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Responds to Biden's letter Pakistan attaches high importance to its ties with US: PM

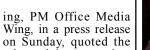


ISLAMABAD (APP): had been working to-Prime Muhammad Shehbaz cant initiatives in energy, Sharif has said that Paki- climate change, agriculstan attached high importance to its ties with the US

said that both countries framework was welcom- and Pakistan.

Minister gether on various signifiture, health and education sectors.

The cooperation Respond to a letter between the two counof US President Joe tries on energy sector the "enduring partner-Biden, the prime minister and Green Alliance ship" between the US



prime minister as saying. He further wrote that Pakistan desired to work with the US for the achievement of shared goals of global peace and stability and regional progress and prosperity.

Earlier, the US President had addressed a letter to the prime minister in which he extended felicitation to the new government.

President Biden further emphasized upon



demonstration for release of Imran Khan, Former Prime Minister, at Peshawar press club.

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

Says Govt committed to ensuring equal rights for Christians

LAHORE (APP): Federal 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 to the people. "The Cabinet consist of experienced people, youths, seasoned politicians and technocrats," he added.

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): The

adverse effects of imple-

menting the International

Monetary Fund's (IMF)

stringent conditions on rev-

enue sectors have begun to

surface. During the recent

fiscal year, there has been

an approximate decrease of

Adverse effect of IMF

conditions, Pakistan loses

tax revenue of Rs3bn



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 unemployment, increase GDP growth, restructuring of loans and digitalization of the Federal Board of Revenue. He said that ministers which would show good performance would be

appreciated

, adding that a self-accountability system had also been evolved and key performance indicators of ministries would be evaluated using modern IT inter-ventions. "Reducing trade deficit, promoting vocational training, increasing forex, boosting exports in the IT sector, activate facilities like PayPal, activating wifi hotspots and introducing latest digital system across the country are some clear and key targets," he added

Briefing about the targets of the Interior Ministry, Attaullah Tarar said that the ministry had been asked to launch a crackdown against illegal weapons, devise a new system to stop terrorism, take action against illegal foreign residents in the country and stop smuggling.

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 Sundav.

However, the price of High-Speed Diesel was re-duced 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.

The government has accordingly decided to revise the existing consumer prices of petroleum products, it said adding that the above price adjustments are in line with government's policy of passing on the variations of prices in the international market to the domestic market.

It further said that the consumer price of HSD has accordingly been decreased once again, after a downward revision in the middle of March, 2024.



ISLAMABAD: The Save Gaza campaign movement under the auspices of Civil City is staging a sit-in at D Chowk in the Federal Capital on Sunday.

Indian Air Force admits incapability in Brahmos **Missile technology**

NEW DELHI (INP): Fi- a reply filed in the Delhi nally, the Indian Air Force Higĥ Čourt. (IAF) proved the stance of

Revealed in a report filed in the Delhi High Court, the IAF detailed findings from a Court of cident to a failure in ensur-

in the Brahmos Missile Inquiry, attributing the in-The IAF has filed its ing the disconnection of report in the Delhi High combat connectors before Court that combat conneca road convoy's movetors of the Brahmos misment sile "remained connected to Describing the incithe junction box" which dent as impacting India-Pakistan relations, the IAF landed in Pakistan in March invoked the "President's 2022. The Economic Times pleasure" clause to termisaid in its report that the nate three officials, citing IAF revealed its incapabilviolations of Combat op ity in missile technology in SOP.

He said that the Prime

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

Ashrafi hails SIFC as catalyst for Pakistan's economic progress Expressing optimism,

chief.

AJK PM vows

Indiscriminate socio

economic uplift, unveils

development initiatives

Agreement between jail admin,

Imran termed open mockery

of law, prison manual

High Court paramount to but there is no example

an open mockery of the of such a written agree-

agreement between the such cases of serious na-

jail administration and a ture as Imran Khan³

"Such a written one was convicted in

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

ment with any of them

despite the fact that no

Debt Inquiry

SLAMABAD (APP): Pa kistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Sunday commended the establishment of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) as a pivotal stride towards economic revitalization

He, speaking to the press, lauded SIFC as a vias a testament to the colsionary initiative spearlaboration between the miliheaded 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 investors.

sulating the shared vis Ashrafi underscored the the government and the potential of SIFC under the armed forces. With the establishleadership of Prime Minis-

ment of SIFC, Ashrafi said ter Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to navigate Pakistan Pakistan stands poised to out of its prevailing ecoattract increased investnomic challenges, aligning ments, foster economic with the visionary strategrowth, and pave the way for a brighter future. As gies advocated by the army stakeholders rally behind Acknowledging SIFC this transformative initia-

for a sustainable economic resurgence that benefits all tary and civilian leadership, the PUC chairman hailed it segments of society. as a substantial boon for Ashrafi issued a resoboth Pakistani and foreign lute statement in response investors. He reiterated his to the recent attack on Chibelief that SIFC would nese guests in Besham, deserve as a cornerstone for claring that those responsible would face the full the development and prosperity of Pakistan, encapforce of justice.

tive, he said hopes are high

JI denounces inquiry commission; says such reports never implemented

his

ISLAMABAD (APP): Amidst an Iftar dinner hosted in his honor by Minister Wildlife Fisheries and Development Authority Muzaffarabad Sardar Javed Ayub, Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to prioritize the comprehensive socio-economic development of the region.

Emphasizing the pivotal role of tourism and road infrastructure in generating local employment opportunities, the PM underscored the imperative of lize taxpayers' funds for the improving the livelihoods welfare of the people.

Sunday said that the

written agreement be-

tween the superinten-

dent of Adiala Jail and

PTI founder Imran

Khan under the direc-

tions of Islamabad

law, regulations and

prison manual.

of residents, including those in remote and far-SLAMABAD (INP flung areas. PM Anwar ul The Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Haq on this occasion, outon Sunday denounced the lined the government's inquiry commission formed by the governdedication to uplifting the economically disadvanment after the Islamabad taged segments of society. High Court's (IHC) citing the provision of fi judges' letter. nancial assistance to wid-Expressing ows, orphans, divorcees, thoughts, JI acting emin the elderly, and disabled in-Liaquat Baloch said:

dividuals through the en-"This matter requires a dowment fund scheme. direct judicial decision but Additionally, he undernot an inquiry commisscored the government's sion. "No implementation resolve to ensure equitable application of the law

had been done in the past across the state and to ution the finding reports of same types of commissions," Baloch said.

On Saturday, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) denounced the inquiry commission under the chairmanship of former chief justice of Pa-kistan (CJP) Tasadduq Hussain Jilani, formed af-ISLAMABAD (INP): Senior leader of Paki-stan Muslim League (N), Irfan Siddiqui (N), Irfan Siddiqui ter the Islamabad High

Court's (IHC) judges' letter. Expressing his thoughts, PTI leader Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said: "We denounce the formation of the inquiry commission under the chairmanship of 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 chair-

manship of serving judges. nal list of the candidates

30 seats will be held on Tuesday. In total, 59 cancontesting elections on 48 vacant seats of the Senate. didates are vying for the The elections were

scheduled for 29 general vacant seats. seats, eight seats for held next month on one women, nine seats for technocrats/Ulema, and general and one technocrat two seats for non-Musseat from the federal capilims. tal, two women seats, two

According to the Election Commission, a total of 147 candidates submitted their nomination papers for these vacant seats. Out of these, 18 elected unopposed, seven

position.

lim seat. Additionally, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will are from Punjab's general seats. Similarly, in hold elections for seven Balochistan, senators for general, two women, and seven general seats, two two technocrat seat on women seats, and two April 2. Ulema/technocrat seats

In total, 59 candidates are vying for these have won without any opseats As per schedule is-The Senate elections

for 11 seats in Khyber sued by the Commission, Pakhtunkhwa could be dethe contest on remaining

10 people killed, 12 other injured in rain, hailstorms related incident in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): As 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

Pakistan correct by admit-

ting its incapability in mis-

sile technology, especially

since the last two days here. According to details, 10 people died and 12 people were injured as a result of accidents due to rain and hailstorm during aged. the last two days in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the PDMA

report said. The deaths include 8 children and 2 women, while the injured include 9 children, two women and 1 man, the reports said.

women and minority law-

reserved seats, as warned

Pakistan (ECP), the elec-

left vacant by half of the

the 52 senators who com-

pleted their six-year terms

and retired, elections are

being held for 48 seats.

This is because four seats

were abolished following

the merger of the former

Federally Administered

Tribal Areas (FATA) re-

gions into the Khyber-

Pakhtunkhwa province.

Consequently,

by the electoral body.

pletely damaged and 24 houses were partially dam-aged, the PDMA report said

Due to recent rains, 4 people died and 3 were injured in Shangla with 2 houses were partially damaged and three children killed and 1 injured and 1 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 including a woman were injured and a house partially damaged in Peshawar and in 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 in Waziristan were damaged.

A total of 27 houses were damaged due to the collapse of walls and roofs in different districts, in which 3 houses were com-

layed if the Speaker of the KP Assembly does not seats will decrease from

administer the oath to 100 to 96. Recently, the Election Commission of Pakimakers-elect from the Pakistan Muslim League stan (ECP) released a de-Nawaz (PML-N) on the tailed code of conduct for parties and candidates

ahead of the Senate elec-According to the tions. The code aims to Election Commission of guarantee transparency, integrity, and fairness tions aim to fill the seats throughout the electoral process. current senators who re-tired on March 12. Out of

The code of conduct imposes stringent guidelines on political parties and candidates involved in the elections. They are urged to avoid making the electoral watchdog controversial and are prohibited from engaging in corrupt or illegal activities. Additionally, any support from public office holders to influence election outcomes the is strictly forbidden.

Muhammad Asif is listening to the public's problems at his residence. ECP finalises arrangements for Senate elections on April 2 ISLAMABAD (APP):

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has finalised all preparations for conducting nationwide Senate elections, the up-

Ballot papers in four low for minority seats.

> transportation of election materials to returning officers has been completed.

and all four provincial as-semblies from 9 AM to 4 PM

different colors have been printed for the Senate elections. White papers will be used for general seats, green for technocrat seats, pink for women, and yel-

Additionally, the

Returning officers have already issued the fi-

per house of the bicameral parliament, on April 2. Polling would be held in the National Assembly

were affected by stopping the government's endeavthe supply of electricity to the export sector at 9 cents. The sources also said

\$3 billion in annual tax revpetitive rates of energy for the export sector were abolenues. The sources said in the fiscal year 2022, tax revished. enues recorded stood at The sources said SIFC had approved to sup-ply of electricity to indus-\$19.3 billion, while in 2023, they declined to \$16.5 billion. Concerns persist retries at 9 cents, adding that garding a further potential at the request of the IMF, decrease of \$1 billion in tax the supply of electricity revenues in the upcoming and gas at competitive rates year, despite government efforts. Notably, despite was terminated and exports

ity and gas at competitive

rates as demanded by the

IMF. The sources said de-

spite the efforts of the care-

taker government, the ex-

port sector was not given

ors, the revenue sector has not been provided electric-

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.

electricity and gas at com-According to media petitive rates and at the rereports, the inquiry comquest of the IMF, the commission submitted its report on foreign loans taken June 2020.

between 2008 and 2018 in 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 of 420 foreign loans re-ceived by the commis-

sion. According to the text of the letter, the commis-sion was formed under the Inquiries Act and automatically terminated after the 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 records.

The elections being

technocrat/Ulema seats,

and one non-Muslim seat

from Punjab. Similarly,

Sindh will see elections for

seven general, two

women, two technocrat/

Ulema, and one non-Mus-



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Monday April 01, 2024

OPINION

Daily **Independent**

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 purgatory of sorts.

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 approval.

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 was legally valid.

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.



Chief Justice Qazi Faez Esa, nearing the end of the complaint of six his tenure, chose not to address the complaint filed by six serving ment highly inadequate,

judges through the Supreme Judicial Council or by convening a full court of the Supreme Court. Instead, he passed it onto the civilian govern- since the complaint diment, which many per- rectly implicates the exceive as being under the ecutive branch as the 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 Court today (31.03.2024), been absorbed into an irurging the Court to take relevant and sectarian responsibility for adjudicating the matter under Article 184(3) of the Con- pathizers from other stitution. They argued sects. The heavy toll this that any government-led commission would lack pears irreversible at this

the necessary indepenjuncture. dence and authority to

Press Secretary to the President(Rtd); Former Press Minister at Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC Analysts, jurists, for their focus on invesand lawyers have widely tigating direct involvecriticized the appointment of officials in judicial interference and recment of Tassaduq Hussain Jillani, who served as the 21st Chief action against implicated Justice of Pakistan from agencies, departments, 2013 to 2014, to head the or state institutions one-man commission tasked with adjudicating judges. Many have deemed this appointinappropriate, and out of context, given Jillani's

claims.

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 startage-barely two years ing assumption that no younger than Pakistan interference has ocitself. They argue that curred places the burden someone associated with the executive undermines the integrity of the process. It's seen as illogical and unfitting for lodging false or conthe 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 the 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

priate rists 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 party, Sunni Itehad, or hold accountable those responsible. Addithereby alienating symtionally, the assigned TORs may not fully achas taken on PTI apknowledge the complex-

Commerce News

commission are notable sponsibility in the ab- works. Rather than being sophisticated techsence of concrete evidence

"Beyond Interference: Redefining the Scope of Judicial Protection"

By Qamar Bashir

Rejecting the Terms of Reference (TORs), ommending appropriate analysts and jurists argue 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 highlighted that the unlawful elements within the esning with the acknowltablishment use coercive tactics, including intimidation, blackmail, and eavesdropping, to influence bench formapolitical and administraterference perpetrated by or frustrating court orrogue elements within ders that contradict their state security instituobjectives, the unlawful tions elements within the esthe judiciary's indepenpractical and actionable dence. The bench recommendations resought guidance from garding how the lower the Supreme Judicial Council on defensive respond effectively to measures to safeguard such unlawful interfer- lem and recommending against such unlawful interference and ensure dations should empower the judiciary's autonomy to dispense jusits independence and intice impartially and transtegrity in the face of exparently.

ternal pressures. Analysts and jurists criticize the use of the mission must address phrase "interference of the executive". They arresponsibility on unlawgue that the type of inful 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 properly investigate the ence assigned to the lenges such as fixing re- aries and legal frame- witnesses. Given the hand.

categorized as executive niques employed by interference, it should be these elements to concharacterized as unlawceal their activities, the Commission should exful coercion perpetrated by rogue elements within plore innovative strategies for holding them acelements employ illicit countable

Fourthly, the Commission should propose undermining its indethe enactment of new pendence and impartiallegislation and regulaity therefore cannot be tions aimed at establishlegally termed as execuing dedicated security tive. As such, they forces tasked with protecting the lower and should not be regarded as lawful actors but as higher judiciary from ununlawful elements seeklawful interference. ing to subvert the rule of whether originating from law through coercion within state institutions and intimidation tactics. or external non-state ac-Henceforth, the tors

Lastly, the Commis-Terms of Reference (TORs) for the Commis- sion should recommend sion should reflect a promechanisms to ensure active approach, beginthe implementation of court decisions and preedgment that unlawful vent their violation or frustration through seinterference with the judiciary has already been lective administrative. substantiated. The Comlegal, or illegal means. mission should then fo-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 authorthe judiciary from undue, ity of judicial decisions in the face of external pressures.

The proposed 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 the challenge of fixing interference, and proposing legislative reforms, the proposed

of proof on the six judges, who must substantiate their claims complete influence of the culprit, appointing a comprehensively with powerful establishment. commission headed by evidence, witnesses, and circumstantial evidence. Failure to do so could lead to the judges facing accusations of

> cocted complaints, adding a significant layer of complexity to the proceedings. Moreover, granting the commission deemed totally inappro-

the authority to explore tive agendas. Further- unlawful, and blatant inadditional matters more, by openly defying The analyst and ju-TORs assigned to the tablishment undermines mission should provide

Kyrgyzstan keen on joint ventures with Pak businessmen, investors

LAHORE (APP): Kyrgyzstan has offered a towards 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 collaboration." delegation led by Meher Kashif Younis, honorary Consul of Kyrgyzstan in Kyrgyzstan to study the of both nations, she trade and promotion of House (KTH) President Dr the potential to tap into Shahid Hassan was also diverse markets, capitalize present, according to on Begmatova said that joint investments in areas of ventures would not only choice 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

Pakistani ample opportunities that entrepreneurs 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 an environment conducive while also benefiting to investment and business

joint ventures underscores profits underscores the the importance of Pakistan. The delegation is partnerships that leverage attract investments that on a two-week visit to the strengths and resources yield tangible returns. By scope of further remarked, citing that Kyrgyzstan aims to create strengthening bilateral collaborative efforts sustainable partnerships between Pakistani and that endure beyond shortexports. Kyrgyzstan Trade Kyrgyz businesses hold term gains and foster long-Other comparative officials Takirov Urmat, Meher's spokesman here advantages, and drive Director Centre for Sunday. Briefing the economic growth."Our Development Pakistani delegation, Ms assurance of facilitating Promotion of Exports, reflects Commerce,

and align with their interests investors, she added. Ms Begmatova said

The emphasis on the emphasis on garnering pragmatic approach to prioritizing profitability, term economic prosperity. Kyrgyz

and Ministry of Economy and Tilek Zhumaliev, Head of the Export Promotion Department,Export Center Asel Turgunbaeva, an expert of the department.

FBR collects

Rs6,710 billion,

revenues grew

by 30% in

9 months



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 force from Pakistan. commitment to remain constructively engaged to further reinforce bilateral relations, as there were a

national economy.

trade

Standing Committee of Immigration Citizenship of Canada, has number of sectors that had a huge potential for recently been awarded with cooperation, especially the the Pakistan civil award of export of skillful 'Sitara-e-Quaid-e-Azam' manpower to improve the for her remarkable services

to enhance bilateral These views were relations between the two discussed in a tripartite countries. Member

meeting of the All Pakistan The Business Forum (APBF), Parliament of the Canadian Punjab Board of Investment & Trade House of Commons emphasized Pakistan's (PBIT) and Member deep appreciation for its Parliament of the House of relationship with Canada Commons of Canada Ms. and its commitment to Salma Zahid, held here on fostering enduring and Sunday, to discuss various multifaceted bilateral opportunities relations. She stressed the between Pakistan and importance of increasing

ICCI delegation visits Embassy of Libya

Islamabad

cementing them for the discussed matters relating to mutual benefit of the promoting bilateral trade people of both countries.

LAHORE (INP): The Canada with major focus trade between the two Pakistan and Canada have on export of skilled labour nations and called for closer collaboration among Salma Zahid, who business communities. was also the Member Promoting bilateral cooperation across public, and 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 Adviser 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 upcoming wheat crop situation AHORE: Punjab Food department's preparations. Minister Bilal Yasin has public The food minister that representatives are in the field to ensure the

availability of quality food

items at low prices to

presiding over a meeting in

Sunday, said a handout.

The meeting was briefed

about food prices, supply

chain, and actions taken

He said this while

said

people.

Secondly, the Com-

Thirdly, the Com-

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

and

The minister directed the administration to the Punjab Assembly ensure their presence in Committee Room on markets across the province to keep a close eye on demand and supply and ensure availability of high quality commodifies. Bilal Yasin said that

against hoarders and providing all possible relief adulteration across the province. The meeting was to the people was the first also briefed about the priority of the government.



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

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

MULTAN (APP): Utility on various commodities to Stores Corporation (USC) masses to alleviate the achieved about 80 percent sale target so far across the million people across the 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

financial burden of the one 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 stood at one percent in the friendly policies must be 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 decline in LSM may have chairman said that the high cost of doing business has been due to a massive slash in the credit to the private proved to be dangerous for sector, as the credit to the Pakistan's private sector during July-Jan 2024 plummeted 41 both in percent to Rs180.7 billion capability. discouraging investment both in capacity and

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) had collected He said that business

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, 2023specified in trade policy should be utilised for the 24, the FBR had collected Rs6,710 billion against as promotion of exports by giving incentives to the compared the set targets trade and industry and by of Rs6,707 billion for the first nine months, said a exploring new markets, he suggested. The PIAF press release issued here Sunday.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): and President Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari along with a delegation of businessmen on Sunday visited the

Embassy of Libya. They met with the and Pakistan and further Libyan ambassador and

investment opportunities between both countries, according to a press release. They discussed ways and means for further strengthening the existing bilateral relations between Libya Independent

National News

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 Nawaz 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. directed towards minorities, affirming her

The CM expressed

ious beliefs. pride in attending a According to handout convent school from the

to female chief minister of any safeguarding their rights. province in the nation's She extended heartfelt greetings to the entire also. She highlighted the Christian community on importance of discipline behalf of PML-N Quaid and cleanliness instilled in Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. 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

> in-laws, ends life in Lahore SLAMABAD (APP): A man killed his two inlaws and injured as many persons inside their house before committing

> > 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

including two women. wounds while two Ali said. According to the people are being treated at the hospital. The the personal and religious investigators added that Nadeem also shot himself and committed

message issued on Sunday. community, are fully The Christian community protected, Haji Ghulam Ali said. "We all have to make and Pakistan a cradle of peace prosperity of the country, and stand among bodies were also shifted for legal formalities.

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali and Mayor Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali addressing the ration distributing ceremony amongst the Eunuchs.

Health minister takes notice of measles spread in KP

Independent Report Pneumonia, and Measles. PESHAWAR: Khyber Measles has become Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Health an epidemic in our society Minister Syed Qasim Ali and people should get their children vaccinated as soon Shah took notice of the spreading situation of as possible, said the measles in the province 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 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 Influenzae Type b, Health Officer (DHO).

Governor KP invited eunuchs to Governor House, distributed ration PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Haji Governor Ghulam Ali welcomed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

House.

Haji Ghulam Ali Sunday invited across the city to the transgender women to Governor Governor House and Governor handed over Ramadan Pakhtunkhwa and Mayor Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali Ration packages to more than three hundred have given Ramadan ration transgender women. packages to more than three hundred transgender It is for the first time women on this occasion.

that the Governor KP Haji Ghulam Ali invited us and gave hospitality to us, the eunuchs headed by eunuchs lower classes of the Arezo, Farzana and Subia province and city, a are present in the Governor Transgender told media House. A Ramadan ration men, soon after visiting the package worth thousands Governor House.

being distributed to more than three hundred hundreds of eunuchs from transgender women. ⁶I will be a voice in

Page

03

the departments Khyber responsible for d Mayor transgender," the Governor said on this occasion. There is full hope that the federal and provincial governments would play their full role in solving the The three groups of problems of transgenders,' said Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

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

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

here on Sunday.

Pakistanis - a tolerant, compassionate nation

PESHAWAR (APP): Ramazan is a true Despite engineered waves manifestation of this of extremism or sectarian sentiment wherein people and communal divides like Iqbal Khan, a 28-yearmaliciously propagated by old electrician, with a its arch enemies, Pakistanis smile and exudes the high still adhere to its noble spirit of sharing edibles is norms creating a society seen seeking solace by living in different regions dolling out dates and and speaking different pakora among fasting languages.

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

International News

motivated electrician has been distributing packets of dates, chicken pakora, rice and other edibles among fasting Muslims as well as

Muslims as well as non-Muslims before Aftar at Peshawar cantonment. traditional Peshawari attire, the

Khan.

society. 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 added.Professor Dr Abdul seen all around Pakistan Ghafoor, former Director during this sacred month as Sheikh Zayad Islamic thousands of Pakistanis Centre Peshawar sees this enjoy inner satisfaction coherence as a fruit of from this act like Iqbal religion Islam that laid great "The soothing tolerance and interfaith 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 Nation, Quaid e Azam

"This act of winning Muhammad Ali Jinnah's others' hearts and minds brings us closer and 11, 1947 to members of the develops a tolerant society Constituent Assembly and based on warmth, empathy our 1973 Constitution also

and mutual coexistence. "The Quaid had envisioned a country where people irrespective of their religion, caste, creed and ethnicity could live freely emphasis on peace, with dignity in an environment of mutual harmony in the Charter of coexistence and peace," he Madina. "This historic said.He said a tolerant charter provides religious society ensures social freedom to Muslims and inclusion besides providing followers of other religions all citizens equal for creating a progressive, opportunities to grow in prosperous and tolerant line with Paigham-e-Pakistan's Fatwa signed by society," he stated. 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 terrorism, extremism, hatred and violence against

congratulate Christian a man named Nadeem got engaged to a sister of one Sarfaraz a year ago. It added that Nadeem sneaked into the house Haii of his in-laws and shot at least four people The services of the Christian community in 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

suicide. The injured persons were shifted to the hospital while dead



Governor, CM KP

community on Easter

mutual respect, Governor rights of all minorities.

Haji Ghulam Ali said in a including the Christian

Khyber developed countries."

Khyber

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

especially

Easter is the name of

festival of Easter here.

Governor

(APP): Pakhtunkhwa,

Ghulam Ali added.

constitution of Pakistan,

Philippines boosts maritime security as **China tension rises**

Monitoring Desk MANILA: Philippine President 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 Sunday.

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-

Monitoring Desk

BEIRUT: United Nations

military observers and a

translator were wounded on

Saturday in a blast in south-

ern Lebanon, where Israel

and the Hezbollah move-

ment trade frequent cross-

border fire.

sia. Malaysia and Brunei. 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 guarding a warship inten- the Philippines, not just the tionally grounded on a reef navy, among the agencies sup-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

expands and reorganises the 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 porting 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

number of agencies sup-porting 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.

Indian opposition protest arrest of Delhi CM Kejriwal ahead of polls

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Top leaders of India's opposition coalition and thousands of supporters rallied in the capiequipment. tal on Sunday, decrying

"autocracy" in protest at the arrest of a senior colleague ahead of general elections

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



Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan poses with his supporters as he leaves a polling station during the local elections in Istanbul, Turkey.

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 mobility and is part of the Defence Minister Sebastien Ukrainian requests," he Lecornu said on Sunday. said. He said France was In an interview with

looking at providing hun-dreds of VAB (Véhicule de La Tribune Dimanche, l'Avant Blindé) front-line Lecornu said that President troop carriers in 2024 and early 2025. Emmanuel Macron, following talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, had asked him to

France's army is gradually replacing its thou-sands of VABs, which first prepare a new aid package, which will include old but went into operation in the still functional French late 1970s, with a new multi-role troop carrier.

Five more killed in Gaza aid delivery shooting, stampede Monitoring Desk witnesses said.

Eyewitnesses told

GAZA CITY: The Palestine AFP that Israeli troops in Red Crescent said five people were killed and doz-ens wounded by gunfire and the area opened fire and some moving trucks hit a stampede during an aid depeople trying to get the livery Saturday in northern food. However, the Israeli military claimed it "has no Gaza, where famine looms. record of the incident de-The Red Crescent said three scribed". The Red Crescent of them had been shot dead. said it happened after thou-Video footage shows a convoy of trucks moving past sands of people gathered for the arrival of around 15 burning debris near the distrucks of flour and other tribution point in pre-dawn food, which was supposed darkness as people shout and gunfire echoes — some of which was warning shots, to be handed out at Gaza City's Kuwait roundabout.

Democratic primary **Monitoring Desk** "The Ukrainian army BISMARCK: President needs to defend a very long Joe Biden has won North front line, which requires Dakota's Democratic presiarmoured vehicles; this is absolutely crucial for troop

dential primary. The state party on Saturday announced the results of the mostly mail-in primary. The party began circulating ballots in February to voters who asked for them.

Biden wins the

North Dakota

Biden's victory was virtually assured, though seven other candidates were on the primary ballot.

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

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

LONDON: A UK-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 doing 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**

the treasure and the apple of our country's eye," the ANKARA: Turkish voters 70-year-old leader said at a went to the polls on Sunday in municipal elections, rally in the city recently. with all eyes on Istanbul,

"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 re-16 million people. run vote "Istanbul is the jewel, margin. run vote by an even greater

dead as Russia launches attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure

Monitoring Desk KYIV: A Russian cruise missile strike on infrastructure in Ukraine's western Lviv region killed one man, while another man died in an attack in the northeast

the national "jewel" that

President Recep Tayyip

Erdogan hopes to pry away

power in Turkiye began in

İstanbul when he was

elected mayor of the

mythic city straddling Eu-

until Ekrem Imamoglu of

the secular Republican

People's Party (CHP)

wrested control five years

re-election as president last

May — he has been head

of state since 2014 —

Erdogan launched the cam-

paign to reclaim the city of

ago.

rope and Asia in 1994.

Erdogan's road to

His allies held the city

As soon as he clinched

from the opposition.

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 were left without power Sunday after debris from a downed Russian drone caused a blaze at an encaused a blaze at an en-ergy 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 regions

Ukrainian energy company Centrenergo an-nounced Saturday that the Zmiiv Thermal Power Plant, one of the largest in the northeastern Kharkiv region, was completely destroyed following Russian shelling last week. had lost electricity after the plant was hit on

patrol the so-called Blue Line, the border demarcated by the UN in 2000 when Ispeacekeepers said three raeli troops pulled out of southern Lebanon. The UN Truce Organisation (UNTSO) supports the peacekeeping mission. Three UNTSO "military observers and one

Peacekeepers from the Lebanese language assistant on a foot patrol along the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) Blue Line were injured.

Palestinians inspect the damage to a building, fol-

lowing Israeli bombardment, in the Maghazi camp

for Palestinian refugees in the central Gaza Strip.

Three UN

peacekeepers wounded

in Lebanon blast

Supervision

Arvind Kejriwal, chief

Daily **Independent**, Islamabad

Monday April 01, 2024



KARACHI: 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-Ouaideen in Karachi.

Pakistan's leaders extend Easter greetings to **Christian community**

ISLAMABAD (INP): Like other parts of the world, Christian community members across Pakistan celebrated Easter on Sunday with prayers to c o m m e m o r a t e Christianity's religious occasion

emonies were arranged in different Churches of the country. Security arrangements were also made around Churches to prevent any untoward incident.

The day started with special religious rituals, prayers and an exchange of greetings with messages of goodwill and prosperity. Punjab Chief Minister

Maryam Nawaz, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and other dignitaries have felicitated the Christian community on the eve of Easter.

the country.

added.

In their separate messages, they acknowledged the active and positive role played by the Christian community in the development of Pakistan and expressed their gratitude for their contributions.

"Easter brings hope, love, and prosperity Pakistan is determined to protect the rights of minorities," he acknowledges the to work for the social up-fundamental principles of lift and integration of all the Media Wing.

equality and religious free- minorities in Pakistan. dom enshrined in the con-"I extend my heartful greetings to the Christian

stitution. The president said community of Pakistan and that all the communities around the world, on the enjoyed religious, political, occasion of Easter," the social and economic rights prime minister said in a in Pakistan. nessage "The Christian com-

He said much more Special prayer cer-nies were arranged in for Pakistan," he said, add-tion, Easter was an occaing that Easter was an ocsion to reinforce and reflect on the values of love, tolercasion that brought a message of hope, affection and ance and forgiveness as esprosperity, President Sec-retariat Press Wing said in poused by Prophet Isa (AS) and was a reminder to emulate these in their daily a press release. Appreciating the lives to bring harmony and

Christian community's peace in today's strife and contributions for the naconflict-ridden world. tional progress, he further On this auspicious observed that the Christian occasion, the prime minister also lauded the immense community had always

played their role in the contributions of the Chrisprogress and prosperity of tian community in struggle for the creation of Pakistan The president reafand its socio-economic defirmed that Pakistan was velopment and firmly becommitted to protection of lieved that they would continue to play their proacthe rights of all communitive role in the progress and ties and would ensure all steps for their prosperity. stability of Pakistan. For the country's

While we celebrate progress and prosperity, diversity of faiths as a source of strength and enrichment in our nation let us join hands towards lectively work together, he building a society that is In a separate message tolerant and cohesive and on Sunday, Prime Minister together defeat the forces of Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif reaffirmed the resolve discord that are trying to cause harm to the fabric of

20 outlaws

arrested;

drugs and

weapons

recovered

Independent Report

SLAMABAD: Islamabad

Capital Police apprehended

20 outlaws including 12

professional beggars from

ons from their possession,

said

public relations officer

Islamabad Capital Police

has intensified crackdown

against the criminal ele-

ments in order to eliminate

tions, the Aabpara police

team arrested two accused

namely Faheem Akram and

Aqib Masih and recovered

four bottles of liquor and

one 30 bore pistol from

Khanna police team ar-

Ali Sharjeel and Rizwan

Nawaz and recovered 328

pistol from their posses-

Following these direc-

the crime from the city.

He said that, the

Party (BJP) regime. According to Kashmir our society," PM Office Media Service, the political experts and analysts in their interviews and state-

Youth from North Waziristan embark on educational tour of Lahore and Islamabad

explore recreational and

This initiative, part of

educational sites.

Waziristan.

and Shahi Fort.

ISLAMABAD (APP): ceremony, the youth im-The youth of North mersed themselves in patriotic fervor, echoing slogans Waziristan, sponsored by of national pride. the Pakistan Army, re-In Islamabad, they cently embarked on a tour of Lahore and Islamabad to

toured the Pakistan Museum of Natural History, Pakistan Monument Museum, Lok Virsa Museum, and Lake View Park.

"Ilm Tolo Da Para" (Education for All) pro-At Lok Virsa and Pagram, aims to promote edukistan Monument, they cation awareness among learned about the sacrifices the youth of North made during the freedom movement, deepening their appreciation for Pakistan's In Lahore, the youth visited iconic landmarks history

The youth expressed gratitude to the Pakistan Army for the opportunity such as the Wagah Border, Minar-e-Pakistan, Mazari-Iqbal, Badshahi Masjid, and expressed eagerness for At the Wagah Border future visits.

Modi-led fascist Indian govt using brutal tactics to muzzle press in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (APP): Po-The political experts litical experts and analysts and analysts noted that have said the Modi-led fasjournalists continue to cist Indian government is work in the most trying using brutal tactics to muzzle the press in occuconditions in IIOJK and that a number of journalists pied Jammu and Kashmir have been killed and scores injured since 1989 in the and compel Kashmiri jour-

nalists to become a mouthterritory piece of occupation forces aligned Indian media's biand the Bharatiya Janata ased reporting on IIOJK is evident from its fabricated, false news stories about the Kashmiris' struggle. they said BJP-inments in Srinagar pointed fluenced Indian media is

PM reiterates resolve for social, economic uplift of all minorities

LAHORE (APP): Prime 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 message

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

President felicitates Christian community on the eve of Easter

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 release.

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.

conflict-ridden world

On this auspicious occasion, the prime minister 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 Pakistan.

"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.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Shams Loan and Government Spokesperson Faizullah Firaq are holding a press conference, Special Assistant Zabihullah is also present.

source

DIG Operations pays surprise visit to CIA, Investigation

Wing, Khanna PS ISLAMABAD (INP) CPO/ DIG (Operations), Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari paid a surprise visit to CIA, Investigation Wing and Khanna police station, a public relations

During the visit, CPO DIG Operations suspended officer in-charge police station Khanna for poor performance, reviewed the performance of CIA and investigation wing and checked the records, roznamcha, front desk record room, lockup, investigation officers' rooms and residential barracks, he added

CWAs to boost overseas employment opportunities for Pakistanis abroad

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Re-Development (OP&HRD) has given the task to the Community Welfare Attaches (CWAs) stationed abroad to strategically enhance job opportunities for Pakistanis in the international market. global standards.

While underscoring An official source told APP that currently, there the significance of this iniwere 21 CWAs posted tiative, highlighted its dual abroad by the Government impact, not only in enhancof Pakistan. The main aim ing employment opportunities for Pakistanis abroad of this task was to evaluate and improve the progress but also in contributing to of CWAs in identifying and the economic growth of the exploring targeted demand nation. Furthermore, he stressed the essential role for employment prospects of CWAs in catering to the for Pakistani nationals through engagements with needs and resolving issues foreign employers.

officer said

They said the RSSfreedom

He said that inapproriate behavior toward cit

ployment demands abroad and the necessary skills required for those jobs. This step will facilitate the design of training programs specifically tailored to the skills demanded by foreign companies, ensuring that Pakistani workers are wellequipped and aligned with



entire nation including mi-

norities would have to col-

ISLAMABAD: Archbishop Shaw performing religious rituals to mark the celebrating the Easter at Fatima Church F-8 in the Federal Capital.

Millions of faithful to observe Itikaaf

ISLAMABAD (APP): Millions of devout Muslims will go into seclusion called 'Itikaaf' after Asr prayer on Sunday. Itikaaf is observed in the last 10 days of the holy

month of Ramazan to pray in seclusion for the blessings of Almighty Allah and following the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). From the 21st of Ramadan, men will restrict themselves to mosques, while women sepa-rate themselves from others within their homes to devote themselves to prayers

different areas of the city Itikaaf means "devotion to a thing and sticking to during the last 24 hours and it" recovered drugs and weap-

Mosques have made special arrangements to ac-commodate men for Itikaaf across the country. Special arrangements were also made by the administration of some mosques and philanthropists to provide Sehri and Iftar for those observing Itikaaf. This year, at least 300 people will observe Itikaaf in

the iconic contemporary mosque of Faisal Masjid Islamabad, while in Lahore, hundreds of people will observe Itikaaf in Data Sahib Mosque, Badshahi Mosque and Minhajul Quran Mosque.

Drive on Railway safety, prohibited items in full swing

gates.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways awareness campaign was in full swing in order to raise public knowledge of the dangers of trespassing, crossing railroad tracks, and carrying forbidden objects like gas cylinders, guns without a license, cartridges, drugs,

and daggers. "The campaign was launched on the directives Secretary Syed Mazhar Ali Shah which will not help the department to control accidents but also win the confidence of the passengers of the rail" an official told APP.

The official said, "Pakistan Railways is using all the social media platforms ucts

including print, electronic media, twitter, Facebook poster and pamphlets to create an awareness among the citizens about a safe train journey.

Similarly, the sion. He said the depart Phulgran police team arment has also asked all the rested an accused namely divisional superintendents Ali Raza and recovered 210 to ensure checking of luggram heroin from his posgage of passengers at entry session. The Bhara Kahu points with scanners, metal police team arrested an acdetectors and walkthrough cused namely Wasif and re-

covered 1060 gram hashish He said Pakistan Railfrom his possession. Moreways had always given imover, the Nilore police team portance to the safety of arrested an accused namely citizens and its passengers. Khizer involved in illegally "It has been directed selling petrol. Cases have to discourage and stop

been registered against the those passengers who are nabbed accused and further carrying prohibited prodinvestigation is underway.

out that though journalists in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu Kashmir (IIOJK) had been victims of Indian state oppression for a long time, but their victimization increased manifold after the Modi regime illegally revoked the special status of the territory on August 5, 2019.

Stating that the Modi government cannot hide its crimes by curbing the press in Kashmir, they urged the international media organizations to come forward and rescue independent journalism in the territory.

the occasion of Easter.

rights to minorities.

spreading false information about the real situation in the occupied territory. They said Indian media coverage of Kashmir can be termed a travesty of

professional journalism as Indian journalists and TV anchors are narrating what fits the Modi regime's official policy on Kashmir.

The political experts and analysts lamented that Indian media was resorting to fake news to divert international attention from blatant human rights violations by Indian troops in the territory.

Ayaz, Mustafa Shah extend warm felicitation to Christian community on Easter

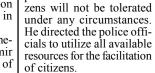
perity and a progressive ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assem-

society. In addition, he reaf-firmed that the rights and bly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah have privileges of all citizens, irextended warm felicitations respective of their religious to the Christian Members beliefs, are guaranteed and of the Parliament and the safe-guarded by the Consti-Christian community on tution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Moreover,

The Speaker said that Speaker stressed on the the role of non-Muslim communities in the develneed for engaging in legislaopment of Pakistan is an tion aimed at enhancing inirrefutable reality. ter-faith harmony, while adopting a non-partisan approach and working be-Ayaz Sadiq also said that the constitution im-

parts provision of all basic yond party lines for the betterment of all the non-Speaker in his message Muslim communities of on the eve of Easter urged Pakistan

Furthermore, he the parliamentarians and citizens to pro-actively praised the Christian community while acknowledgplay their part in peacekeeping and in promotion ing their valuable contribuof inter-faith harmony, as tions towards socio-ecothese are the pre-requisites nomic progress, since the for socio-economic proscreation of Pakistan



Effective steps should be taken immediately for the prevention of serious crimes, apprehension of accused and recovery of stolen goods and efforts should be accelerated for the prevention of car theft and the recovery of stolen vehicles.

Rainfall sweeps across country ISLAMABAD (APP) New spell of rain has swept

across different parts of the country on Sunday, with further rain expected in some regions.

As per the meteorological office, the twin cities and Lahore were expected to witness heavy winds and thundershowers throughout the day, reported a private news chan-

Additionally, more rain and snowfall are foretasted for various parts of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Cloud cover has descended over cities like Lahore. Islamabad Rawalpindi, and Faisalabad. Peshawar expe rienced heavy rain and hailstorms, resulting in flood ing on several roads In Azad Kashmir, par

ticularly in Neelum valley heavy rainfall occurred overnight. Snowfall persisted in tourist destinations such as Upper Neelam, Luwat, Sharda, and Arang Kel.



ISLAMABAD: Peoples along with their belongings waiting for a security check at the grand Faisal Mosque on Sundy, to start Itikaf during the holy month of Ramadan in Federal Capital.

This involved the formulation, signing, and execution of Letters of Intent (LOIs) and agreements with foreign companies, critical in amplifying the export of Pakistani manpower.

It has emphasized the crucial need for close collaboration between CWAs and the Ministry of Overseas Pakistani and Human Resource Development, particularly in sharing information related to em-

faced by overseas Paki-stanis during their stay abroad. This comprehensive approach is designed to ensure the well-being and seamless integration of Pakistani expatriates in their respective host countries.

The Ministry of Overseas Pakistani and Human Resource Development reiterates its commitment to spearheading initiatives that fortify global employment prospects for Pakistanis.



ISLAMABAD: A view of traffic jam at due to wrongly parked vehicles alongside of a road the Federal Capital.

Crime prevention, protection of citizen lives, property top priority: CPO

Independent Report

SLAMABAD: The CPO/

ficer said

ment of citizens. Complaints regarding existing DIG Operations Islamabad corruption will be addressed

Sved Shehzad Nadeem A WhatsApp number has been provided for com-Bukhari has categorically directed all police officials plaints about corruption, to maintain high vigilance in misconduct, and inapprothe city to eradicate crimes priate behavior. Citizens' and ensure an effective complaints will be directly crackdown against criminals, a public relations ofaddressed, and action will be taken. Overstepping au-He said that, CPO/ thority will not be toler-DIG Operations Islamabad ated. Protection of citizens' chaired an important meetlives, property, and dignity

paramount. ing regarding crime prevention. The meeting was at-tended by AIGs, SSPs, Zonal DPOs, SDPOs, and All Officers in-charge police stations will remain present in their police sta-Officers In-Charge of all tions. A weekly crime assessment meeting will be held, and penalties will be During the meeting, imposed for any negligence.

the performance of all po-It was further stated lice stations was reviewed. that stringent actions will and officers were directed be taken against kite flying, not to compromise on proaerial firing, one-wheeling, fessionalism. They were

and those involved in mogiven a two-day deadline to torbike thefts. Organized improve performance, and and effective strategies will another meeting will be held afterwards where penalties be implemented to combat crime and apprehend crimiwill be imposed for any nals. Associates and facilishortcomings. Dolphin Squad, motators of criminals will also bile patrol vans, and be arrested. Ensure the swift arrest and prosecucheckposts under the supervision of SDPO's will be mobilized Strict actions will

tion of those involved in motorcycle theft cases. Measures will be taken to be taken against bribery. curb drug trafficking. misconduct, and mistreat-

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