the war of State

against terrorism with pofight the war against ter- sides senior civil and mililitical responsibility and rorism with political re- tary officials were in atunder joint of action. sponsibility and joint tendance. He asserted that the course of action. war against terrorism is

The Chief Minister Rakhshan Division and not mere of the security was chairing high level Deputy Inspector General Noshki martyrs within forces, rather it is the war meeting on law and order of Police briefed the meet- week time.

of State against peace en- situation in the province ing about Noshki tragic incident.

While the meeting Minister Balochistan, Mir war has to be fought by of Police, Abdul Khaliq strongly condemned the Noshki incident, it decided to review and revisit the security plan in back-He said that we would Home, Zahid Saleem be- drop of the gory incident.

The Chief Minister on the occasion directed to ensure payment of finan-The Commissioner cial compensation to the bereaved families of



here on Sunday morning.

Sheikh, Chief Secretary,

Shakeel Qadir Khan, Ad-

ditional Chief Secretary

The Inspector General

GARHI KHUDA BAKHSH: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Safaraz Ahmed Bugti alongwith MPAs Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Haji Ali Madad Jattak and Mir Ubaidullah Gorgage coming to attend death anniversary of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto

### Iran warns Israel against retaliation, global powers urge restraint

US will not take part in retaliatory action against Iran, says White House

and Israel. **Monitoring Desk** 

JERUSALEM: Iran warned over Israeli strike on its con- child was seriously hurt by Israel and the United States sulate in Syria on April 1 shrapnel. There were no on Sunday of a much larger that killed top Revolution- other reports of serious response if there is any re-taliation for its mass drone and followed months of we repelled, together we

continued to operate as Iran launched the attack normal and a 7-year old

Benjamin

Zardari has said that all politicians and political parties should work on a 'Charter of National Reconciliation to avoid fighting with each other and shun politics of foul language.

"Rather than playing dharna dharna, we should sit on the table and have a political dialogue to bring improvement in our system, Bakhsh, Sindh on Sunday. like 'nine stars' started a The PPP chief's reccampaign and thought that ommendation comes as the newly formed alliance of opposition parties Tehreek

kistan had to bear dictatorship for 10 years and this its protest movement

We want supremacy of law & constitution: Sharif family afraid of Qaidi No. 804, says Umar Ayub

47 would no more run.



**Independent Report** 

QUETTA: The central Secretary General of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaaf (PTI) and leader of Opposition in National Assembly, Umar Ayub Khan has stated that we want supremacy of law and constitution in the country, and nothing else for the movement has been started for protection of the constitution.

He believed that the coming era of government is of PTI after the incumbent government of Form 47 would be winded-up. He claimed that the govern-ment formed through Form from his party.

they would oust Bhutto and come into power. But because of their campaign Pa-Fâĥafuz-e-Âain will launch a massive movement. This alliance kicked off

risk exists today," he said while addressing a large against alleged rigging in the February 8 general elections crowd in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh, Sindh on Sunday.

President, PM felicitate Sikh community on

Affairs on Sunday said that Baisakhi festival Pakistan was watching with SLAMABAD (Online) deep concern the ongoing President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have felicitated Sikh community on the celebraion of Baisakhi festival. de-escalation. In their message on this

event, they that this occasion gives message of love, happiness, peace and affection. He said that Pakistan felt pride over its diverse cultural heritage.

The senior leader of PTI was addressing hurriedly Pakistan will ensure all called press conference besteps to facilitate the Sikh fore his departure from community. Quetta on Sunday morning.

Umar Ayub had come to Quetta to participate in the protest public meetings held in Pishin and Chaman besides attending the crucial meeting of the six-parties alliance, which are part of the movement for protection of constitution in

A leader of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), Sharif Khilji also announced to join the PTI after resigning

sequences of the breakdown of diplomacy. These also underline the grave implications in cases where the UN Security Council is The President said that unable to fulfill its responsibilities of maintaining in-

In his felicitation mes sage, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Government of Pakistan and all the provincial governments are ensuring provision of all facilities to the Sikh Yatrees who were visiting their re-

#### ligious places in Pakistan. Shehbaz Sharif termed Baisakhi as the festival of spreading love and happiness. Prime Minister proudly said that Pakistan was a beautiful blend of dif

ferent faiths and culture and the colours of Baisakhi further add to this beauty.



LAHORE: People carrying their luggage coming back from their home towns after spend their Eid-ul-Fitr holidays at Lahore Railway Station, in the Provincial Capital.

Shaheed Zulfikar Ali nation suffered from a lack of intellect. Zardari stressed the importance of cultivating a mindset that seeks to understand and address the not over veť

country's challenges com-prehensively. President Zardari thanked the people for pos-

### Pakistan concerned over ongoing developments in ME, calls for restraint

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Foreign Spokesperson said in a press statement

It was now critically urgent to stabilize the situation and restore peace, it was further stressed.

cessity of international efsion of hostilities in the region and for immediate

### JIT comprising police, army officers formed to investigate **Bahawalnagar** incident

LAHORE (INP): A six-member Joint Inquiry Team (JIT) comprising officers of police, military and local administration has been constituted to probe the Bahawalnagar incident wherein a faceoff broke out between some police officials and military personnel, The News reported on Sunday.

The Punjab Home Department has formed the team and appointed Special Secretary Interior Atta-ur-Rehman as its convener. The JIT also includes the Bahawalpur Division commissioner, DIG police special branch Punjab and officers of Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), Military Intelligence and Intelligence Bureau



clashes between Israel and shall win," Israeli Prime Iran's regional allies, trig-Minister gered by the war in Gaza. Netanyahu said on social However, the attack media ahead of a planned from hundreds of missiles 1230 GMT meeting of the war cabinet to discuss a reand drones, mostly launched from inside Iran, caused only modest damage in Israel as most were shot down with the help of the US, Britain and Jordan.

sponse to the attack. Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said despite thwarting the attack, the military campaign was not over and "we must be prepared for every scenario"

KARACHI: Palestine Foundation stages a protest demonstration against Israeli genocide in Gaza at Karachi Press Club

The investment is an-

month, pending the clear-

Special Investment Facili-

investment, the Prime Min-

ister will establish a dedi-

cated committee within the

Ministry of Finance. This

committee will encompass

all relevant stakeholders

tation Council (SIFC).

Saudi Arabia commits

**\$1b** investment in

**Reko Diq project** 

**CM** Balochistan attends DA of ZAB

**Independent Report** QUETTA: The Chief Min-ISLAMABAD (INP): ister Balochistan, Mir Saudi Arabia is set to inject Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti a hefty \$1 billion into the reached Garhi Khuda Reko Diq Copper-Gold Bakhsh on Sunday. Project nestled in the sce-

stan.

The members of pro vincial assembly, Mir Zahoor Ahmed Buledi, Ali Madad Jatak, Ubaidullah Gorgaij, Secretary Information PPP, Sarbuland Khan Jogezai and other leaders were also accompanied by the Chief Minister.

They participated in the 45th death anniversary of the founding leader of PPP, Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto

They also paid rich tributes to him on his death anniversary besides offering fateha for the departed soul. Meanwhile, in a mes-

from Pakistan, ensuring a sage issued on eve of his collaborative approach. death anniversary, Chief This milestone under-Minister said that the parscores the fruitful endeavors of the Special Investliamentary system of the country is because of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. ment Facilitation Council (SIFC) in fostering a con-He said that Shaheed Bhutto ducive environment for forhad given the constitution eign investment within the to the country which guarnation. antees basic human rights Such an injection of of every citizen capital is poised to not only

pave the way for further foreign investments but also aligns with SIFC's mandate to spur economic growth nic Chagai District of Following this signifi-Balochistan Province, Paki-

cant investment, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are expected to ink agreements ticipated to take place next aimed at strengthening investment within the mining ance of any hurdles by the sector

Online adds: Saudi Arabia has decided to make investment of overall 7 bil-To ensure a seamless process for Saudi Arabia's lion dollars in Pakistan.

According to government sources a high level 100-member delegation of Saudi Arabia under Saudi foreign minister prince Faisal bin Farhan will arrive in Pakistan on April 16.

The delegation will include Saudi ministers for investment, water and agriculture, environment, industries, mineral resources and energy.

Secretary general of Saudi-Pak Supreme Coordination Council and Saudi investors will also part of delegation.

#### PDMA issues advisory in view of risks of sky lightning during rains in Balochistan province public should adopt pre-**Independent Report**

the country

QUETTA: The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has issued advisory for protection from the sky lightning during rains in the Balochistan province. According to the directives issued by PDMA on Sunday, it was men-tioned that there are risks of lightning during rains in the province.

The PDMA pointed out that casualties are being reported due to lightning in the province.

It was also pointed out that lightning generally takes place at open and high places. Therefore, general ning

ventive measures to save them from lightning, it was advised. It was further advised to the citizens to avoid from taking shelter and sitting

under trees during the lightning. The PDMA also issued directives to the people not to move in the plane fields, coasts and other open places and not use mobile phone games, landline phone, computer and laptop in open.

Moreover, the people were also advised not to travel on motorcycle and bicycle, etc. during lightdevelopments in the Middle East (ME) and The spokesperson said that for months, Pakicalled upon all the parties to exercise the utmost restraint and move towards stan had underlined the ne-'Today's developforts to prevent the expanments demonstrate the con-

ceasefire in Gaza

rity," the Foreign Office added.

On April 2, Pakistan had pointed to the dangers of an attack on the Iranian consular office in Syria as a major escalation in an al-

#### and missile attack on Israeli territory overnight, as Israel said "the campaign is The threat of open warfare erupting between the arch Middle East foes and

dragging in the United

States has put the region on

edge as Washington said

America did not seek con-

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OPINION

### Daily **Independent**

# Daily Aoice of Masse Independent

### Monday April 15, 2024

### **Escalating tension** between Iran-Israel

While Iran's use of hundreds of drones and missiles to directly target Israel overnight on Sunday in retaliation for an Israeli strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus set some major political and military precedents, but it has escalated tension between Iran and Israel and so in the region and world aggravating the conflict.

It was the single largest drone attack ever carried out by any country, and it was the first time Iran directly attacked Israel after almost a half-century of being archenemies.

Here's a look at what political military and economic considerations Tehran might have factored in while deciding on the attack that has amplified fears of a larger regional war and that could also af fect the direction of Israel's war on Gaza.

Pakistan has already issued a clear statement by highlighting the escalatory steps of 1st April by Israel and Pakistan has squarely put the blame of escalation to where it rightfully belongs. There's call for international community and UN especially UNSC to follow through internationally accepted norms and obligations is the right way to proceed for dialing back. Under the prevailing circumstances, rather amidst escalating tension, Pakistan calls for restraint and step back is the most pragmatic way forward.

Obviously, Pakistan continues to have a very clear and lucid stance towards Palestinian and Gaza issue and would like that the ongoing humanitarian crisis is not pushed back due to focus on these new developments.

Under all circumstances, Pakistan fully supports and stand by the charges and, despite at-Palestinians who are suffering from tempts to legislate his way

#### **Muhammad Amir** Rana

Pakistan finds itself in the midst of a delicate balancing act with regard to its relationships with Iran and Saudi Arabia.

This became evident ecently when, at the same time that it secured a \$2 billion deposit from Saudi Arabia — which will boost total Saudi deposits in the State Bank to \$5bn — Pakistan banned the Iranianbacked Zainebiyoun Brigade. Despite this move, President Asif Ali Zardari reassured his Iranian counterpart of Pakistan's commitment to cooperation in Brigade is believed to have areas of mutual interest, inbeen involved in supplying cluding security. These deweapons to the IRGC in the velopments highlight Middle East. Last month. Pakistan's growing depenreports emerged of alleged dence on Saudi Arabia and Zainebiyoun members of the Gulf states due to evolv-Pakistani origin being aping regional security conprehended in international cerns and persistent eco-

waters for carrying weapnomic challenges. This inons to be given to the IRGC creased reliance, however, in the Middle East. In anmay come with a few strings other incident, the death of attached a Pakistan-origin com-Tensions are soaring in mander in Syria affiliated

the Middle East as the Iswith the group paved the rael-Hamas conflict threatway for Pakistan to ban it. ens to escalate in the large Pakistani law-enforceregion. The US has restricted staff travel in Israel, fearing

ment agencies are believed to have sufficient proof of

The big test ahead Iranian retaliation for a susthe Zainebiyoun Brigade's pected Israeli strike on Iran's involvement in sectarian vioconsulate in Damascus In lence in the country and rethis context, clipping the cruitment for the Iraq and Svria conflict, but the govwings of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps ernment had not acted ear-(IRGC) and its principal lier because of circumstances subsidiary, the Quds Force, linked to the alleged preshas become essential for the ence of Baloch insurgents on US, Israel, and its allies in Iranian soil. The loyalty of the Gulf. The Ouds Force its members, who prioritise ideological affiliations over employs all semi-conventional warfare tactics, innational ties, also remains a cluding sophisticated techmajor challenge for security niques of guerrilla warfare institutions. The involvement of a and militancy. It operates section of Shia youth in through its regional proxies, the Iraqi Hashd al-Shaabi. transnational political activthe Afghan Fatemiyoun Bri-gade, the Pakistani ism and militancy goes back to before the 1979 revolu-Zainebiyoun, and Yemen's tion, with figures such as Houthis. The Zainebiyoun

Arif al-Husayni playing key roles. The Brigade has acknowledged ties with the Quds Force since around the 2001 US invasion of Afghanistan, and its formation was announced in 2014 during the conflict in Syria. It has recently pledged its readiness to follow orders from the IRGC. The insurgent Sunni Baloch group, Jaish al-Adl, has been a longstanding source of tension between Iran and Pakistan, though labelled as a terrorist organisation by both countries. Jaish al-Adl has intensified its operations against the Iranian security

forces, which is building pressure on Pakistan to act against it. Iran savs Jaish al-Adl is a Saudi proxy operating from Pakistani soil

Iranian drone and missile attacks in Balochistan in January this year and Pakistan's tit-for-tat response aggravated tensions between the two countries. Though immediate diplomatic efforts eased immediate tensions, mistrust continues to lurk beneath the surface. Jaish al-Adl has struction continued attacking the Ira-

nian security forces, while recruitment for the Zainebiyoun has also continued. Meanwhile, Iranian government has not taken any concrete action against the Baloch insurgents on its soil. The Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline remains a major reason for Pakistan's tolerance of some key security issues with Iran. The pipeline was an old idea, but implementation began much later, when Asif Ali Zardari was nearing the completion of his first term as president. Iran has built its part, but Pakistan is hesitant to proceed at its end, due to pres-Ebrahim Raisi, on an offisure from Saudi Arabia and cial visit to the country to the risk of debilitating US ease tensions

security challenge for Pakiously signalled to Pakistan not to pursue the project. If stan. It remains to be seen Pakistan fails to fulfil its how President Zardari commitment to building the copes with the challenge ipeline, it could face a especially if the conflict in the Middle East escalates hefty fine, potentially having to pay \$20 billion. The and leaves few choices for last interim government had Pakistan's closest allies in tasked a company with the Gulf. Meanwhile, an building Pakistan's portion IMF bailout for Pakistan is of the gas pipeline. Howalso seen to be linked to how ever, the changing situation in the Middle East and the latter country conducts its relations with Iran. Pakistan's internal economic A concerning scenario could emerge if the Middle situation may delay con-

East crisis worsens and Apparently, the comforces Iran to utilise the full bination of Prime Minister potential of its alleged prox-Shehbaz Sharif and Presiies in the region, including in Pakistan. This could have dent Asif Ali Zardari is a feasible way to maintain a balsecurity ramifications, as ance between Iran and Saudi pro-Iranian organisations Arabia. Sharif's family is could launch large-scale anti-Israel, anti-US, and anticonsidered close to the Saudi camp, while the Saudis have Saudi protest movements in doubts about the PPP support of Iran. Other religious parties would likely be leadership's credentials on forced to choose sides, posectarian matters and their approach to Iran. Prime tentially disrupting the sec-Minister Sharif has secured tarian equilibrium the country achieved after a long a commitment from the Saudi crown prince to accelstruggle. One can recall the first Gulf War in 1990-91 erate the implementation of the massive \$5bn plan. when the power elites and the masses were divided President Zardari has invited his Iranian counterpart, into opposing camps

Pakistan's real test ahead is to remain neutral and maintain its relationships with both Iran and Saudi Arabia

Iran will remain a tough sanctions The US has continu- diplomatic, political, and

# Will Iran react to Israel?

#### for him.

At this Abbas Nasir Netanyahu and Israel's Will Iran be provoked by strategy is clear. They Israel or exercise restraint? want to continue their long-drawn-out ethnic This is obviously a uestion that many in the cleansing with unqualified Middle East, the Persian Western material support, Gulf and beyond are askfollowing Hamas's shocking as Israel desperately ing daylong attack on Oct tries to suck in more playlast year, which killed ers to escalate and widen about 1,200 Israelis, inthe Gaza conflict so that cluding some 400 security personnel. Western support to it, Hamas also took which was showing signs

of waning, is galvanised about 240 Israelis back to Gaza as hostages in order Even Tel Aviv, Prime to swap them for several Benjamin thousand Palestinian pris-Netanyahu's place of resioners, many being held dence, has seen mass demwithout charge on 'adminonstrations in recent istrative orders' in Israeli jails. A little over half of weeks, calling for his resignation and fresh electhose hostages have been tions. The number of demreleased, but over 130 reonstrators seems to be rismain captive in Gaza ng daily and includes For over six months,

those who are angry at his Israel may have been carhandling of the hostage crirying out a relentless pogrom in Gaza, with the When the current condeath toll of children alone flict erupted, Netanyahu running at nearly 13,000 was facing corruption among the nearly 34,000

dictated by domestic polistage tics, such as President Joe Biden's desperate need for Muslim votes in states such as Michigan, and the support of countless progressive Americans who are outraged by the Gaza genocide and say they are unsure if they'll vote for him in this November's presidential election.

In contrast to its support over six months, recently the US has briefed journalists about "tough and candid discussions" during a phone call between President Biden and Prime Minister Netanyahu, particularly over Israel's planned invasion of camps in Rafah, currently home to some 1.7 million displaced Gazans. Over several months,

Israel has tried to provoke Hezbollah, seen as an Iranian proxy in Leba-non, in the north, but failed to draw it into a full-fledged confrontation. It has attacked not just south Leba-Palestinians killed so far, but it is beginning to realise

blatant acts of provocation failed to draw Hezbollah and Syria into the Middle East conflict because the 'axis' powers possibly saw through Israel's tactics and chose restraint, so the focus remained solely on Israel's brutality in Gaza, which was slowly but surely beginning to change Western attitudes.

The US has remained a staunch ally, offering unconditional support to Israel's 'right to self-defence' (a term that normally applies in the context of external aggression) against forces in areas under its own occupation, and has supplied unprecedented levels of arms, armament, fighter jets and bombs

But adding to domestic political compulsions has been the recent killing of around half a dozen Western aid workers in a targeted strike on three vehicles belonging to the global relief organisation non and Beirut and hit World Central Kitchen, Hezbollah targets, includ- which resulted in interna-

ascertain the time of the as the bane of its existence, WCK strike that killed seven Western aid workers on April 1 so as so ascertain whether the Israeli strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus on the same day was a diversionary tactic. In any case, the two attacks served two

different purposes. The one major consequence of the WCK killings was that the relief organisation suspended its operations in Gaza. That fitted perfectly with Israel's policy of depopulating the Strip through mass killings and widespread destruction of its infrastructure, including homes, schools, hospitals, libraries and universities, and by preventing food aid from reaching the Palestin-

iar The thousands of Palestinians who were being served hot meals by WCK must be going hun-

ened to derail democracy

just about everybody.

guy who is actually do-

helps create this amnesia.

the business model fa-

vors clicks over context.

this and not that, and be-

lieves it must remain ob-

ing it?

iective

raeli air attack on the Ira- tion. nian consulate in Damascus

would pull not only Israel but likely the US and other Western military powers into at least an aerial campaign against it.

This would serve Israel's cause no end, as on the one hand, it can continue its Gaza genocide and the land grab in the West Bank through more and more settlements, displacing thousands of additional Palestinians, and on the other, the West's attention will be diverted to, and remain focused on, its favourite hate figures, ie, the Iranian clergy, and not on Israel's mass murder.

As these lines are being written, the US has stated it will unequivocally support Israel in case of Iranian aggression, while calling on Tehran to desist. It has to be seen whether Tehran decision-makers can take a step back and think through the regional gry again. consequences before decid-ing on their course of ac-

Or will the slight of

the brutal attacks and naked aggression by Israeli forces in Ghaza.

What Pakistan wants is that Israeli must stop ongoing naked aggression against innocent Palestinians, rather the world community should also force it to do so putting an end to the war crimes.

While Iran has taken revenge of the April 1 Israeli strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus that What will the world look had killed seven IGRC members, including two generals in charge of leading operations in Syria and Lebanon, along with six other people, it (Israel) and it's allies and supporters must take cognizance of the situation and play role for bringing peace Today. instead of taking any action against Iran. At the same time, critical importance of a strong defence and security apparatus in any country especially Pakistan which has multiple ascendant external threats, a strong and immoral enemy like India as well as externally sponsored terrorism in the country. It is also clear that nexus between Israel and India is meant to destabilise the region.

Amidst the external and internal security threats, strong Armed Forces are need of every country and so of Pakistan especially in view of the nefarious designs of India evident from it's past moves.

This cannot be overemphasised than in the ongoing conflict in the region.

What's most important is that social media and vested political in-Indian Ocean. terests need to stop their heinous propaganda and think of Pakistan rather than playing in the hands of the enemy.

They must think and take care of the vested national interests of the country instead of their petty ones.

All the responses given by the countries have asked for cessation of hostilities rather than following jingoistic rhetoric or war mongering less the social media propaganda trolls sitting in and outside of Pakistan just to hurt Pakistan national interests.

out of trouble by tweaking its military campaign now the judicial system in the has an end date slapped on name of 'judicial reforms'. it by its Western allies.

it looked like he was going The West's waning to end up in court, even support doesn't owe itself prison. Many saw the to any sudden awakening Hamas attack as a godsend of the conscience, but is

ing commanders, but has also bombed targets in Syria, which forms part of the 'axis of res-i-s-tance' along with Iran. Hezbollah

and Yemen. However, all these

## World of 2035

#### **Aizaz Ahmad** Chaudhry

again

Minister

ated by the US, Australia, India and Japan to like about a decade from contain China; and I2U2, which has brought tonow? Given that geopolitics, geo-economics, and gether India, Israel, the US, and UAE for ecotechnologies are evolving rapidly, the future is unnomic cooperation, but certain. However, there has been halted, for now, are trends that give us a by the Gaza war. For its clue regarding the direcpart, China is engaged tion of global geopolitics. with over 100 countries in the Belt and Road Iniwe are transitioning from a world tiative (BRI) and six ecoorder to disorder: major nomic corridors, includpower rivalries are intening CPEC. These shifting allisifying, global military ances will be affected by expenditure is rising steeply, unilateralism is

six cross-cutting trends: while (i) emerging technologies, multilateralism is in desuch as AI platforms, cline, and xenophobia is multi-role drones, big embedding itself in aldata, and semiconducmost every country. tors, which are currently Four theatres of gloat the centre of the USbal contestation are con-China tech war; (ii) clitributing to the global mate change, which can disarray: Indo-Pacific spell havoc for countries (US-China competition), with low fiscal space Europe (Russia-Ukraine through extreme weather war), Middle East (Palesand food insecurity; (iii) tine conflict, Israel-Iran de-dollarisation, an optensions), and the Indian tion many countries have Ocean, where major powbegun to explore; (iv) rare ers including the US, UK, earth elements, which are France, Australia, China required for advancing and India want to enhance technologies — such as smartphones, digital camtheir presence. American maritime strategist Alfred eras, semiconductors, etc Mahan had rightly preand that are evoking dicted in the 19th century stiff competition between that the future of the 21st China and the US, Eucentury would depend on rope, and Japan; (v) nonwhoever dominated the traditional security threats, including energy Shifting alliances are politics, cyberwarfare,

being formed, essentially disinformation campaigns along three broad categoand lawfare; and (vi) reries: the US, Europe and surgent terrorism as con-Australia have an inforcerted international remal broad alignment sponse wanes. against Russia, China, and Global contesta-

Iran. For some countries, tions, shifting alliances, such as India, Saudi and the six trends that Arabia, Turkey, Pakistan, will shape the world in the and other middle powers, coming decade will all play out in the high-risk the preferred option is to exercise strategic auareas of potential global tonomy. Across these two conflict, including the broad categories, multi-South China Sea, Ukraine, Middle East, alignments are emerging to pursue common inter-Afghanistan, and Kashests, such as BRICS (Bramir. The probable nature zil, Russia, India, China of conflict will be hybrid, and South Africa), which with countries using evhas expanded to include

other countries, including power at their disposal to achieve their goals, in-Iran and Saudi Arabia; QUAD, a platform crecluding kinetic options (military strikes, use of proxies), economic instruments (sanctions, lucrative aid packages, coercion through the international monetary system) and information tools (propaganda, media, entertainment industry).

Consequently power potential will also change. The US is a waning power, but the instruments of its national power are largely intact and can sustain it through the next decade as a leading superpower. It is also taking steps to recover ground lost to China in high-tech industry and

the manufacturing sector. China is a rising power, and is interested in continuing its peaceful rise to fullv become industrialised, for which it will resist involvement in major kinetic conflicts. Russia is seeking to revive its lost glory, but its energies are likely to be consumed by the conflict in Europe. India is also a

rising economic power, though its geopolitical profile will be constrained by ideological politics, the North-South divide, restive minorities, and agitated farmers. The UN would remain sidelined in matters

of peace and security, but stay relevant for sustainable development and climate change. The OIC is not likely to dent the future in any major way. Asean will continue as a success story of regional integration. Europe is a resilient continent but the

focus of global attention will remain on Asia in the coming decade. The world of 2035 appears to be even more fragmented and polarised than it is today. Only countries exhibiting economic resilience and societal harmony will stand a chance against the

data, there is plenty to show the US economy has done well under Biden. Unemployment and inflation are low and

pected", reported Politico in January. Yet Biden's age gets a lot of media time, like Hillary ery tool of national mighty winds of change. | Clinton's emails got in dislikes, biases. Journal-

was an act of extreme the consulate attack and provocation designed to force Iran and its influential Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps into retaliating. Any retaliation by Iran, which the West sees sure Israel

the killing of a senior IRGC commander force their hand? Any violent reaction would only be a bailout for an under-pres-

2016. I am not here to suggest Biden being 81 is a non-issue, but it does issue are human. Journal-ism is rooted in values. I will never support a will never support a policy that is racist, sexseem to distract from the economic strides made ist, anti-women, antiby his administration children, anti-poor, antiscience. I oppose whatthe very thing respondents expressed dissatisever is masquerading as democracy these days. I faction about. Where are they getting their infordislike climate change deniers too. Does my transmation then, or should parency mean I cannot the media be reporting practise journalism? On on the economy (boring) the contrary, I tell stuand not Biden's latest dents that knowing our gaffe (fun and gets clicks which gets advertisers). biases allows us to prac-Biden has had mistice journalism better, because we work harder steps and falls, but beto ensure we have been yond confusing people or places, he has not threatfair.

The elections in the US are six months away like the other guy; the but the focus is already on polls. It looks like the media has not learned from its mistakes. We saw this in Pakistan too, tempted an insurrection. when many in the media and has vowed to deport wrote the PTI off, didn't take voter sentiment into Why are more people willing to believe he is a account, and had to eat humble pie on election better candidate to manage the economy than the day. When you cover elections like you would a horse race — who's I have often wonleading, who's behind dered why people's memories are short, but you are not helping audiences make informed decisions. Especially if I am now sure the media you are reporting a candidate's falsehoods It does so partly because without challenging them because you're worried you will be seen as parassumes audiences want tisan or you're scared you'll lose their subscriptions. That's lazy Since I began readjournalism. And it's deing academic material on nying the truth about what is at stake.

I don't have any stakes in the US elections. It will not matter whether Biden or Trump throws drones or sanctions at us. But I think we can learn a lot from how their media covers this election, even if it is 'what not to do'. I hope that includes calling out leaders that threaten Pakistan's stability, which includes the economy, which can be gauged by numbers. People ĺie. Math doesn't.

**Polls** apart **Muna Khan** An old, rickety house in upstate New York has served as a landmark since I began visiting family here in 2017. It is

tional anger and oppro-

brium; even Western gov-

ernments sounded con-

cerned and expressed un-

ease at Israel's continuing

I have tried hard to

military campaign.

hard to miss because it has a massive Trump sign, painted in the colours of the American flag, with the years '2016', '2020' and now '2024' next to his name. l am unaffected by its presence, but the folks I know who live here see it as a sign of all that is wrong with politics.

They are distressed by an April 3 poll by the Wall Street Journal placone who is not exactly a ing Trump in the lead in six of the seven most spring chicken at 77. The one who faces a slew of competitive states. These states tend to decriminal charges, attermine the election outcome. The poll reported on "voter dissatisfaction" with the economy and "deep doubts" about President Joe Biden's capabilities.

I have since been listening to fears about Trump's return and how folks will migrate to Canada. Funnily enough, I first heard that in 2004. when George W. Bush was re-elected, the data shows around 10,000 Americans became permanent residents in Canada following Bush's re-election, and dipped after Barack Obama was elected in 2008. The data for Trump showed a 350 per cent increase in search for "how to move to Canada" when he won, and around 9,000 made good on their promise and migrated in 2017.

journalism, I have learned how problematic objectivity can be. It often pits the oppressed with the oppressor for the sake of balance over informed that is, factual — storytelling. Imagine On the subject of families of disappeared sharing the same media space with the powerful men often responsible

for doing the disappeareconomic growth "is growing faster than exing. How is that fair? On the first day of class. I always tell students it is impossible not to have personal likes.

### Daily A oice of Masse Independent Monday April 15, 2024

### OMMERCE NEWS Page 03

# Pakistan economic growth forecast to rise 2.8% in FY2025, ADB reports

a new and more stable

government. An expansion

in private consumption and

determined exchange rate

low

should buttress growth.

However,

ISLAMABAD (INP): In FY2025, Pakistan, growth is forecast to rise at 1.9% in FY2024 (ending on 30 June 2024) and 2.8% in FY2025, in FY2024 driven by a up from the 0.2% contraction last fiscal year. investment linked to progress on reform measures and transition to

Gwadar Pro stated on Sunday quoting Asian Development Bank (ADB) economic forecasts report for Asia April 2024.

According to the a rise in workers' report, the shift back to remittances from a move positive growth will come toward a marketfrom a recovery in both agriculture and industry.

However, domestic demand will remain confidence, to support constrained by the surge in living costs and tight output in the latter half of policies.

FY2024 and pick up in costs, higher tax rates on growth.

provided property transfers rebound in private sector the fiscal position.

Growth in services is projected to strengthen in FY2024 as recovery in agriculture and industry benefit services.

implemented, growth is forecast to restart gradually this fiscal year and improve slightly next year. Inflation is projected to moderate somewhat this year, and more next year, under stabilization

macroeconomic policies. the year.Construction will Improving women's Growth is projected remain weak due to financial inclusion is to remain subdued in elevated construction critical to strengthen

implemented in the FY2024 budget, and rationalization of public investment to consolidate

> If reforms Month.

recovery in industrial



FAISALABAD: Women are buying clothes on a stall at Sunday weekly bazaar in the city.

&

### Central bank needs to review credit policies in **SMEs favor: Anjum Nisar**

ISLAMABAD (INP): sector, as Pakistan needs Chairman Businessmen millions of jobs annually. Panel (BMP) of the Mian Anjum Nisa Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI), Mian Small Anium Nisar has said that the central bank needs to driving review its credit policies by economic development in fixing a special quota to Pakistan. With an finance the small and estimated 5.2 million review its credit policies by only the large industries was a cornerstone of our have been availing economy, concessional export loaning facilities, with very limited financing is left for the SMEs which are the backbone of the economy, contributing around 40 percent to the national gross domestic product (GDP) In a statement issued on Sunday, he said that the government with a view to help grow the businesses will have to take solid measures to strengthen the industry, especially the SMEs, saving the livelihood of millions of workers associated with oriented sector. the small industries. He said the government will have to make a visible reduction in markup rate to launched various policies help grow the businesses, for the p particularly the SME finance.

tax evaders SLAMABAD (INP): The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has completed preparations Mian Anjum Nisar said that we need to for action against tax highlight the critical role of evaders.

According to FBR Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in sources, within a few days final notices will be issued sustainable to tax evaders, traders, and industrialists, who will also be sent notices. Their medium enterprises, as businesses, the SME sector assets, and extravagant expenditures, do not match have been availing economy, fostering their tax data; some government's all major employment, growth, and traders' tax is only a few thousand while their annual

CHINIOT: Farmers harvesting wheat crop starting from 1st of Besakh

### **PAJCCI commend Railways over** increasing its revenue, suggests launching of cargo trains

PESHAWAR (APP): Pak- Baloch for provision of Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) has commended Pakistan Railways over increasing its annual revenue to highest peak of Rs. 66 billion in nine Pakistan Railways. months of current year and has suggested for launching of cargo trains to further piling up of earnings.

În a press statement issued here on Sunday, Coordinator PAJCCI KP, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi said it appreciating development that Pakistan Railways has increased it annual revenue to record height.

The phenomenal jump in earnings reflect revival of people's confidence on Railways in **FBR** completes the wake of better preparations for management decisions taken by Chairman Mazhar action against Ali Shah and GM, Amir community especially

### **Economic growth** linked to durable regional peace

travelling.

LAHORE (APP): SAARC neighboring countries Chamber of Commerce and Including Pakistan, he added.He said Iftikhar Ali Malik has counterterrorism advocated the cause of cooperation collaboration closely with achieving durable peace in regional and international the region, a prerequisite to economic growth. Pakistan, to eliminate prosperity and

those dealing in Pakimproved travelling facilities, opined Zia who Afghan trade.

He said Railways is also Member Advisory should also cater to Committee of Sarhad transportation of loose Chamber of Commerce and cargo being sent by exporters and importers Industry (SCCI) on within the country.

He said Railways is safest and cheapest travelling facility in the By focusing on plying of cargo trains, Railways can triple its annual country but due to some earnings from existing one management loopholes, besides providing relief to travelers had diverted to people especially business buses and other mode of community who have to pay exorbitant rates to If such decisions were truck owners for

kept on taking, more transportation of goods. people will prefer travelling in trains and Zia said in the wake of increase in prices of revenue will increase with petroleum products, fare passage of time, he opined. for transportation of goods Čoordinator PÁJCCI from port city (Karachi) also suggested Pakistan to Peshawar through Railways to focus on heavy vehicles has launching of cargo trains increased manifold, from Karachi to Peshawar inflicting huge burden on for facilitation of business business community of the country.

#### **Prices of most** capital goods fall in China

BEIJING (Xinhua/ APP):Most of the capital goods monitored by Čhina's statistics authorities registered price decreases from late-March to early-April, official data and shows.

Of the 50 major goods classified in nine categories, stakeholders, especially including seamless steel

### **Punjab CM felicitates PM** over improving economic indicators

LAHORE (APP): Chief investors' confidence is Sharif on improving Pakistan's economic indicators, said on Sunday that under the vibrant leadership of PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan's economy had once again started treading on the path of progress.

The fruits of economic progress during the tenure of PML-N government are prominently coming to surface, Maryam said adding that "the common man would be provided relief with reduction in electricity rates and Big price- hike. international financial institutions including IMF, ADB had acknowledge Pakistan's haď

economic policies." She said, "Owing to PM Shehbaz Sharif's economic policies, the financial year in Pakistan.

Minister Punjab Maryam enhancing. For the first Nawaz, while paying time in the history, 100 tributes to Prime Minister index Stock Exchange has Muhammad Shehbaz crossed its 70 thousand psychological barrier.

The chief minister said, "Good news are awaiting Pakistanis and their is a strong likelihood of reduction in inflation rate up to 12.2 per cent next year. For the first time, Rs 500 reduction occurred in the price of 20-kg flour bag and there is further possibility of Rs 300 reduction in the flour price according to market indicators.

"The Economic & Social Survey of Asia & Pacific Region termed Pakistan's economic indicators excellent. In the UN Report, Pakistan's economic progress has been predicted in the next fiscal year. The growth rate would increase from 2 per cent to 2.3 per cent during the current and next



MULTAN: Labourers off-loading watermelons from a delivery truck at the fruit market.

### **Increase in taxes hurt** cars' sale, purchase **business: APCDA**

The high

fees

MULTAN (APP): All rising inflation. Pakistan Car Dealers Association (APCDA) including duties, taxes, demanded of government register and transfer fees on to reduce duties, taxes, cars also increased registration and transfer manifold. A good number of dealers have left the fees on sale, purchase of cars as the high fees were profession. hurting their business badly. Vice Chairman All

They demanded of government to pay focus on condition of car dealers Pakistan Car Dealers and reduce prices of the Association Chaudhary cars. Different measures on Tariq Kareem, General part of the government Secretary district Multan could help improve Abdul Qadir Khan stated business of car's sale Secretary district Multan

much-needed stability.

prosperity,

development for all."

taking these steps

export diversification, he income runs into billions. added He observed that

despite their significance, more than 5 million SMEs face a significant credit gap. receiving limited credit, far below the neighboring countries. The State Bank black money white. of Pakistan is committed to increasing SME credit share to 17% by 2023. To achieve this, we must advocate for targeted and

Azam Cloth Market. Anarkali, Liberty Market Road, and Gulberg. fixed SME allocations in concessional financing schemes, particularly those aimed at the export

The FPCCI former President said that the State Bank of Pakistan has for the promotion of SME

Ferozepur Road, Model Town, and all other plazas are included. **SNGPL** imposes

### **Locals demand** consumers restoration of train

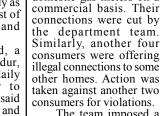
SARGODHA (APP): Social circles and traders have demanded railways authorities to restore the the train at a cheaper fare. Sandal Express train in the and now they had to bear larger interest of people of the area

Sunday, traders restore the train as early as ading Chaudhry possible for the interest of on including Muzammil of Sargodha, Muhammad Yaseen of Jhang, Muhammad Noman Khanewal and Muhammad Atta of Multan said that the Sandal Express used to run from Sargodha to Multan via Shaheenabad, Sillanwali, Shah Nikdur, Shah Jewna, Jhang, Shortkot and Khanewal but railway authorities suspended it operation three years ago bus or van

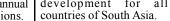
due to unknown reasons They said they would send on and bring their goods by an extra burden of fare by road. They demanded Talking to APP here railways authorities to

> traders, commuters and Tanveer Ahmed, a resident of Shah Nikdur. who used to travel daily from Shah Nikdur to Sargodha by the train, said

consumers for violations. The team imposed a fine of Rs 132,000 on the







Talking to a delegation Sources say that of traders led by Muslim many have purchased multiple plots and are also Khan Buneri from KP here Sunday, he said South Asia running businesses outside. has long been plagued by sometimes allowed to pay instability and conflicts their taxes, they turn their that have hindered the region's progress and potential. One of the major Lists of most traders and industrialists have concerns contributing to been made, including Akbari, Shah Alam Market, this instability has been the presence of terrorist sanctuaries on Afghan soil, which have posed a severe threat not only to

Afghanistan but to

# **Rs 132,000** fine on eight

#### MULTAN (APP): Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL) has imposed a fine Rs 132,000 eight different consumers for illegal use of

Official sources told on Sunday that two consumers were using domestic gas meters on a MULTAN: A worker preparing khas for the air cooler at his workplace. Large scale structural changes vital in power sector: Chairman PIAF

#### LAHORE Chairman Industrial Associations Front (PIAF) Faheemur Rehman Saigol

has stressed the need for large scale structural changes in power sector, controlling line losses of DISCOs by using modern technology, and customeroriented business approach, as the public exchequer has incurred a loss of over Rs400 billion

&

the current DISCO setup (INP): Pakistan is unlikely to be able to Traders

in the fiscal year 2022-23 by the power distribution said He

companies. Quoting the media report, he observed that that the performance of distribution companies (DISCOs) throughout 2022-23 remained very poor, and the expected power sector reforms were not achieved. Given the ongoing poor performance, it is apparent that, under the existing circumstances, these limits

the rates of open market deliver the desired results. loafs (Naan-Roti) in the Faheemur Rehman city. Following the Punjab Saigol said that no Price Control of Essential significant improvement Commodities Ordinance 2023 (V of 2024), the price has been witnessed on part of some DISCOs in this regard. During FY2022-23, the overall actual losses of DISCOs were 16.38% against the actual loss of 16.69% in FY 2021-22. The actual T&D losses are

much higher than the allowed T&D losses for FY 2022-23, which is 12.21%. will be Rs. 20.0. that unfortunately, the majority of DISCOs have not

intimates that new prices for mentioned essential adhered to the NEPRA commodities for the open given targets, except FESCO, GEPCO, and Kmarket will come into force with immediate effect in Electric which have revenue limits of the managed to keep their district.No person or losses below the levels or shopkeeper shall charge or cause to be charged the prices of the aforementioned items

equal to targets set by NEPRA. However, other DISCOs have exceeded offered for sale

terrorist sanctuaries can help eradicate the breeding grounds for extremist heightened prices, and 4 elements and bring about remained unchanged, according to the National About economic Bureau of Statistics (NBS). integration, he said, "We

Hog prices increased must embrace economic 0.7 percent to 15.3 yuan integration initiatives (about 2.16 U.S. dollars) within the South Asian per kg during this period, region and enhanced the NBS said.

economic cooperation can The figures, released create an environment every 10 days, are based conducive to peace, on the survey of nearly and 2,000 wholesalers and distributors in 31 He believed that by provincial-level regions across the country.

**Price controller** 

revises bread

loaf rates

RAWALPINDI (APP)

supplies/

The controller of prices and

Commissioner has revised

The notification

Deputy

tubes, gasoline and fertilizer, 26 saw price linked to sale purchase of for reforms in excise and taxation department. cars were worried due to taxation department.



LAHORE: People are buying vegetables in Sunday weekly bazaar at Shadman area, in the Provincial Capital.

### 'Asia has consequential position in the world'

LAHORE (APP): Kyrgyzstan's Honorary Consul Meher Kashif Younis has said that Asia holds a consequential position in the world due to its large population, strategic locations, rich mineral resources and diversity.Presiding over a workshop on "Importance of BRICS for Pakistan" organized by Gold Ring Economic Forum here Sunday, he added that Pakistan, as an important partner in the region has sought membership in order to align with this trend. With its abundant natural resources, strategic location and fifth-largest world population, Pakistan's absence from

if not addressed. He said Pakistani leadership should consider BRICS while assessing ground realities. He said BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) can pave the way for sustainable development and growth in the region. New doors for trade and investment will be opened under the supervision of developed countries like China and Russia. He said the individual

who coined BRICS has predicted that these nations' economies will dominate the world by 2050. He said a golden opportunity has been presented to these advancing countries under BRICS could have the leadership of this repercussions in the future group.

### **Agricultural** emergency unit established to help farmers in view of rains

Sindh government has set an Agricultural Emergency Rapid Response Unit to help the farmers in view of the rains in the province and the leaves of all the employees and officers of the agriculture department have been cancelled. On the directives of

Sardar

the Sindh Agriculture Minister Bakhsh Muhammad Mahar, the leaves of all the officers and employees of the Sindh Agriculture Department have been

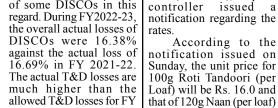
KARACHI (APP): The cancelled and the staff has been instructed to remain alert.A spokesman for the Agriculture Sindh Department said that the DG Agriculture Head of Agriculture Emergency Rapid Response and DGs of Research, Engineering Wing and On Farm Management Wing will be part of the team.

He further said that the field assistants of the Department of Agriculture will go door to door to provide information about safety measures to the farmers



other people.

LAHORE: People are buying steel crockery in Sunday weekly bazaar at Shadman area, in the Provincial Capital.



### Daily **Independent**, Gwadar

GARHI KHUDA BAKHSH: President Asif Ali Zardari, Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Safaraz Ahmed Bugti, President PPP Balochistan Mir Changez Khan Jamali and others offering Dua on eve of death anniversary of Shaheed Zulfigar Ali Bhutto

### **Death toll from lightning** in country reaches 26 as one more person dies

QUETTA (INP): The death (PDMA). Lightning struck toll from lightning reached 26 in the country on Sunday when one more person lost his life after he was struck by lightning in Garhi Yasin area of Shikarpur. The body was shifted

to a local hospital where the person was identified as Zulfiqar Ali Jakro. On Saturday, at least 25 people were killed in Punjab and Balochistan when they

were struck by lightning. In Punjab alone, 17 people fell prey to the Faqeer Wali. In another indeadly strikes as confirmed by a spokesperson for the man his wife, and their two agement

people of all faiths: Khawaja ATTOCK (APP): Federal the approval of the provinpeople in several areas of the province namely Muzaffargarh, Rahim Yar Khawaja Muhammad Asif, has said the present govern-Khan, Rajanpur, Lodhran, ment is committed to pro-Bahawalpur, viding complete religious Bahawalnagar.

Heart-wrenching acfreedom to people of all faiths living in the country. counts emerged from the He was talking to newsmen Faqeer Wali area near after participating in the Haroonabad, where a father Bhog ceremony in connecand his two sons lost their tion with the Besakhi festilives, while the mother and val at Gurdwara Punja another son sustained in-Sahib Hassanabdal on Sunjuries. Rescue 1122 confirmed nine fatalities in

In his address, he expressed that the Sikh Marcident, a family of four, a riage Act had been passed in 2018, and now it would

sacred places" he added. be implemented soon after

Dasu

mous Baisakhi celebrations, Minister for Defense, cial cabinet. He said that to mark the advent of the around six gurudwaras order of the \*Khalsa by 10th Sikh Guru Gobind across the country would be open and handed over to Singh Ji, were observed at the local Sikh community Gurdwara Punja Sahib here today. Around ten thousand for the observance of rituals. Earlier, speaking at the Sikh yatrees-among them over 2400 Indians and oth-Bhog ceremony, Khawaja ers from other parts of the Asif said that the Pakistani world, including Pakistan, people and government were proud to host the Sikh India, Canada, and the pilgrims on their holy land. United Kingdom partici-'The present government pated in the festivities. believes in the freedom of the minority and would extend all its resources for the better preservation of their

Govt committed to providing

complete religious freedom to

traditional performances

### World Bank approves \$1b loan for Dasu **Hydropower Project**

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa-kistan received a much-resents the third major inneeded boost for its energy sector as the World Bank approved a \$1 billion loan for the 2,160-megawatt Hydropower Project. This critical infra-

structure project aims to provide Pakistan with affordable and reliable electricity. The loan approval comes after some delays, with initial reports suggest-

sive grid

#### Syedal Khan Nasar vows to Repatriation efforts continue raise forceful voice for real as illegal Afghans

return home ISLAMABAD (INP): The repatriation of Afghan nationals from Pakistan continues at a steady pace, with significant progress made as of April 13, 2024. A total of 535,940 illegal Afghans have now returned to their homeland, marking a significant step in the ongoing efforts.

Over the past ten days, from April 3 to April 13, a total of 8,581 Afghan citizens have made the journey back home. Among them, 3,127 men, 1,972 women, and 3,482 children have returned. In a coordinated effort,

310 families have been safely repatriated to Afghanistan, utilizing 287 vehicles for their jour-

issues of public in Senate would take up the real is- done in the era of PML-N, Independent Report sues of people in Senate and QUETTA: The Deputy he added.

Monday April 15, 2024

Chairman Senate, Syedal other forums. Khan Nasar has vowed to He also pledged to play his part for making legraise forceful voice for the real issues being faced by islation in the Upper

House.

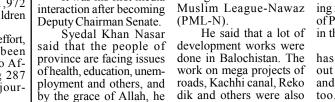
Sharif gave government to the nationalist party de-To a query, Syedal Khan Nasar said that whatspite getting heavy mandate in elections in 2013, which ever development works had never thought of it were carried out in the (government) in the dream including country

Balochistan were done He believed that there during the era of Pakistan would be lot of work during next one and two years of PML-N-led government in the country.

The Deputy Chairman Senate said that the

PML-N's Quaid, Nawaz

He said that PML-N has steered the country out of financial crunch, and would do so in future



the masses of Balochistan

man Senate was speaking to

local media persons here at

his residence on Saturday

The Deputy Chair-

It was his first media

in Senate.

night.

HASSANABDAL: Federal Defence Minister, Khawaja Asif Mehmood addressing the Sikh pilgrims at Gurdwara Panja Sahib on the occasion of Baisakhi Mela.

> UN chief 'condemns' Iran's attack on Israel

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has condemned Iran's attack on Israel following Syria Embassy at-

tack represented by the large-

rael by the Islamic Republic of for an immediate cessation of these hostilities." "I am deeply alarmed about the very real danger of a devastating region-wide escalation. I urge all parties to exercise maximum re-

He said India is misjor military confrontations on multiple fronts in the Middle East." "I have re-

NEW YORK (INP): UN war.' Iran launched explosive drones and fired missiles at Israel late on Satur-

day in its first direct attack on Israeli territory, a retal-UN chief in a stateiatory strike that raised the ment said: "I strongly conthreat of a wider regional conflict, as the U.S pledged "ironclad" backing for Isdemn the serious escalation scale attack launched on Israel. Sirens wailed in Israel heard distant heavy thuds and bangs from what local media called aerial intercep-Iran this evening. I call tions of explosive drones. Authorities said a 7-year-

old girl was critically in-jured. U.S. President Joe Biden, who spoke by phone with Israeli Prime Benjamin Minister Netanyahu, said he would convene a meeting of leaders of the Group of Seven

major economies on now confirm the World Bank's board greenlit the sive grid. Not coordinate a dip-the BJP regime, with the sive grid. Not coordinate a dip-the sive grid.

QUETTA: Senior leader PML-N Shabbir Rajput greets Saidal Khan Nassar on becoming Deputy Chairman Senate

**Celebrations of Khalsa** Janumdin & Vasakhi Mela conclude

#### Provincial Disaster Man- children perished in Rahim Authority Yar Khan Earthquake shakes Mingora and adjoining areas SWAT (INP): An earthquake shook Mingora city and surrounding areas in Swat district on Sunday. After the earthquake

panic spread among the people, prompting them to come out of their houses and shops. According to the National Seismic Monitoring Centre, Islamabad, the

earthquake registered with a magnitude of 4.0 on the Richter scale. The Centre defined

that the earthquake's region as Hindu Kush Region, Afghanistan and its epicentre was 217km deep.

The Sikh religion faand religious rites.

vestment by the World Bank in the Dasu project, highlighting its significance for Pakistan's energy fu-

ergy woes stem largely from the high cost of electricity generated using im-ported fuel. This burden is felt across the country, with domestic consumers, factories, and even institutions ing a May approval. How- like mosques and hospitals ever, government sources resorting to installing solar

No lasting peace Baisakhi processions called Nagar Keertan were taken in region out on the premises of Gurdwara Punja Sahib with without Kashmir

settlement: APHC SRINAGAR (INP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has said that lasting peace in the region is not possible till settlement of the lingering

Kashmir dispute as per the Kashmiris' aspirations.

straint to avoid any action that could lead to ma-

According to Kashmir Media Service, the APHC spokesman, Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas, in a statement issued in Srinagar said the Bharatiya Janata Party regime cannot

leading world by propagating that peace is returning to IIOJK while the ground

Sabha election process.

hide the reality about occupied Jammu and Kashmir through its propaganda machinery during the Lok

Pakistan's current en-

LAHORE (APP): The cel- that minorities in Pakistan ebrations of the 325th Khalsa Janumdin and Vasakhi Mela concluded at Gurudwara Panja Sahib, Hasanabdal

According to a press release issued here on Sunday, Sikh pilgrims from all over the world including India, ambassadors from Australia, Nepal and other 10 countries attended the ministrator event. They thanked the government of Pakistan and the Evacuee Property Trust Board administration for decorating the Gurdwara Panja Sahib in a beautiful manner and providing accommodation to the pilgrims. Addressing the main ceremony, Federal Minister for Defense Khawaja Muhammad Asif welcomed the guests. While congratulating them, he said

have complete religious freedom and their places of worship and property are safe. "Measures are being taken for the welfare of non-Muslims," he added.

Senator Sardaı Guldeep Singh, Secretary Board Farid Iqbal, Additional Secretary Shrines Rana Shahid Saleem, Ad-Karachi Muhammad Asif Khan, Deputy Administrator Hasan Abdal Yasir Asghar Monga, Asher Younis MPA Baba Girpal Singh, Sardar Sawant Singh Dr. Mampal. Singh and other political and religious minority leaders participated in the ceremony. Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, Pradhan of Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee and Provincial Minister for Minority Affairs.



QUETTA: Vehicles on their way during a rain experience in the city.

### **Canada sacks Indian staffers** working at its diplomatic missions in India

**Monitoring Desk** LONDON: Ties between Canada and India have deteriorated further as the mission stated that the reformer has dismissed dozens of Indian staffers from Indian employees was reservice who were working at its diplomatic missions in India over the Indian regime's plan to assassinate pro-Khalistani Sikhs on Canadian soil.

Relations between Canada and India started deteriorating last year when tens of thousands of Canadian Sikhs voted for Khalistan Referendum in several Canadian cities on the call of Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), led by Gurpatwant Singh Pannun who is a dual Canadian and US national.

The relations hit rock bottom when Indian assassinated SFJ and Khalistan Referendum's Canada coordinator Hardeep Singh Trudeau alleged that India Nijjar at the Canada's big-gest Gurdwara in June 2023

CHINIOT: Federal Minister Maritimes, Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh participating in 16th Annual River Chenab Marathon Race (7 KM long from Toll Palza to Khatmay Naboowat Chwok).

## Adil Raja loses crucial stage of defamation case to **Brig ®** Rashid Naseer

Bank's board greenlit the

ISLAMABAD (APP): to pay a further interim payment on account of Controversial Youtuber Major ® Adil Raja has sufcosts in the sum of £5,000 fered a crushing blow as a for the failed security for costs application. Adil Raja, the defendant, has until 17 April 2024 to pay this money.

gressing against him by former senior military officer Brigadier ® Rashid Vaseer. The judge ruled that Mr Raja had published words which were seriously defamatory of Rashid Naseer in nine publications on social media sites YouTube, Facebook

and Twitter/X Deputy High Court Judge Mr Richard Spearman KC ruled that Judge Adil Farooq Raja should pay £5,000 to the now retired Brigadier for the rejected application to stay the defamation trial and the judge also ordered Adil Raja

of Canada has implemented some staff reductions across our network of missions in India," the official said. The spokesperson however, said that the high

commission expressed its sincere gratitude for the resilience, dedication, and service of its local staff in India.

and also tried to kill Pannun

the Canadian High Com-

duction in the number of

quired in light of the

country's shrinking Cana-

dian workforce. "I can con-

firm that the Government

A spokesperson for

in New York.

After the murder of top Khalistani Sikh leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Colombia, Canada's Prime Minister Justin was behind Nijjar's assassination.

UK High Court Judge rejected all his applications including his application to stay a defamation trial pro-With help from his lawyer and PTI UK leader Mahtab Anwar Aziz who also represents PTI activist Shayan Ali, Adil Raja appeared before the court

remotely by video link and argued that the case of Brig ® Rashid Naseer should be stayed on a number of grounds but the court rejected all his arguments which included allegations that Pakistan was an

authoritarian state in which the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) controlled the Judiciary and the Government and allegations of election rigging in Pakistan

In the case on meaning, the High Court Judge ruled that 9 out of the 10 publications published by Adil Raja were defamatory of Brig ® Rashid Naseer at common law and were matters of fact, rather than ex-

pressions of opinion. Brig forum

ing of the publications, lowing allegations, without any evidence, in the publications in June 2022.

® Rashid Naseer's name had surfaced when former PM Imran Khan named him as Mr 'X' in making wild and baseless allegations the allegations Khan and his party stepped back from and failed to prove at any In deciding the mean-

Deputy High Court Judge Mr Richard Spearman KC ruled that Brig ® Rashid Naseer was defamed at UK common law when Adil Farooq Raja made the fol-

help of Indian army, police and National Investigation Agency, has intensified its efforts to harass Kashmiris and colonize Kashmir since 5 August 2019 and create an atmosphere of fear and

He said the Indian BJP government's policies in IOJK have put peace.

**Israel requests UN Security Council meeting** after Iran attack **Monitoring Desk** 

GAZA: Israel has requested that the UN Security Council hold an emergency meeting on Sunday to condemn Iran's attack on Israel and designate the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) a terrorist organization.

dor Gilad Erdan sent an urgent letter to the president of the Security Council, Vanessa Frazier, calling for the meeting.

a serious threat to global peace and security and I every means to take concrete action against Iran," he Twitter.

dreds of drones and missiles targeting Israel in response to a suspected Israeli attack on an Iranian compound in Syria earlier this month which killed two brigadier generals and five other members of Iran's powerful IRGC

declared arch-enemy since the Islamic Revolution of 1979.

the Gaza war in October.

terror in the territory.

honor on Sunday. On April 13th during

an intelligence-based operation against terrorists in

Israeli UN Ambassa-

"The Iranian attack is expect the Council to use posted on X, formerly

Iran launched hun-

ing the upcoming by-elections slated for April 21, an official of Election Com-Israel has been Iran's mission of Pakistan (ECP) said. A total of 239 candi-

dates will contest in the by The decades-old tenelections, with 50 of them sions between the two competing for vacant Nacountries have escalated tional Assembly seats. Nofollowing the outbreak of tably, the first lady Aseefa Bhutto Zardari has already

to rest in native town RAWALPINDI (APP): The nior officers and soldiers of Buner intelligence-based the Pakistan Army, rela-operation (IBO) martyr tives of the martyr and lowas laid to rest in his na- cal people participated in tive town with full military

the Pakistan Army, relathe funeral praver, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

'These sacrifices of our martyrs strengthen our



Buner district of Khyber determination in the war Pakhtunkhwa, Lance Mudassar Havaldar Mehmood, age 35 years, forces of Pakistan will resident of Rawalpindi district had embraced martyrdom while gallantly fight- rorist is eliminated from ing against the terrorists. A large number of se- said.

against terrorism and our love for motherland. Armed continue to fight alongside the nation until the last terthe country," the ISPR

### **Over 230 candidates** vie for 23 vacant seats of NA, PAs: ECP

ISLAMABAD (APP): A sion has schedule to comtotal of 239 candidates mence printing the ballot were vying for 23 vacant papers for the by-elections seats in both national and upon the finalization of canprovincial assemblies durdidate lists by the relevant returning officers on March 30, he added.

He stated that necessary election materials had been provided to provincial election commissioners. Additionally, district Returning Officers and Returning Officers are fulfilling their duties according to the established election schedule. He said close coordination has been maintained by the commission with the Ministries of Interior and Defense as well as provincial law enforcement agencies. On March 13, the Commission announced the schedule for byelections across 23 National and Provincial Assembly seats. These elections encompass six National Assembly seats, twelve Punjab Assembly seats, two seats seats in the Balochistan in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Assembly

been elected unopposed for NA 207, he said. He said that a total of 23 candidates were vying for the vacant seats in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly, while 154 candidates were seeking their fortunes in Punjab. In Sindh, Zubair Ahmed Junejo secured his seat unopposed on PS-80. Twelve contenders are in the running for the empty

PISHIN: Deputy Commissioner Juma Dad Khan Mandokhail visiting Khushdil Khan Dam after recent Assembly. The Commisrains

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