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QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti enquiring about the health of Harnai blast victims.

Bugti inquires about health of Harnai blast injured: Writ of State would be maintained at every cost, vows Chief Minister

Chief Minister also greets Christian community on Easter; shares joys of religious festival

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Min-

ister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has stated that the terrorists would be taken to task and the writ of State would be maintained at every cost.

The Chief Minister was speaking on occasion of the visit of hospital here on Sunday. The Chief Minister inquired about the health of those injured in the bomb explosion in Harnai the other day.

Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti expressed best wishes for the injured be-sides praying for their early recovery.

The Chief Minister said that the sacrifices of security forces and other people would not go wasted at all.

He vowed that the ter-

rorists would be taken to Bugti referred the role of

He expressed satisfaction over provision of better facilities of medical treatment to the injured. It may be mentioned

here that the injured persons of Harnai blast were being provided medical treatment in the hospital. The Chief Minister

Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has extended greetings of Easter to the Christian community. In a felicitation mes-

sage issued here on eve of ernment also ensures relithe Easter celebrations on Sunday, the Chief Minister said that we equally share cluding Christian commujoys of Easter with the nity in the province, he Christian community.

He said that Easter this day, we once again reexpresses promotion of social harmony.

PESHAWAR: Activists of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding protest

houses were partially damaged, the PDMA report

people died and 3 were in-

jured in Shangla with 2

houses were partially dam-

aged and three children

killed and 1 injured and 1

Due to recent rains, 4

Mir Sarfraz Ahmed welfare of all the minorities.



Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP):

tion sectors. The cooperation between the two countries on energy sector and Green Alliance framework was welcom-

ing, PM Office Media

Wing, in a press release He further wrote that Pakistan desired to work with the US for the

Responds to Biden's letter

Pakistan attaches

high importance to

its ties with US: PM

achievement of shared goals of global peace and stability and reprosperity.

Earlier, the US Presion Sunday, quoted the prime minister as saying. dent had addressed a letter to the prime minister ter to the prime minister in which he extended felicitation to the new government.

President Biden fur-

ther emphasized upon the "enduring partnergional progress and ship" between the US and Pakistan.



CEO Saudi Fund for Development, Sultan bin Abdulrahman Al-Marshid during his visit to Azad Jammu and Kashmir signed agreements for funding two **Hydro Power Projects.**

Governor exhorts philanthropists to givezakat & sadgat to poor orphans, widows, patients during this Ramadan

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul

Wali Khan Kakar has exhorted the philanthropists of the province to give their zakat and Sadqat to the poor orphans, widows, patients and those students who can't afford to pay their fees.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, the Governor said that the Allah's appeasement is in meeting the needs of people and in their

Addressing to the philanthropists, the Governor said that they should provide financial assistance to the deserving relatives and neighbors not to those who are unknown to them or those unregistered institutions as this trend can be disastrous for us.

tions to the people, one should be careful as the same may not be taken by any miscreant, adding the Governor stressed. He said that this is also

While giving dona-

necessary to give right to the rightful persons.

The Governor said that the poor and destitute people can become useful citizens of society with

small financial assistance. He said that if one wants that any zakat or khairat taking person this year may include in the list of the zakat giving persons next year then one should be helped to start one's own small busi-

By extending financial assistance to the deserving people to start their own business, we can save them and their families from seeking zakat and khairat from others, he believed adding that this would enable them to make their both ends meet.

Balochistan CM's victory in election challenged in tribunal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Jamhoori Watan Party's Gohram Bugti has challenged Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti's election victory in tribunal.

Gohram Bugti in his petition questioned, how could Sarfaraz Bugti be allowed to contest election

Balochistan Assembly's constituency PB-10 (Dera Bugti). "As a minister of the caretaker cabinet, he could not con test the election,", peti tioner argued.

According to the petition, Sarfaraz Bugti got unopposed. However, the posting of his favorite poll-Senate election on 11 seats ing staff, resigned from cabiof Khyber Pakhtunkhwa net and contested the elecelection on the remaining 30

"In papers he bagged votes with 80 to 99 percent ratio in the election and this ratio of vote casting is impossible in any election," he

in Punjab, and 2 seats in the it is pertinent to mention that out of 48 seats, 18 can-federal capital Islamabad. Special arrangements made in Quetta: Christian community celebrates Easter with religious enthusiasm

was in jeopardy, while the

Senate seats will be held on

on 12 seats in Sindh, 5 seats

Elections will be held

Independent Report QUETTA: The Christian community of Quetta celebrated the Easter festival with religious respect and

Election Commission of

Pakistan (ECP) has pub-

lished a final list of candi-

dates vying for the Senate

election for the vacant 48

seats which will be held on

are vying for 48 seats while

Overall 59 candidates

April 2.

enthusiasm in the metropolis on Sunday. While the big religious gatherings were held at different churches located in the metropolis with large number of people from lies also celebrated the festival at their homes.

Such main gathering on eve of the Easter was held at the Methodist Church, Zarghoon road where special service was held. A large number of people belonging to Christian community including

Special security arrangements were made by the police in and around the churches to prevent any

Meanwhile of Easter with each other.

|Petrol prices increased by Rs 9.66 per liter, diesel reduced Rs 3.32

ISLAMABAD (APP): The government on Sunday increased the price of Motor Spirit (MS) Petrol by Rs 9.66 per liter and reduced high speed diesel by Rs 3.32 per

The price of MS petrol was fixed at Rs 289.41 per litre as against its existing price of Rs 279.75 per litre, said a press release issued by the Ministry of Finance on

However, the price of High-Speed Diesel was reduced by Rs 3.32 per litre as HS-Diesel would be available at Rs 282.24 per litre as compared to its previous price of Rs 285.56 per litre during next fortnight starting from Åpril 1, 2024.

It said that the prices of petrol (Motor Gasoline) has increased in the international market during the last fortnight, while the price of HSD has marginally declined.

Ministries given targets to provide early relief to people: Attaullah Tarar

Says Govt committed to ensuring equal rights for Christians

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaullah Tarar said on Sunday that all ministries had been given targets aimed at overcoming challenges facing the country. In a press conference at the PML-N's Secretariat here, he said that in yesterday's meeting Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif gave short, medium and long term targets to all ministries aimed at bringing betterment

the people. "The Cabinet consist of experienced people, youths, seasoned politicians and tech-

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister had decided to evaluate the performance of each ministry and key performance indicators had also been set for them. "By using latest technology, achievement of targets given to ministries will be monitored. Written instructions have been issued to all the ministries in which they have been informed about the targets which they have to meet," he added. Attaullah said that targets had been given on the basis of realistic approach like the finance ministry had been given the target to reduce inflation and



nocrats." he added.

rats," he added. unemployment, increas He said that the Prime GDP growth.

Indian Air Force admits incapability in Brahmos Missile technology

NEW DELHI (INP): Fi-nally, the Indian Air Force (IAF) proved the stance of Pakistan correct by admitting its incapability in missile technology, especially in the Brahmos Missile

The IAF has filed its report in the Delhi High Court that combat connectors of the Brahmos mis-

sile "remained connected to

The Economic Times said in its report that the IAF revealed its incapability in missile technology in a reply filed in the Delhi High Court.

Revealed in a report filed in the Delhi High Court, the IAF detailed findings from a Court of



QUETTA: Inspector General Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

No one would be allowed to dislocate local people from Gwadar: Jahanzaib Baloch

Independent Report QUETTA: The central Secretary General of Balochistan National Party (BNP), Jahanzaib Baloch has stated that no one would be allowed to dislocate the local Baloch people

In a statement issued here on Sunday, the BNP's senior leader said that it is no less than cruelty to fence the Gwadar.

from Gwadar.

He asked the state to review it's decision in this regard as such a behavior with people of Gwadar is

sorrowful. He said that we would allow anyone to dislocate the local people of Gwadar

from anywhere. He said that the gov-

ernment has the funds for fencing in Gwadar, but doesn't have the same for the rain affected people. He said that BNP

would defend rights of the people and their land at every front. He stressed that the people of Balochistan should be given right on

their land and resources. He said that we don't want such development at the cost of our identity, cul-

ture, language and rights. He said that the BNP and it's leadership issues of the province in-

has always voiced for the cluding recovery of the missing persons and we are proud of Sardar Akhtar

demonstration for release of Imran Khan, Former Prime Minister, at Peshawar press club. 10 people killed, 12 other injured in rain, hailstorms related incident in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): As pletely damaged and 24 many as 10 people were killed and 12 others injured in the heavy rain and hail storms related incident, said Provincial Disasters Management Authority report issued on the loss of life and property in the province since the last two days

According to details, 10 people died and 12 people were injured as a result of accidents due to rain and hailstorm during the last two days in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the PDMA report said. The deaths include 8

while the injured include 9 children, two women and 1 man, the reports said. A total of 27 houses

were damaged due to the collapse of walls and roofs in different districts, in which 3 houses were com-

house partially damaged in Bannu, a woman and a child were killed and 2 were injured in Bajaur with three houses were partially dam-Three persons includ-

ing a woman were injured and a house partially damaged in Peshawar and in children and 2 women, Nowshera, three people were injured and several houses were partially damaged, the report said. One woman was killed and three houses were partially damaged in Mansehra and one house in Momand, three in Mardan and two ir Waziristan were damaged.



QUETTA: The Christian community member celebrated Easter with religious zest.

Two policemen shot dead in Naushehro, **Ghotki**

Christian community in

economic development of

the province and country

saying that the role played

in economic development

by the Christians can't be

forgotten. The Chief Min-

ister said that Pakistan is a

beautiful bouquet of differ-

stitution of Pakistan has

provided complete protec-

tion to the rights of religious

gious freedom and protec-

tion to all the minorities in-

mentioned adding that on

iterates our resolve to work

for social development and

He said that the Con-

The provincial gov-

ent cultures and beliefs.

NAUSHEHRO FEROZ GHOTKI (NNI): Two policemen were shot dead in Naushehro Feroz and Ghotki districts of Sindh.

ASI Noor Ahmed Lashari was killed in firing at Bhiria Road in Naushehro Feroz district while going to his duty, police said.

Another policeman, Ghulam Nabi Sehto was killed in firing at the National Highway in Ghotki The police has called the murder of head constable Ghulam Nabi likely to be result of personal enmity.

Police inquiring into the murder incident, officials said. At least five policemen were injured as the bandits' fired rockets at a police mobile in Shikarpur district.

Millions of **Pakistanis** observe Itikaaf

ISLAMABAD (INP): Just like other parts of the world, millions of Muslims in Pakistan also entered a state of seclusion known as 'Itikaaf'', following the Asr prayer on Sunday. During the final ten

days of the holy month of Ramadan, people observe Itikaaf, a time to pray in private for the blessings of Allah Alimghty and in accordance with the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

Christian community par- men, women and children ticipated in them, the fami-

OUETTA: MPA Mir Asadullah Baloch shaking

hand with Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali

ECP issues final

list of 59 candidates

for Senate elections

wearing new clothes and dresses participated in the special service.

untoward incident.

people exchanged greetings

Daily Aoice of Masse, Independent

In limbo

FOLLOWING the Dec 13, 2023, order from the Supreme Court — wherein it had suspended the operation of an earlier judgement declaring military trials for civilians 'illegal' and allowed hearings against May 9 suspects to be completed — more than 100 citizens were consigned to a legal purga-

They were neither to be convicted nor acquitted till the country's top judges made up their minds regarding whether or not military trials for civilians are acceptable under the law. The matter was then shelved for months.

This Monday, a six-member bench of the SC realised, perhaps a tad belatedly, that the decision had also delayed the release of those who were to be handed shorter jail terms by the military courts, as well as those against whom no case was proven.

As a 'remedy', the SC this Thursday allowed the military courts to pronounce reserved verdicts in these specific cases, which would allow nominated suspects to be released before Eid. It was reported that 15 to 20 people would benefit from the order — subject, of course, to the army chief's

However, the approximately 80 civilians still left in military custody would have to wait till the appeals against the SC's military court verdict are decided because it is that decision which will ultimately determine whether or not any of these trials

It bears recalling that the SC had in October last year ruled that military courts had no business prosecuting civilians for rioting and that all May 9 suspects should be tried in criminal courts instead. If the six-member apex court bench hearing the appeals against this judgement upholds it, it could mean that all suspects, including those who are about to be released, may have to undergo a retrial in a criminal court. The judges who suspended the Supreme Court's October ruling ought to have factored this into account. They should have realised that they were prolonging the suspects' legal battle and, thereafter, taken the appeals up with more urgency. Now, they have allowed the military courts to issue verdicts without determining whether or not the trials are even lawful. This matter needs to be put to rest. The time the suspects have already spent in custody will not be returned to them. The principle of presumption of innocence exists so that no one faces punishment for a crime till it has

been proven in a competent court of law. It is most unfortunate that the Supreme Court created this situation, which allowed the state to continue depriving civilians of their constitutional liberties without any finding of guilt against them. As some observers have pointed out, in our legal system, the process itself seems to be the punishment. This should not be allowed to continue.

"Beyond Interference: Redefining the Scope of Judicial Protection"

By Qamar Bashir

Press Secretary to the President(Rtd); Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC



Chief Justice Qazi Faez his tenure, chose not to address the complaint judges through the Supreme Judicial Council or by convening a full court of the Supreme Court. Instead, he passed it This decision has been viewed as a missed opportunity to restore judicial independence from the alleged overwhelming control exerted by the establishment, which is often equated with the state itself. This control extends to all facets of governance, including the parliament, governments, cabinets, electoral processes, judicial proceedings, and foreign policy decisions, as well as the management targeted the incarceraof trade, business, investment, agriculture,

and livestock. The Chief Justice's decision to avoid addressing the complaint prompted over 300 members of the legal fraternity to stage a protest iconic symbol and brand before the Supreme name. Currently, it has been absorbed into an irurging the Court to take relevant and sectarian responsibility for adjudicating the matter under Article 184(3) of the Conpathizers from other stitution. They argued sects. The heavy toll this that any government-led commission would lack the necessary independence and authority to

claims. Analysts, jurists,

criticized the appoint-Hussain Jillani, who served as the 21st Chief Justice of Pakistan from one-man commission tasked with adjudicating Esa, nearing the end of the complaint of six judges. Many have deemed this appointfiled by six serving ment highly inadequate, inappropriate, and out of context, given Jillani's age—barely two years younger than Pakistan itself. They argue that onto the civilian govern- since the complaint diment, which many per- rectly implicates the exceive as being under the ecutive branch as the complete influence of the powerful establishment. culprit, appointing a comprehensively with commission headed by evidence, witnesses, someone associated with the executive undermines the integrity of the process. It's seen as illogical and unfitting for the accused to be tasked with providing justice to the complainants. Meanwhile, the PTI,

emerging as one of the largest stakeholders, has been particularly affected by judicial decisions allegedly manipulated by establishment. These decisions have tion of PTI's former chairman and top-tier leadership, resulting in significant upheaval within the party. PTI has not only lost its founding chairman, top and second-tier leadership, but also its party, Sunni Itehad, thereby alienating symhas taken on PTI appears irreversible at this

properly investigate the ence assigned to the lenges such as fixing re- aries and legal frame- witnesses. Given the hand,

juncture.

commission are notable sponsibility in the ab- works. Rather than being sophisticated techfor their focus on invesand lawyers have widely tigating direct involvement of officials in judicial interference and recommending appropriate analysts and jurists araction against implicated agencies, departments, 2013 to 2014, to head the or state institutions based on evidence uncovered. However, the absence of mention regarding indirect involvement suggests a potential gap in the scope of the inquiry. Additionally, the commission's starting assumption that no interference has occurred places the burden of proof on the six judges, who must substantiate their claims and circumstantial evidence. Failure to do so could lead to the judges facing accusations of lodging false or concocted complaints, adding a significant layer of complexity to the proceedings. Moreover, granting the commission

> The analyst and jurists believe that the commission lack specificity and urgency in addressing the issue of unlawful interference. While they include provisions for investigating interference and recommending action, they may not adequately address the need for proactive measures to prevent future interference or hold accountable those responsible. Additionally, the assigned TORs may not fully acknowledge the complex-

deemed totally inappro-

sence of concrete evi-

Rejecting the Terms of Reference (TORs), gue the letter written by state institutions. These the six judges transcends mere complaints means to manipulate and or allegations. Instead, it intimidate the judiciary, resembles a decision by a six-member high court bench. After conducting investigations, gathering facts, and recording witness testimonies, the bench unequivocally declared the unlawful elements within the country's prime spying agency and the establishment guilty of blatant and brute interference in judicial matters. The bench high-

tablishment use coercive tactics, including intimidation, blackmail, and eavesdropping, to influence bench formapolitical and administrathe authority to explore tive agendas. Further- unlawful, and blatant inadditional matters more, by openly defying or frustrating court orders that contradict their objectives, the unlawful elements within the es-TORs assigned to the tablishment undermines mission should provide the judiciary's independence. The bench sought guidance from the Supreme Judicial Council on defensive measures to safeguard such unlawful interfer- lem and recommending against such unlawful interference and ensure the judiciary's autonomy to dispense justice impartially and transparently.

Analysts and jurists criticize the use of the phrase "interference of the executive". They argue that the type of in-

characterized as unlawful coercion perpetrated elements employ illicit undermining its independence and impartiality therefore cannot be legally termed as executive. As such, they should not be regarded as lawful actors but as unlawful elements seeklaw through coercion

Henceforth, the tors Terms of Reference sion should reflect a prolighted that the unlawful active approach, beginelements within the esning with the acknowlinterference with the judiciary has already been substantiated. The Commission should then fothe judiciary from undue, terference perpetrated by rogue elements within state security institu-

> Secondly, the Compractical and actionable recommendations regarding how the lower respond effectively to dations should empower its independence and integrity in the face of external pressures.

Thirdly, the Commission must address the challenge of fixing interference, and proresponsibility on unlawful elements within the ity of the issue or pro-terference faced by the state security apparatus, TORs offer a robust vide clear guidance on judiciary transcends even in the absence of framework for address-The terms of refer- how to address chal- constitutional bound- concrete evidence and ing the challenges at

categorized as executive niques employed by interference, it should be these elements to conceal their activities, the Commission should exby rogue elements within plore innovative strategies for holding them accountable

Fourthly, the Commission should propose the enactment of new legislation and regulations aimed at establishing dedicated security forces tasked with protecting the lower and higher judiciary from unlawful interference. ing to subvert the rule of whether originating from within state institutions and intimidation tactics. or external non-state ac-

Lastly, the Commis-(TORs) for the Commis-sion should recommend mechanisms to ensure the implementation of court decisions and preedgment that unlawful vent their violation or frustration through selective administrative. legal, or illegal means. These measures should tions and court deci- cus on recommending reinforce the rule of law sions aligning with their measures to safeguard and uphold the authority of judicial decisions in the face of external pressures.

Terms of Reference (TORs) present a comprehensive and proactive approach to addressing the issue of unlawful interference with the judiciary. They and higher judiciary can prioritize acknowledging the existing probence. These recommen- concrete measures to safeguard judicial indethe judiciary to maintain pendence and integrity. By focusing on empowering the judiciary to respond effectively, holding accountable those responsible for posing legislative reforms, the proposed

Commerce News

Kyrgyzstan keen on joint ventures with Pak businessmen, investors

LAHORE (APP): Kyrgyzstan has offered a basket of incentives to fully facilitate Pakistani entrepreneurs and investors in joint ventures. Ms Asel Begmatova, Head of External Relations and Department of Kyrgyz Kyrgyzstan aims to create country's development Ministry of Economy and Commerce, presented these offers to Pak trade delegation led by Meher Kashif Younis, honorary Consul of Kyrgyzstan in Pakistan. The delegation is partnerships that leverage attract investments that on a two-week visit to the strengths and resources yield tangible returns. By Kyrgyzstan to study the of both nations, she scope of further remarked, citing that Kyrgyzstan aims to create strengthening bilateral collaborative efforts sustainable partnerships trade and promotion of exports. Kyrgyzstan Trade Kyrgyz businesses hold term gains and foster long-House (KTH) President Dr the potential to tap into Shahid Hassan was also diverse markets, capitalize present, according to on Sunday. Briefing the economic growth."Our Development Pakistani delegation, Ms assurance of facilitating Promotion of Exports, Begmatova said that joint investments in areas of ventures would not only cater to Kyrgyz needs but Kyrgyzstan's recognition also generate profits of of the importance of investors with sovereign encouraging investors guarantees. She added, especially from Pakistan to Our welcoming stance take full advantage of

entrepreneurs an environment conducive while also benefiting to investment and business collaboration."

the importance of between Pakistani and that endure beyond short-Meher's spokesman here advantages, and drive Director Centre for

choice

and align with their interests investors signifies a mutual and expertise," she desire to strengthen maintained. By offering economic ties and foster flexibility and support, bilateral cooperation by Kyrgyzstan seeks to providing ample support attract diverse investments assistance, that contribute to the

Ms Begmatova said The emphasis on the emphasis on garnering joint ventures underscores profits underscores the pragmatic approach to prioritizing profitability, term economic prosperity.

investors, she added.

Other comparative officials Takirov Urmat, Ministry of Economy and reflects Commerce, Zhumaliev, Head of the Export Promotion Department, Export Center Asel Turgunbaeva, an expert of the department.

HYDERABAD: Women busy in Eid shopping at Resham Bazaar during upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations.

Pak, Canada reiterate to explore economic prospects, skillful manpower

reaffirmed their commitment to remain constructively engaged to further reinforce bilateral relations, as there were a number of sectors that had a huge potential for cooperation, especially the

export of skillful

manpower to improve the

national economy.

These views were discussed in a tripartite meeting of the All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF), Punjab Board of Investment & Trade (PBIT) and Member Parliament of the House of Commons of Canada Ms. Salma Zahid, held here on Sunday, to discuss various opportunities

LAHORE (INP): The Canada with major focus trade between the two Pakistan and Canada have on export of skilled labour nations and called for force from Pakistan.

Salma Zahid, who was also the Member Standing Committee of Immigration and Citizenship of Canada, has recently been awarded with the Pakistan civil award of 'Sitara-e-Quaid-e-Azam' for her remarkable services to enhance bilateral relations between the two

countries. Parliament of the Canadian House of Commons emphasized Pakistan's deep appreciation for its relationship with Canada and its commitment to fostering enduring and multifaceted bilateral relations. She stressed the between Pakistan and importance of increasing

closer collaboration among business communities. Promoting bilateral cooperation across public, commercial, and parliamentary spheres was highlighted as pivotal to strengthening the Pakistan-

Canada partnership.

Ms. Salma Zahid
expressed gratitude to
APBF and PBIT for inviting her and said that Canada and Pakistan have all the resources for business collaboration and export of skilled workforce.

She pledged to return with different new ideas of JVs, collaborations and export of demand base skilled workforce to boost the bilateral trade ties.

KP govt contacts FBR to discuss arrears PESHAWAR (APP):

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance Muzamil Aslam Sunday contacted Chairman Federal Board of Revenue of Pakistan (FBR) on the telephone to discuss arrears of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority on Sunday

Bilal Yasin says: Efforts on to ensure availability of quality food items at fixed rates

Independent Report AHORE: Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yasin has that representatives are in the field to ensure the availability of quality food items at low prices to

He said this while presiding over a meeting in the Punjab Assembly ensure their presence in Committee Room on markets across the Sunday, said a handout. The meeting was briefed about food prices, supply chain, and actions taken against hoarders and adulteration across the province. The meeting was also briefed about the priority of the government.

upcoming wheat crop situation department's preparations.

The food minister said that there was a plenty of wheat in the market, so flour and bread should be available to the public at fixed rates.

The minister directed the administration to province to keep a close eye on demand and supply and ensure availability of high quality commodities. Bilal Yasin said that

providing all possible relief



FAISALABAD: Workers cutting iron boilers on Maqbool Road, in the city.

PM Ramadan Relief package: USC achieves 80pc sale target across region

achieved about 80 percent region under PM Ramadan Relief Package. Regional Manager

USC Multan Region, Chaudhary Sajjad Hussain, while talking to APP here on Sunday said that the PM Ramadan Relief package 2024 was underway successfully across the region as 2,58,247 customers visited the USC stores so far to avail the government subsidy during holy month. He said that the incumbent government was providing targeted subsidy

MULTAN (APP): Utility on various commodities to Stores Corporation (USC) masses to alleviate the financial burden of the one sale target so far across the million people across the region. He informed that they had collected Rs 680 million out of Rs 820 million total sale target set for Multan region

He said that flour was available at six mobile stores, seven static stores and 72 regular stores across the region to facilitate the citizens. Mr Sajjad informed that the maximum people were taking benefit from the PM Ramadan Relief package as incumbent government enhanced PMT score upto 60

PIAF says GDP drops to 1% as LSM shows -0.52% growth in Q2

LAHORE (INP): The from Rs393.6 billion for the Pakistan Industrial and same period a year before Traders Associations Front mainly due to high markup (PIAF) has pointed out rate. that the GDP growth has second quarter of the adopted as other current fiscal year, as the neighboring countries of LSM has registered a the region are giving to trade negative 0.52 percent and industry. The amount growth, leading to drop in overall the GDP growth of the country.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, PIAF Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol said that the been due to a massive slash in the credit to the private sector, as the credit to the Pakistan's private sector during July-Jan 2024 plummeted 41 percent to Rs180.7 billion capability.

He said that business stood at one percent in the friendly policies must be specified in trade policy should be utilised for the promotion of exports by giving incentives to the trade and industry and by exploring new markets, he suggested. The PIAF decline in LSM may have chairman said that the high cost of doing business has proved to be dangerous for discouraging investment

both in capacity and

FBR collects Rs6,710 billion, revenues grew by 30% in 9 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) had collected Rs6,710 billion revenues during first 09 months of current financial year as against the set targets of Rs6,707 billion.

During the period from July-March, 2023-24, the FBR had collected Rs6,710 billion against as compared the set targets of Rs6,707 billion for the first nine months, said a press release issued here

Sunday. Meanwhile, the FBR had also cleared refunds amounting to Rs369 billion were as compared to Rs254 billion issued during the same period last year.

ICCI delegation visits Embassy of Libya ISLAMABAD (APP): and

Islamabad President Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari along with a delegation of businessmen on Sunday visited the Embassy of Libya.

Libyan ambassador and discussed matters relating to mutual benefit of the promoting bilateral trade people of both countries.

opportunities between both countries, according to a press release. They discussed ways and means for further strengthening the existing bilateral relations between Libya They met with the and Pakistan and further cementing them for the

CM Punjab promises ensuring freedom of worship to minorities

Distributes Rs50mln among 10,000 Christian families on Easter

LAHORE (APP): Punjab commitment Chief Minister Maryam safeguarding th Sharif has emphasised the importance of ensuring freedom of worship and providing complete protection to all citizens, regardless of their religious beliefs.

issued here on Sunday, she was addressing the Easter ceremony in Sheikhupura. The CM vowed to take a of hate or prejudice staff at that school. towards minorities, affirming her

safeguarding their rights. province in the nation's She extended heartfelt greetings to the entire also. She highlighted the

The CM expressed ious beliefs. pride in attending a According to handout convent school from the her achievement as the first

MULTAN: Members of Saraikistan Nowjawan

Tehreek are holding protest demonstration

Governor, CM KP

congratulate Christian

community on Easter

mutual respect, Governor rights of all minorities.

message issued on Sunday. community, are fully The Christian community protected, Haji Ghulam Ali

prosperity of the country, and stand among

Khybér

Haii

PESHAWAR

Pakhtunkhwa

Ghulam Ali Sunday

congratulates the Christian

country, especially Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, on the

the spirit of love and

has an important role in the

development

Easter is the name of

festival of Easter here.

Governor

(APP): Pakhtunkhwa,

Ghulam Ali added.

against closure of Burn Unit since four days.

to female chief minister of any Christian community on behalf of PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. importance of discipline and cleanliness instilled in her by the school, stating that it played a pivotal role in her life after her parents.

She shared that her age of four until 10th grade.
She attributed her personal always emphasized the growth and development importance of minority not only to her parents but rights. She expressed firm stand against any form also to the teachers and the appreciation for the first Sikh minister and Maryam Nawaz credited congratulated him on his appointment

Man kills in-laws, ends life in Lahore

SLAMABAD (APP): A man killed his two inlaws and injured as many persons inside their house before committing suicide in Lahore's Samnabad area on Sunday.

According private news channel, the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Igbal Town said that all the persons were shot inside the house near Rasool Park in the Samanabad area.

The police said that a man named Nadeem got engaged to a sister of one Sarfaraz a year ago. It added that Nadeem sneaked into the house of his in-laws and shot at least four people The services of the Christian community in including two women. The police said that a man and a woman succumbed to bullet Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in all community across the sectors including the education sector are commendable, Haji Ghulam wounds while two Ali said. According to the people are being treated constitution of Pakistan, at the hospital. The the personal and religious investigators added that Nadeem also shot Haji Ghulam Ali said in a including the Christian himself and committed suicide.

The injured persons were shifted to the hospital while dead bodies were also shifted for legal formalities.



distributing ceremony amongst the Eunuchs.

Health minister takes notice of measles spread in KP

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Health Minister Syed Qasim Ali Shah took notice of the spreading situation of measles in the province here on Sunday.

The minister has sought a report from the Director Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), who currently aims to vaccinate approximately six million children aged 0-11 months against nine target diseases including Childhood Tuberculosis, Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B, Haemophilus Influenzae Type b,

Pneumonia, and Measles. Measles has become an epidemic in our society and people should get their children vaccinated as soon as possible, said the minister. He said that measures will be taken on an emergency basis to control measles. He issued orders to establish isolation wards in MTIs as

soon as possible. He said It is for the first time that the working hours of vaccine centers should be increased to prevent measles.He also directed the concerned quarters to remove the vaccinators from MSK disposal and place them under District Health Officer (DHO).

Governor KP invited eunuchs to Governor House, distributed ration

PESHAWAR Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ghulam Ali Sunday invited transgender women to Governor House and handed over Ramadan Ration packages to more than three hundred transgender women.

that the Governor KP Haji Ghulam Ali invited us and gave hospitality to us, the lower classes of the province and city, a Transgender told media men, soon after visiting the Governor House.

Governor Ghulam Ali welcomed hundreds of eunuchs from transgender women. across the city to the Governor House. Governor Pakhtunkhwa and Mayor Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali have given Ramadan ration

women on this occasion. eunuchs headed by eunuchs Arezo, Farzana and Subia are present in the Governor House. A Ramadan ration package worth thousands

packages to more than

three hundred transgender

being distributed to more than three hundred

I will be a voice in departments Khyber responsible for dayor transgender," the Governor said on this occasion. There is full hope that the federal and governments would play their full role in solving the The three groups of problems of transgenders,' said Governor Haji Ghulam

Technical education is very important for transgenders, of rupees per person is Governor said.

Pakistanis - a tolerant, compassionate nation

PESHAWAR (APP): Despite engineered waves of extremism or sectarian and communal divides maliciously propagated by its arch enemies, Pakistanis still adhere to its noble norms creating a society living in different regions and speaking different languages.

From the shores of Karachi and Gwadar to plains in Punjab and Sindh and hilly terrains of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistanis are woven into congenial brotherhood despite a few trying to malign the motherland planted extremism.

Ramazan is a true manifestation of this sentiment wherein people like Iqbal Khan, a 28-yearold electrician, with a smile and exudes the high spirit of sharing edibles is seen seeking solace by dolling out dates and pakora among fasting Muslims as well as non-Muslims before Aftar at Peshawar cantonment.

traditional Peshawari attire, the motivated electrician has been distributing packets of dates, chicken pakora, rice and other edibles among fasting Muslims as well as Sikhs, Christians and others coming his way.

Demonstration of The holy month of this act of generosity, love and mutual coexistence," he enshrine tolerance, unity fellow Pakistanis," he said.

and affection for people is seen all around Pakistan during this sacred month as thousands of Pakistanis enjoy inner satisfaction from this act like Iqbal

moment of distributing Aftar items reminds me of my late father like whom I also enjoy this practice like a true Muslim and Pakistani," remarked Iqbal Khan. "I strongly believe in brotherhood, interfaith harmony and tolerance in

"The

"This act of winning others' hearts and minds brings us closer and develops a tolerant society based on warmth, empathy our 1973 Constitution also

added.Professor Dr Abdul Ghafoor, former Director Sheikh Zayad Islamic Centre Peshawar sees this coherence as a fruit of religion Islam that laid great emphasis on peace, tolerance and interfaith harmony in the Charter of Madina. "This historic charter provides religious freedom to Muslims and followers of other religions for creating a progressive, prosperous and tolerant society," he stated.

Nation, Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's 11, 1947 to members of the Constituent Assembly and

envisioned a country where people irrespective of their religion, caste, creed and ethnicity could live freely with dignity in an environment of mutual coexistence and peace," he said. He said a tolerant society ensures social inclusion besides providing

all citizens equal opportunities to grow in line with Paigham-e-Pakistan's Fatwa signed by He said Father of the religious scholars of all schools of thought.

"This fatwa provides historic address on August an umbrella to protect the country from all forms of hatred and violence against

International News

Philippines boosts maritime security as China tension rises

said. "We all have to make

and Pakistan a cradle of peace

Khyber developed countries."

dent Ferdinand Marcos Jr has ordered his government to strengthen its coordination on maritime security to confront "a range of serious challenges" to territorial integrity and peace, as a dispute with China escalates. The order, signed on Monday and made public on Sunday, does not mention China but follows a series of bilateral maritime confrontations and mutual accusations over a disputed area of the South China Sea. China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not respond to a Reuters request for comment on

Beijing claims almost all of the South China Sea, a conduit for more than \$3 trillion of annual ship-borne commerce. China's claims overlap those of the Philippines, Vietnam, Indone-

The Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2016 said China's claims had no legal basis. The latest flare-up occurred last weekend, when China used water cannon to disrupt a Philippine resupply mission to the Second Thomas Shoal for soldiers 25 years ago.

"Despite efforts to rity in our maritime domain. the Philippines continues to confront a range of serious challenges that threaten territorial integrity, but also the peaceful existence of Filipinos," Marcos said in the order.

The president vowed on Thursday to implement countermeasures against "illegal, coercive, aggressive and dangerous attacks" by China's coastguard. His order

government's maritime council, adding the national security adviser, solicitor general. National Intelligence Coordinating Agency chief and the South China Sea task force The order appears to expand the role of the military by naming the Armed Forces of guarding a warship inten- the Philippines, not just the tionally grounded on a reef navy, among the agencies supporting the council. The renamed National

promote stability and secu- Maritime Council will be the central body to formulate strategies to ensure a 'unified, coordinated and effective" framework for the Philippines' maritime security and domain awareness. Marcos increased the

expands and reorganises the

number of agencies supporting the council to 13 from nine, including the space agency and the University of the Philippines' Institute for Maritime Affairs and the Law of the Sea.



NEW DELHI: Top leaders of India's opposition coalition and thousands of supporters rallied in the capi-

minister of Delhi and a key leader in an opposition alliance formed to compete against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was detained earlier in March in connection with a long-running corruption probe. Kejriwal's government is accused of receiving kickbacks while distributing liquor licences to private companies. Kejriwal, 55, denies the charges. "The country is headed towards autocracy,' Shiv Sena party leader



France to send old armoured vehicles, new missiles to Ukraine

Monitoring Desk PARIS: France will deliver hundreds of old armoured vehicles and new surface-toair missiles to Ukraine in its war against Russia, French

Defence Minister Sebastien Lecornu said on Sunday. In an interview with La Tribune Dimanche, Lecornu said that President Emmanuel Macron, following talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, had asked him to prepare a new aid package,

"The Ukrainian army needs to defend a very long front line, which requires armoured vehicles; this is absolutely crucial for troop mobility and is part of the Ukrainian requests," he said. He said France was looking at providing hundreds of VAB (Véhicule de l'Avant Blinde) front-line troop carriers in 2024 and early 2025.

France's army is gradually replacing its thousands of VABs, which first went into operation in the late 1970s, with a new

Iranian TV journalist stabbed in London **Monitoring Desk**

ing very well actually. He's in the hospital recovering from the attack," Baillie told BBC radio, calling Friday's attack "a shocking.

Erdogan battles key rival in Turkiye's local elections

Monitoring Desk ANKARA: Turkish voters went to the polls on Sunday in municipal elections, with all eyes on Istanbul, the national "jewel" that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan hopes to pry away from the opposition.

Erdogan's road to power in Turkiye began in Istanbul when he was elected mayor of the mythic city straddling Europe and Asia in 1994.

His allies held the city until Ekrem Imamoglu of the secular Republican People's Party (CHP) wrested control five years

As soon as he clinched re-election as president last May — he has been head of state since 2014 — Erdogan launched the campaign to reclaim the city of 16 million people. run vote "Istanbul is the jewel, margin.

the treasure and the apple of our country's eye," the 70-year-old leader said at a rally in the city recently.

"Whoever wins Istanbul, wins Turkiye," Erman Bakirci, a pollster from Konda Research and Consultancy, recalled

Erdogan once saying.
The Turkish president has named former environment minister Murat Kurum as his candidate.

The latest polls show that Imamoglu — who edged out an Erdogan ally in the 2019 election that gained international headlines — has a slight lead. But analysts caution that opinion polls in Turkiye have been wrong before and that the outcome is far from certain. The 2019 vote was controversially annulled, but Imamoglu won the rerun vote by an even greater

dead as Russia launches attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure

Monitoring Desk KYIV: A Russian cruise missile strike on infrastruc-

ture in Ukraine's western Lviv region killed one man, while another man died in an attack in the northeast officials said Sunday. The attack in Lviv

destroyed a building and sparked a fire, Gov. Maksym Kozytskyi wrote on social media app Telegram. He said that rescue operations were being conducted.

In the Kharkiv region, Gov. Oleh Syniehubov said that an air attack killed an 19year-old man Sunday after a projectile hit a gas station

Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands in Ukraine's Odesa region caused a blaze at an energy facility, Gov. Oleh Kiper said. Some 170,000 homes suffered power March 22.

outages as a result of the attack, said Ukraine's largest private electricity operator, DTEK.

The Ukrainian air force said that it shot down nine of the 11 Shahed-type drones launched by Russia over-night, as well as nine out of 14 cruise missiles.

Russia has escalated its attacks on Ukrainian energy infrastructure in recent days, causing significant damage in several re-

Ukrainian energy company Centrenergo announced Saturday that the Zmiiv Thermal Power Plant, one of the largest in the northeastern Kharkiv region, was completely destroyed following Russian shelling last week. were left without power Sunday after debris from a downed Russian drone caused a blaze at an enhad lost electricity after the plant was hit on

for Palestinian refugees in the central Gaza Strip. Three UN peacekeepers wounded in Lebanon blast

Palestinians inspect the damage to a building, fol-

lowing Israeli bombardment, in the Maghazi camp

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: United Nations peacekeepers said three military observers and a translator were wounded on Saturday in a blast in southern Lebanon, where Israel and the Hezbollah movement trade frequent cross-

Peacekeepers from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) Blue Line were injured.

patrol the so-called Blue Line, the border demarcated by the UN in 2000 when Israeli troops pulled out of southern Lebanon. The UN Supervision Truce Organisation (UNTSO)

supports the peacekeeping mission. Three UNTSO "military observers and one Lebanese language assistant on a foot patrol along the

tal on Sunday, decrying "autocracy" in protest at the arrest of a senior colleague ahead of general elec-Arvind Kejriwal, chief

Uddhav Thackeray, a former chief minister Maharashtra state, told cheering crowds on Sunday.

which will include old but still functional French multi-role troop carrier. Five more killed in Gaza aid delivery

GAZA CITY: The Palestine Red Crescent said five people were killed and doz-ens wounded by gunfire and a stampede during an aid delivery Saturday in northern Gaza, where famine looms. The Red Crescent said three of them had been shot dead. Video footage shows a convoy of trucks moving past burning debris near the distribution point in pre-dawn darkness as people shout and gunfire echoes — some of which was warning shots,

shooting, stampede Monitoring Desk witnesses said. Eyewitnesses told

AFP that Israeli troops in the area opened fire and some moving trucks hit people trying to get the food. However, the Israeli military claimed it "has no record of the incident described". The Red Crescent said it happened after thousands of people gathered for the arrival of around 15 trucks of flour and other food, which was supposed to be handed out at Gaza City's Kuwait roundabout.

Donald Trump won the North Dakota Republican Party's March 4 presidential caucuses.

Biden wins the

North Dakota

Democratic

primary

Monitoring Desk

BISMARCK: President

Joe Biden has won North

Dakota's Democratic presi-

dential primary. The state

party on Saturday an-

nounced the results of the

mostly mail-in primary.

The party began circulating

ballots in February to vot-

virtually assured, though

seven other candidates were

on the primary ballot.

Biden's victory was

Former President

ers who asked for them.

LONDON: A ŬK-based journalist for independent Iranian media who was attacked outside his Lon-don home, prompting a counterterrorism police probe, is 'doing very well'', his news channel said on Saturday. Pouria Zeraati, a presenter for Persian-language outlet Iran International was in stable condition, the channel's spokesman Adam Baillie said. "He's do-



XARACHI: A large number of supporters of Jamat-e-Islami (JI) are gathered to attend rally against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Shahrah-e-

PM reiterates resolve for social, economic uplift of all minorities

President felicitates

Christian community

on the eve of Easter

Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday reaffirmed the resolve to work for the social uplift and integration of all the minorities in Pakistan.

"I extend my heartful greetings to the Christian community of Pakistan and around the world, on the occasion of Easter," the prime minister said in a

He said much more than festivity and celebration, Easter was an occasion to reinforce and reflect on the values of love, tolerance and forgiveness as espoused by Prophet Isa (AS) and was a reminder to emulate these in their daily lives to bring harmony and peace in today's strife and conflict-ridden world. On this auspicious

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Sunday felicitated the Christian community on observance of Easter. The president said that the Constitution of Pakistan guaranteed constitutional rights to all religious communities. The president, in a message, said that all the communities enjoyed religious, political, social and economic rights in Pakistan.

"The Christian community is a precious asset for Pakistan," he said, adding that Easter was an occasion that brought a message of hope, affection and prosperity, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press

Appreciating the Christian community's contributions to national progress, he further observed that the Christian community had always played their role in the progress and prosperity of the country.

The president reaffirmed that Pakistan was committed to the protection of the rights of all communities and would ensure all steps for their prosperity.

and MPA Mir Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani.

Quetta-bound

PIA flight

PK-235

suffers bird hit

in Islamabad

QUETTA (INP): Quetta-

bound Pakistan Interna

tional Airline (PIA) flight

PK-235 suffered a bird hit

on Sunday morning, which

partially damaged the

flight's operation, however,

all the passengers in the

said that all passengers on

board were safe despite the

bird strike. The flight was

safely brought back to

Islamabad airport amid se-

the national carrier said af-

ter the incident flight was

damaged partially and an al-

ternative flight was ai

ranged. The next flight will

depart for Quetta at 12.30

pm carrying all the passengers, PIA spokesperson

Gilani stresses

imparting

services for

well-being of

people

MULTÂN (APP): Former

Prime Minister Syed

Yousaf Raza Gilani said

that Ramzan was a month

of mercy, blessings, sacri-

fice, and forgiveness and

everyone should come for-

ward to serve the human-

He expressed these sentiments during an Iftar dinner organized by Syed

Zighum Ğilani and Syed

Madani Gilani at Union

Council Muhammadpur

Ghota. Addressing the attendees of NA-148 con-

Naqvi greets

Christian

community

on Easter

LAHORE (APP): Interior

Minister Mohsin Naqvi

has felicitated the Chris-

tian community on Eas

In a message here on Sunday, he said Easter is a

festival that teaches piety,

repentance, purgation, pu-

rity, peace, love, reconcili-

ation, and salvation, adding

that it is more about mere

stituency area.

The spokesperson of

curity measures.

PIA spokesperson

plane remained safe.

ter also lauded the immense contributions of the Christian community in struggle for the creation of Pakistan and its socio-economic development and firmly believed that they would continue to play their proactive role in the progress and stability of

"While we celebrate diversity of faiths as a source of strength and enrichment in our nation, let us join hands towards building a society that is tolerant and cohesive and together defeat the forces of discord that are trying to cause harm to the fabric of our society," PM Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying.

Ashrafi hails SIFC as catalyst for Pakistan's economic progress

kistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman Hafiz Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday commended the establishment of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) as a pivotal stride towards economic revital-

He, speaking to the press, lauded SIFC as a visionary initiative spearheaded by Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir. He emphasized that this landmark initiative has garnered trust not only from fraternal Islamic Arab nations but also from both local and foreign in-

Ashrafi underscored the the government and the potential of SIFC under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to navigate Pakistan out of its prevailing economic challenges, aligning with the visionary strategies advocated by the army

Acknowledging SIFC as a testament to the collaboration between the military and civilian leadership, the PUC chairman hailed it as a substantial boon for both Pakistani and foreign investors. He reiterated his belief that SIFC would serve as a cornerstone for the development and prosperity of Pakistan, encap-



Muhammad Asif is listening to the public's problems at his residence.

QMC faces acute shortage of machinery

QUETTA (APP): Quetta since 1994. Metropolitan Corporation (QMC) is facing an acute shortage of machinery and tools as the authority has not purchased new machinery and vehicles for the last

collect the total waste produced per day by the city due to a shortage of staff and equipment. The total of 800 sanitary workers were carrying out cleanliness work in the city of four mil-

lion people.

QMC seeking waste lifting machinery from the Provincial Disaster Management Authority as the corporation lacks of machinery and tools to launch a cleanliness drive in the

Talking to APP, Ad-Quetta Hamza Muhammad Shafqaat said the QMC authority had not purchased

He said an operation would be launched to clean the water courses and nullahs for efficient working of the sewerage system so that the rain and thirty years. waste water could not cause inconvenience to the

Under the supervision of Administrator Quetta Muhammad Shafqaat, the corporation has collected over 10000 tons of trash from the city in a short period of 12 days.

Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat said the authority is all set to collect door-todoor garbage to make Quetta the cleanest city within two weeks.

The commissioner said the government had made efforts to increase the waste collecting capacity of QMC by 500 tons to 1600 tons daily by outsourcing the Quetta solid waste new machinery and vehicles management.



QUETTA: Workers of People's Party celebrate on unopposed elected senator Sardar Haji Umar

PPP likely to sweep Sindh amid PTI boycott of Senate election

stan People's Party (PPP) seats from Sindh out of the 12 as Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) announced a boycott of the Senate election slated for April 2.

Sources in the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) said that all 12 Senators from Sindh will be elected unopposed as the PTI was the only party that was contesting the election against the PPP.

PTI leader Haleem Adil Sheikh announced the boycott, saying that the PTI could elect four Senators from the province if the party had been given its mandate in the February 8 Ulema from each province.

that the PTI candidates would not contest the Senate election, he said that all current governments were fake. With the PTI's boycott, PPP is likely to secure as many as 10 seats from Sindh in the upcoming Senate election along with one Senator of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P). Faisal Vawda is also likely to be elected unopposed in the election. It is pertinent to mention that members of the four provincial assemblies will elect Senators for seven general seats, two women seats, and two seats for technocrats including

Expressing optimism, sulating the shared vision of

With the establishment of SIFC, Ashrafi said Pakistan stands poised to attract increased investments, foster economic growth, and pave the way for a brighter future. As stakeholders rally behind this transformative initiative, he said hopes are high for a sustainable economic resurgence that benefits all segments of society.

Ashrafi issued a resolute statement in response to the recent attack on Chinese guests in Besham, declaring that those responsible would face the full force of justice.

CTD arrests two suspects in Karachi

ARACHI (INP): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) of Sindh police claimed to have arrested two wanted accused in Orangi

As per details, CTD conducted a targeted operation with police and Rangers in Karachi and carried out checking of 117 indi-

The suspects were arrested and cases were registered against them.

Adverse effect of IMF conditions, Pakistan loses tax revenue of Rs3bn

adverse effects of implementing the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) stringent conditions on revenue sectors have begun to surface. During the recent fiscal year, there has been an approximate decrease of \$3 billion in annual tax revenues. The sources said in the fiscal year 2022, tax revenues recorded stood at \$19.3 billion, while in 2023, they declined to \$16.5 billion. Concerns persist regarding a further potential decrease of \$1 billion in tax

ISLAMABAD (INP): The revenues in the upcoming year, despite government efforts. Notably, despite the government's endeavors, the revenue sector has not been provided electricity and gas at competitive rates as demanded by the IMF. The sources said despite the efforts of the caretaker government, the export sector was not given electricity and gas at competitive rates and at the request of the IMF, the competitive rates of energy for the export sector were abol-

Agreement between jail admin, Imran termed open mockery of law, prison manual

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League (N), Irfan Siddiqui Sunday said that the written agreement between the superintendent of Adiala Jail and PTI founder Imran Khan under the directions of Islamabad High Court paramount to an open mockery of the law, regulations and prison

"Such a written agree-

victed prisoner is unprecedented", he said.

Irfan Siddiqui said, "Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Asif Ali Zardari, Benazir Bhutto, Nawaz Sharif, Shehbaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, Yusuf Raza Gilani and other dozens of prominent political leaders have been in jails but there is no example of such a written agreement with any of them despite the fact that no one was convicted in such cases of serious nature as Imran



QUETTA: People are busy in Eid shopping ahead of Eid-ul-Fitar during the Holy Month of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak, in Quetta.

PBC, HCBA Abbotta bad support Jillani-led commission while PTI rejects demands for the resignation of chief justice of IHC and

Punjab Bar Council (PBC) has welcomed the commission led by former chief justice Tassaduq Hussain Jillani, appointed to investigate allegations levelled by six judges of the Islamabad

High Court (IHC). PBC Vice-Chairman Kamran Bashir Mughal expressed optimism that Justice Jillani would conduct an unbiased, fair, and free inquiry into the matter.

He stated that the recommendations provided by Justice Jillani would en-

MQM-P

warns to

demonstrate

against law,

order situation

Muttahida Qaumi Move-

ment Pakistan (MQM-P) Sunday warned the Sindh

government of Pakistan

People's Party (PPP) to

hold protest demonstra-

tions against the law and

order situation in Karachi.

and former minister Dr

Faroog Sattar MNA has

expressed concern over the

deteriorating law and order

Dr Farooq Sattar said that hundreds of heinous

crime-related incidents in-

cluding kidnapping and

dacoity are happening in the

city every day. He said that

the citizens of Karachi have

been handed over to ban-

situation in the city.

MQM-P senior leader

KARACHI

LAHORE (INP): The hance the independence, transparency, and honor of the judiciary.

Similarly, the High Court Bar Association Abbottabad (HCBA) has extended its full support to Justice Jillani's appointment for the commis-

HCB is hopeful that the commission will thoroughly investigate the matter and propose recommendations to prevent interference in judicial af-

the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) as unconstitu-HCB Abbottabad emphasized its commitment

to the rule of law and condemned any unconstitutional and undemocratic practices. It is noteworthy that

the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has rejected the commission led by Tassaduq Jillani to probe the matter of the letter HCBA labelled the tabled by IHC judges.

JI denounces inquiry commission; says such reports never implemented Islamabad High Court's

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) on Sunday denounced the inquiry commission formed by the government after the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) judges' letter.

Expressing his thoughts, JI acting emir Liaquat Baloch said: "This matter requires a direct judicial decision but not an inquiry commission.'

No implementation had been done in the past on the finding reports of same types of commissions," Baloch said.

On Saturday, the Pa-kistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) denounced the inquiry commission under the chairmanship of former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Tasadduq Hussain Jilani, formed after the (IHC) judges' letter.

Expressing his thoughts, PTI leader Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said: "We denounce the formation of the inquiry commission under the chairmanship Tasadduq Hussain Jilani." Khan urged the need to form the commission on a pattern similar to that of the "Memogate" scandal and the election inquiry commission under the chairmanship of serving

judges.
PTI leader Sher Afzal Marwat on Saturday deemed former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Tasadduq Hussain Jilani a "misfit" person to lead the inquiry commission formed after Islamabad High Court's (IHC) judges' letter.

AJK PM vows **Indiscriminate socio** economic uplift, unveils development initiatives

MIRPUR (APP): Amidst of residents, including an Iftar dinner hosted in his honor by Minister Wildlife Fisheries and Development Authority Muzaffarabad Sardar Javed Ayub, Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime economically disadvan-Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq reaffirmed the citing the provision of figovernment's unwavering commitment to prioritize the comprehensive socioeconomic development of

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, MPAs and

others participating in the Iftaar Dinner hosted by former Chairman Senate

the region. Emphasizing the pivotal role of tourism and road tunities, the PM under-

Additionally, he underscored the government's infrastructure in generating resolve to ensure equitable local employment oppor- application of the law across the state and to utiscored the imperative of lize taxpayers' funds for the improving the livelihoods welfare of the people.

Debt Inquiry Commission reveals irregularities in utilization of foreign loans

ISLAMABAD (Online): Debt Inquiry Commission has revealed irregularities in the use of foreign loans worth billions of rupees in

a report. According to media reports, the inquiry commission submitted its report on foreign loans taken between 2008 and 2018 in

June 2020. And there are scandalous details in this report. According to reports, 300 people associated with two dozen institutions have used foreign loans worth billions of rupees against the rules taken between 2008 and 2018.

The complete record

According to the text of the letter, the commission was formed under the Inquiries Act and automati-

cally terminated after the

those in remote and far-

flung areas. PM Anwar ul

Haq on this occasion, out-

lined the government's

dedication to uplifting the

taged segments of society,

nancial assistance to wid-

ows, orphans, divorcees,

the elderly, and disabled in-

dividuals through the en-

dowment fund scheme.

completion of the term. After which the head of the commission Hussain Asghar and his staff left the office. According to reports from all federal ministries, divisions and departments. Forty senior officials assisted the commission in obtaining the

The recommendations of the inquiry commission were divided into six levels and in this regard the inquiry commission had obof 420 foreign loans received by the commis1100 projects.

Hackers stealing sensitive information of federal ministries and divisions

ISLAMABAD (Online): Hackers have become active to steal sensitive information of federal ministries and divisions, efforts are being måde to obtain information of ministries and divisions through fake e-mails.

According to media reports, the Cabinet Division has sent a letter to all federal ministries and divisions and warned them in this regard. According to the post, fake emails known as 'JS Code' are circulating, dangerous 'payloads' are attached to the fake e-mails, these fake emails compromise the network or system security of the ministries. According to the sources, in the letter, the ministries and divisions are advised to adopt a cautious attitude when receiving unknown e-mails.



QUETTA: Workers are busy in cleaning works of sewerage drain over the directions of Metropolitan Corporation Administrator Hamza Shafaqat.

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