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Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman elected
6th Emir of Jamat-e-Islami

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PM Shehbaz Sharif promises probe Into letters threatening judges

Cabinet approves submission of Fiscal Policy Statement to National Assembly



Islamabad
Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif stressed on Thursday "on behaving responsibly, refraining from politicising the letter of judges [alleging intervention in judicial matters]. Addressing the federal cabinet after a meeting, he said that the suspicious letters received by the [Supreme and high courts] judges would also be investigated and the people responsible for this heinous act would be taken to task. He said that in the light of the meeting with the chief justice of Pakistan on the issue of [letter by] six high court judges, the cabinet approved formation of an inquiry commission. The commission was constituted after consultation with Justice (ret'd) Tasadduq Hussain Jilani and it was duly notified. Later, the former judge declined and the commission ceased to exist. The Supreme Court took a suo motu the other day [of six judges' letter] and held a hearing.

As the Supreme Court has taken up the matter, the government was absolved of its responsibility, he added. The prime minister said a meeting was held on economy "yesterday. The SIFC (Special Investment Facilitation Council) has a key role in improving economy. He said he had decided to carry out a sectoral review of the ministries that have an important role in economic revival so that they can quickly solve problems and tackle the challenges being faced by the country, he continued. He stressed the need for honest efforts to bring down inflation and unemployment. Premier Shehbaz said that the IMF stand-by agreement worth \$1.1 billion would be available this month after its board's approval. The finance minister is going to Washington where spring meeting of the IMF will be held. Later, he will meet the IMF regarding the new programme.

Pakistan, UK agree to expand defence ties



ISLAMABAD
British High Commissioner, Jane Marriott called on Minister for Defence, Khawaja Muhammad Asif here on Thursday. The defence minister expressed that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Britain and appreciates Britain's efforts in Afghan reconciliation process, a news release said. He expressed the desire of maintaining Pak-UK Defence Cooperation Forum (DCF) at the level of Defence Ministers. The minister and the high commissioner expressed satisfaction over ongoing collaboration between the two countries for regional stability. Both sides stressed the need for expansion of defence and security ties between two countries.

US reaffirms resolve to expand security partnership with Pakistan



WASHINGTON
The United States has said that it prioritises security-related cooperation with Pakistan and will continue to work to further expand bilateral relations in this regard. Addressing a media briefing in Washington, US State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said "We will continue to work to expand the security partnership between the US and Pakistan [...] It's been a priority for us and will continue to be so."

His remarks came to a question regarding US support for Pakistan in tackling its security concerns arising from neighbouring countries and combating the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Washington's reassurance comes after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in his response to US President Joe Biden's letter, underscored Pakistan's desire to work with the US for the achievement of shared goals of global peace and stability as well as regional progress and prosperity. The premier had also said that both countries have been working together on various significant initiatives in energy, climate change, agriculture, health and education sectors. Earlier, President Biden had addressed a letter to PM Shehbaz in which he extended felicitation to the new government.

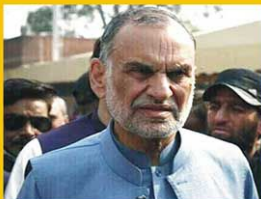
CM Maryam meets Chinese consul general, condoles deaths in Shangla



LAHORE
Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz visited the Chinese Consulate here and met Consul General Zhao Shiren. The CM expressed her deep sense of sorrow over the death of Chinese nationals in the Shangla attack. She expressed her sympathy and grief to the family members of the deceased Chinese nationals.

While expressing her resolve to continue cooperation and collaboration with China in various sectors, the CM said Pakistan and China were exemplary friends and their everlasting friendship could not be undermined through cowardly actions. She maintained that the cowardly attack committed on the Chinese nationals was a conspiracy to sabotage the progress and prosperity of Pakistan. "The Pakistan nation is grieved over the incident," she said. "We equally share the grief of the affected Chinese families. We are undertaking all possible measures to safeguard the Chinese nationals working in Punjab. We would strictly ensure the implementation policy to provide foolproof security to our Chinese brothers," she said. The consul general expressed gratitude over the visit of CM Maryam Nawaz to offer condolence.

PTI leader Azam Swati surrenders before court, interim bail



ISLAMABAD
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Azam Swati surrendered before the court on Thursday. Azam Swati, accompanied by his counsels Ali Bukhari and Murtaza Toori, appeared before the special judge central Islamabad's court. On duty, Judge Rakshshanda Shaheen presided over the case. Azam Swati also filed a petition seeking pre-arrest bail, which the court approved, granting him interim bail until April 20. The case against Azam Swati was registered by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for his controversial tweets. The court issued permanent arrest warrants for Azam Swati due to his continuous absence from the case hearings, declaring him a "scoundrel."

No evidence of Bushra Bibi being poisoned, says personal physician



ISLAMABAD
After allegations of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan's spouse Bushra Bibi being poisoned at Bani Gala sub-jail, personal physician Dr Asim Yousuf said that he performed the medical checkup but there was no confirmation of any poisonous substance being given to the former first lady. "At this time, there is no evidence of Bushra Bibi being poisoned," Dr Yousuf said while speaking to Geo News, adding: "We are not conducting any medical test to ascertain administration of any poisonous substance to Bushra Bibi as no such symptoms are detected." The physician said that Bushra Bibi's health deteriorated after taking a meal two months ago. However, she started consuming less food due to health issues, he added. The physician added that he was unaware of her actual health issues which happened two months back. Dr Yousuf said that medical tests should be conducted by keeping in view of her age and to check for any health problems including stomach-related issues. He said that he would meet the incarcerated PTI founder on Saturday. Regarding Khan's health, Dr Yousuf confirmed that the former premier was doing well now, however.

ISLAMABAD
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Pakistan would not hold talks with TTP: Foreign Office

- Regarding the ongoing visit of a high-level Iranian delegation to Pakistan
- Pakistan strongly condemned the recent attack on the Iranian consulate in Syria

ISLAMABAD
Foreign Office spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch reiterated that Pakistan would not hold any talks with the terrorist outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). The spokesperson, in her weekly press briefing, said that the Afghan interim government should take action against the militant groups or forces involved in carrying out terror activities inside Pakistan. Discussing the terrorist attack in Dasu and Bisham that had killed Chinese nationals, the spokesperson said the law enforcement agencies were probing the incident and reiterated Pakistan's commitment to fighting terrorism. She stated that Pakistan would inform the media after the conclusion of the investigation. She mentioned that the projects being executed by Chinese firms faced a temporary freeze following the terrorist attack, but work resumed following a security audit.



Pak-Iran bilateral ties resume
Regarding the ongoing visit of a high-level Iranian delegation to Pakistan, she said both countries had "re-engaged and re-established" all communication channels as they existed before January this year. She said the government and the people of Pakistan looked forward to the visit of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to their country. She also condemned Thursday's terrorist attack in the cities of Rask and Chahbah in Iran's southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan and conveyed Pakistan's solidarity with the government and people of Iran. Condemning Israel's adventurism, Pakistan strongly condemned the recent attack on the Iranian consulate in Syria, saying Israel "adventurism" in the region was unacceptable.

IHC orders Shireen Mazari's name removal from ECL

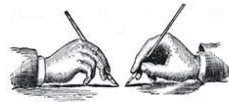
ISLAMABAD
The Islamabad High Court (IHC) has ordered the removal of former human rights minister Shireen Mazari's name from the Exit Control List (ECL).



The decision came after Justice Saman Riffat Imtiaz of the IHC heard a petition seeking the removal of Mazari's name from the ECL. Mazari appeared before the court for the hearing of the case. During the proceedings, National Accountability Bureau (NAB) prosecutor Rafay Maqsood informed the court that the NAB had requested the removal of Mazari's name from the ECL in March. This request was made as she was not implicated in the 190 million pounds reference NAB case. The assistant attorney general also informed the court that the Prime Minister's office had been informed about this request on March 27 through a written letter. Justice Saman Riffat Imtiaz remarked that while the cabinet was engaged in various duties, it was the court's responsibility to address legal matters. Consequently, the court ordered the removal of Shireen Mazari's name from the ECL and disposed of the case. It is noteworthy that the Islamabad High Court had previously ordered the removal of Shireen Mazari's name from the Passport Control List (PCL) on Dec 1 last.

Medical board to examine former CM Parvez Elahi

ISLAMABAD
The government has constituted a five-member medical board to conduct a thorough medical examination of former Punjab chief minister Parvez Elahi. Comprising specialists in Cardiology, Medicine, Stomach, Chest, and General Surgery, Dr Muntaz Niazi, Dr Tashfeen, Dr Israr, Dr Akhtar Bandisha, and Dr Ali Arif will be part of the board to examine the PTI leader. Sources indicate that Parvez Elahi will undergo multiple tests, with the medical board suggesting a treatment plan based on them. The former chief minister has been experiencing chest pain. Elahi is also a patient with diabetes and heart disease, and recently three of his ribs fractured following a fall in Adiala Jail. Having been transferred from Adiala Jail to PIMS Hospital, Mr Elahi is currently receiving treatment in the private room of PIMS Cardiac Centre.



Pakistan and Azerbaijan Friendly Cooperation

Today, His Excellency Mr. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, paid a courtesy visit to the office of the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr. Ahad Khan Cheema. The Minister warmly received the esteemed Ambassador, and both parties engaged in discussions regarding matters of mutual interest. Minister Ahad Cheema acknowledged the longstanding fraternal relations between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, which have flourished since the independence of Azerbaijan. He emphasized that while trade and cooperation between the two nations have progressed

steadily, there remains a need to further strengthen people-to-people contacts. The Ambassador echoed this sentiment and highlighted the significance of the resumption of direct flights between Azerbaijan and Pakistan, which will undoubtedly bolster trade and tourism. The Minister expressed appreciation for these efforts and reiterated the importance of robust economic relations between the two countries. He underscored that through the Joint Commission mechanism, both nations are collaborating across various sectors including Trade and Investment, Defence Industry, Agriculture, Energy, Health,

Transport, Banking, Tourism, Sports, Culture, and IT. Furthermore, Minister Cheema informed that the Ministry of Economic Affairs is diligently monitoring the implementation of decisions taken during the 7th Session of the Pakistan - Azerbaijan Joint Commission. He expressed eagerness to host the next session of the Joint Commission in Pakistan at the earliest convenience. The Ambassador concurred on the need for prompt convening of the Joint Commission this year in Pakistan. Both sides resolved to enhance cooperation in key sectors such as business,

banking, IT, tourism, energy, sports, health, and transport, and agreed to hold Joint Working Group meetings to expedite progress in these areas. Minister Cheema assured continued collaboration and extended gratitude to Mr. Farhadov for his visit to the Ministry to discuss matters of mutual interest. He pledged full assistance from his office for the prompt organization of the next session of the Joint Commission. The meeting was attended by Mr. Tamerlan Khalilov, Deputy Head of Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, and senior officials from the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Vultures and Beasts of Prey



Muhammad Irfan Nadeem

Humanity sheds blood tears in our motherland, because the crimes, injustice, exploitation, cruelty, arrogance, greed and sins a sensible person won't even think of seem to be the part of the daily routine of the ruling elite of our country, and we can't trace any signs of shame, remorse, sense and sensibility, as they commit with ease, comfort and shamelessness. We have to see heart-rending sights; we have to witness heart-breaking and deplorable scenes around; and we have to handle and encounter despicable characters who cross all limits and force us to believe that they are mere vultures and beasts, because human beings are never expected to fall to the nadir. The existence becomes burden; the faith gets shattered; frustration and dejection replace all kinds of hopes, optimism and passion for living; the only meaning of life seems that it's just meaningless; and suicide seems the only way out. Only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches. We are callous enough that we do not realize that the pain they undergo is absolutely unbearable and enough to drag anyone to the verge of madness or collapse. Vultures and beasts have turned the heaven-like gift of our dearest Founder into a living hell. Those who afford, find the escape by bidding farewell to their country and get settled abroad, but those who don't have resources, have to bear the ever increasing and unending pain to sides. It is like a thorn in the flesh and all of us seem to be hopeless, helpless and aimless corpses. We are dazed, devastated and done. The only hope we have got in the current debilitating scenario of our country is that history has never been kind to those who play gods. God's intervention is the only solution for the weaker, suppressed and disappointed

countrymen, and the most disturbing fact is that the sweeping majority belongs to this clan of living dead. A pint of lucky big guns & big wigs are those who are oppressors and feel pleased to play gods. They stubbornly, arrogantly and shamelessly believe that they own the world or at least this country of the oppressed nation. For me, they are justified in thinking so, because none on the face of this earth can stop them from playing gods. The spree of their crimes, sins, cruelties, arrogance, narrow-mindedness and callousness is blooming, spreading, increasing and becoming boundless with every rising sun. The power, authority and boundless wealth and luxuries have turned them into blind beasts and have turned into despicable vultures who just wait to exploit, ravage, destroy and devastate the powerless, weaker and the downtrodden. I don't have even a meager sense of doubt in saying that cruelty, arrogance, hypocrisy, greed and selfishness are the evils which seem to be in the blood of the ruling elite and power giants. Bewailing, shrieks of pain, cries of misery, complaints of injustice, deprivation of rights, voices against inhumanity don't cause any pricks of conscience of the stone-hearted tycoons. They are like the blood thirsty vultures and beasts of prey and enjoy the miseries of others and are ready to pounce upon the hopeless creatures. Not to speak of any organization, department, institute, agency or court even, the same vultures and beasts exist everywhere with different names and identities. The powerful oppressors feel pleased to deprive the masses of their rights, as might is right in our country and they never seem to be bothered by the punishment hereafter, otherwise, they might have got second thoughts and might have addressed their own mistakes, flaws and blunders. The existing callousness and remorselessness indicate that they are immortal creatures and have got the license to do all kinds of sins and crimes. Non-existence of justice in our country is the most shocking and heart-rending scenarios. Corrupt and spineless stakeholders have lulled their conscience to a permanent slumber. The poor, needy and

deprived community has no one to ask for the help. The powerful giants have got the strings in their hands and the puppets are satisfied with their current spree of corruption, greed, hypocrisy and cowardice. It goes without saying that the sacred land of our founder has been converted into a blind ditch of sorrow, darkness, obscenity, inhumanity and vulgarity. Salacious vultures and beasts have fixed their sights upon the innocent children and shamelessly deflower them to satiate their hunger of salaciousness, lasciviousness and obscenity. The cries of the innocent angels further ignite their inborn lust and they acquire cheap satisfaction and fulfillment to their obscenity. The law enforcing agencies and courts are as helpless as the kids themselves are. Another shocking aspect is that they have closed their eyes to this unimaginable and unbearable scenario out of greed, cowardice or their own inborn wickedness. Heart-rending crimes and sins against the innocent angles go unnoticed and force their parents to experience the lives of the living dead. Unfortunately, we belong to the nation of insensible beasts. Unfortunately, the main objective of the sweeping majority is to fatten their bank accounts over the grave of their dead conscience. Materialistic gains and worldly desires, status, luxuries and advantages are the be all and end all for them. They have closed their eyes to the punishment they will receive after their already dead souls depart their detestable bodies of shame. We may pray for Gods' intervention, but before that we want some saviors of our country to stand tall and show some character, courage, bravery and strength to push the abominable big wigs and powerful giants back. Would that such individuals had existed! The point to ponder is that hope sustains life. We can never be pessimistic and hopeless to God's mercy. We are supposed to think positively and pray to God to give us the strength to face the heart-rending situation and walk till the end in this dark tunnel to find the light. The torch bearers are just a few or non-existent, but our journey will go on with the hope to find peace and justice.



H.E. Mr. Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, paid a courtesy visit to the office of the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr. Ahad Khan Cheema in Islamabad on April 4, 2024.

Afghan minister advises Pakistan TTP to engage in dialogue



Web Desk
Afghanistan's Deputy Interior Minister Mohammad Nabi Omari has advised Pakistan and the outlawed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to resolve their issues through dialogue as the violence in Pakistan "is spreading to Afghanistan". Speaking at an event, Omari further said that they (Afghan Taliban) have been through wars and revolutions. "Wars and revolutions create widows, create orphans, destroy the country and

the economy," said the minister. The Afghan deputy interior minister further warned Islamabad that if the country's army is a million or ten million, it is "our experience that you cannot win this war". Referring to those fighting against Pakistan brothers, Omari said even if the TTP invokes jihad (holy war), the Afghan Taliban will not interfere. At the same time, he also advised the TTP and its allied militant

groups that "even if they fight for 100 years, we have nothing to do with it". "The fighting in Pakistan is creating problems for us and the flames are reaching Afghanistan." In March, the two main factions of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan - the Haqqani and Kandahari groups - directed the TTP to engage in discussions with Islamabad to de-escalate tensions between the neighbouring capitals. Pakistan has once again leveraged the influence of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Sami (JUI-S) leadership to bring the TTP to the negotiation table. The development came on the heels of an unannounced trip led by Maulana Hamidul Haq, the elder son of the late Maulana Sami-ul-Haq, where he held meetings with key figures, including Taliban Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs Maulvi Abdul Kabir, Afghan Interior Minister Sirajuddin.

UOS-IDRC RESEARCH PROJECT UNIVERSITY OF SARGODHA STAFF REQUIRED

Applications for the following contractual posts are invited from the eligible/suitable candidates on consolidated pay package/daily wages mentioned against each post in the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada funded research project entitled "Reducing Antibiotic Resistance Through the Commercialization and Adoption of Non-Antibiotic Methods to Control Bacterial Infections in Pakistani Poultry Production".

Post	No./ Nature of Post	Consolidated Pay Package (All benefits included)	Eligibility criteria, conditions and application guidelines are available on the website https://idrc.uos.edu.pk/
Lab Manager	01-Contractual	Rs. 125,000/- Per Month with Rs. 25,000/- Annual Increment	<p>Females are encouraged to apply</p>
Research Officer	01-Contractual	Rs. 125,000/- Per Month with Rs. 25,000/- Annual Increment	
Research Associate-1	01-Contractual	Rs. 80,000/- Per Month with Rs. 10,000/- Annual Increment	
Research Associate-2	01-Contractual	Rs. 80,000/- Per Month with Rs. 10,000/- Annual Increment	
Laborer on daily wages	04-Contractual	As per applicable Govt. rates	

Applications must reach till 22-04-2024 in College of Agriculture, Lahore-Khushaab Bypass Road, Sargodha

PROF. DR. ZAFAR HAYAT
PROJECT LEADER, UOS-IDRC PROJECT
UNIVERSITY OF SARGODHA
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Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Awan-e-Sadr,

Commissioner Sargodha for strict action against illegal gas refilling



Soon Times Correspondent

Sargodha: Commissioner Sargodha Division Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti has stated that gas cylinder refilling is a serious offense, and to curb it, the administration has empowered administrative officers with full

authority so the Administrative Officers are instructed to take concrete actions while exercising these powers. All deputy commissioners are directed to conduct audit of shops refilling gas cylinders in their respective districts and take strict action against violators. He was addressing a meeting in his conference

hall on Thursday. The meeting was attended by all deputy commissioners as well as officers from the Police, Civil Defense, Industries, Rescue 1122, and the chairman of LPG Association. The Commissioner directed for immediate measures to provide latest equipment to Civil Defense field staff for checking standard and substandard cylinders in all districts. He also emphasized on conducting awareness seminars to stop this illegal business and stressed the need for fire fighting training of the concerned personnel. The Commissioner reiterated that nothing is more valuable than human life, and according to OGRA's SOPs, only licensed cylinders can be bought and sold. "Meanwhile, the LPG Association should play an active role in identifying sellers of substandard cylinders and illegal refilling, so that they can be brought to the law," he added. All the Deputy Commissioners presented their reports on actions taken so far against illegal gas cylinder refilling.

We congratulate to Nasir Hussain Shah on his promotion to the post of Inspector Malik Imran Ehsan Awan



Soon Times Correspondent

Sargodha: Rawalpindi police Very hardworking, dutiful and courageous police officer of Rawalpindi Police, Nasir Hussain Shah Sub Inspector Rawalpindi has been promoted to the rank of Inspector. Nasir Hussain Shah is considered as one of the best experienced hardworking police

officers in Rawalpindi Division Police Department. Nasir Hussain Shah always gave priority to merit during his tenure. Due to this he has been promoted as inspector for his excellent performance. Malik Imran Ehsan Awan, Central General Secretary of Tanzeem-ul-Awan International, congratulated him and expressed his best wishes for

'Anthrax-laced letters': CCTV cameras around post boxes found malfunctioning

Soon Times Correspondent

Sargodha: Law enforcement agencies investigating the suspected anthrax-laced letters sent to the judges of the Islamabad High Court (IHC) and Supreme Court revealed that most of the CCTV cameras around the post boxes were out of order when the envelopes were inserted into them, it emerged on Thursday. On March 3, just a day after the Supreme Court of Pakistan took suo motu notice over the allegations of six IHC judges against intelligence agencies, the IHC chief justice among eight judges received suspected letters. The CTD team is racing against time to collect facts and ascertain the chemical nature of the powdery substance after the eight IHC judges received "letters

containing suspected anthrax powder along with a threatening message". According to sources, the case of suspicious letters is being investigated by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of the Islamabad police and a report on the progress made so far has been communicated to the Registrars of the Supreme Court and the IHC. Sources indicate that an examination of post boxes located within Satellite Town, Rawalpindi, is ongoing, with many CCTV cameras surrounding the post boxes found to be inoperative. Islamabad police have expanded the scope of the investigation using alternative means, including questioning individuals working in shops and offices in the area of post boxes. Furthermore, all staff at the Satellite Town, Rawalpindi post office have been

included in the inspection. According to sources, the letters were sent by a woman named Resham without mentioning her address. They added that a staffer of a judge accidentally dropped the envelope containing the suspicious powdery substance and later felt extreme irritation in their eyes and burns on the skin around his lips. Following the incident, Islamabad Inspector General (IG) and Deputy Inspector General (DIG) police were summoned to the IHC. All the suspicious letters were handed over to the police for further investigation. It is noteworthy that initially, eight judges of the Islamabad High Court received suspicious letter, later judges of the Lahore High Court and even judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan also got similar mail.



Meeting of the Iranian delegation with the Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar happened today at Law Ministry on 4th April, 2024.

Providing quality ration to the people is the top priority of the Govt: Cheema

Soon Times Correspondent

Sargodha: All measures have been utilized to ensure timely supply of ration to the public under the Ramadan Nighaban Package. Citizens were given ration at their doorsteps. These views were expressed by Senior Patwari Shehzad Cheema. He said that providing quality ration to the people is the top priority of the government. Our endeavor is to provide quality ration to all the beneficiaries at their doorstep. This is the vision of Maryam Navaz, Commissioner Sargodha Muhammad Ajmal Bhatti, Deputy Commissioner Captain (Rtd) Muhammad Shoaib, Assistant Commissioner Amna Ehsan Tarar said, "A dutiful and honest officer like Shehzad Cheema performed his duties with zeal and assisted the administration in providing quality rations for which he deserves congratulations." On this occasion, the citizens thanked Shehzad Cheema and said that under his guidance,



we did not face any problem in provision of better and quality ration.



Mr. Saeed Ashraf Siddiqi, Joint Secretary, Economic Affairs Division and Mr. Naooki MIYATA, Chief Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Pakistan are signing the Grant Agreement on 4th April, 2024 in Islamabad.

Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman elected 6th emir of Jaamat-e-Islami

Soon Times Correspondent

Karachi: Outspoken political leader Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman on Thursday was elected as a new emir of Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan for the next five years.

Ji Central Information Secretary Qaisar Sharif said that over 45,000 members of the party cast their votes to elect the new emir during the recent intra-party elections. "Naeem received over 80% of the votes and become the sixth emir of the party," he added. He would remain the party's chief till 2029, the party's information secretary added. As per the party's constitution, elections are held regularly at all levels in the Ji. Sharif said, adding, "Ji does not belong to any individual or a [certain] family but to every member and worker".

Over 45,000 members of the Ji countryside elected the new emir via secret balloting, he added.

The Ji information secretary said that the Ji Majlis-e-Shura, however, had proposed three names for the post of the party chief to the party members.

Ji incumbent Emir Sirajul Haq is completing his second term as the party's head on April 8 (Monday), he added. Naeem's political career at a glance Naeem's political career began at 16 when he joined the Islami Jamiat-e-Talaba (IJT), the student wing of Ji, in 1988. Already drawn to the religious political ideology espoused by Ji founder Syed Abul Ala Maududi, he quickly rose through the party's ranks.

His leadership qualities propelled him to become the "nazim" (president) of his college and later, the head of IJT Karachi and Sindh. By 1998, he had reached the

national level, becoming the Nazim-e-Ala of IJT Pakistan. After completing his tenure as IJT chief in 2000, Hafiz meticulously climbed the Ji hierarchy, starting from the grassroots level again. His dedication earned him the position of Ji Karachi's deputy general secretary in 2005. He contested his first election in 2001 and won the

seat of "naib nazim" in a Nazimabad union council. Hafiz's leadership since 2013 as Ji Karachi's emir has been marked by a distinct strategy. He has been vocal on the issues of the city since assuming the charge.

Tapping the potential, Ji started forcefully highlighting the issues faced by Karachites on a day-to-day basis and raised its voice for their redressal, which helped it create space for itself in the port city.

In 2020, the city chapter of the party launched a robust campaign, the "Huqooq-e-Karachi Tehreek" (Rights of Karachi Movement), highlighting the metropolis' grievances – water shortages, power outages, and economic disparity. Hafiz, with his carefully crafted persona and social media savvy team, emerged as the face of this campaign.

An analysis of the party's social media handles shows that its Karachi chapter has established its supremacy having 77,000 followers on X account – the highest number of followers compared to other regions. Not only this, other divisions of the party, like Ji Punjab, where the party is headquartered, have only 32,300 followers. Similarly, Ji KP has 13,100 followers while Ji Women has 44,600 followers.

However, the party's main X handle (@JIPOfficial) has 280,600 followers. Hafiz's leadership style has impacted Ji



Sri Lanka sees no need for talks with India on island it ceded decades ago



COLOMBO

Sri Lanka does not see any need to reopen talks on a contentious island ceded to it by New Delhi 50 years ago, the foreign minister has said, after a hot-button territorial squabble turned into a low-button election issue in India.

The party of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is expected to win general elections that start on April 19, has flagged the issue of Indian fishermen disoriented after a 1976 pact between the neighbours barred them from the waters around the island.

"This is a problem discussed and resolved 50 years ago and there is no necessity to have further discussions on this," Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ali Sabry told state domestic Hiru television channel on Wednesday. "I don't think it will come up," he said, adding that no one had yet raised the question of a change in the status of the island, located 33 km (21 miles) off India's coasts in the Palk Strait that divides the neighbours.

His comments came after Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party made the 285-acre (115-hectare) island an election campaign issue by accusing the opposition Congress party of having "causally" given it away.

The BJP seeks to make election inroads in the coastal state of Tamil Nadu facing the island after failing to win any of the southern state's 39 seats in India's 545-member parliament in the last election. Tamil Nadu goes to the polls on April 19 in the first of seven rounds of voting set to end on June 1.

India ceded the island to Sri Lanka in 1974, followed by the pact on the fishermen in 1976, but unhappiness over the transfer and the abridged rights spurred two as yet unresolved Supreme Court challenges in the last 20 years.



North Korea says it tested new missile with hypersonic warhead

(Web Desk) - North Korea said it tested another new hypersonic intermediate-range missile powered with solid propellants as it continues to expand its nuclear and missile programme in the face of deepening tensions with neighbours and the United States.

The report by North Korea state media came a day after the South Korean and Japanese militaries detected the North launching the missile from an inland area around its capital toward its eastern sea.

North Korea state media said the test was supervised by authoritarian leader Kim Jong Un, who described the missile - named Hwasong-16B - as a key piece of his nuclear war arsenal and vowed to further build up to counter his "enemies", a reference to the United States, South Korea and Japan.

Kim claimed that the North has now developed nuclear-capable, solid-fuel systems for "all the tactical, operational and strategic missiles with various ranges", the Korean Central News Agency said. In recent years, North Korea has been focusing on developing more weapons with built-in solid propellants.

Those weapons are easier to move and hide and can be made to launch quicker than liquid-propellant missiles.



Carlos Sainz wants future sorted 'sooner rather than later'

SUZUKA

Carlos Sainz said Thursday that he wanted his Formula One future to be sorted out "sooner rather than later" as he prepares to leave Ferrari at the end of the season.

The Spaniard, who won the Australian Grand Prix two weeks ago, will be replaced by seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton and does not yet have a seat for next season.

Sainz said ahead of this weekend's Japanese Grand Prix that he has been speaking to "pretty much all" the teams in Formula One and wants to resolve his future quickly.

"It's a matter of going more into detail and seeing the more realistic options and what are the best options for me and my future," he said. "I don't have any news for you or nothing to say here today."

"The only thing I would say is that it's time now to speed up a bit everything and hopefully we can get it sorted out sooner rather than later."



Papua New Guinea all-rounder Kaia Arua dies, aged 33

The East Asia-Pacific cricket community is in mourning following the news of the passing of Papua New Guinea all-rounder Kaia Arua at just 33.

A starring all-rounder for the Lewas, Arua first appeared in national team colours at the East Asia-Pacific Trophy back in 2010, taking on hosts Japan in Sano. Arua became a regular for PNG in various East-Asia Pacific pathway events and Pacific Games cricket, before being named in the team's squad for the 2017 Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier.

Arua took captaincy of PNG in a match against Ireland at the 2018 T20 World Cup Qualifier and was named in the ICC Women's Global Development squad in the same year. Arua took the captaincy on a permanent basis at the 2019 East Asia-Pacific T20 World Cup Qualifier, helping her side to a tournament win and qualification for both the 2019 ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier and the 2021 Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier tournaments.



27 die in militant attacks on Iran security forces

Web Desk

Suspected militants killed at least 11 Iranian security force members and suffered 16 fatalities in attacks on Iran's Revolutionary Guards headquarters in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan, state media reported on Thursday.

The overnight clashes between the Jaish al-Adl group and security forces took place in the towns of Chahabar and Rask, state TV said.

"The terrorists failed to succeed achieving their goal of seizing the Guards headquarters in Chahabar and Rask," deputy Interior Minister Majid Mirahmadi told state TV. State TV said 10 other security officers were also injured in the fighting in the impoverished region. The area, which borders Afghanistan and Pakistan, has long been the site of frequent clashes between Iranian security forces and militants as well as drug traffickers.

Iran is a key transit route for narcotics smuggled from Afghanistan to the West and elsewhere. In December, the militant group attacked a police station in the town of Rask, killing 11 security personnel.

Pakistan condemns terrorist attacks

Meanwhile, Pakistani Ambassador to Iran Mudassar said condemned the two heinous terrorist attacks in Iran. He said Pakistan expressed solidarity with Iran in fighting terrorism. "Pakistan strongly condemns 2 heinous terrorist attacks at police & security posts in Rask & Chahabar resulting in martyrdom of brave Iranian security forces. We stand in full solidarity with our brotherly neighbour Iran in fighting terrorism & protecting its territories. Terrorism must be curbed," he tweeted.

Russia says dialogue with NATO at 'zero' but it doesn't seek open conflict

MOSCOW

Russia-NATO relations are worsening but Moscow has no intention of entering a conflict with a NATO country, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko said in an interview published on Thursday.

In comments to mark NATO's 75th anniversary, Grushko told Russian state news agency RIA that relations were "predictably and deliberately" deteriorating, and all channels of dialogue between Moscow and the alliance had been brought to a "critical zero" level by Washington and Brussels.

"Is the military bloc ready for an open conflict with Russia? You need to ask the NATO members themselves. In any case, we have no such intentions regarding the member countries of the alliance," Grushko said. President Vladimir Putin launched what he called his "special military operation" in Ukraine in 2022 with the stated aim of preventing NATO from expanding its footprint close to Russia. But the war has served to galvanise the alliance, which has expanded to 32 members by admitting Finland and Sweden.



UK judges urge government to halt arms sales to Israel



LONDON

Three former Supreme Court justices have joined more than 600 members of the British legal profession in calling for the government to halt arms sales to Israel, saying it could make Britain

complicit in genocide in Gaza.

Echoing the growing number of opposition politicians who have called for a halt to British arms sales, the three justices joined other barristers, former judges and legal academics in urging Prime

Minister Rishi Sunak to change policy.

Sunak has faced growing political pressure after seven aid workers, including three British nationals, were killed by an Israeli airstrike in the besieged enclave this week.

"The provision of military assistance and material to Israel may render the UK complicit in genocide as well as serious breaches of International Humanitarian Law," the judges and barristers said in a 17-page letter. "Customary international law recognises the concept of 'aiding and assisting' an international wrongful act."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has called the allegations of genocide "outrageous".



A drone attack kills 4 people in Ukraine's second-largest city as Russia builds its war strength

KYIV, Ukraine

Russian forces fired drones at two apartment buildings and a power plant in Ukraine's second-largest city, killing four people, local authorities said Thursday. The Kremlin's forces apparently set in motion their strategy for the coming months of war by escalating the bombardment of civilian areas. Shaded floors smashed into two apartment buildings in Kharkiv, near the Russian border, which has frequently been targeted during more than two years of war. Other drones targeted the power grid.

The Kremlin's forces in recent months have stepped up their aerial barrages of Ukraine, hitting urban areas. The approximately 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line is largely deadlocked, but Kyiv officials say Moscow's troops have recently been probing for Ukrainian weaknesses on the front line ahead of an expected large-scale Russian offensive in the summer.

The Institute for the Study of War said the goal of Russia's escalated attacks on civilian areas and the country's power grid may be to compel Ukraine's army to deploy air defense systems away from the front line. That would allow Russia to provide more air cover for its ground operations on the battlefield, the think tank said late Wednesday.

Russian forces apparently have increased the scale of their mechanized ground assaults in parts

of the front line in recent weeks, it added, apparently seeking gains while Ukrainian forces are kept waiting for the arrival of vital military supplies from their Western partners.

With the support of China, Russia has built its forces back up close to full strength, according to a senior U.S. official.

"We have assessed over the course of the last couple of months that Russia has almost completely reconstituted militarily," U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell said Wednesday.

In Kharkiv, three first responders were killed when Russia struck a multi-story building twice in quick succession, local authorities said. Six people were wounded at that location. Another 14-story building was hit by a drone, killing a 69-year-old woman.

Ukrainian officials have previously accused Russia of targeting rescue workers by hitting residential buildings with two consecutive missiles - the first one to draw crews to the scene and the second one to wound or kill them. The tactic is called a "double tap" in military jargon. Russians used the same method in Syria's civil war.

Other first responders have also been victims of the fighting. The World Health Organization said Thursday the ambulance workers and other health transport staff face a high risk of injury or death.

Food aid charity demands independent investigation of Israeli strikes

NEW YORK

World Central Kitchen demanded an independent investigation into the Israeli strikes that killed seven of its staff in Gaza, as Israel faced growing isolation the deaths of six foreign aid workers and a Palestinian driver helping deliver desperately needed food to isolated and starving residents. Wednesday night, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin told his Israeli counterpart that the strikes, which Israel says targeted aid workers in error, strengthened U.S. concerns about Israel's plans to expand its ground offensive and said that Israel must do more to protect the lives of civilians and aid workers in Gaza.

Israel's war in Gaza has killed nearly 33,000 Palestinians, the territory's Health Ministry says. The ministry doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants in its tally, but says women and children make up two-thirds of the dead. The United Nations says much of the population in northern Gaza is on the brink of starvation. The war began on Oct. 7, when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 people hostage. Currently:



— World Central Kitchen is saving lives with food but paying a price in blood.

— Family and friends recall 'brave' and 'selfless' aid workers killed in Israeli strikes.

— Killing of aid workers adds to pressure on the U.K. government to halt arms sales to Israel.

— Yemen's Houthis may be running low on weapons stocks as attacks on ships slow, U.S. commander says.

— Muslim American leaders reject chance to break bread with Biden as anger over Gaza festers.

— Palestinians seek full U.N. membership again, but the U.S. is almost certain to block it for a second time.

— Find more AP coverage at

<https://apnews.com/hub/israel-hamas-war>

Here's the latest: US MILITARY SAYS IT SHOT DOWN MISSILE AND 2 DRONES LAUNCHED BY HOUSTI REBELS

CAIRO - The United States' military says its forces shot down an anti-ship ballistic missile and two aerial drones launched by Yemen's Iran-backed Houthis rebels. U.S. Central Command said Thursday that the target of the attack was the USS Gravely destroyer, which is patrolling the Red Sea. The military said it destroyed a mobile surface-to-air missile system in Houthis-held territory in response to the attack early Wednesday.



Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, born January 5, 1928, near Larkana, Sindh, Pakistan and died April 4, 1979, Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Pakistani statesman and politician who served as president (1971-73) and prime minister (1973-77) of Pakistan. Although a popular leader, he was overthrown and executed by the Ziaul Haq Government.

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto belong to a noble Rajput family that had accepted Islam. Bhutto was the son of a prominent political figure in the Indian colonial government. He was educated in Mumbai and at the University of California, Berkeley (B.A., 1950). Bhutto studied law at the University of Oxford and then practiced law and lectured in England. Upon his return to Pakistan (1953), he set up a law practice in Karachi, where he was appointed a member of Pakistan's delegation to the United Nations in 1957.

After Muhammad Ayub Khan seized the government in 1958, Bhutto was appointed commerce minister and then held other cabinet posts. After his appointment as foreign minister (1963-66), he began working for greater independence from Western powers and for closer ties with China. His opposition to the peace with India after the 1965 war over Kashmir caused him to resign from the government, and in December 1967 he founded the Pakistan People's Party. Bhutto denounced the Ayub Khan regime as a dictatorship and was subsequently imprisoned (1968-69).

After the overthrow of the Ayub Khan regime by Gen. Agha Muhammad Yahya Khan, national elections were held in 1970. Although Bhutto and his party won a sweeping electoral victory in West Pakistan, the biggest election winner was the Awami League, an East Pakistan-based party that had campaigned for full autonomy for East Pakistan. Bhutto refused to form a government with this separatist party, causing a nullification of the election. The widespread rioting that followed degenerated into civil war, after which East Pakistan, with the help of India, emerged as the independent state of Bangladesh. After West Pakistan's humiliating defeat by India in this military conflict, Yahya Khan turned the government over to Bhutto on December 20, 1971. Bhutto placed his predecessor under house arrest, nationalized several key industries, and undertook the taxation of the landed families in his first acts as president. After the new constitution (1973) made the presidency largely ceremonial, Bhutto became prime minister. In both

capacities, he had also filled the cabinet posts of foreign affairs, defense, and interior. His government, retaining martial law, began a process of Islamization. Sensing that the public was turning against his rule by decree, Bhutto ordered new elections in 1977 to obtain a popular mandate. His party won by a large majority, but the opposition charged him with electoral fraud. The government was seized by Gen. Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq, the army chief of staff, on July 5, 1977. Soon afterward Bhutto was imprisoned. He was sentenced to death (March 18, 1978) on the charge of having ordered the assassination of a political opponent in 1974; after an appeal to a higher court, Bhutto was hanged, despite appeals for clemency from several world leaders. He was the author of The Myth of Independence (1969) and The Great Tragedy (1971).

Re-opening of the Bhutto trial
On 2 April 2011, 32 years after Bhutto's trial and execution, the PPP (the ruling party at that time) filed a petition at the Supreme Court to reopen Bhutto's trial. A legal team was organized by the Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani's cabinet seeking to reopen the trial. President Asif Ali Zardari gave his consent to the resulting presidential order named Article 186 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court taking up the petition on 13 April 2011. Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry eventually presided the three-judge-bench (although it was expanded with law experts from four provinces of Pakistan), while Minister of Law Babar Awan counseled Bhutto's case.

With immediate effect, Babar Awan resigned as Law Minister, even leaving the Justice Ministry entirely in order to legally counsel Bhutto's case completely independently. In his noting remarks, Chief Justice Chaudhry praised and appreciated the move by the senior PPP leadership and remarked the gesture as "historic". In a crucial advancement, the Supreme Court ordered the decision on the legal status of Bhutto's execution to a to-be-formed larger bench.

After a series of hearings at the Supreme Court, the case was adjourned and dismissed after the PPP approved the suspension of Babar Awan on 2 May 2012.

Qadiani/Mirzai declared Non-Muslims in 1974
Special credit goes to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who played a key role in declaring the

Qadianis as a non-Muslim minority in the country.

Ulama-I-Ahle-Sunnat under the leadership of Shah Ahmad Noorani started a successful campaign against the Ahmadis and compelled the members of the National Assembly to declare Ahmadis as non-Muslims. And such a clause was inserted in the 1973

Constitution of Pakistan declaring that followers of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad are non-Muslims by Second Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan.

Nuclear Weapons Program
Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was the founder of Pakistan's atomic bomb programme, and due to his administration and aggressive leadership of this programme, he is often known as the Father of Nuclear deterrence programme. Bhutto's interest in nuclear technology was said to have begun during his college years in the United States when Bhutto attended a course in



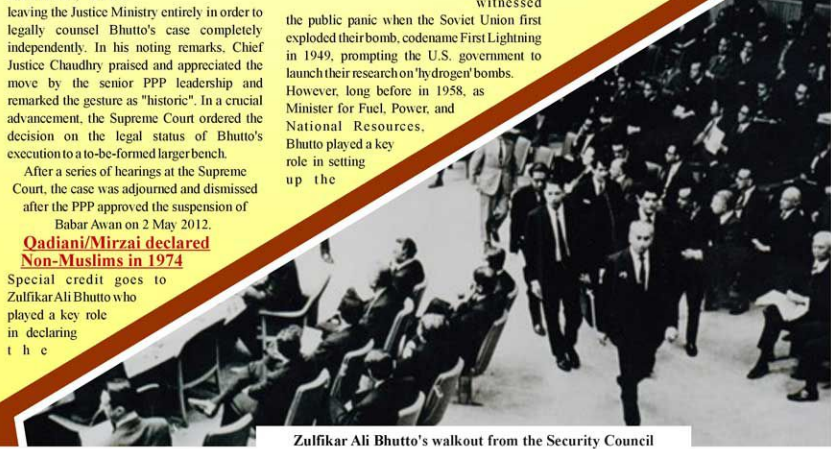
Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) administrative research bodies and institutes. Soon, Bhutto offered a technical post to Muir Ahmad Khan in PAEC in 1958. Before being elevated to Foreign Minister, Bhutto directed the funds for key research in nuclear weapons and related science.

Constitutional Reforms
Bhutto is considered the main architect of 1973 constitution as part of his vision to put Pakistan on road to parliamentary democracy. One of the major achievements in Bhutto's life was drafting of Pakistan's first ever consensus constitution to the country. Bhutto supervised the promulgation of 1973 constitution that triggered an unstoppable constitutional revolution through his politics wedded to the emancipation of the downtrodden masses, by first giving people a voice in the Parliament, and introducing radical changes in the economic sphere for their benefit.

The Bhutto government carried out a number of reforms in the industrial sector, Land, food and agriculture reforms, Economic policy, Banking and Export expansion, Labour policy and social security, Passport reforms.

If Pakistan restricts or suspends her nuclear deterrence, it would not only enable India to blackmail Pakistan with her nuclear advantage, but would impose a crippling limitation on the development of Pakistan's science and technology. Our problem in its essence is how to obtain such a weapon in time before the crisis begin...
Zulfikar Ali Bhutto

the public panic when the Soviet Union first exploded their bomb, codename First Lightning in 1949, prompting the U.S. government to launch their research 'hydrogen bombs. However, long before in 1958, as Minister for Fuel, Power, and National Resources, Bhutto played a key role in setting up the



Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's walkout from the Security Council

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto

Leader who Sympathized with the Nation was taken away from Pakistan

4 April 2023 Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's 44th death Anniversary

The Pakistan People's Party announced that the 44th death anniversary of the party's founding leader Zulfikar Ali Bhutto across the country with zeal and zest today.

The PPP Central Punjab and PPP Lahore chapter will organize special programmes and Iftar parties today to pay tribute to the late leader.

In this regard, special ceremonies would be held at district, tehsil and union council levels.