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PM Shehbaz conveys to Biden Pakistan's willingness to work with US for int'l peace, regional prosperity

Says Pakistan attaches high importance to its ties with US; Welcomes ties between two nations on Green Alliance framework; "Both countries working together on various significant initiatives."

ISLAMABAD (INP): Responding to a letter of US President Joe Biden, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that Pakistan desires to work with the United States for the achievement of shared goals of global peace and stability as well as regional progress and prosperity. The premier also said that both countries have been working together on various significant initiatives in energy, climate change, agriculture, health and education sectors.

The cooperation between the two countries on energy sector and Green Alliance framework were welcoming, said the PM. Earlier, the President Biden had addressed a letter to Premier Shehbaz in which he extended felicitation to the new government. He further emphasized upon the "enduring partnership" between the US and Pakistan.

In the first diplomatic correspondence between the US and the new government in Pakistan, Biden had vowed that Washington would "continue to stand with Pakistan" in tackling the "most pressing

global and regional challenges".

The letter also held significance as Islamabad's ties with the White House were strained after the cipher saga and allegation levelled by the former ruling party — Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Biden, in his letter, had written: "The enduring partnership between our nations remains critical to ensuring the security of our people — and people around the world — and the United States will continue to stand with Pakistan to tackle the most pressing global and regional challenges of our time."



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Local Government, Saeed Ghani addresses to media persons during press conference, in Karachi.

PTI made Aseefa Bhutto's victory 'controversial': Saeed Ghani

Says PTI media cell tried to make everything controversial; PTI-backed candidate's nomination papers were rejected.

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Minister for Local Government Saeed Ghani on Sunday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has made victory of President Asif Ali Zardari's daughter, Aseefa Bhutto Zardari, on NA-207 "controversial".

Addressing media persons in Karachi, the provincial minister said the PTI media cell tried to make everything controversial but

they would achieve nothing out of this. Ghani said the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had always been successful on the National Assembly seat in Nawabshah constituency with a big margin.

Even in 2018, when the PTI rose to power in the centre, the PPP won the NA seat from Nawabshah with a big lead, he said.

Iftar dinner for orphan, special children held at Turkish Consulate

KARACHI (APP): Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency TIKA organized an Iftar dinner with 159 orphans and disabled children here Turkish Consulate General with the participation of nearly 20 NGOs.

Abraham Basaran and other NGO representatives were also present on the occasion.

Speaking in the occasion, Governor Kamran Tessori emphasised the importance of taking care of orphans and special children and congratulated the NGOs operating in this regard and thanked Turkiye for bringing together Pakistan's special children at the Iftar program.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah expressed his great honor to participate in the program and thanked the organizers of the program.



PESHAWAR: Activists of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding protest demonstration for release of Imran Khan, Former Prime Minister, at Peshawar press club.

Murad Ali Shah extends warm Easter greetings to Christian community

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah has expressed his greetings to the Christian community in Pakistan, especially Sindh, on Easter. In a message on the occasion of Easter, he said that the people of all religions live with harmony and fraternity in Sindh. He said that Pakistan People's Party believes in coexistence, interfaith harmony and respect for each others' faith and beliefs.

The CM said that Easter is a festival of love, compassion, forgiveness and sharing happiness for all.

PTI to take to streets after Eid for release of party founder: Gohar

PESHAWAR (INP) - PTI on Sunday announced taking to streets for the release of its party founder and former prime minister after Eid.

This was announced by party Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan while addressing a rally in Peshawar. He said that the party founder will be liberated from prison as all cases are political.

Barrister Gohar said that the PTI founder's ideology would win.



KARACHI: Supporters of the religious and political party Jamaat-e-Islami attend Gaza Solidarity Night demonstration against Israeli airstrikes in Gaza, to show solidarity with Palestinian people, in Karachi

IHC judges' letter: Over 300 lawyers urge SC to hear matter under Article 184(3)

ISLAMABAD (INP): More than 300 lawyers belonging to different bar associations across the country have lauded the Islamabad High Court (IHC) judges' "courageous" move to write a letter on spy agencies' alleged interference in judiciary's affairs, calling upon the apex court to hear the matter under Article 184(3) of the Constitution.

On Tuesday, the IHC judges — Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani, Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, Justice Babar Sattar, Justice Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir, and Justice Saman Fafat Imtiaz — wrote the letter to the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), urging the council to convene a judicial convention over the alleged interference of intelligence agencies in judicial affairs.

Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Qazi Faez Isa held a meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and it was decided to constitute an inquiry commission headed by a retired judge of "impeccable integrity" to inquire into the matter, as per official statement.

The letter came a day after the federal cabinet approved the constitution of an inquiry commission led by former chief justice of Pakistan (CJP) Tassaduq Hussain Jilani to probe the allegations of meddling by intelligence agencies in the courts' matter. "We endorse the resolutions passed by the Islamabad High Court Bar Association, the Islamabad Bar Association, the Sindh High Court Bar Association, the Pakistan Bar Council, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Bar Council and the Balochistan Bar Council.

Petrol price goes up by Rs9.66 per litre

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government on Sunday increased the price of petrol by Rs9.66 per litre for the next fortnight in line with a surge in international crude prices.

However, the price of high-speed diesel (HSD) has been slashed by Rs3.32 per litre. The new fuel prices will be effective from April 1, the Finance Division said in a statement. "The price of Petrol (Motor Gasoline) has increased in the international market during the last fortnight, while the price of HSD has marginally declined," it added.

The statement further said the price adjustments are in line with the government's policy of passing on the variations of prices in the international market to the domestic market. "The consumer price of HSD has accordingly been decreased once again, after a downward revision in the middle of March, 2024."

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

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.

He said that the Prime 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



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar is talking to the media at 180H Model Town.

President, PM felicitate Christian Community on Easter

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif have felicitated Christian community on the occasion of Easter which is being celebrated on Sunday. In their 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.

The President reiterated country's commitment to safeguard the rights of minorities and taking measures for their prosperity. The President said festival of Easter brings a message of hope, love and prosperity. Meanwhile, in his message, the Prime Minister while extending heartfelt greetings to Christian

community of Pakistan and around the world, wished all Christian community a happy and peaceful Easter. He reaffirmed the resolve to work for the social uplift and integration of all minorities in Pakistan.

The Prime Minister lauded the immense contributions of our Christian community in struggle for the creation of Pakistan and its socio-economic development. He said much more than festivity and celebration, Easter is an occasion to reinforce and reflect on the values of love, tolerance and forgiveness as espoused by Prophet Isa (AS) and is a reminder to emulate these in our daily lives to bring harmony and peace in today's strife and conflict-ridden world.

Peoples waiting for Registration at the grand Faisal Mosque on Sunday, to start Itikaf during the holy month of Ramadan in Federal Capital.

ISLAMABAD (INP): Peoples waiting for Registration at the grand Faisal Mosque on Sunday, to start Itikaf during the holy month of Ramadan in Federal Capital.

'Crime is part of daily life', insists Sindh home minister as criminals at large in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Terming crime "part of a daily life", Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar has alleged that the issue of law-and-order situation in Karachi — a business hub of Pakistan — is being "exaggerated" in local media.

Contrary to his remarks, the Sindh cabinet, in its maiden meeting on March 13 was informed that nearly 16,000 street crimes had been recorded in the metropolis since January this year. In addition to this, 49 citizens have been killed for resistance in robberies in Karachi since January 1.

Addressing a press conference in the port city on Sunday, Lanjar admitted: "There is an issue of street crime in Karachi." He further said that the situation is not as bad as it was between 2008 to 2013.

On the worsening crime rate in the metropolis, the provincial minister presented a strange logic: "It is a matter of daily life. Crimes happen when the business runs."

He, however, expressed solidarity and sympathy with the families of those who lost their lives in the street crimes. He further said that they are taking measures to put an end to street crimes in Karachi.



SIALKOT: Federal Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif is listening to the public's problems at his residence.

SFD signs agreements for funding two Hydro Power Projects in AJK

ISLAMABAD (INP): A delegation of Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) visited Azad Jammu and Kashmir under the Green Energy Drive and signed agreements for funding two Hydro Power Projects in the area.

The Saudi delegation was headed by the CEO of the Fund, Sultan bin Abdulrahman Al-Marshid. These projects include Shounter Hydro Project and Jagran-4 Hydro Project. The Shounter hydro

project will generate 48 megawatts of electricity at a cost of 66 million dollars while the Jagran-4 hydro project will be completed at a cost of 41 million dollars and will generate 22 MW of electricity.

These two projects will add 70 megawatts to the national grid in hydro-power generation.

It is pertinent to mention that the Special Investment Facilitation Council played a key role in the execution of these agreements.

PTI boycotts Senate elections in Sindh

KARACHI (INP): The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has announced boycott of the Senate elections in Sindh, slated for April 2, citing extensive allegations of electoral fraud.

Addressing a press conference in Karachi on Sunday, PTI leader Haleem Adil Sheikh accused the elections of being tainted by rigging. He pointed out that individuals who purportedly won according to Form 45 were not represented in the Sindh Assembly, insinuating that PTI-backed candidates were unfairly deprived of their rightful victories through manipulation of election results in Form 47.

Sheikh revealed that six PTI-supported candidates were originally slated to contest in the Sindh Senate polls but have now opted to boycott the process. Asserting a critical stance against the current government, Sheikh claimed that the ruling party's legitimacy was dwindling, alleging that despite securing victory in 180 seats during the general elections, many were unjustly snatched away. The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) is poised to secure one of the two Senate seats reserved for women uncontested. Among the PPP candidates vying for Senate seats are Syed Masroor Ahsan, Syed Kazim Ali Shah, Jean Khan Sarfaraz Rajar, Nadeem Ahmed Bhutto, Dost Ali Jessar, Ashraf Ali Jatoti, Samad Ali, Zamir Hussain Ghumro, Poonjo.

Babar Azam returns as Pak captain in white-ball cricket

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Sunday reappointed Babar Azam as national team's captain for T20I and one-day internationals (ODIs).



The decision to change the team's skipper comes ahead of the Green Shirts' five-match T20I series against the New Zealand which will begin from April 18.

"Babar Azam appointed as white-ball captain," the PCB posted on X, formerly Twitter.

"Following unanimous recommendation from the PCB's selection committee, Chairman PCB Mohsin Naqvi has appointed Babar Azam as white-ball (ODI and T20I) captain of the Pakistan men's cricket team."

Babar ended his years-long stint as skipper last November after he stepped down as captain of the national side. The former skipper was under fire for several months after Pakistan failed to perform in the Asia Cup and continued the same momentum into the World Cup — where they crashed out before reaching the semis.

Daily Voice of Masses 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.

"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 Esa, nearing the end of his tenure, chose not to address the complaint filed by six serving judges through the Supreme Judicial Council or by convening a full court of the Supreme Court. Instead, he passed it onto the civilian government, which many perceive as being under the complete influence of the powerful establishment. 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 of 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 before the Supreme Court today (31.03.2024), urging the Court to take responsibility for adjudicating the matter under Article 184(3) of the Constitution. They argued that any government-led commission would lack the necessary independence and authority to properly investigate the

claims. Analysts, jurists, and lawyers have widely criticized the appointment of Tassaduq Hussain Jilani, who served as the 21st Chief Justice of Pakistan from 2013 to 2014, to head the one-man commission tasked with adjudicating the complaint of six judges. Many have deemed this appointment highly inadequate, inappropriate, and out of context, given Jilani's age—barely two years younger than Pakistan itself. They argue that since the complaint directly implicates the executive branch as the culprit, appointing a commission headed by 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 the establishment. These decisions have targeted the incarceration 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 iconic symbol and brand name. Currently, it has been absorbed into an irrelevant and sectarian party, Sunni Ittehad, thereby alienating sympathizers from other sects. The heavy toll this has taken on PTI appears irreversible at this juncture.

The terms of reference assigned to the

commission are notable for their focus on investigating direct involvement of officials in judicial interference and recommending appropriate action against implicated agencies, departments, 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 comprehensively with evidence, witnesses, 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 authority to explore additional matters deemed totally inappropriate.

The analyst and jurists believe that the TORs assigned to 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 complexity of the issue or provide clear guidance on how to address challenges such as fixing re-

sponsibility in the absence of concrete evidence.

Rejecting the Terms of Reference (TORs), analysts and jurists argue the letter written by the six judges transcends mere complaints or allegations. Instead, it 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 establishment use coercive tactics, including intimidation, blackmail, and eavesdropping, to influence bench formations and court decisions aligning with their political and administrative agendas. Furthermore, by openly defying or frustrating court orders that contradict their objectives, the unlawful elements within the establishment undermines the judiciary's independence. The bench sought guidance from the Supreme Judicial Council on defensive measures to safeguard 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 interference faced by the judiciary transcends constitutional boundaries and legal frame-

works. Rather than being categorized as executive interference, it should be characterized as unlawful coercion perpetrated by rogue elements within state institutions. These elements employ illicit means to manipulate and intimidate the judiciary, 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 seeking to subvert the rule of law through coercion and intimidation tactics.

Henceforth, the Terms of Reference (TORs) for the Commission should reflect a proactive approach, beginning with the acknowledgment that unlawful interference with the judiciary has already been substantiated. The Commission should then focus on recommending measures to safeguard the judiciary from undue, unlawful, and blatant interference perpetrated by rogue elements within state security institutions.

Secondly, the Commission should provide practical and actionable recommendations regarding how the lower and higher judiciary can respond effectively to such unlawful interference. These recommendations should empower the judiciary to maintain its independence and integrity in the face of external pressures.

Thirdly, the Commission must address the challenge of fixing responsibility on unlawful elements within the state security apparatus, even in the absence of concrete evidence and witnesses. Given the so-

phisticated techniques employed by these elements to conceal their activities, the Commission should explore 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, whether originating from within state institutions or external non-state actors.

Lastly, the Commission should recommend mechanisms to ensure the implementation of court decisions and prevent their violation or frustration through selective administrative, legal, or illegal means. These measures should reinforce the rule of law and uphold the authority 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 prioritize acknowledging the existing problem and recommending concrete measures to safeguard judicial independence and integrity. By focusing on empowering the judiciary to respond effectively, holding accountable those responsible for interference, and proposing legislative reforms, the proposed TORs offer a robust framework for addressing the challenges at hand.

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 Department of Kyrgyz 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 on a two-week visit to Kyrgyzstan to study the scope of further strengthening bilateral trade and promotion of exports. Kyrgyzstan Trade House (KTH) President Dr Shahid Hassan was also present, according to Meher's spokesman here Sunday. Briefing the Pakistani delegation, Ms Begmatova said that joint ventures would not only cater to Kyrgyz needs but also generate profits of investors with sovereign guarantees. She added, "Our welcoming stance

towards Pakistani entrepreneurs and investors signifies a mutual desire to strengthen economic ties and foster bilateral cooperation by providing ample support and assistance. Kyrgyzstan aims to create an environment conducive to investment and business collaboration."

The emphasis on joint ventures underscores the importance of partnerships that leverage the strengths and resources of both nations, she remarked, citing that collaborative efforts between Pakistani and Kyrgyz businesses hold the potential to tap into diverse markets, capitalize on comparative advantages, and drive economic growth. "Our assurance of facilitating investments in areas of choice reflects Kyrgyzstan's recognition of the importance of encouraging investors especially from Pakistan to take full advantage of

ample opportunities that align with their interests and expertise," she maintained. By offering flexibility and support, Kyrgyzstan seeks to attract diverse investments that contribute to the country's development while also benefiting investors, she added.

Ms Begmatova said the emphasis on garnering profits underscores the pragmatic approach to attract investments that yield tangible returns. By prioritizing profitability, Kyrgyzstan aims to create sustainable partnerships that endure beyond short-term gains and foster long-term economic prosperity. Other Kyrgyz officials Takirov Urmat, Director Centre for Development and Promotion of Exports, Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Tilek Zhumaliyev, Head of the Export Promotion Department, Export Center Asel Turgunbaeva, an expert of the department.

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

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has pointed out that the GDP growth has stood at one percent in the second quarter of the current fiscal year, as the LSM has registered a negative 0.52 percent 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 been due to a massive slash in the credit to the private sector, as the credit to the private sector during July-Jan 2024 plummeted 41 percent to Rs180.7 billion

from Rs393.6 billion for the same period a year before mainly due to high markup rate.

He said that business friendly policies must be adopted as other neighboring countries of the region are giving to trade and industry. The amount 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 chairman said that the high cost of doing business has proved to be dangerous for Pakistan's industry, discouraging investment both in capacity and capability.

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 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.



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

Pak, Canada reiterate to explore economic prospects, skillful manpower

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan and Canada have 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 trade opportunities between Pakistan and

Canada with major focus on export of skilled labour 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.

The Member 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 importance of increasing

trade between the two nations and called for 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.

ICCI delegation visits Embassy of Libya

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Islamabad 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 Libyan ambassador and discussed matters relating to promoting bilateral trade

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 and Pakistan and further cementing them for the mutual benefit of the people of both countries.

KP gov contacts FBR to discuss arrears

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Finance Adviser 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

LAHORE: Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yasin has said that public representatives are in the field to ensure the availability of quality food items at low prices to people.

He said this while presiding over a meeting in the Punjab Assembly Committee Room on 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

upcoming wheat crop situation and the department's preparations. The food minister said that there was 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 ensure their presence in markets across the 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 to the people was the first 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 Stores Corporation (USC) achieved about 80 percent sale target so far 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

on various commodities to masses to alleviate the financial burden of the one 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.

CM Punjab promises ensuring freedom of worship to minorities

Distributes Rs50m among 10,000 Christian families on Easter

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

According to handout issued here on Sunday, she was addressing the Easter ceremony in Sheikhupura. The CM vowed to take a firm stand against any form of hate or prejudice directed towards minorities, affirming her

commitment to safeguarding their rights. She extended heartfelt greetings to the entire Christian community on behalf of PML-N Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. The CM expressed pride in attending a convent school from the age of four until 10th grade. She attributed her personal growth and development not only to her parents but also to the teachers and staff at that school. Maryam Nawaz credited her achievement as the first

female chief minister of any province in the nation's history to her teachers also. She highlighted the 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 father, Nawaz Sharif, had always emphasized the importance of minority rights. She expressed appreciation for the first Sikh minister and congratulated him on his appointment.



MULTAN: Members of Saraikistan Nowjawan Tehreek are holding protest demonstration against closure of Burn Unit since four days.

Governor, CM KP congratulate Christian community on Easter

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali Sunday congratulates the Christian community across the country, especially Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on the festival of Easter here.

Easter is the name of the spirit of love and mutual respect, Governor Haji Ghulam Ali said in a message issued on Sunday. The Christian community has an important role in the development and prosperity of the country, especially Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali added. The services of the Christian community in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in all sectors including the education sector are commendable, Haji Ghulam Ali said. According to the constitution of Pakistan, the personal and religious rights of all minorities, including the Christian community, are fully protected, Haji Ghulam Ali said. "We all have to make Pakistan a cradle of peace and stand among developed countries."



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

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 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 eunuuchs to Governor House, distributed ration

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

It is for the first time 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 Haji Ghulam Ali welcomed hundreds of eunuuchs from across the city to the Governor House. Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Mayor Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali have given Ramadan ration packages to more than three hundred transgender women on this occasion. The three groups of eunuuchs headed by eunuuchs Arezo, Farzana and Subia are present in the Governor House. A Ramadan ration package worth thousands of rupees per person is

being distributed to more than three hundred transgender women. "I will be a voice in the departments responsible for 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 problems of transgenders," said Governor Haji Ghulam Ali. Technical education is very important for transgenders, the 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 through planted extremism. The holy month of

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

In 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 this act of generosity, love

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 Khan.

"The soothing 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 society."

"This act of winning others' hearts and minds brings us closer and develops a tolerant society based on warmth, empathy and mutual coexistence," he

added. Professor Dr Abdul Ghafoor, former Director Sheikh Zayed 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.

He said Father of the Nation, Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's historic address on August 11, 1947 to members of the Constituent Assembly and our 1973 Constitution also enshrine tolerance, unity

and mutual coexistence. "The Quaid had 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 religious scholars of all schools of thought.

"This fatwa provides an umbrella to protect the country from all forms of terrorism, extremism, hatred and violence against fellow Pakistanis," he said.

International News

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, Indonesia, 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 intentionally grounded on a reef 25 years ago.

"Despite efforts to promote stability and security 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 the Philippines, not just the navy, among the agencies supporting the council.

The renamed National 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 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.



Palestinians inspect the damage to a building, following Israeli bombardment, in the Maghazi camp for Palestinian refugees in the central Gaza Strip.

Three UN peacekeepers wounded in Lebanon blast

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-border fire.

Peacekeepers from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) patrol the so-called Blue Line, the border demarcated by the UN in 2000 when Israeli troops pulled out of southern Lebanon. The UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) supports the peacekeeping mission. Three UNTSO "military observers and one Lebanese language assistant on a foot patrol along the Blue Line were injured.

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 capital on Sunday, decrying "autocracy" in protest at the arrest of a senior colleague ahead of general elections.

Arvind Kejriwal, chief 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-to-air 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 Zelenskyy, had asked him to prepare a new aid package, which will include old but still functional French equipment.

"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 (Vehicule de l'Avant Blindé) 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 multi-role troop carrier.

Five more killed in Gaza aid delivery shooting, stampede

Monitoring Desk
GAZA CITY: The Palestine Red Crescent said five people were killed and dozens 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,

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.

Biden wins the North Dakota Democratic primary

Monitoring Desk
BISMARCK: President Joe Biden has won North Dakota's Democratic presidential 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'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 London home, prompting a counter-terrorism 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
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) wrestled control five years ago.

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.

"Istanbul is the jewel,

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 re-run vote by an even greater margin.

2 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 officials said Sunday.

The attack in Lviv destroyed a building and sparked a fire, Gov. Maksym Kozlytskiy 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 19-year-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 energy facility, Gov. Oleh Kiper said. Some 170,000 homes suffered power 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 overnight, 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 Centrengo 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. Power outage schedules were still in place for around 120,000 people in the region, where 700,000 had lost electricity after the plant was hit on March 22.

India subjecting Kashmiris to worst political, cultural, economic aggression: APHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The All Parties Hurriyat Conference has said that India has been subjecting the Kashmiris to the worst political, cultural and economic aggression as well as religious violence for demanding their inalienable right to self-determination.

APHC spokesman Advocate Abdul Rashid Minhas in a statement issued in Srinagar said the people of Kashmir have been rendering sacrifices for their political rights and would continue their struggle till complete success.

Paying tribute to prominent liberation leader Ashfaq Majeed Wani on his martyrdom anniversary, he said the unresolved Kashmir dispute is the root cause of the ongoing killing spree in the territory.

He said the lingering Kashmir dispute has snatched the peace of the Kashmiri people who are constantly living in an uncertain situation in the occupied territory. If Indian leadership sincerely wants peace in Jammu and Kashmir, it should find out the solution to the dispute through parleys with Pakistan and the real representatives of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, he said and added that this should reflect the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

The APHC spokesman said the best way to



KARACHI: Pakistani Muslims arrive the Faizan-e-Madinal Mosque for Itikaf held during the last ten days of Islamic fasting month of Ramadan in Karachi.

MQM-P warns to demonstrate against law and order situation in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) Sunday warned the Sindh government of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) to hold protest demonstrations against the law and order situation in Karachi.

According to detail, MQM-P senior leader and former minister Dr Farooq Sattar MNA has expressed concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in the city.

Dr Farooq Sattar said that hundreds of heinous crime-related incidents including kidnapping and dacoity are happening in the city every day.

He said that the citizens of Karachi have been handed over to bandits as the Sindh government has failed to establish peace across the province. MQM-P leader warned the provincial government that if steps were not taken to establish peace, they would also protest on the streets.

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 upper house of the bicameral parliament, on April 2.

Polling would be held in the National Assembly and all four provincial assemblies from 9 AM to 4 PM.

Ballot papers in four 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 yellow for minority seats.

Additionally, the transportation of election materials to returning officers has been completed.

Returning officers have already issued the final list of the candidates contesting elections on 48 vacant seats of the Senate.

The elections were scheduled for 29 general seats, eight seats for women, nine seats for technocrats/Ulema, and two seats for non-Muslims.

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 are from Punjab's general seats. Similarly, in Balochistan, senators for seven general seats, two women seats, and two Ulema/technocrat seats have won without any opposition.

Mohsin Naqvi felicitates Christian community on Easter

LAHORE (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has felicitated the Christian community on Easter.

In a message here on Sunday, he said Easter is a festival that teaches piety, repentance, peace, love, reconciliation, and salvation, adding that it is more about mere rejoicing.

The Interior Minister said the Christian community is peace-loving and respectable for all of us. Naqvi said Christians played an important role in the Pakistan movement, and they also have a vital role in the development of the country.

Sindh's 5000 years old history teaches love, peace & brotherhood: Zulfiqar

THATTA (INP): Sindh Minister of Tourism, Culture and Antiquities Syed Zulfiqar Ali Shah has said that the 5000 years old history of Sindh has always taught love, peace and brotherhood. He said the tourists and Researchers of abroad will take away a good message from here.

The provincial minister was speaking to media after receiving a 37-member delegation of archeology expert professors and doctors from different universities of Spain led by Prof. Gaimen which visited the historical monument place of Sindh Makli.

Syed Zulfiqar Shah said that the respect, love and affection received by the Spanish delegation was a message to the whole world that Sindh has been the cradle of peace for centuries.

He said that Mohan Jo Daro Airport should be opened so that tourists can easily reach Mohan Jo Daro and other historical places of Sindh.

The provincial minister said that the Spanish delegation has traveled from Islamabad to Mohanjo Daro, Hala, Kot Diji fort, Bhat Shah and Rami fort, Bhat Shah and Rami fort.



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

Home Minister for ensuring foolproof security on the occasion of 'Yom-e-Ali R.A.'

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Home Minister Ziaul Hasan Lanjar on Sunday directed to ensure foolproof security arrangements on the occasion of 'Yom-e-Ali r.a.', 'Yom e AliQudus' and during the last ten days of the holy month of Ramadan.

While issuing directives, he said that the big and small processions of Yom-e-Ali should be fortified with foolproof security.

Lanjar said that policemen should be deployed on the high-rise buildings for the vigilance and security of the processions.

He said that the sweeping and clearance be ensured on the routes of the processions.

The Home Minister said that effective security measures should also be ensured in the Imambargahs and mosques on the day.

He said that security be ensured in the shopping malls in consultation with market associations.

He also directed to deploy policemen in the shopping centres, bachat bazars, super stores, fruit and vegetable markets, industrial zones and areas where business activities were witnessed.

PPP to hold ZA Bhutto death anniversary public meeting after Eid: Nisar Khuhro

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan People's Party Sindh has announced that Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's death anniversary will be observed at district and Taluka level due to the Holy month of Ramadan while public meeting will be organized at Garhi Khuda Bux after Eid-ul-Fitr.

The provincial president of Pakistan People's Party Nisar Ahmed Khuhro said in a statement that the public meeting in connection with ZA Bhutto's martyrdom day will be held at Garhi Khuda Bux on April 14 after Eid.

He asked the party's district and Taluka organizations to organize Quran Khwani and prayer ceremonies in respective areas on April 4 due to the Holy month of Ramadan.

PPP workers and leaders will pay tribute to their party's founder chairman and former Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and other martyrs on April 4 but the major public meeting will be organized on April 14 at Garhi Khuda Bux after the fast-breaking month of Ramadan is over, Nisar Khuhro said.

10 die in rain related incidents

PESHAWAR (Online): In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 10 people including eight children have died while twelve others injured in the rain related incidents in different parts of the province.

According to report released by Provincial Disaster Management Authority today, three houses were completely damaged while twenty-four partially damaged due to building collapses in Peshawar, Nowshera, Bajaur, Shangla, Mansehra, Bannu, Mohmand, Mardan and North Waziristan.

The emergency operation center of PDMA is fully operational round the clock and people can report any untoward incident at helpline 1700.

'specialized force' to tackle street crimes in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): In response to the recent surge in street crime incidents in Karachi, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) has initiated a strategic crackdown, and formed a specialized force to tackle the criminals in the metropolis.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh, Ghulam Nabi Memon, convened a high-level meeting with the city's top police officers.

During the meeting, IGP Memon strategically allocated the responsibility of handling the most critical cases to a team of 67 officers from Karachi's police force with a total of 60 officers will be deployed from various districts, along with seven elite members from the SIU.

Among the key directives issued by IG Memon, the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) has been entrusted with the task of apprehending the suspects in the robbery-resistance murder case after which the murder on resisting robbery will automatically be transferred to SIU.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Adeel Chandio has been assigned an important role in leading the charge against the culprits.

IG Memon has underscored the importance of resolving cases within a timely framework, each investigating officer is slated to handle between 10 to 12 cases concurrently, to expedite the investigative process and bring perpetrators to justice without undue delay.

PTI's leader Marwat slams cabinet's verdict on judicial allegations

PESHAWAR (INP): Sher Afzal Marwat, a prominent figure from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has voiced criticism against the federal cabinet's swift decision-making process concerning allegations before proper investigation.

Speaking on a local TV program, Marwat expressed concerns over the perceived haste in dismissing allegations without a thorough probe.

Marwat referenced the commission inquiry report, led by retired judges, labeling it as "lifeless" akin to previous controversies like the sugar scandal.

He highlighted the gravity of a letter penned by six judges, signaling a serious issue within Pakistan's judicial landscape. The letter reportedly shed light on the judges' predicament, addressing concerns to then-Chief Justice Atta Bandial and Senior Judge Qazi Faiz Isa.

However, Marwat lamented the lack of decisive action by the Supreme Court, urging Prime Minister Nazir Tarar to uphold judicial independence.

Meanwhile, PTI spokesperson Rauf Hasan, speaking on Arwa News, acknowledged the gravity of the allegations raised by the six judges. Hasan stressed the role of the Supreme Judicial Council in conducting inquiries and issuing verdicts in such cases.



HYDERABAD: Awami Workers Party women are demonstrating for the recovery of Priya Kumari at outside the Hyderabad press club.

Poverty line hits 110 million in Pak: Zubair

KARACHI (INP): Former Sindh Governor and prominent leader of the Muslim League-N, Muhammad Zubair, voiced grave concerns over Pakistan's economic condition. According to Zubair, the number of individuals living below the poverty line has surged to 110 million, while the count of unemployed citizens has surpassed 20 million.

In his statement, Zubair highlighted Pakistan's recurring reliance on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for financial assistance, labeling it a "world record" as the country prepares to enter its 24th IMF program. He emphasized that while the elite class remains largely unaffected by these programs, it is the common people who bear the brunt of the economic burden.

Expressing dissatisfaction with the current political landscape, Zubair hinted at the need for a new political entity, citing controversies surrounding the major political parties. He also criticized the decision to bring in a finance minister from outside the ruling party, stating that it undermines accountability.

Zubair, who clarified that he is not actively involved in the decision-making process of his party, expressed concerns about the narrative of integrity in politics.

He lamented the lack of attention given to crucial ministries such as Foreign Affairs, stressing their potential to attract significant investments into the country.



LARKANA: Residents of Faisal Colony are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of Waleed Police Station, at Larkana press club.

Kite flying, strings sale banned for 2 months to save lives in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Karachi Commissioner Muhammad Saleem Rajput has imposed a two-month ban on kite-flying as a preventive measure to tragic incidents related to deadly loose kite strings and ensure the safety of citizens.

According to private news channel, the commissioner said that Under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), the production, sale, and operation of kites have been prohibited throughout the city from March 30 to May 29.

He said this decision was made in response to the use of hazardous metal strings during kite flying, posing significant risks to the safety of citizens.

The commissioner said that eight people have been injured so far due to kite flying accidents. Recent incidents of injuries caused by kite-flying metal strings have prompted authorities to enforce the ban.

"Kite-flying can prove extremely dangerous for citizens, and this step has been taken to safeguard the valuable lives of citizens," the commissioner said.

Robbers deprive fruit vendor of Rs60,000 cash, cell phones

KARACHI (INP): Two including a female robber deprived fruit vendor of thousands of rupees cash and two cell phones at gunpoint here on Sunday.

According to details, a couple purchased melon from fruit vendor Nehmatullah in North Nazimabad, Gulberg police station jurisdiction and handed over Rs5000 note against Rs680.

However, excusing the high price of melon, the couple asked to return back the money.

As soon, other customer left the scene, the woman took out pistol from her purse, took the fruit vendor hostage and took away Rs60,000 cash and two cell phones.



LARKANA: IBA passed candidates are holding protest demonstration for demanding appointment letters, at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

Workers union demands payment of unpaid salaries, pensions before Eid

HYDERABAD (APP): The Mehran Workers Union of Hyderabad Development Authority (HDA) has deplored that only 6 working days are left in Eidul Fitr but the employees of HDA and its wings are yet to receive their current and previous salaries and pensions.

In a statement issued here on Sunday the union's General Secretary Muhammad Aslam Abbassi claimed that the HDA had to pay 5 unpaid salaries to the staff of the authority and 7 unpaid salaries to the workers of its subsidiary Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA).

According to him, the administration of the HDA was still giving false hopes to the employees that they would be paid salaries before Eid. He said the authority was waiting for a financial grant from the Sindh Government.

He demanded that instead of waiting for the provincial government the HDA should utilize its own resources to pay its employees while waiting for the government's bailout.

Five policemen injured in Shikarpur dacoits attack

SHIKARPUR (INP): At least five policemen were injured as the dacoits attacked a police mobile in Shikarpur.

According to police spokesperson, the dacoit gang attacked police with rocket launchers and opened fire on the police mobile when they were on routine duty.

Police officials stated that five cops identified as Yousaf Waheed, Mohsin Jansar, Akhtar and others were injured in the attack where the two cops were shifted to hospital in critical condition.

On October 11, five policemen including SHO Mehboob Broi, Head Muharrar, Naseem, Constable, Jan Muhammad, Constable, Ayaz and Muhammad Ali, the son of SHO, were abducted along with weapons by bandits in the Kot Shahu area. The abductees were recovered in a joint operation of police and Rangers in Abdul Haq Badani village located in Khanpur Tehsil of Shikarpur.

The DIG Larkana further said the operation was underway for the arrest of the bandits who fled the area. The then Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar also took serious note of the kidnapping of six policemen, including the SHO of Kot Shahu police.

Two kidnapped persons were released from the clutches of Kidnappers

SHIKARPUR: Two kidnapped persons were released from the clutches of Kidnappers in two separate targeted operations in the jurisdiction of Naparkot Police Station on Sunday.

According to reports, two persons identified as Abdul Karim Chachar and Ghulam Yaseen Mirani were safely released from the clutches of Kidnappers by conducting targeted operations in various hideouts of the kidnappers in the Katcha area of Garhi Togh.

Sindh Agriculture University Tandojam, ITC signs MoU to introduce undergraduate degree programme

HYDERABAD (APP): In a bid to bolster Pakistan's agricultural exports, meet international standards, and address concerns in the global market, Sindh Agriculture University (SAU), Tandojam, and the International Trade Center (ITC) have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to introduce an undergraduate degree programme.

The primary aim of this initiative is to provide comprehensive training to youth, ensuring that the quality and safety of local agriculture and its by-products meet global standards, while a state-of-the-art testing laboratory will be established at Sindh Agriculture University.

The signing ceremony of the agreement between the Vice Chancellor of Sindh Agriculture University, Dr. Fateh Marri, and the ITC Provincial Lead, Rizwan Tariq, was held in the Senate Hall of the University on Friday.