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

PPP chief warns of dictatorship if politicians do not focus on national reconciliation

GARHI KHUDA BAKHSH (INP): PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that all politicians and political parties should work on a Charter of National Reconciliation' to avoid fighting with each other and shun politics of foul lan-

guage. "Rather than playing dharna dharna, we should sit on the table and have a political dialogue to bring improvement in our system, democracy, and institutions through amendments," he said while addressing a large crowd in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh, Sindh

on Sunday. The PPP chief's recommendation comes as the newly formed alliance of opposition parties Tehreek Tahafuz-e-Aain will launch a massive movement.

This alliance kicked off its protest movement against alleged rigging in the



from Balochistan by stag-ing two separate public gatherings in Pishin and "When Zulfikar Ali Chaman on Saturday.

Bhutto was the PM of this country, some conspira-Without naming the multi-party confab, Bilawal tors like 'nine stars' started described it as the "PNA a campaign and thought (Pakistan National Allithat they would oust ance) 2" and added that the Bhutto and come into alliance was beating drums power. But because of their for alleged vote-rigging to campaign Pakistan had to cause "economic and pobear dictatorship for 10 years and this risk exists He reminded the par- today," he said while ad-

ties of the result of such dressing a large crowd in February 8 general elections movements, warning them Garhi Khuda Bakhsh, Sindh

on Sunday.

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

While advising the politicians to "come to their senses", he called for dialogue between political parties. The PPP chief added that the party would try to provide relief to the people in the provinces ruled by them.

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

Bilawal called for reviving people's trust in the national institutions. Every

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

KHUDA GARHI BAKHSH (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari says Paki-stan People's Party will continue to support the government for economic stability and prosperity in the country.

He was addressing the public gathering on 45th death anniversary of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto at Garhi Khuda Bakhsh Bhutto in Larkana on Sunday

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

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' [of-

The

ficers] sitting in the capital. Zardari recounted how former prime minister Benazir Bhutto had appointed him as the chairman of the Pakistan Peoples

sion of abundant wealth, the

nation suffered from a lack

of intellect. Zardari stressed

the importance of cultivat-

ing a mindset that seeks to

the implementation of the charter of democracy, he said President Asif Ali

Zardari also addressed the people. He shunned the impression that Pakistan was a poor country and blamed the "thinking, understand-ing and softheaded" of 'Babus in Islamabad"

He said that such thinking has made Pakistan a poor state, reiterating that the country was not poor. The country has every-

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

"If you cannot come to that point then withdraw. The PPP for the past 40 years have been fighting. Sometimes it withdraws, advances, sidesteps and takes a front step," the president said and called for think-

worker of the PPP wants ing before taking any step.



Iran warns Israel against retaliation, global powers urge restraint

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

Monitoring Desk

JERUSALEM: Iran warned Israel and the United States on Sunday of a much larger response if there is any retaliation for its mass drone and missile attack on Israeli territory overnight, as Israel said "the campaign is not over yet".

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 conflict with Iran but would not hesitate to protect its forces and Israel

Iran launched the attack over Israeli strike on its consulate in Syria on April 1 that killed top Revolutionary Guards commanders and followed months of clashes between Israel and Iran's regional allies, trigcited an unnamed Israeli

gered by the war in Gaza.

and

president

launched from inside Iran, ister Amir Abdollahian said caused only modest dam-Tehran had informed the age in Israel as most were United States its attack on shot down with the help of Israel would be "limited" the US, Britain and Jordan. An Air Force base in southern Israel was hit, but continued to operate as normal and a 7-year old vance child was seriously hurt by shrapnel. There were no

other reports of serious damage. "We intercepted, we repelled, together we shall win," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on social media ahead of a planned 1230 GMT meeting of the war cabinet to discuss a response 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" Israel's Channel 12 TV

and for self defence. He said Israel's neighbours had also been informed of its planned strikes 72-hours in Global powers Russia, China, France and Germany as well as Arab states Egypt, Qatar and the

United Arab Emirates urged restraint. "We will do everything

to stop a further escalation," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz told reporters during a visit to China. "We can only warn everyone, especially Iran, against ontinuing this way.

Turkey also warned Iran it did not want further tension in the region.

The Islamic Řepublic's mission to the United Nations said its actions were

litical instability.

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

100-member Saudi delegation to reach Pakistan on April 16

Saudi Arabia commits \$1b investment in Reko Diq project

the nation.

growth

Bureau

officers formed to investigate

Bahawalnagar incident

ISLAMABAD (INP): Saudi Arabia is set to in-ject a hefty \$1 billion into the Reko Diq Copper-Gold Project nestled in the scenic Chagai District of Balochistan Province, Pakistan.

The investment is anticipated to take place next month, pending the clearance of any hurdles by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

To ensure a seamless process for Saudi Arabia's investment, the Prime Minister will establish a

LAHORE (INP): A six-

member Joint Inquiry Team

(JIT) comprising officers of

encompass all relevant stakeholders from Paki-stan, ensuring a collabora-pected to ink agreements aimed at strengthening in-vestment within the mintive approach. ing sector.

This milestone under-scores the fruitful endeav-Online adds: Saudi Arabia has decided to make investment of overall 7 bilors of the Special Investlion dollars in Pakistan ment Facilitation Council

(SIFC) in fostering a con-According to government sources a high level ducive environment for 100-member delegation of foreign investment within Saudi Arabia under Saud Such an injection of foreign minister prince capital is poised to not only Faisal bin Farhan will arpave the way for further rive in Pakistan on April

foreign investments but 16. The delegation will inalso aligns with SIFC's clude Saudi ministers for mandate to spur economic investment, water and ag-

dedicated committee within the Ministry of Fi-nance. This committee will and Saudi Arabia are ex-in the Ministry of Fi-nance. This committee will and Saudi Arabia are ex-in the Ministry of Fi-nance. This committee will and Saudi Arabia are ex-in the Ministry of Fi-nance. This committee will and Saudi Arabia are ex-JIT comprising police, army

Party, despite doubts from The President said Pakistan is blessed with vast some friends about his leadership capabilities.

potential of minerals and natural resources and we emphasised that Pakistan's will emerge from current status as a poor nation was economic crisis through exnot predetermined, adding ploitation of these rethat despite Allah's provisources

Paying tribute to Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, he said Bhutto familv always sacrificed their lives for the country and people.

understand and address the President Zardari country's challenges comthanked the people for pos- prehensively.

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

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

coming era of government

is of PTI after the incum-

bent government of Form

47 would be winded-up. He

claimed that the govern-ment formed through Form

was addressing hurriedly

called press conference be-

fore his departure from

The senior leader of PTI

47 would no more run.

He believed that the

constitution.

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

the country. A leader of Pakistan

Baisakhi festival ISLAMABAD (Online) President Asif Alí Zardari and Prime Min-Muhammad ister Shehbaz Sharif have felicitated Sikh community on the celebration

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 President said that Pakistan will ensure all steps to facili-tate the Sikh commu-

In his felicitation message, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said Government of Pakistan and all the provincial governments are Yatrees who were visiting their religious places in Pakistan.

festival of spreading love and happiness. Prime Minister proudly said that Pakistan was a beautiful blend of different faiths and culture and the colours of Baisakhi further add to competing for vacant National Assembly seats. Nothis beauty.

official overnight as saying aimed at punishing "Israeli However, the attack there would be a "signifi- crimes", but that it now "deemed the matter confrom hundreds of missiles cant response" to the atdrones, mostly tack. Iranian Foreign Mincluded'



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

Pakistan concerned over ongoing developments in ME, calls for restraint

ISLAMABAD (APP): Spokesperson said in a The Ministry of Foreign press statement. Affairs on Sunday said that Pakistan was watching with urgent to stabilize the deep concern the ongoing situation and restore developments in the peace, it was further Middle East (ME) and stressed. called upon all the parties

The spokesperson said that for months, Pakito exercise the utmost restraint and move towards stan had underlined the nede-escalation. cessity of international ef-"Today's developforts to prevent the expanments demonstrate the consequences of the break-

sibilities of maintaining in-

ternational peace and secu-

sion of hostilities in the region and for immediate down of diplomacy. These ceasefire in Gaza. On April 2, Pakistan also underline the grave implications in cases where had pointed to the dangers the UN Security Council is of an attack on the Iranian unable to fulfill its respon-

consular office in Syria as a major escalation in an already volatile region, it was rity," the Foreign Office added.

It was now critically

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): A tably, the first lady Aseefa total of 239 candidates Bhutto Zardari has already total of 239 candidates 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.

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 Afta-ur-

investigate the incident. Rehman as its convener. The JIT also includes the wing in a statement had said Bahawalpur Division coman unfortunate incident ocmissioner, DIG police special branch Punjab and of- cently,

ficers of Inter Services In- promptly addressed and telligence (ISI), Military In- resolved through collaboratelligence and Intelligence tive efforts of military and police authorities. After short video clips showing dozens of masked

"Despite this, certain factions with vested momen wearing military garbs tives started fanning vitrithrashing cops in olic propaganda on social Bahawalnagar went viral on media to create divisions social media, the Inter-Ser- between state institutions vices Public Relations and government depart-(ISPR) Friday said the Paments," the statement read. kistan Army and the Punjab A string of videos went

Police had decided to jointly viral which purportedly showed men in army uni-The military's media forms beating up police personnel in Bahawalnagar, which drew criticism from curred in Bahawalnagar re- different segments of social which was media.

ISLAMABAD: The New Zealand cricket team arrived to participate in 5 match T-20I series against Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): The joint session will be attended by prime min-The joint session of parliaisters of AJK and GB, chief ment has been rescheduled. ministers of all the four According to Parliaprovinces, governors and all mentary affairs sources, the the three services chiefs will attend the joint session joint session of parliament will take place on April 18 instead of April 16. of parliament

President Asif Ali Zardari will address the joint session of parliament on the commencement of session new parliamentary year

Najeebullah Kharoti, Siddiq Tareen and others Joint session of parliament rescheduled

Arrangements have been made in guests gallery for foreign ambassadors In order to participate in joint

Khan Khilji, Muhammad Asif Tareen, Sardar Zainul

Peoples Party (PPP), Sharif Khilji also announced to join the PTI after resigning from his party. Also present on the occasion were leaders of PTI including Akhunzada Hussain, Dawood Shah Kakar, Noor



President, PM felicitate Sikh community on

of Baisakhi festival.



ensuring provision of all facilities to the Sikh

were vying for 23 vacant Shehbaz Sharif termed Baisakhi as the seats in both national and provincial assemblies during the upcoming by-elections slated for April 21, an official of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) said. A total of 239 candidates will contest in the by elections, with 50 of them

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OPINION

Daily **Independent**

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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 consider ations 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 Palestinians who are suffering from tempts to legislate his way out of trouble by tweaking

Muhammad Amir Rana

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

This became evident recently when, at the same ime that it secured a \$2 billion deposit from Saudi - which will boost Arabia total Saudi deposits in the State Bank to \$5bn — Pakistan banned the Iranianbacked Zainebiyoun Briade. Despite this move, President Asif Ali Zardari reassured his Iranian counterpart of Pakistan's commitment to cooperation in areas of mutual interest, including security. These dehighlight velopments Pakistan's growing dependence on Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states due to evolving regional security con-

cerns and persistent economic challenges. This increased reliance, however, may come with a few strings tached.

again.

Minister

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 larger region. The US has restricted staff travel in Israel, fearing

ment agencies are believed to have sufficient proof of

gade, the Pakistani

Zainebiyoun, and Yemen's

Houthis. The Zainebiyoun

Brigade is believed to have

been involved in supplying

weapons to the IRGC in the

Middle East. Last month,

reports emerged of alleged

Zainebiyoun members of

Pakistani origin being ap-

prehended in international

waters for carrying weap-

ons to be given to the IRGC

in the Middle East. In an-

other incident, the death of

a Pakistan-origin com-

Pakistani law-enforce-

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 wings of Iran's Islamic Syria conflict, but the gov-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 Iranian soil. The loyalty of US, Israel, and its allies in the Gulf. The Ouds Force its members, who prioritise employs all semi-convenideological affiliations over tional warfare tactics, innational ties, also remains a cluding sophisticated techmajor challenge for security niques of guerrilla warfare institutions. and militancy. It operates The involvement of a through its regional proxies, section of Shia youth in the Iraqi Hashd al-Shaabi, transnational political activthe Afghan Fatemiyoun Bri-

ism and militancy goes back to before the 1979 revolution, with figures such as Arif al-Husayni playing key roles. The Brigade has acknowledged ties with the Ouds Force since around the 2001 US invasion of Afghanistan, and its formation was announced in 2014 during the conflict in Svria. 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 says Jaish al-Adl is a Saudi proxy operating from Pakistani soil.

sile 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

continued attacking the Iranian 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 pressure from Saudi Arabia and the risk of debilitating US sanctions

ously signalled to Pakistan not to pursue the project. If Pakistan fails to fulfil its commitment to building the pipeline, it could face a hefty fine, potentially hav-Iranian drone and mis-

ing to pay \$20 billion. The last interim government had tasked a company with building Pakistan's portion of the gas pipeline. However, the changing situation in the Middle East and Pakistan's internal economic situation may delay construction

Apparently, the combination of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Asif Ali Zardari is a feasible way to maintain a balance between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Sharif's family is considered close to the Saudi camp, while the Saudis have doubts about the PPP leadership's credentials on sectarian matters and their approach to Iran. Prime Minister Sharif has secured a commitment from the Saudi crown prince to accelerate the implementation of the massive \$5bn plan. President Zardari has invited his Iranian counterpart, Ebrahim Raisi, on an official visit to the country to

security challenge for Pakistan. It remains to be seen how President Zardari copes with the challenge, especially if the conflict in the Middle East escalates and leaves few choices for Pakistan's closest allies in the Gulf. Meanwhile, an IMF bailout for Pakistan is also seen to be linked to how the latter country conducts its relations with Iran.

A concerning scenario could emerge if the Middle East crisis worsens and forces Iran to utilise the full potential of its alleged proxies in the region, including in Pakistan. This could have security ramifications, as pro-Iranian organisations could launch large-scale anti-Israel, anti-US, and anti-Saudi protest movements in support of Iran. Other religious parties would likely be forced to choose sides, potentially disrupting the sectarian equilibrium the country achieved after a long struggle. One can recall the first Gulf War in 1990-91 when the power elites and the masses were divided into opposing camps

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

ease tensions. Iran will remain a tough The US has continu- diplomatic, political, and

Iran react to Israel?

for him.

Abbas Nasir At this Netanyahu and Israel's Will Iran be provoked by strategy is clear. They Israel or exercise restraint? want to continue their This is obviously a long-drawn-out ethnic 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 play-7 last year, which killed about 1,200 Israelis, iners to escalate and widen the Gaza conflict so that cluding some 400 security Western support to it, personnel which was showing signs

Hamas also took 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 weeks, calling for his resiails. A little over half of ignation 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 running at nearly 13,000 flict erupted, Netanyahu was facing corruption among the nearly 34,000 Palestinians killed so far, charges and, despite at-

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 sup-

port 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 Lebanon and Beirut and hit Hezbollah targets, includbut 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 World Central Kitchen, which resulted in interna-

ascertain the time of the 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-

The thousands of Palestinians who were being served hot meals by WCK must be going hungry again.

The outrageous Israeli air attack on the Ira- tion. nian consulate in Damascus

as the bane of its existence. 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 consequences before deciding on their course of ac-

Or will the slight of

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

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 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 bal contestation are connexus 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 against Russia, China, and 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.

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

ated by the US, Austra-What will the world look lia, India and Japan to like about a decade from contain China; and I2U2, now? Given that geopoliwhich has brought together India, Israel, the tics, geo-economics, and 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 part, China is engaged clue regarding the direction 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 expenditure is rising ances will be affected by

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 US-

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 their presence. American smartphones, digital cammaritime 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) nontraditional security threats, including energy whoever dominated the politics, cyberwarfare, Shifting alliances are disinformation campaigns being formed, essentially 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.

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 the preferred option is to play out in the high-risk exercise strategic auareas of potential global tonomy. Across these two conflict, including the broad categories, multi-China South 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 ev-

other countries, including power at their disposal to Iran and Saudi Arabia; achieve their goals, in-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 become fully 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 re-

main 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 has expanded to include ery tool of national mighty winds of change.

tional anger and opprobrium; even Western governments sounded concerned and expressed unease at Israel's continuing military campaign.

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

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

Polls apart

Muna Khan

An old, rickety house in a non-issue, but it does seem to distract from the upstate New York has served as a landmark economic strides made by his administration, since I began visiting family here in 2017. It is the very thing respondents expressed dissatishard to miss because it faction about. Where are has a massive Trump they getting their inforsign, painted in the mation then, or should colours of the American flag, with the years '2016', '2020' and now the media be reporting on the economy (boring) and not Biden's latest '2024' next to his name. I am unaffected by its gaffe (fun and gets clicks which gets advertisers). presence, but the folks I know who live here see steps and falls, but beit as a sign of all that is

wrong with politics. They are distressed places, he has not threatened to derail democracy by an April 3 poll by the like the other guy; the Wall Street Journal placing Trump in the lead in one who is not exactly a spring chicken at 77. The six of the seven most one who faces a slew of competitive states. These states tend to decriminal charges, attermine the election outtempted an insurrection, and has vowed to deport come. The poll reported just about everybody. on "voter dissatisfaction" with the economy willing to believe he is a and "deep doubts" about President Joe Biden's cabetter candidate to manage the economy than the pabilities. guy who is actually do-

ing it?

iective.

helps create this amnesia.

the business model fa-

this and not that, and be-

lieves it must remain ob-

how problematic objec-

tivity can be. It often pits

the oppressed with the

oppressor for the sake of

Since I began read-

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.

balance over informed that is, factual — storytelling. Imagine On the subject of data, there is plenty to families of disappeared show the US economy has done well under sharing the same media Biden. Unemployment space with the powerful and inflation are low and men often responsible economic growth "is for doing the disappeargrowing faster than exing. How is that fair? pected", reported Po-litico in January. Yet class, I always tell stu-Biden's age gets a lot of media time, like Hillary dents it is impossible not to have personal likes, Clinton's emails got in dislikes, biases. Journal-

2016. I am not here to ists are human. Journalsuggest Biden being 81 is ism is rooted in values. I will never support a policy that is racist, sexist, anti-women, antichildren, anti-poor, antiscience. I oppose whatever is masquerading as democracy these days. I dislike climate change deniers too. Does my transparency mean I cannot practise journalism? On the contrary, I tell students that knowing our biases allows us to prac-Biden has had mistice journalism better, because we work harder to ensure we have been yond confusing people or

fair. The elections in the US are six months away but the focus is already on polls. It looks like the media has not learned from its mistakes. We saw this in Pakistan too, when many in the media wrote the PTI off, didn't take voter sentiment into Why are more people account, and had to eat humble pie on election day. When you cover elections like you would a horse race — who's leading, who's behind -I have often wondered 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 vors clicks over context, 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 journalism. And it's denying the truth about ing academic material on what is at stake. journalism, I have learned

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 a 'what not to do'. I hope that includes calling out leaders that threaten Pakistan's stability, which includes the On the first day of economy, which can be gauged by numbers. lie. People Math doesn't

I have tried hard to

Daily Aoice of Masse Independent Monday April 15, 2024

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

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

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 recovery in industrial 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

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

If reforms 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 the fiscal position. Growth in services is progress on reform measures and transition to

> CHINIOT: Farmers harvesting wheat crop starting from 1st of Besakh Month. **PAJCCI commend Railways over** increasing its revenue, suggests launching of cargo trains

Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) has commended Pakistan Railways over increasing its annual revenue to highest peak of piling up of earnings.

low

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 Anjum 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 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.

Mian Anjum Nisar said that we need to 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

FBR completes preparations for action against tax evaders SLAMABAD (INP):

The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) has completed preparations for action against tax

> Iftikhar Ali Malik has advocated the cause of achieving durable peace in the region, a prerequisite to economic prosperity

height.

The

Industry (SCCI) on Rs. 66 billion in nine Pakistan Railways. He said Railways is safest and cheapest travelling facility in the months of current year and has suggested for launching of cargo trains to further country but due to some În a press statement management loopholes, issued here on Sunday, Coordinator PAJCCI KP, travelers had diverted to buses and other mode of Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi said it travelling.

If such decisions were appreciating development that Pakistan kept on taking, more people will prefer travelling in trains and Railways has increased it annual revenue to record revenue will increase with phenomenal passage of time, he opined.

jump in earnings reflect Čoordinator PÁJCCI revival of people's confidence on Railways in also suggested Pakistan Railways to focus on the wake of better launching of cargo trains management decisions from Karachi to Peshawar taken by Chairman Mazhar for facilitation of business Ali Shah and GM, Amir community especially

Economic growth linked to durable regional peace

LAHORE (APP): SAARC neighboring countries Chamber of Commerce and Including Pakistan, he added.He said counterterrorism cooperation and collaboration closely with regional and international

growth. Pakistan, to eliminate and terrorist sanctuaries can

much-needed stability.

prosperity,

development for all."

taking these steps

PESHAWAR (APP): Pak- Baloch for provision of those dealing in Pak improved 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 within the country.

By focusing on plying of cargo trains, Railways can triple its annual earnings from existing one besides providing relief to people especially business community who have to pay exorbitant rates to truck owners for

transportation of goods. Zia said in the wake of increase in prices of petroleum products, fare for transportation of goods from port city (Karachi) to Peshawar through heavy vehicles has increased manifold, inflicting huge burden on 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 shows.

Association Chaudhary Of the 50 major goods Tariq Kareem, General 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.

OMMERCE NEWS

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.

MULTAN (APP): All

Pakistan Car Dealers Association (APCDA)

demanded of government

to reduce duties, taxes,

registration and transfer

fees on sale, purchase of

cars as the high fees were

hurting their business

badly. Vice Chairman All

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.

Page

03

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**

rising inflation

The high fees including duties, taxes, register and transfer fees on cars also increased manifold. A good number of dealers have left the profession.

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

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

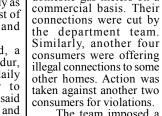
SARGODHA (APP): Social circles and traders have demanded railways authorities to restore the the train at a cheaper fare. Sandal Express train in the and now they had to bear larger interest of people of the area

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

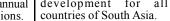
due to unknown reasons They said they would send on and bring their goods by an extra burden of fare by road. They demanded Talking to APP here railways authorities to

> 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

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

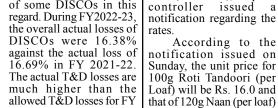
KARACHI (APP): The cancelled and the staff has been instructed to remain alert.A spokesman for the Agriculture Sindh Department said that the DG Agriculture Head of Agriculture Emergency Rapid Response and DGs of Research, Engineering Wing and On Farm Management Wing will be part of the team.

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.



Monday April 15, 2024

Bilawal highlights climate crisis amidst rain-related losses in country

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has conveyed heartfelt condolences for the tragic loss of lives resulting from multiple accidents amidst heavy rains across various regions of the nation, notably Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

He also voiced his concern regarding the incidents of lightning strikes the rain-affected victims exacerbated by the chang-According to the press re-

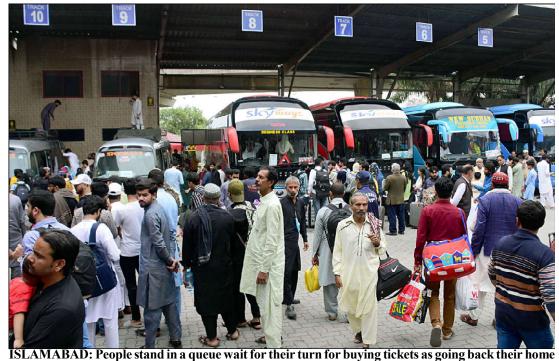
Cell Bilawal House here ince, including the lower and upper Chitral areas of and upper Chitral areas of lamented the loss of lives Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. caused by lightning strikes He urged the Khyber

as well as other rain-related Pakhtunkhwa government incidents in South Punjab, and related disaster manincluding its districts agement agencies to pro-Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, vide immediate assistance Rahim Yar Khan, Muzaffargarh, Rajanpur and to the rain victims, aiding citizens trapped in various Lodhran. He urged the proproblems including landvincial government to deslides. He further conveyed ploy all available resources his heartfelt grief and sorto fulfill its duty in aiding row for the tragic loss of lives and property resultthroughout Punjab. Bilawal ing from lightning strikes ing climate conditions dur- Bhutto expressed regret and other accidents in variing the inclement weather. over the loss of lives in ac- ous areas of Balochistan, cidents during the rains in including Chaman, Dera lease issued by the Media various areas of the prov- Bugti, and Kohlu. He ex-

pressed confidence that the People's government in Balochistan will stand by the rain victims, ensuring they are not left alone during this challenging time.

Bilawal Bhutto highlighted the surge in lightning incidents nationwide as indicative of climate change, emphasizing the imperative role of universities and research institutions in addressing this issue.

He underscored the necessity for exceptional spirit and leadership at the government level to shield citizens from climate change impacts.



towns after spend their Eid-ul-Fitr holidays, at Faizabad bus station in the city.

Govt committed to providing complete religious freedom to people of all faiths living in country: Khawaja



ATTOCK (APP): Federal Minister for Defense, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, has said the present government is committed to providing complete religious freedom to people of all faiths living in the country. He was talking to newsmen after participating in the Bhog ceremony in connection with the Besakhi festival at Gurdwara Punja Sahib Hassanabdal on Sunday

In his address, he expressed that the Sikh Marriage Act had been passed in 2018, and now it would be implemented soon after the

approval of the provincial cabinet. He said that around six gurudwaras across the country would be open and handed over to the local Sikh community for the observance of rituals. Earlier, speaking at the

Bhog ceremony, Khawaja Asif said that the Pakistani people and government were proud to host the Sikh pilgrims on their holy land. The present government believes in the freedom of the minority and would extend all its resources for the better preservation of their

order of the *Khalsa by 10th Sikh Guru Gobind Singh Ji, were observed at Gurdwara Punja Sahib here today. Around ten thousand Sikh yatrees-among them over 2400 Indians and others from other parts of the world, including Pakistan,

India, Canada, and the United Kingdom participated in the festivities. Baisakhi processions called Nagar Keertan were taken out on the premises of Gurdwara Punja Sahib with sacred places" he added. The Sikh religion fa-

mous Baisakhi celebrations

to mark the advent of the

traditional performances and religious rites. **Posters urge** Jammu people to foil

ECP empowers ROs, POs with first-class magistrate authority for by-elections

adherence to Section 193 of ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission the Election Act 2017. The Presiding officers

of Pakistan (ECP) has granted Returning Officers have the authority to em-(ROs) and Presiding Officploy these powers during ers (POs) powers equiva-lent to those of first-class the by-elections across five national and 16 provincial magistrates to ensure the assemblies in Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and seamless execution of the Balochistan, spanning from April 20 to 22, until the official declaration of forthcoming by-elections on five national and 16 provincial Assembly constitu-encies scheduled for April final results for the candi-

Returning Officers (ROs) and District Return-District Returning Officers (DROs) and Returning Officers (ROs) were ing Officers (DROs) are vested with magisterial empowered to take action powers as per the notifica-tion issued by the ECP, in late the code of conduct set

Iran gave appropriate response to Israel's evil acts: Senior Pak expert

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistani military expert Raashid Wali Janjua has said that the Islamic Republic of Iran's operation in occupied Palestine was an appropriate response to Israel's evil acts. In an interview with

21

IRNA in Islamabad on Sunday, the Pakistani expert said that after the public opinion pressures due to the defeat in the Gaza war. Israel targeted the Iranian consulate in Damascus to divert world public attention, and we saw Iran's response

sulate was a violation of the territory of an independent country, and the Islamic Republic of Iran also has said to take revenge on the perpetrators of this violation. The military expert further described the operation as a calculated tactic, adding that Israel's behavior in the region made

Tehran's military response inevitable and it seems that this response was given in the right place. The IRGC launched an extensive retaliatory missile and drone operation against the Zionist regime

forth by the Election Com-mission of Pakistan (ECP).

These officers have the authority equivalent to that of a Magistrate first class concerning offenses outlined in Sections 169 and

They can also initiate legal proceedings under Section 190 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and conduct summary trials as per Chapter XX of the code. It is important to note that by-elections will be conducted on April 21 for 21 constituencies of National and Provincial As-semblies.

994 electricity thieves held; over Rs 88m recovered

ISLAMABAD (APP) The administration had managed arrest of 994 accused under special campaign launched against electricity theft in Rawalpindi division while over Rs 88 million were recovered from them, said Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Engineer Aamir Khattak.

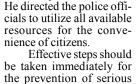
He informed that 1186 FIRs were registered since 7 September 2023 and all available resources were being used to prevent electricity theft. He directed the authorities to ensure 100 laws from different areas of the city during the last 24 possession. hours and recovered drugs ercent electricity theft reand weapons from their coveries in all districts of possession. the division.

DIG Operations Nadeem pays surprise visit to **Margalla Police Station**

Independent Report SLAMABAD: The DIG Operations), Sved Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari paid a surprise visit to Margalla police station, a public relations officer said.

During the visit, DIG Operations awarded two

police officers for good per-formance and checked the stolen goods. records, roznamcha, front desk, record room, lockup,



under any circumstances

crimes, apprehension of accused and recovery of He further said that no effort will be spared in providing relief to the citizens, investigation officers'



racks. zens will not be tolerated maintained.

the protection of life and property of the citizens is He said that inappro-priate behavior toward citi-the Islamabad Capital, he

Six outlaws netted, narcotics, weapons recovered

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Tarnol police team ar-Islamabad Capital Police rested an accused namely (ICP) apprehended six out- Fazal Subhan and recovered

police team arrested an ac-

cused namely Baqir

Hussain and recovered one

9mm pistol from his pos-

session, The Lohi Bher po-

lice team arrested an ac-

cused namely Nisar ul Haq

Moreover.

case likely to be heard this week

Letter of IHC judges

Petition seeking constitution

of full court to hear suo motu

ISLAMABAD (Online): allegation before 6 judges. The petition seeking constitution of full court to hear suo motu case on the letter of Islamabad High Court (IHC) judges is likely to be heard along with central case in Supreme Court (SC) in this week.

The new petition has been filed by 6 lawyers including former president SC Bar, Abid Zubairi.

The petitioners including Abid Zubairi, Shahab Sirki, Shafqat Choohan, Munir Ahmad Kakar, Chaudhry Ishtiaq Ahmad Khan and Tahir Sarfraz Abbasi have prayed the court to make them respondents in the case.

The petition said Justice (Rtd) Shaukat Aziz Siddiqui has too leveled the of its Executive meeting.

The petition said that the decision of constituting inquiry commission is not decision of full court meeting or supreme Judicial Council (SJC) but decision was taken to establish inquiry commission after the meeting between Chief Justice of Pakistan and administrative head The petitioner requested the court through the petition that administration and intelligence agencies be restrained from interfering in judiciary Need is there that the inci-

dent be fully investigated It is pertinent to mention here Pakistan Bar Council has already expressed its stance alike this petition in a demand in one

nefarious agenda

ISLAMABAD (APP) Posters carrying an appeal to the people of Jammu region in occupied Jammu and Kashmir have emerged at various places in the territory, urging them to wake up and foil BJP-RSS' evil agenda of usurping their rights. According to Kashmir Media Service, the posters pasted by the Jammu Dogra Liberation Front have appeared at different places in the Jammu region and on social media platforms as a form of protest against India's brutal

and anti-Jammu policies. The posters read "Since August 2019, the BJP/RSS has stripped

away our rights.

Pakistan 'deeply saddened, shocked' by mass stabbing at Sydney shopping center

said on Sunday it was "deeply saddened" and "shocked" by the mass stabbing at a Sydney shopping center a day earlier which claimed six lives, including that of a Pakistani

security guard. An attacker fatally stabbed six people on Saturday afternoon at the busy Westfield Bondi Junction shopping center in Sydney.

ISLAMABAD (INP): eight people, including a Sydney, Australia on Sat-Pakistan's foreign office nine-month-old baby, were urday," the foreign office taken to hospital with stab wounds. New South Wales Police Commissioner Karen Webb told a press conference.

The only male victim who was killed in the attack was identified as 30year-old Faraz Tahir from Pakistan, who worked at the mall as a security guard.

"We are deeply saddened and shocked over the Five of the six victims terrible and tragic events at there was no indicati killed were women, while Westfield Bondi Junction in of the man's motive.

ability worldwide, and while treatment options are available, they can besaid on social media plat-form X. "Our thoughts and come less effective over time. prayers are with the families of those who have lost highlighted the potential their lives," the FO re-

effect of fecal transplants marked on motor symptoms, which are one of the main Webb said during a press conference on Saturmarkers of Parkinson's day that police did not bedisease. lieve the attack was "terrorism-related" Webb while the way for further re-Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said there was no indication yet

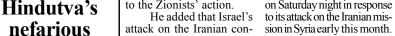
search into the role of the gut microbiome on neurodegenerative conditions, say experts.

Buner IBO martyr laid to rest in native town

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Buner intelligence-based operation (IBO) martyr was laid to rest in his native town with full military honor on Sunday.

On April 13th during an intelligence-based operation against terrorists in Buner district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Lance Havaldar Mudassar Mehmood, age 35 years, resident of Rawalpindi district had embraced martyrdom while gallantly fighting against the terrorists.

A large number of senior officers and soldiers of the Pakistan Army, relatives of the martyr and local people participated in the funeral prayer, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.



on Saturday night in response He added that Israel's to its attack on the Iranian mis-

A public relations officer said on Sunday that, responding to the directions of DIG Operations Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified its crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from

the city Meanwhile, the Aabpara police team arrested an accused namely Adnan Khan and recovered one 30-bore pistol from his possession.

Likewise, the Karachi Company police team arrested two accused namely Abdul Samad and Bilal and recovered two 30-bore pistols from their possession. regard.

Minhas and recovered 610 grams heroin from his possession The police have registered separate cases against the nabbed accused and further investigation is underway

The DIG Operations directed the police officials to further intensify the crackdown against the criminal elements, as the Safety and security of the citizens is our foremost priority and no laxity will be tolerated in this

Campaign for registration of house servants and tenants data in full swing

Independent Report ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Police "Knock the Door" campaign for the registration of employees and tenants

maintaining law and order in the federal capital adding that the registration of tenants and domestic workers could not only keep a close watch on mis-



is in full swing, a public relations officer said. He said that, during

this campaign various teams of Islamabad Capital Police are going to the streets and door-to-door to ensure the registration of tenants and domestic workers as well as to inquire about the problems faced by the citizens.

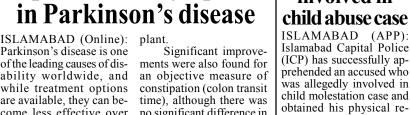
In this regard, the Counter Terrorism De-(CTD) partment Íslamabad has registered a data of 227 house servants of 501 houses from Khanna and Bani Gala Police Station jurisdiction. The purpose of this campaign is to avoid any

creants but also prevent the elements involved in any kind of suspicious activity. Citizens are also re-

quested that they can ask for the identity of a person if someone dressed in civil clothes comes to their house in order to collect the data

Unregistered employees and tenants could be involved in serious incidents like theft and robbery by impersonating as a common citizen and Islamabad Capital Police is trying to provide a safe environment to the citizens of the federal capital by using all its untoward incident by resources.

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ISLAMABAD: A view of road closed way of a local hotel where stays New

Zealand cricket team, in the Federal Capital.

Stool transplant could

improve motor symptoms

no significant difference in patient-reported scores for constipation. Mild gastrointestinal symptoms were a common

negative side effect at the time of the transplant and were more frequently observed in people who received the donor transplant. Donor transplant recipients were also more likely to have worsened fatigue after 12 months. Fatigue: A negative side effect of fecal trans-

For the study, a total of 22 participants with early-stage Parkinson's disease received the transplants from healthy donors, and 24 received their own fecal matter as a placebo, as part of the GUT-PARFECT trial carried out at Ghent University Hospital, Belgium between December 1, 2020 and December 12, 2022.

eClinicalMedicine, suggested that the motor score for people who received a donor transplant had improved by 5.8 points after 12 months, compared with via the nose. Researchers an improvement of 2.7 followed up with the participants at 3, 6 and 12 points in people who received a placebo transmonths post-transplant.

investigations.

DIG Operations Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari took immediate notice of a molestation case registered at Kirpa police station. He directed the officials to apprehend the culprit on a priority basis

A specialized police team was formed under the supervision of SSP Investigation. The SSOIU and Kirpa police teams utilized all scientific and technical resources and suc-

The police also took a physical remand of the accused and further investigation is underway

Islamabad Capital Police (ICP) has successfully apprehended an accused who was allegedly involved in child molestation case and obtained his physical remand from the relevant

Police arrests

accused

involved in

court to carry out further A public relations officer said on Sunday that, on April 10, 2024, the Kirpa police team received information from a plain-

tiff who stated that my 10 years old son was sexually assaulted by an accused namely Imdad Hussain . Upon receiving the information, the Kirpa police team regis-

tered case no. 161 under section 376-PPC.

cessfully apprehended the accused involved in this

The fecal transplant for both the treated cohort and the placebo cohort was delivered via a tube inserted in the jejunum, a part of the small intestine,

single dose of a fecal transplant from a healthy donor, had improved symptoms compared to those who received a placebo. Results, published in

in Belgium found that

people with Parkinson's

disease who received a

could have an effect on the motor symptoms of people with Parkinson's disease, a recent study suggests. A small, single-center clinical trial carried out

A recent paper has

The study could pave

Fecal transplants plantation?