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



ISLAMABAD (APP): portance to its ties with

had been working to-Minister gether on various signifi-Muhammad Shehbaz cant initiatives in energy, Sharif has said that Paki- climate change, agriculstan attached high im- ture, health and educa-

The cooperation

ing, PM Office Media Wing, in a press release on Sunday, quoted the 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 Respond to a letter between the two coun-of US President Joe tries on energy sector the "enduring partner-Biden, the prime minister and Green Alliance ship" between the US

small financial assistance.

wants that any zakat or

khairat taking person this

vear may include in the

list of the zakat giving

persons next year then one should be helped to

start one's own small busi-

assistance to the deserving

people to start their own

business, we can save them

and their families from

seeking zakat and khairat

from others, he believed

adding that this would en-

able them to make their

Balochistan

CM's victory

in election

challenged

in tribunal

Gohram Bugti has chal-

lenged Balochistan Chief Minister Sarfaraz Bugti's

election victory in tribunal.

petition questioned, how

could Sarfaraz Bugti be al-

lowed to contest election

Assembly's constituency

PB-10 (Dera Bugti). "As a

minister of the caretaker

cabinet, he could not con-

test the election,", peti-

tion, Sarfaraz Bugti got

posting of his favorite poll-

ing staff, resigned from cabi-

net and contested the elec-

votes with 80 to 99 percent

ratio in the election and this

ratio of vote casting is im-

possible in any election," he

According to the peti-

"In papers he bagged

tioner argued.

Gohram Bugti in his

Balochistan

SLAMABAD (INP): Jamhoori Watan Party's

both ends meet.

By extending financial

He said that if one



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

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

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has exhorted the philanthropists of the province to give their zakat and Sadqat to the poor orphans, widows, patients and those students who can't afford to pay their fees.

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

Addressing to the philanthropists, the Governor said that they should pro-

vide financial assistance to the deserving relatives and neighbors not to those who are unknown to them or those unregistered institutions as this trend can be disastrous for us. While giving dona-

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

necessary to give right to the rightful persons. The Governor said

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



OUETTA: MPA Mir Asadullah Baloch shaking hand with Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali

ECP issues final list of 59 candidates for Senate elections

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has published a final list of candidates vying for the Senate election for the vacant 48 seats which will be held on

Overall 59 candidates are vying for 48 seats while it is pertinent to mention in Punjab, and 2 seats in the

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Christian

community of Quetta cel-

ebrated the Easter festival

with religious respect and

enthusiasm in the metropo-

gatherings were held at dif-

ferent churches located in

the metropolis with large

number of people from

While the big religious

Elections will be held on 12 seats in Sindh, 5 seats

Special arrangements made in Quetta:

Christian community celebrates

tival at their homes.

Such main gathering

Church, Zarghoon road

held. A large number of

unopposed. However, the Senate election on 11 seats of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was in jeopardy, while the election on the remaining 30 Senate seats will be held on

that out of 48 seats, 18 can-federal capital Islamabad.

Easter with religious enthusiasm Christian community par- men, women and children ticipated in them, the famiwearing new clothes and lies also celebrated the fesdresses participated in the

special service. Special security aron eve of the Easter was rangements were made by held at the Methodist the police in and around the churches to prevent any where special service was untoward incident.

Meanwhile. people belonging to Christian community including people exchanged greetings of Easter with each other.



about the health of Harnai blast victims.

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

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

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Min-

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

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

Bugti expressed best wishes for the injured besides praying for their early recovery.
The Chief Minister

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

He vowed that the ter-

rorists would be taken to He expressed satisfac-

tion over provision of better facilities of medical treatment to the injured. It may be mentioned here that the injured persons of Harnai blast were being provided medical

treatment in the hospital. The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has extended greetings of Easter to the Christian community.

In a felicitation message issued here on eve of the Easter celebrations on Sunday, the Chief Minister said that we equally share joys of Easter with the

Christian community. He said that Easter expresses promotion of social harmony.

Bugti referred the role of Christian community in economic development of the province and country saying that the role played in economic development by the Christians can't be forgotten. The Chief Minister said that Pakistan is a beautiful bouquet of differ-

ent cultures and beliefs. He said that the Con stitution of Pakistan has provided complete protection to the rights of religious minorities.

The provincial government also ensures religious freedom and protection to all the minorities including Christian community in the province, he mentioned adding that on this day, we once again reiterates our resolve to work for social development and



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

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

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

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

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

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

pletely damaged and 24 houses were partially damaged, the PDMA report

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.



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

Two policemen shot dead in Naushehro, Ghotki

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

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

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

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

Millions of **Pakistanis** observe Itikaaf ISLAMABAD (INP): Just

like other parts of the world, millions of Muslims in Pakistan also entered a state of seclusion known as 'Itikaaf", following the Asr

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

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

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

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

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

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

The government has accordingly decided to revise 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.



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

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

Says Govt committed to ensuring equal rights for Christians

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister Shehbaz Sharif Minister for Information gave short, medium and long and Broadcasting Attaullah term targets to all ministries Tarar said on Sunday that all ministries had been given targets aimed at overcoming challenges facing the

In a press conference at the PML-N's Secretariat here, he said that in

the people. "The Cabinet consist of experienced people, youths, seasoned politicians and technocrats," he added.

Continued on page 2

Indian Air Force admits incapability in Brahmos Missile technology

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

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

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

Revealed in a report filed in the Delhi High



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

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

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

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

He asked the state to

review it's decision in this regard as such a behavior with people of Gwadar is sorrowful He said that we would

allow anyone to dislocate the local people of Gwadar from anywhere. He said that the gov-

He said that the BNP and it's leadership has always voiced for the issues of the province including recovery of the missing persons and we are proud of Sardar Akhtar

ernment has the funds for

fencing in Gwadar, but

doesn't have the same for

would defend rights of the

people and their land at ev-

people of Balochistan

should be given right on

want such development at

the cost of our identity, cul-

ture, language and rights.

their land and resources.

ery front.

He said that BNP

He stressed that the

He said that we don't

the rain affected people.

PCB chief reappoints Babar Azam as team's captain for T20 and ODI matches

that Shaheen Shah Âfridi

was the favorite candidate

change the team's skipper

comes ahead of the Green

Shirt's five-match T20I se-

ries against the New

Zealand which will begin

from April 18. Babar ended

his years-long stint as skip-

per last November after he

stepped down as captain of

The former skipper

the national side.

The PCB decision to

national cricket team.

kistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Sunday reappointed Babar Azam as national team's captain for T20 and one-day internationals (ODIs) matches.

Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman and Interior Minister Syed Mohsin Naqvi appointed Baber Azam as captain on the recommendation of Selection

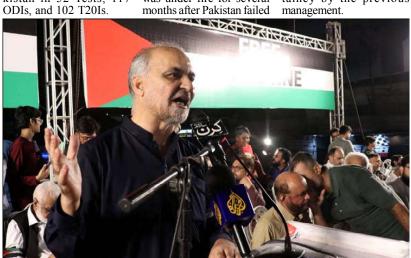
Baber Azam had quit the captaincy of Pakistan cricket team in November

Under the captaincy of Babar Azam, Pakistan won 42 matches and lost 23. Babar represented Pakistan in 52 Tests, 117

Earlier, Baber Azam, to perform in the Asia Cup Shaheen Shah Afridi and and continued the same Shan Masood were in the momentum into the World race to become the captain Cup — where they crashed of one day and T20 formats. out before reaching the There were reports

Babar, 29, was previously appointed whiteto become the captain of ball captain in 2019 and as Test skipper in 2020, but the Green Shirts have not won any ICC or Asia Cup titles under his lead-

Following this, the PCB under Zaka Ashraf appointed Shaheen Shah Afridi as white-ball captain after the team's drubbing in the ICC World Cup 2023. Meanwhile, Shan Masood was given the red-ball capwas under fire for several taincy by the previous



KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman addresses during rally against Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Shahrah-e-Quaideen in Karachi.

13 dead, 1308 injured in 1207 road accidents in Punjab

Independent Report LAHORE: At least thirteen persons were killed and 1308 injured in 1207 Road Traffic Crashes (RTCs) in all 37 districts of Punjab during the last 24 hours. Out of these, 577 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 731 victims with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by Rescue Medical Teams thus reducing the burden of Hosand 75 victims.

pitals. Furthermore, the analysis showed those 698 drivers, 42 underage drivers, 164 pedestrians, and 459 passengers were among the victims of road traffic crashes. The statistics show that 287 RTCs were reported in Lahore which affected 336 persons placing the Provincial Capital at top of the list followed by Faisalabad 86 in with 99 victims and at third Gujranwala with 82 RTCs

4 outlaws held, arms, drugs recovered in DI Khan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN APP): The district police have arrested four outlaws recovering illegal arms and drugs from their possession during different operations, said police spokesman on Sun-

He said that the police was taking indiscriminate actions against all crimes on the instructions of District Police Officer (DPO) Nasir

Ministries given targets..

Continued from page 1

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 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

interventions. "Reducing trade deficit, promoting vocational training, increasin 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. "Meetings were held related to the security of the Chinese and how to take preemptive action to curb terrorism on the basis of intelligence information," Attaullah Tarar said and added that coordibe checked in this regard on the same pattern on which National Action Plan implementation had been super-

formation Minister said that steps had been taken for making laws for the proing forex, boosting exports tection of minorities and an eportal would be made for passed laws in the country.

He said that till September 2024, a report related to human rights would be prepared and targets related to implementation of laws would also be checked

About targets of the Ministry of Industries. Attaullah Tarar said that a target had been given related to Industrial Development Regulatory Authority and promotion of ship breaking industry. He said that in Pakistan, the minerals sector had a lot of potential, adding that a target related to exploration of minerals and their export had also been given. He said that a target had been given with regard to ease of doing business besides a target to denation between the Centre vise trade and bilateral trade and provinces would also agreements with friendly countries. He said that the Trade Ministry had been asked to bring National Trade Policy in the cabinet vised. Regarding targets of the Law ministry, the Inproved.



cash award to DIG Quetta Abdul Hayee Baloch on best performance in Azizullal

Envoy Hashmi visits Guangdong province to enhance ties

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan tural, academic and most Ambassador to China, Khalil Hashmi paid an official visit to Shenzhen and Guangzhou in the Guangdong province of China to enhance political, cultural, academic, trade and investment ties with the two cities. This was Ambassador's inaugural visit to the province since assuming office. Ambassador's visit was scheduled to overlap with the closing ceremony of the year-long Gandhara Art Exhibition, jointly organized by Pakistan and

During the visit, Ambassador Hashmi had diverse engagements meant to enhance relations with the two major cities on a po-

eral Secretary of Pakistan

People's Party Central

Punjab, urged all political

parties to prioritize elec-

toral reforms, citing recur-

ring allegations of election

rigging leading to the emer-

gence of "puppet" leaders

held on Sunday, he empha-

sized the need to block all

avenues of election fraud to

uphold the integrity of the

electoral process. Address-

ing concerns over corrup-

tion in judicial matters, he

demanded the formation of

a parliamentary commis-

sion to prevent interference.

In a press conference

every decade

PPP leader calls for

electoral reforms

LAHORE (APP): Syed asserting that such actions

Hasan Murtaza, the Gen- are essential to silence

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Local Government,

Saeed Ghani addresses to media persons during

Corps Commander Lahore

extends solidarity to Christian

community on Easter

LAHORE (INP): Corps tween different faiths. He

importantly trade and investment ties.

On the political level, Ambassador Hashmi was received by Meng Fanli, Communist Party's top leader in Shenzhen and by Sun Zhiyang, Mayor of Guangzhou city. In both these meetings, Ambassador paid tribute to the cities' stellar economic performance in the past four decades and briefed them about the investment landscape of Pakistan and opportunities for investors from Guangdong to invest in diverse sectors.

Both the Chinese leaders noted with satisfaction the growing ties between Pakistan and the respective litical level, as well as culcities, including through the

voices of electoral theft and

uphold democratic prin-

toral setbacks, Murtaza an-

nounced the formation of a

fact-finding committee to

investigate the defeat in

NA-127, promising to pub-

lish a white paper on the

2024 elections. He ex-

pressed optimism about

the party's increased vote

bank and discussed various

party matters, extending

congratulations to Presi-

dent Asif Ali Zardari on his

re-election and Easter greet-

ings to the Christian com-

Regarding recent elec-

presence of increasing number of Pakistani students and expressed the desire to further enhance economic ties. The meetings saw a consensus to enhance cooperation in priority sectors through establishment of

institutional mechanisms. On the cultural front, Ambassador Hashmi attended the closing ceremony of Gandhara Art Exhibition, where he delivered remarks highlighting the importance of such initiatives in longstanding ties between Pakistan and China. On the sidelines, he also met Wang Xudong, Director of Palace Museum, where both sides positively noted the successful culmination of the

Youm-e-Ali: **Educational** institutes in Sindh to

on April 1 KARACHI (Online): The Sindh government anprovince will remain closed on April 1 (Monday) on

According to a notifi-cation issued by the government, all the public and private educational institutes in Sindh will remain closed on Monday. "With the approval of competent authority as per decision taken in the meeting of the Sub Committee.

Indian Air..

Continued from page 1

Court, the IAF detailed findings from a Court of Inquiry, attributing the incident to a failure in ensuring the disconnection of combat connectors before a

Describing the incident as impacting India-Pakistan relations, the IAF invoked the "President's pleasure" clause to terminate three officials, citing violations of Combat op

In response to a petition by Wing Commander Abhinav Sharma, the IAF refuted allegations against Air Commodore JT Kurien, deeming them base-

The IAF also denied Sharma's claim of being unopment. Highlighting the able to prevent the missile firing, stating that all actions

The Court of Inquiry, involving 16 witnesses, blamed Group Captain Saurabh Gupta, Squadron Leader Pranjal Singh, and Sharma for various oversights leading to the missile

remain closed

nounced on Sunday that all educational institutes in the account of Youm-e-Ali.

road convoy's movement.

less and lacking evidence.

Christian community on occurred in his presence.

launch.

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

According to a press release, Eid git sets were distributed among orphan and special children in the program attended by Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori and the Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah.

The Consul General of Turkiye in Karachi Cemal Songu and TIKAs Karachi Coordinator Hilil Ibrahim 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

Γurkish Consul General Cenal Sangu said he was very pleased to host the Iftar program held with most beautiful children of Karachi. This sacred month challenges us to live by the highest moral standards and extend compassion, love,

tolerance and help to those

in need, he added. TIKA coordinator Halil Ibrahim Basaran stated that NGOs have an important place in social development and that would be incomplete without NGOs and thanked them for participating in the program. The iftar program ended with the distribution of Eid gift sets by the Sindh Chief Minister and the Sindh Governor.

Iftar programs were organized for a total of 500 orphans and special children in Islamabad and Sindh province. Eid sets were also gifted to 500 children who attended the Iftar programs, bringing smiles to the faces of the beautiful children. TIKA served Ramazan tables by providing food aid to a total of 2000 families in the cities Islamabad



QUETTA: Chairman BNP-Awami Mir Asadullah **Baloch meeting with Chief Executive Officer** QESCO Shafqat Ali.

Afirdi assures support to re-appointed skipper Babar

LAHORE (APP): Former and he will always cherish T20I captain Shaheen Shah Afridi has said that he has great respect for the re-appointed captain Babar Azam and he is duty-bound to support him for the com-

mon goals of green shirts. The Pakistan Cricket announced Babar Azam as of the Pakistan Men's national Cricket team. Babar has already led Pakistan in 43 ODIs and 71 T20Is be-

tween 2019 and 2023. "As a team player, it is my duty to back our captain, Babar Azam. I have played under his captaincy and have nothing but respect for him. I will try to help him on and off the field. We are all one. Our aim is the same, to help Pakistan become the best team in the world," Shaheen said in a statement issued by the PCB here. On his short captaincy stint, the ace bowler said

It was an absolute honour to captain the Pakistan National Cricket Team

the memories and the opportunity.

The newly-appointed skipper Babar Azam, acknowledging Shaheen Afridi's talents, said it was a pleasure to play under Shaheen's leadership in the Board (PCB) on Sunday recent T20I series, adding Afridi is still young and is the new white-ball captain improving as a player and as a leader every day.

'As a captain, I have always valued his input and I will keep consulting him for important decisions going forward. We must take advantage of his strategic understanding of the game. Our joint aim is to make this team the best in the world," Babar reposed confidence in the Pakistan's ace fast bowler. Justifying overhauling the white-ball leadership, the PCB termed it a strategic move aimed at ensuring player well-being and peak performance, and hoped Babar, renowned for his brilliant batting record in international cricket will take over the captaincy from Shaheen Shah Afridi



Methodist Church during Easter celebration.

IGP Sindh warns Police officers of suspension over non-registration of FIR KARACHI (APP): The came under the discussion

Inspector General of Police (IĜP) Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon on Sunday warned the Police officers of suspension over the delaying tactics and denial of registration of First Information Reports (FIRs) of complainants.

While presiding over an important meeting here at the Central Police Office (CPO) Karachi, he said that Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs), Station House Officers (SHOs), SOs, and duty officers would be suspended over the non-compliance of registration complainants

The law and order situation in the metropolis, acand street criminals also

in the meeting.
Ghulam Nabi Memon

said that the Police officers concerned would visit the homes of injured or killed victims, who resisted during the robbery and would offer condolences with the bereaved families. The IGP further said that he himself would also visit the homes of the victims.

He said that SIU would arrest the culprits involved in the killing during the robbery while 67 best police officers of Karachi had been tasked to deal with culprits involved in important cases.

The IGP said that they would have to collectively work as a team tions against street crime against the criminals to

bonds of friendship bebility of the nation. **CPEC – A business-friendly regime for sustainable growth**

Pak-China Economic Corridor (CPEC) entering second phase, the local people expect rise of pro-business regime with hopes of making the multi-billion CPEC, a vehicle for sustainable development.

Now even the local people and among those who once used to resist this project, start thinking it as a game changing project that once completed would definitely have dividends for the local people.

Even the past critic and now an MPA from the port city of Gawadar, Hidayat-ur-Rehman also hope for making CPEC project, a vehicle for reinvigorating province's

Overall economic recession coupled with other issues affected the pace of the project that caused rise of Rights movement led by an ordinary fisherman Hidayat-ur-Rehman who rose to fame and finally got elected MPA from Gwadar.

"The local people, fearing to becoming minority resisted the project while those at the helm of

pleted, the local population will be main beneficiary of the project," Hadayat-urpresent government has of common Balochistan in-

Getting fame from rigid stance on CPEC and elected MPA from Gwadar, Hidayat-ur-Rehman when questioned on his approach, replied, "I am not against CPEC but the discrimination. When a project worth billions is launched in Gwadar, it should also benefit local people."

"I have no objection, if Chinese government, its companies and our government continues with CPEC. The only demand I present is to ensure that rights of local people are not comlocal population is deprived of basic civic amenities like education, health, drinking water, uninterrupted power, vocational APP. training and jobs, then why people of Gwadar will not

raise voice for their rights."

Launched back in

nomic Corridor is a flagship project of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that has sig-Rehman remarked. "The nificantly impacted Pakistan over past one and half given us a promising hope decade. It is a framework that CPEC will improve life of regional connectivity which will not only benefit China and Pakistan but Iran, Afghanistan, Central Asian Republic and the re-

Since onset, the multibillion dollar CPEC project witnessed ups and down due to internally changing political scenario as well as external interference and hatching of conspiracies by hostile forces to derail the project and make it contro-

"The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) represents a watershed moment for Balochistan, offering unprecedented oppromised," he argued. "If portunities for development and integration into global economy," Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti informed

"Balochistan's role in CPEC, particularly through the development of local community, civil so-Gwadar Port, is central to ciety and our partners in

QUETTA (APP): :With affairs believed once com- 2006, China-Pakistan Eco- our vision for province's future," the Chief Minister said. "This project is not just about infrastructure; it's about opening doors to international trade, creating jobs and fostering economic activities to transform socio-economic landscape of Balochistan.'

Commander Lahore Lieu-

tenant General Sved Amir

Raza paid on Sunday a visit

to St. Mary Magdalene

Church Lahore Cantt to ex-

press solidarity with the

Christian community on

the auspicious occasion of

Easter. Amidst the joyous

Easter ceremony, Corps

Commander Lahore took

part in various rituals, in-

cluding cutting the Easter

cake, symbolizing the

shared celebrations and

Terming uplift of Gwadar as top priority of his government, Chief Minister Bugti said, "we are committed to ensuring that CPEC becomes a vehicle for sustainable development, ameliorate lot of our people and respect for our natural and cultural heritage."

"The challenges we face are significant, but opportunities presented by CPEC give us reasons for optimism," Balochistan Bugti remarked. "Our administration is

dedicated to making Balochistan a model of inclusive development, where every citizen can benefit from the province's natural wealth and strategic position," the Chief Minister said. "We are engaging with

China to ensure that development under CPEC is equitable and sustainable.' Meanwhile, officials of Ministry of Planning

Development and Special

conveyed warm wishes to

the Christian community,

emphasizing their invalu-

able contributions to the

nation's defense and devel-

indelible mark left by the

the fabric of Pakistan, Lieu-

tenant General Syed Amir

Raza lauded their unwaver-

ing commitment and sacri-

fices. He underscored the

pivotal role they played in

the establishment and sta-

Initiatives also expressed belief that CPEC would prove to be a journey toeconomic regionalization in this globalized world. It is also a hope of better future of our people and those in this re-

Chairman Standing Committee on Petroleum Senator Mohammad Abdul Qadir was also optimistic about the success of CPEC projects and will of the government for its early completion.

"PML-N is known for pro-development and

business friendly initiatives and hence they own CPEC. I foresee CPEC flourishing and becoming center of attention in coming days," the Senator said and stressed setting up industrial zones.

The journey is com

Establishing industrial zones is important and the government is keenly working on their development," Abdul Qadir said. "With functioning of for-

eign industries, the local in dustry will also flourish making the government save billions of rupees in terms of transportation."

He also underlined the need for provision of power, water and security to make the CPEC a suc-

The escalation of pace on CPEC projects, making locals beneficiary of project's outcome and enhancement of co-operation by win-win model will definitely result in well-connected, integrated region of shared destiny, harmony and development.

plex, but our resolve is unwavering. Together, we, with the support of our Chinese friends and hard work of our people, can lay a foundation for a vibrant and economically strong Balochistan. If the new set up diligently pursue commitments of the government made to its international partners and forge ahead on a journey to progress, then the days will not be far off that Balochistan stands tall and proud on the world stage.



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.

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

Paying tribute to prominent liberation leader Ashfaq Majeed Wani on his martyrdom anniversary, he said the unresolved Kash-

mir dispute is the root

struggle till complete suc-

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

The APHC spokesman said the best way to pay homage to the martyrs is that Kashmiris should reaffirm the pledge in this blessed month of Ramazan that they will never allow

anyone to compromise on the blood of the martyrs. He said it is the result of the great sacrifices of the martyrs that the Kashmir dispute has become the center of attention at the global level.

Advocate Rashid Minhas said the Indian Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) regime and its sponsored so-called Chairperson of Waqf Board Darakhshan Andrabi in the occupied territory are trying to interfere in the religious affairs of Kashmiri Muslims.

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): equality and religious free-minorities in Pakistan. Like other parts of the world, Christian community members across Pakistan celebrated Easter on that all the communities around the world, on the Sunday with prayers to c o m m e m o r a t e social and e Christianity's religious oci in Pakistan.

emonies were arranged in for Pakistan," he said, adddifferent 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.

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-

dom enshrined in the con-

The president said social and economic rights

'The Christian com-Special prayer cer- munity is a precious asset than festivity and celebraing that Easter was an occasion that brought a message of hope, affection and prosperity, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

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

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

For the country's progress and prosperity, entire nation including minorities would have to col-richment in our nation, let lectively work together, he

Muhammad Shehbaz

"I extend my heartful greetings to the Christian community of Pakistan and enjoyed religious, political, occasion of Easter," the prime minister said in a

message.

He said much more tion, 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 Appreciating the lives to bring harmony and peace in today's strife and 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 enus join hands towards building a society that is In a separate message tolerant and cohesive and on Sunday, Prime Minister together defeat the forces of discord that are trying to Sharif reaffirmed the resolve to work for the social up-



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 separate themselves from others within their homes to devote themselves to prayers.

Itikaaf means "devotion to a thing and sticking to

Mosques have made special arrangements to accommodate 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

including print, electronic

media, twitter, Facebook,

poster and pamphlets to

create an awareness among

the citizens about a safe

ment has also asked all the

divisional superintendents

to ensure checking of lug-

gage of passengers at entry

points with scanners, metal

detectors and walkthrough

ways had always given im-

portance to the safety of

citizens and its passengers.

to discourage and stop

those passengers who are

carrying prohibited prod-

He said Pakistan Rail-

"It has been directed

He said the depart-

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

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

arrested; drugs and weapons recovered **Independent Report**

20 outlaws

SLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police apprehended 20 outlaws including 12 professional beggars from different areas of the city during the last 24 hours and recovered drugs and weapa public relations officer said.

He said that, the Islamabad Capital Police has intensified crackdown against the criminal elements in order to eliminate the crime from the city. Following these direc-

tions, the Aabpara police team arrested two accused namely Faheem Akram and Agib Masih and recovered four bottles of liquor and one 30 bore pistol from their possession. The Khanna police team arrested two accused namely Ali Sharjeel and Rizwan Nawaz and recovered 328 gram heroin and one 30 bore pistol from their possession. Similarly, the Phulgran police team arrested an accused namely

Ali Raza and recovered 210 gram heroin from his possession. The Bhara Kahu police team arrested an accused namely Wasif and recovered 1060 gram hashish from his possession. Moreover, the Nilore police team arrested an accused namely Khizer involved in illegally selling petrol. Cases have been registered against the

nabbed accused and further

investigation is underway.

ISLAMABAD (APP): ceremony, the youth im-The youth of North mersed themselves in patriof national pride

Waziristan, sponsored by the Pakistan Army, recently embarked on a tour of Lahore and Islamabad to explore recreational and educational sites. This initiative, part of

Youth from North Waziristan

embark on educational tour

of Lahore and Islamabad

the "Ilm Tolo Da Para" (Education for All) program, aims to promote education awareness among the youth of North Waziristan.

In Lahore, the youth visited iconic landmarks such as the Wagah Border, Minar-e-Pakistan, Mazari-Iqbal, Badshahi Masjid, and Shahi Fort. At the Wagah Border future visits.

otic fervor, echoing slogans In Islamabad, they

toured the Pakistan Mu-seum of Natural History, Pakistan Monument Museum, Lok Virsa Museum, and Lake View Park. At Lok Virsa and Pa-

kistan Monument, they learned about the sacrifices made during the freedom movement, deepening their appreciation for Pakistan's

The youth expressed gratitude to the Pakistan Army for the opportunity and expressed eagerness for

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Political experts and analysts have said the Modi-led fascist Indian government is using brutal tactics to muzzle the press in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and compel Kashmiri journalists to become a mouthpiece of occupation forces and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) regime.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the political experts and analysts in their interviews and statements in Srinagar pointed 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 political experts and analysts noted that journalists continue to work in the most trying conditions in HOJK and that a number of journalists have been killed and scores injured since 1989 in the

They said the RSSaligned Indian media's biased reporting on IIOJK is evident from its fabricated, false news stories about the freedom Kashmiris' struggle. they said BJP-influenced Indian media is 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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Deputy Speaker Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah have extended warm felicitations to the Christian Members of the Parliament and the Christian community on the occasion of Easter.

The Speaker said that the role of non-Muslim communities in the development of Pakistan is an irrefutable reality.

Ayaz Sadiq also said that the constitution imparts provision of all basic rights to minorities.

Speaker in his message on the eve of Easter urged the parliamentarians and citizens to pro-actively play their part in peacekeeping and in promotion of inter-faith harmony, as these are the pre-requisites for socio-economic prosperity and a progressive

In addition, he reaffirmed that the rights and privileges of all citizens, irrespective of their religious beliefs, are guaranteed and safe-guarded by the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. Moreover,

Speaker stressed on the need for engaging in legislation aimed at enhancing inter-faith harmony, while adopting a non-partisan approach and working beyond party lines for the betterment of all the non-Muslim communities of Pakistan

Furthermore, praised the Christian community while acknowledging their valuable contributions towards socio-economic progress, since the creation of Pakistan.

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.

DIG Operations CWAs to boost overseas pays surprise employment opportunities visit to CIA, for Pakistanis abroad **Investigation** Wing, Khanna PS ISLAMABAD (APP):

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Shams Loan and Govern-

ment Spokesperson Faizullah Firaq are holding a press conference, Special

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

Assistant Zabihullah is also present.

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, inves tigation officers' rooms and residential barracks, he

officer said

He said that inappropriate behavior toward citizens will not be tolerated under any circumstances. He directed the police officials to utilize all available resources for the facilitatio of citizens

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 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Cloud cover has descended over cities like Islamabad, Lahore, Rawalpindi, Faisalabad. Peshawar experienced heavy rain and hailstorms, resulting in flooding on several roads.

In Azad Kashmir, par ticularly in Neelum valley heavy rainfall occurred overnight. Snowfall per sisted in tourist destinations such as Upper Neelam, Luwat, Sharda, and Arang Kel.



Pakistanis and Human Resource 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. An official source told

APP that currently, there were 21 CWAs posted abroad by the Government of Pakistan. The main aim of this task was to evaluate and improve the progress of CWAs in identifying and exploring targeted demand for employment prospects for Pakistani nationals through engagements with foreign employers.

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-

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 obal standards

While underscoring the significance of this initiative, highlighted its dual impact, not only in enhancing employment opportunities for Pakistanis abroad but also in contributing to the economic growth of the nation. Furthermore, he stressed the essential role of CWAs in catering to the needs and resolving issues faced by overseas Pakistanis during their stay abroad. This comprehen sive 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

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

SLAMABAD: The CPO/ DIG Operations Islamabad Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari has categorically directed all police officials to maintain high vigilance in the city to eradicate crimes and ensure an effective crackdown against criminals, a public relations officer said. He said that, CPO/

Independent Report

DIG Operations Islamabad chaired an important meeting regarding crime prevention. The meeting was attended by AIGs, SSPs, Zonal DPOs, SDPOs, and Officers In-Charge of all police stations.

During the meeting, the performance of all police stations was reviewed, and officers were directed not to compromise on professionalism. They were given a two-day deadline to improve performance, and another meeting will be held afterwards where penalties will be imposed for any shortcomings.

Dolphin Squad, mobile patrol vans, and checkposts under the supervision of SDPO's will be mobilized. Strict actions will be taken against bribery, misconduct, and mistreat-

ment of citizens. Complaints regarding existing corruption will be addressed

A WhatsApp number has been provided for complaints about corruption, misconduct, and inappropriate behavior. Citizens complaints will be directly addressed, and action will be taken. Overstepping authority will not be tolerated. Protection of citizens' lives, property, and dignity

is paramount.
All Officers in-charge police stations will remain present in their police stations. A weekly crime assessment meeting will be held, and penalties will be imposed for any negligence

It was further stated

that stringent actions will be taken against kite flying, aerial firing, one-wheeling, and those involved in motorbike thefts. Organized and effective strategies will be implemented to combat crime and apprehend criminals. Associates and facilitators of criminals will also be arrested. Ensure the swift arrest and prosecution of those involved in motorcycle theft cases. Measures will be taken to curb drug trafficking.

Daily Soice of Masse Independent

Monday April 01, 2024

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 argued that any gov-sympathizers from countable those re-the phrase "interfer-mission must address ence, and proposing 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

The judges who suspended cribe "undermining indethe Supreme Court's October pendence of the judiciary" to the "interference of in ruling ought to have factored telligence operatives with this into account. They should have realised that they were prolonging the suspects' legal battle and, thereafter, taken judicial independence in the appeals up with more urgency. Now, they have allowed the military courts to issue verdicts without determining his public statement that 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 chose not to address itself. This control extends to all facets of the parliament, gov- of the largest stake- the proceedings. electoral processes, judicial proceedings, cisions, as well as the the establishment. management of trade, These decisions have propriate. business, investment, targeted the incarcera-

stock. Justice's decision to significant upheaval avoid addressing the within the party. PTI complaint prompted has not only lost its over 300 members of founding chairman, top the legal fraternity to and second-tier leadstage a protest before ership, but also its the Supreme Court to- iconic symbol and day (31.03.2024), urg-brand name. Cur-mending action, they sure the judiciary's tions should empower and integrity. By foing the Court to take rently, it has been ab- may not adequately autonomy to dispense the judiciary to main- cusing on empowering responsibility for adju- sorbed into an irrel- address the need for justice impartially and tain its independence the judiciary to respond dicating the matter un- evant and sectarian proactive measures to transparently. der Article 184(3) of party, Sunni Itehad, prevent future interproperly investigate juncture.

appointment Tassaduq Hussain volvement of officials to 2014, to head the against implicated Faez Esa, nearing the one-man commission agencies, depart-judges transcends tions. These elements them accountable. end of his tenure, tasked with adjudicat- ments, or state institu- mere complaints or al- employ illicit means to ing the complaint of six tions based on evithe complaint filed by judges. Many have dence uncovered. six serving judges deemed this appoint- However, the absence by a six-member high dermining its indepen- new legislation and through the Supreme ment highly inad- of mention regarding court bench. After dence and impartiality regulations aimed at Judicial Council or by equate, inappropriate, indirect involvement conducting investigation therefore cannot be establishing dedicated convening a full court and out of context, suggests a potential tions, gathering facts, legally termed as ex-security forces tasked of the Supreme Court. given Jillani's age— Instead, he passed it barely two years inquiry. Additionally, testimonies, the bench onto the civilian gov- younger than Pakistan the commission's unequivocally declared as lawful actors but as ciary from unlawful ernment, which many itself. They argue that starting assumption the unlawful elements unlawful elements interference, whether perceive as being un- since the complaint dider the complete influ- rectly implicates the has occurred places prime spying agency rule of law through state institutions or exence of the powerful executive branch as establishment. This the culprit, appointing the six judges, who decision has been a commission headed must substantiate their viewed as a missed by someone associ- claims comprehenopportunity to restore ated with the executive sively with evidence, judicial independence undermines the integ- witnesses, and cir- lighted that the unlaw- mission should reflect ensure the implemenfrom the alleged over- rity of the process. It's cumstantial evidence. whelming control ex- seen as illogical and Failure to do so could erted by the establish- unfitting for the ac- lead to the judges fac- ercive tactics, includ- knowledgment that violation or frustration ment, which is often cused to be tasked with ing accusations of equated with the state providing justice to the lodging false or con-mail, and eavesdrop-with the judiciary has ministrative, legal, or complainants.

and foreign policy de- edly manipulated by ditional Chief leadership, resulting in

Analysts, jurists, erence assigned to the to address challenges aries and legal frame- evidence and witand lawyers have commission are no- such as fixing respon- works. Rather than nesses. Given the sowidely criticized the table for their focus on sibility in the absence being categorized as phisticated techniques of investigating direct in- of concrete evidence. executive interfer- employed by these el-Jillani, who served as in judicial interference Terms of Reference acterized as unlawful their activities, the the 21st Chief Justice and recommending of Pakistan from 2013 appropriate action jurists argue the letter by rogue elements explore innovative gap in the scope of the and recording witness that no interference within the country's seeking to subvert the originating from within the burden of proof on

cocted complaints, Meanwhile, the adding a significant bench formations and tiated. The Commisgovernance, including PTI, emerging as one layer of complexity to ernments, cabinets, holders, has been par- Moreover, granting the and administrative measures to safeguard ticularly affected by commission the au- agendas. Furthermore, the judiciary from unjudicial decisions alleg- thority to explore ad- by openly defying or due, unlawful, and bla- pressures. deemed totally inap-The analyst and agriculture, and live- tion of PTI's former jurists believe that the within the establishchairman and top-tier TORs assigned to the ment undermines the Commission should commission lack specificity and urgency in addressing the issue of unlawful the Supreme Judicial the lower and higher knowledging the existinterference. While Council on defensive judiciary can respond ing problem and recthey include provisions measures to safeguard effectively to such un-ommending concrete for investigating inter-

The terms of ref-clear guidance on how constitutional bound-absence of concrete

written by the six within state institulegations. Instead, it manipulate and intimi- mission should proresembles a decision date the judiciary, unpose the enactment of and the establishment guilty of blatant and brute interference in judicial matters.

ful elements within the establishment use comatters frustrating court or- tant interference perders that contradict petrated by rogue ele- Terms of Reference their objectives, the ments within state seunlawful elements curity institutions. judiciary's indepen-dence. The bench actionable recommen-with the judiciary. sought guidance from dations regarding how They prioritize acagainst such unlawful lawful interference. measures to safeguard ference and recom- interference and en- These recommenda- judicial independence

the Constitution. They thereby alienating ference or hold ac-rists criticize the use of ernment-led commis- other sects. The sponsible Additionally, ence of the execu- the challenge of fixing legislative reforms, the sion would lack the heavy toll this has the assigned TORs tive". They argue that responsibility on un-proposed TORs offer necessary indepen- taken on PTI appears may not fully acknowl- the type of interfer- lawful elements within a robust framework dence and authority to irreversible at this edge the complexity of ence faced by the ju- the state security ap- for addressing the

ecutive. As such, they should not be regarded

Henceforth, the

tion tactics.

Secondly,

the issue or provide diciary transcends paratus, even in the challenges at hand.

Rejecting the ence, it should be charements to conceal (TORs), analysts and coercion perpetrated Commission should strategies for holding

Fourthly, the Comwith protecting the lower and higher judicoercion and intimida- ternal non-state ac-

Lastly, the Com-Terms of Reference mission should recom-The bench high- (TORs) for the Com- mend mechanisms to a proactive approach, tation of court decibeginning with the ac-sions and prevent their ing intimidation, black- unlawful interference through selective adping, to influence already been substan- illegal means. These measures should reincourt decisions align-sion should then focus force the rule of law ing with their political on recommending and uphold the authority of judicial decisions in the face of external

The proposed (TORs) present a comprehensive and the proactive approach to addressing the issue of and integrity in the face effectively, holding ac-Analysts and ju- of external pressures. countable those re-Thirdly, the Com- sponsible for interfer-

Reply to Letter by 6 judges

Senator Samina Mumtaz Zehri

opened up a new Pandora's box in the pursuit of judicial independence in Pakistan by adopting a weird approach leaving a common conscious astray. Through paragraph eleven of the letter, honorable judges asto the "interference of injudicial functions". The very claim of these judges has sparked an unending high courts, while criminal controversy in understanding factors impeding

Back in the year 2021, Ex-Chief justice Islamabad High Court Justice Athar Minallah had admitted in the judiciary had failed to come up to the nation's excouldn't claim with confidence that the institution was independent. Recalling factors affecting judicial independence he said, 'Successive constitutional breakdowns and adoption of the doctrine of revolutionary legality and the doctrine of necessity, besides betraying the vision of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, have impeded the process to establish an order where the principles of freedom, equality, tolerance, social justice and democracy are fully observed".

Furthermore, the doctrine of independence of judiciary was seriously impacted when alarming revelations were unearthed about the backlog of millions of pending cases in our courts. The Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan, in its Bi-Annual for the period from July to kistan. Corruption in judi-

The letter by six judges of December 2023, revealed ciary is rampant at various Islamabad High Court has that 82% of the pending cases (1.86 million) were at the district judiciary level and the remaining 18% (0.39 million cases) were at the upper tier, including the Supreme Court, Federal Shariat Court, and high courts. The nature of pending cases raises eyebrows about the independence of judiciary also because they include non-political cases. According to report civil cases constitute 81% of the cases pending in the cases account for 19%. On the other hand, at the level of the district judiciary, civil cases constitute 64% of the pending cases, while the remaining 36% comprise criminal cases. That means judiciary especially superior courts have been giving weightage to political cases in speedy manpectations and one ner for a long time due to the overriding concerns of judges for their respective political interests. A report "Study of informal justice system in Pakistan" estimated that Pakistani courts need "15 years" to try the backlog of pending cases and there will be a condition that in those "15 years" no new case should be instituted in the courts. Normally Pakistani courts take "25 years" to decide a case and "5 years" more to execute the decree. Counting on factors

marring judicial independence in Pakistan, one can easily comprehend how poor service delivery and corruption has been rampant in our courts. National Corruption Perception Survev 2023 released by Transparency International Pakistan (TIP) clearly shows the judiciary among the top three most-Report of Judicial Statistics corrupt institutions in Pa-

levels. Former Supreme Court judge Maqbool Baqar had aptly asserted that "the judiciary is no exception when it comes to corruption, and shortcomings in the key pillar of the state has a "direct linkage" to the process of inducting judges. According to Justice Bagar, "The inductions in the judiciary have not been up to the mark [right from] our independence. There was nepotism, favoritism and sacrifice of merit soon after we inherited the Government [of India] Act 1935 after the creation of Pakistan"

This is quite unfortunate that judiciary in our historical context or since pre-partition times has not independent. Pakistan's judicial system was modeled after that of the United Kingdom. For financial and administrative matters, the judiciary was not independent of the executive at the time. During the civilian government period, relations between the executive and remained iudiciary strained (1988-1999). The First Judge's case, also known as the Al-jihad confidence case, is regarded as a watershed moment of judicial independence. Martial law orders issued in 2002 threatened judicial independence once more.

It is pertinent to mention how efforts to restore iudicial independence were initiated by parliamentary forum. Through historic Eighteenth Amendment Bill, 2010, changes were made to the conventional structure. To ensure judicial independence, the Judicial Commission and Parliamentary Committee, two legislative bodies, were formed to nominate judges to the superior

However, when the Supreme Court ruled in different decisions that the Parliamentary Committee must provide reasons for rejecting the Judicial Commission's recommendation for a judge's elevation, these constitutional bodies failed to achieve their goals. Otherwise, it would be regarded as irrational and haphazard. Although the Supreme Court of Pakistan has settled several legal issues, the power balance between the Judicial Commission and the Parliamentary Committee is still debatable.

The purpose of underlining some of the potential factors confining judicial independence is to expose the fragility of the claim propounded by the 6 judges of IHC in their letter. The claim that intelligence operatives interfere in judicial functions affecting judicial independence is in fact a two-edged sword. The very claim is damaging the prestige of judiciary and our state agencies on one hand while benefitting the so called political narrative of a political party that has already been targeting agencies and state institutions for its political collapse.

The letter written by six honorable judges of IHC alleging ISI Interference has left irrevocable damages on the prestige of this institution that is called one of the vital organs of the state. The resonance of this damage is manifested through global media forums especially those patronized by anti-Pakistan factions and lobbyists abroad who through their bombardment of printed and social media content have been exaggerating the conten-

letter in a manner that is showing a row between the two otherwise prestigious state institutions. The letter has become a source of malicious propaganda against our own security institutions worldwide fueling the so called effort of anti-state actors to malign our security institutions that keep on counteracting our external through their non-stop sacrifices.

A question also arises why Armed Forces and its institutions are always brought into controversies and become an object of blame game. The answer is very simple. Today, our country is passing through a political transition where Populism is taking its roots. The symbol of Populism is Imran Khan. And his followers everywhere mentary forums constithrough their institutions or at individual level have amendment for judges' elbeen trying their level best to get him off scot-free even at the cost of defam- millions of pending cases ing the prestige of other institutions. The contents of the

letter have actually jeopardized the very image of judiciary also among the eyes of common masses also who have to spend vears in waiting for justice from these courts but are suddenly taken aback to know that the judges are actually prioritizing dispensation of justice in political cases most of the time. The issue of millions of pending cases in the high courts and even in Supreme Court of the country has already made the role of judiciary a compromised and controversial one in dealing with its exclusive mandate of dispensation of justice and upholding core human

Constitutional courts. tions of this controversial rights enshrined in the constitution of Pakistan. Why these honorable judges have never written a letter on the issue of backlog of millions of court cases of common people pending for years or even for decades? Is a burning question indeed! Theoretically, looking

from a Consequentialist's

perspective, according to which "the results of the and internal enemies action that are looked at, not necessarily the means to produce the action", the results produced by the action of writing a letter by six IHC judges are damaging rather than restorative and reformative for the cause of independence of judiciary. Rather than adopting a serious approach to bring grass root level and much awaited judicial reforms, working in collaboration with parliatuted under the 18th evation, taking emergency measures to dispose of of a common people, implementing strict mechanism to uproot corruption in every tier of judiciary, depoliticizing judiciary and making every effort to restore the image of judiciary at national and global levels, these 6 judges have adopted a path to give vent to their feelings that has in turn supported the anti-state narrative of PTI and its followers inside as well as outside Pakistan besides defaming the working of our agencies and state institutions who at this very moment are the only means to safeguard our dear homeland from internal and external enemies that are apprehending the very existence of Pa-

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 Sharif has emphasised the importance of ensuring freedom of worship and providing complete protection to all citizens, regardless of their religious beliefs.

issued here on Sunday, she was addressing the Easter ceremony in Sheikhupura. The CM vowed to take a

safeguarding their rights. She extended heartfelt history to her teachers greetings to the entire also. She highlighted the Christian community on importance of discipline behalf of PML-N Quaid and cleanliness instilled in

pride in attending a in her life after her parents. She attributed her personal minorities, affirming her her achievement as the first appointment.

to female chief minister of any province in the nation's Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. her by the school, stating The CM expressed that it played a pivotal role

According to handout convent school from the ed here on Sunday, she age of four until 10th grade. She shared that her father, Nawaz Sharif, had 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 of hate or prejudice staff at that school. Sikh minister and towards Maryam Nawaz credited congratulated him on his



SUKKUR: Shiite Muslims mourners to Hazrat Ali Al-Murtaza (R.A) are holding mourning procession in connection of Youm-e-Ali (R.A), the day of martyrdom 21st Ramadan-ul-Mubarak, in Sukkur.

Governor, CM KP congratulate Christian community on Easter

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

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

"We all have to make Khyber Pakistan a cradle of peace and stand among developed countries," Haji Ghulam Ali said. A prosperous and developed Pakistan is the guarantor of our best future, Haji Ghulam Ali said, adding, Easter is the name of for a bright, better and to move forward unitedly.

> Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Ali Christian community living all over the country especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on the occasion of their religious festival Easter.

> provincial The government is participating in the joys of the Christian community, the chief minister said in a message of felicitation issued here.

> Ali Amin Gandapur said all minorities in Pakistan have equal rights of all kinds as citizens. "Our religion Islam teaches to give equal rights to

Advisor says: BRT to give role in promoting tourism

Independent Report PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government on Sunday decided to give role to Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) to promote tourism as well, wherein the task is being assigned to the KP Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) in this regard.

Similarly BRT service being seriously considered to be expanded the divisional headquarters and major cities of the province, including Abbottabad and Dera Ismail Khan.

This modern urban transport system will have certain new features too.

The huge resources thus required for this purpose will be arranged through the sponsors so the public and no extra taxes has to be levied.

This was revealed by Zahid Chanzeb, the Advisor to the Chief Khyber Minister Pakhtunkhwa on Tourism, Culture and Archeology, while meeting Fahad Cheema, Public Relations Manager of BRT Daewoo who called on him in Peshawar.

Zahid Chanzeb said that BRT is the flagship project of the previous Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) led KP govt which has received great popularity in very short span of time and apart from public convenience, it has become a stable and profitable institution.

This modern transport system, he said, that there is no burden on has not only been liked by

Murad extends warm Easter greetings to **Christians**

CARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed expressed has greeted the Christian community in Pakistan, especially Sindh,

In a message on the occasion of Easter, he said that the people of all religions live with harmony prosperous future, we have and fraternity in Sindh. He said that Pakistan People's Chief Minister Party believes in coexistence, interfaith Amin Gandapur on Sunday congratulated the Christian Canada beliefs.

The CM said that Easter is a festival of love, compassion, forgiveness and sharing happiness for all. He further said that the Christian community has played an important role in promotion of education, health and development of the country.

Man kills in-laws, ends life in Lahore

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

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

The police said that a man named Nadeem got engaged to a sister of one Sarfaraz a year ago. It added that Nadeem sneaked into the house of his inlaws and shot at least four people including two women. The police said that a man and a woman succumbed to bullet wounds while two people are being treated at the hospital. The investigators added that Nadeem also shot himself

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



HYDERABAD: Activists of Awami Workers Party (AWP) are holding protest rally for recovery of missing girl Priya Kumari, at Hyderabad press club.



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 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 Expanded Director 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

PESHAWAR: Khyber control measles.He issued Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Health 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). The minister issued instructions to form an

immediate provincial breakout committee with Director EPI Dr. Arif along with the relevant officials giving an emergency briefing to the minister about measles. Under the Bird Dose Initiative, vaccine centers have been established in hospitals along with the labor room and more than 100,000 newborns have been



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

'Suthra Punjab' programme to be accomplished in phases: Minister Zeeshan

soon after taking oath of her

office. "Despite holy month of Ramazan, the

government machinery

implement the Chief

Minister's vision. This

programme was just a start

and the first phase of a

comprehensive sanitation

plan," he added. The Local

Government minister said

the 'Suthra Puniab'

programme was quite

successful, but we will

learn lessons from the

challenges faced during the

tried

honestly

LAHORE (APP): Local Government Minister Punjab Zeeshan Rafique has said Chief Minister's 'Suthra Punjab' programme will be carried forward and accomplished in a phased manner.

"After outsourcing the sanitation system of both villages and cities, we will in the next step to make the solid waste our source by making it usable." he said and added that the Punjab government was going to introduce a model of recycling the bulk of waste by ensuring its segregation.

He was addressing a press conference regarding Suthra Punjab' programme at DGPR here on Sunday. He said that Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif announced the biggest cleaning programme in the history of the province

cleaning campaign and move forward. "Punjab's population of more than 127 million creates 57,500 tonnes of waste every day. We are able to dispose of only eighteen thousand 438 tons of garbage. This means that the load of forty-nine thousand tons of waste is increasing every day," he pointed out.



ration to people at Darughewala of the Provincial Capital.

Governor KP invited eunuchs to Governor House, distributed ration

Governor Pakhtunkhwa 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 the men, soon after visiting the Governor House.

Governor Ghulam Ali welcomed hundreds of eunuchs from across the city to the Governor Khyber Governor Pakhtunkhwa and Mayor

> CM takes notice of

midwife's

rape in

hospital

Hospital.

(APP): Peshawar Haji Zubair Ali Ali Khyber have given Ramadan ration packages to more than women on this occasion.

> Arezo, Farzana and Subia are present in the Governor package worth thousands of rupees per person is being distributed to more distribution ceremony to than three hundred eunuchs. transgender women.

Technical education is very important for three hundred transgender transgenders, the Governor said. Transgender will be The three groups of made employable, eunuchs headed by eunuchs allocation of quota in employable. government recruitment is the need of the hour and House. A Ramadan ration they have the right, Governor Haji Ghulam Ali

Haji Ghulam Ali was "I will be a voice in heartbroken to hear the departments problems of eunuchs. Some responsible for legitimate issues are transgender," the Governor necessary for the federal for legitimate issues are 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 Haji Ghulam Ali said.

necessary for the federal and provincial sovernments, Haji Ghulam Ali said. Among the important issues are burial and funeral prayers in the graveyard, Haji Ghulam Ali said.

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

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif took notice Sindh has announced that Shaheed Zulifiqar Ali Bhutto's death anniversary of an incident of alleged rape of a midwife by two persons in Mianwali Mother and Child will be observed at district and Taluka level due to the Holy month of Ramazan The CM sought a report in this regard from the IG Police. She said that

while public meeting will be organized at Garhi Khuda Bux after Eid-ul-Fitr. The provincial president of Pakistan

KARACHI (APP): Khuda Bux on April 14 Pakistan People's Party 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 Ramazan.
PPP workers and leaders will pay tribute to their party's founder chairman and former Prime a comprehensive investigation of the incident should be conducted and the conducted perpetrators should be ZA Bhutto's martyrdom be organized on April 14 at



KARACHI: Peoples are at the Faizan-e-Madina Mosque for Itikaf held during the last ten days of fasting month of Ramadan in Provincial Capital.

SHO among 3 suspended over custodial death

FAISALABAD (APP): City Police Officer (CPÓ) Captain (Retired) Muhammad Ali Zia has suspended three policemen including the Station House Officer (SHO) of Samanabad police station on the charges of negligence in the death of a robbery accused in police custody.

A police spokesman said here on Sunday that people had apprehended Khalid Mukhtar, a resident of Pir Mehal, during a robbery bid two days ago

Arrangements for Aitkaf in top 100 mosques

the supervision of the seekers. The process of Punjab Augaf Department, arrangements for social seclusion (Aitkaf) are being made in the province's top 100 endowed mosques, including Jamia Masjid Data Darbar and historically significant mosques În Jamia Masjid Data

Darbar, the city of seclusion has been divided and severely tortured him. I into four sectors for over

LAHORE (APP): Under two thousand seclusion setting up cabins named after Baba Ghousia, Baba Farid, Baba Bahoo, and Baba Ahmad Raza has begun in the designated sectors. More than 500 citizens will be secluding in the historical and globally renowned Badshahi Mosque. Special renowned arrangements are being made for the security of those secluding at both locations in Lahore.

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 thousands of Pakistanis religion Islam that laid great with dignity in an country.

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

traditional In 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

Khan.

'The

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 Zayad Islamic Centre Peshawar sees this coherence as a fruit of

harmony in the Charter of soothing Madina. "This historic charter

provides religious freedom to Muslims and followers of other religions for creating a progressive, Pakistan's Fatwa signed by prosperous and tolerant society," he stated.

He said Father of the Nation, Quaid e Azam an umbrella to protect the 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 Ouaid had envisioned a country where people irrespective of their religion, caste, creed and ethnicity could live freely

enjoy inner satisfaction emphasis on peace, environment of mutual from this act like Iqbal tolerance and interfaith 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-ereligious scholars of all schools of thought.

'This fatwa provides country from all forms of terrorism, extremism, hatred and violence against fellow Pakistanis," he said. 'This is our national narrative and also rules out self-proclaimed acts of violent extremism in the name of religion as such nefarious acts are prohibited by our Shariah and weaken our

Kyrgyzstan keen on joint ventures with Pak businessmen, investors

LAHORE (APP): towards Kyrgyzstan has offered a entrepren entrepreneurs and investors in joint ventures. Ms Asel Begmatova, Head Ministry of Economy and Commerce, presented these offers to Pak trade collaboration." delegation led by Meher Kashif Younis, honorary Consul of Kyrgyzstan in the importance of trade and promotion of Shahid Hassan was also diverse markets, capitalize present, according to on comparative officials Takirov Urmat, Meher's spokesman here Sunday. Briefing the Pakistani delegation, Ms assurance of facilitating Promotion of Exports, Begmatova said that joint investments in areas of

entrepreneurs to investment and business

ventures would not only choice reflects cater to Kyrgyz needs but Kyrgyzstan's recognition also generate profits of of the importance of Export

CHINIOT: Farmer busy spraying pesticides in a field at Lahore road.

address individual and

communal complaints from

consumers, ensuring that

any issues are promptly

measures aim to enhance

consumer satisfaction and

facilitate a smooth and

promotion of exports by

giving incentives to the

trade and industry and by

suggested. The PIAF

Pakistan's industry,

discouraging investment

both in capacity and

capability, calling for

lessening the burden of

heavy taxes on the power

Additionally,

continuous decline in

remittance indicates that

the government may not

been able to stem the

declined by 1.2 percent

during July-February 2024

to \$18.1 billion from \$18.3

billion in the same period a

year before. Foreign direct

Remittance

(FDI)

proactive

GM SNGPL directs to

ensure gas pressure stability

during sehr, iftar times

ISLAMABAD (APP): monitoring in the federal General Manager of capital and the surrounding

SNGPL Islamabad, Adnan Khan has issued directives specialized teams have

to ensure stable gas been mobilized to swiftly

resolved.

As part of these hassle-free experience for

efforts, officers have been consumers during the holy

PIAF says GDP drops

to 1% as LSM shows

-0.52% growth in Q2

LAHORE (INP): The specified in trade policy Pakistan Industrial and should be utilised for the

stood at one percent in the exploring new markets, he

current fiscal year, as the chairman said that the high

LSM has registered a cost of doing business has negative 0.52 percent proved to be dangerous for

deployed for pressure month of Ramazan.

These

pressure during Sehr and

In this regard, a dedicated "Control Room"

has been established, said

Sui Northern Gas Pipelines (SNGPL)

spokesperson, Shahid

Traders Associations Front

(PIAF) has pointed out that the GDP growth has

second quarter of the

growth, leading to drop in overall the GDP growth of

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

He said that business

as other

In a statement issued

the country.

Pakistani ample opportunities that and align with their interests basket of incentives to fully facilitate Pakistani entrepreneurs and economic ties and foster economic ties and foster flexibility and support, bilateral cooperation by Kyrgyzstan seeks to providing ample support attract diverse investments of External Relations and assistance, that contribute to the Department of Kyrgyz Kyrgyzstan aims to create country's development assistance, that contribute to the an environment conducive while also benefiting

investors, she added.

Ms Begmatova said The emphasis on the emphasis on garnering joint ventures underscores profits underscores the pragmatic approach to Pakistan. The delegation is partnerships that leverage attract investments that on a two-week visit to the strengths and resources yield tangible returns. By Kyrgyzstan to study the scope of further strengthening bilateral collaborative efforts sustainable partnerships between Pakistani and that endure beyond shortexports. Kyrgyzstan Trade Kyrgyz businesses hold term gains and foster long-House (KTH) President Dr the potential to tap into term economic prosperity.

Other Ministry of Economy and Commerce, Zhumaliev, Head of the investors with sovereign encouraging investors Department, Export Center guarantees. She added, especially from Pakistan to Asel Turgunbaeva, an "Our welcoming stance" take full advantage of expert of the department.

FBR collects

Rs6,710 billion,

revenues grew

by 30% in

9 months

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Federal Board of Revenue

against the set targets of

During the period from July-March, 2023-

24, the FBR had collected

Rs6,710 billion against as

compared the set targets of

Rs6,707 billion for the first

nine months, said a press

release issued here Sunday.

had also cleared refunds amounting to Rs369 billion

were as compared to Rs254

billion issued during the same period last year, it

added.FBR continues to register 30% growth in

revenue collection as

compared to the first nine

months of previous

Excise dept

seals 1500

properties of

defaulters in

March

MULTAN (APP): The

excise department started

sealing of properties of

defaulters and around 1500

properties were sealed for

not paying pending dues

during March. Senior

Taxation Officer/Admin,

Khalid Hussain Qasoori, talking to APP here on

Sunday said that the final

warning notices were served

to the defaulters first and

then the sealing of

properties was started to

ensure collection of pending

dues from them.He said

that the warning notices

financial year.

Meanwhile, the FBR

Rs6,707 billion.



HYDERABAD: Women busy in Eid shopping at Resham Bazaar during

Pak, Canada reiterate to explore economic prospects, skillful manpower

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan and Canada have reaffirmed 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

on export of skilled labour force from Pakistan.

Salma Zahid, who was also the Member Standing Committee of Immigration 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

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

closer collaboration among business communities. Promoting bilateral cooperation across public, commercial, 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 workforce.

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

KP govt contacts FBR to discuss arrears

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

input tax adjustment would be made soon, he

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

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

He said this while presiding over a meeting in the Punjab Assembly 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 solution. upcoming wheat crop situation and the department's preparations.

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

the administration to

ensure their presence in markets across the province to keep a close eve 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. He also visited different Ramazan bazaars in the provincial capital and reviewed the prices and quality of essential commodities.

He heard problems of the people of the constituency and issued orders for immediate

Later, Bilal Yasin reviewed the cleanliness campaign in different areas of the constituency. During a visit to shops, he asked the administration to improve the price control mechanism and asked that the price control The minister directed magistrates should perform their duties honestly.



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

Chaudhary Sajjad Hussain, was providing targeted commodities to masses to

people across the region. He informed that they had collected Rs 680 million out of Rs 820 million total sale target set for Multan

Relief Package.

Regional Manager

USC Multan Region,

available at six mobile stores, seven static stores while talking to APP here and 72 regular stores on Sunday said that the across the region to PM Ramadan Relief facilitate the citizens. Mr htunkhwa Revenue hority.

A delegation meeting h FBR on the 2,58,247 customers visited hat a landar the USC stores so far to incumbent government avail the government enhanced PMT score upto subsidy during holy 60. Mr Sajjad said that month. He said that the subsidy was being offered incumbent government on 19 essential items including flour, sugar, subsidy on various ghee, cooking oil, rice, pulses, tea leaves, alleviate the financial beverages and various burden of the one million other items.

DISCOs should address electricity theft, line losses: Anjum Nisar

Former President of Federal of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) and Chairman Businessmen Panel (BMP) Mian Anium Nisar emphasizing the urgent need to address line losses and electricity theft, has cited its detrimental effects on the national economy and stressed the need for overthrough some drastic mea-

ISLAMABAD (INP): sector is constantly escalat-

In a statement issued on Sunday, he encouraged the Discos to leverage technology and innovation in their efforts to eradicate power theft, as the objective should be to curtail indiscriminate power outages, especially to consumers who diligently pay their bills. Mian Anjum Nisar hauling the power sector asked the government that that all obstacles hindering sures as the total cost of efforts to prevent electric-



FAISALABAD: Peoples shopping at a vegetable stall at Ramadan Sasta bazaar established by the city government on Jhang Road in the city.

to end economic woes

between Pakistan and importance of increasing **ICCI delegation visits Embassy of Libya**

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

They met with the Libyan ambassador and discussed matters relating to promoting bilateral trade investment (FBR) had collected opportunities between Rs6,710 billion revenues both countries, according during first 09 months of current financial year as to a press release.

further strengthening the sectors of economic existing bilateral relations development and social between Libya and prosperity.

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

occasion, Libyans Envoy stressed the need to enhance and promote private sector cooperation in different fields, besides strengthening business to business and people to people contacts. The ambassador said

that there was a broader scope of cooperation between both the countries discussed in fields of science and ways and means for technology and other

Authority on Sunday. Muzamil Aslam said

that the telephonic conversation has been made for arrears of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority.

with FBR on the understanding of cross added



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

Iranian gas holds key importance to resolve energy crisis: Hanif

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Shadbad, Dr Muhammad Hanif Mughal on Sunday said that Pakistan has not found a solution to its energy crisis during the last few decades and cannot resolve the energy problem without

importing gas from Iran. In a statement issued here, he said that opposition from the United States to the Iran-Pakistan

threats of penalties were both deplorable.
Dr Hanif Mughal said

that it would be in Pakistan's best interest to strengthen its relations with Iran and overcome different challenges by joining hands. He said that if gas was not imported from Iran,

there may be a fine of eighteen billion dollars, which Pakistan cannot pay in the current economic situation.

China's non manufacturing PMI up in March

BEIJING (Xinhua/APP) The purchasing managers' index (PMI) for China's non-manufacturing sector came in at 53 in March 2024, up from 51.4 in February, the National Bureau of Statistics said Sunday. A reading above 50

indicates expansion, while a reading below 50 reflects contraction. This latest growth

extended the rising trend shown by the nonmanufacturing PMI in previous months.

only way

month an increase of 15.7 percent of \$ 131.2 million neighboring countries of were served to about 17000 the region are giving to trade in February 2024 as against domestic and commercial and industry. The amount an outflow of \$ 173 million. property tax defaulters.

friendly policies must be witnessed month-on-

investment



HYDERABAD: Workers busy in packing vermicelli after preparing vermicelli as per increased demand of customers to be used at upcoming Eidul-Fitr festival.

gas pipeline project and Undeterred resolve

ISLAMABAD (APP): Given its location, landscape, environment, weather, shores and fertile land, Pakistan had always been the most potential and business-friendly destination offering volumes of dividends to investors businessmen.

Although fluctuating policies of the past landed this potential state into serious economic crunch with putting it back on track becoming a gigantic task, yet it can be vibrant again if consistent, holistic result oriented approach is adopted. Even today, the

numbers of brotherly countries are waiting for a nod to invest billions of dollars in different sectors of Pakistan economy and the newly formed government has already tightened belts for a tough ride ahead.

Prime Minister currency values.

Shehbaz Sharif and his team is also aware that they would be confronting a myriad of daunting economic hurdles, ranging from soaring inflationary pressures and staggering external debt burden to diminished exchange reserves and fluctuating

As the economic country's

panorama, shrouded in uncertainty and volatility, necessitates adept navigation and resolute action to guide nation towards stability, the government diligently articulated its resolve to fight out this challenge.

At the head PML-N led coalition new government, Minister Shehbaz Sharif soon after assuming office, issued directives to pertinent authorities for formulating proposals to reduce government expenditures and undertaking

comprehensive overhaul of

framework. Responding to this exigency, the new government employs immediate measures for bolstering revenues and curbing escalating fiscal deficit with the Prime Minister also mandating commencement

digitization automation process within the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

Reducing inflationary burden on people is one of the most pressing challenges for the government. It would have to go for immediate solutions to ease inflationary burden," said economic Dr Usman Chohan,

Advisor on Economic Affairs at Centre for Aerospace and Security Studies (CASS).

He said the situation would be more exigent in an environment where on one hand the people would be expecting to bring down inflation International Monetary Fund (IMF), in a likely follow-up program, pressurizing the government to extract more from public in terms of revenue collecting and electricity price initiatives.

Identifying global economic slowdown as a significant contributor to Pakistan's financial woes.

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

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

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

sia, Malaysia and Brunei. 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 sup-

porting 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.



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 hundreds of old armoured vehicles and new surface-toair missiles to Ukraine in its war against Russia, French Defence Minister Sebastien

Lecornu said on Sunday. In an interview with La Tribune Dimanche, Lecornu said that President Emmanuel Macron, following talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, had asked him to prepare a new aid package, which will include old but still functional French

"The Ukrainian army needs to defend a very long front line, which requires armoured vehicles; this is absolutely crucial for troop mobility and is part of the Ukrainian requests," he said. He said France was looking at providing hundreds of VAB (Véhicule de l'Avant 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 predawn darkness as people shout and gunfire echoes—

some of which was warn-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 presi 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'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**

ONDON: 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 the treasure and the apple

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

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

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

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

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 presi-

dent has named former en-vironment minister Murat Kurum as his candidate.

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

dead as Russia launches attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure

Monitoring Desk KYIV: A Russian cruise missile strike on 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 Kozytskyi wrote on social media app Telegram. He said that rescue operations were being con-

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

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 re-Ukrainian energy

company Centrenergo announced Saturday that the Zmiiv Thermal Power Plant, one of the largest in the northeastern Kharkiv region, was completely destroyed following Russian shelling last week. 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.

Lebanon's precarious sectarian balance tipping amid Hezbollah-Israeli war

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: As the Lebanese Christian village of Rmeish

marks its first Easter since the Gaza war erupted, residents say a parallel confrontation between Hezbollah and Israel is dragging them into a conflict they did not choose.

Like many Christians elsewhere in southern Lebanon, residents are angry and fearful their homes could be caught in the cross-fire and their families forced to flee—permanently—from their ancestral villages near the Lebanon-Israel border.

Earlier this week, a Rmeish resident confronted a group of armed men trying to launch rockets at Israel from within the village. Some villagers rang church bells to sound the alarm, and the armed men moved off to fire rockets from another neighbourhood, according to mayor Milad al-Alam and Rmeish residents.

"What we've been saying for the last six months is: among our own homes, keep us neutral. Any strike in return would prisals.

have brought huge losses, Alam told Reuters.

Hezbollah began launching rockets from hilltops and villages in southern Lebanon at Israel on Oct 8 in support of its Palestinian ally Hamas, which carried out a cross-border attack into Israel the previous day that triggered a fierce Israeli land, air and sea offensive on the Gaza

The villagers' resentment reflects criticism from Christian clerics and politicians opposed to Hezbollah, who have long accused the group of undermining the state through its possession of a controversial arsenal that outguns the national army, and of monopolising decisions of

war and peace. "We have nothing to do with this war. Do they (Hezbollah) want to displace us?" said a 40-yearold resident of Rmeish who asked not to be identified, fearing that criticising Hezbollah could bring re-

Sudan needs 'immediate action' on hunger to

UNITED (INP): Immediate action is

Security Phase Classificaso due to the war.

it reviewed the latest evidence available and published the alert on Friday "to express major concern about the deteriorating situation and to push for immediate action "to prevent

NATIONS population - need aid and some 8 million have fled their homes.

> "Without an immedi ate cessation of hostilities and significant deployment of humanitarian assistance

the population of Khartoum and Gezira States, Greater Darfur and Greater Kordofan, is at risk of reaching the worst levels of acute food insecurity and malnutrition during the upcoming lean season starting from April – May 2024," the IPC said on Friday. The UN Security

Council this month called for an immediate cessation of hostilities. The US warned on Thursday that it would push the council to take action to get aid to starving people in Sudan, possibly by authorizing cross-border deliveries

nant and lactating women.

Palestinians inspect the damage to a building, following Israeli bombard-

ment, in the Maghazi camp for Palestinian refugees in the central Gaza Strip.

Labour loses 23,000 members over UK's Gaza policy

Monitoring Desk LONDON: The United Kingdom's Labour party reported a loss of membership by 23,000 over its Gaza policy and environmental messaging, new figures revealed. Official figures showed that memberships fell from 390,000 in January to 366,604 last week, though the party is leading in opinion polls and widely believed to win in the next general election after a 14year rule of the Conservative party. A report in The Guardian quoted a senior Labour figure saying, "It is a big fall in just two months. People were surprised, even taken aback." It added that Labour insiders believe the fall is primarily a result of "anger among Muslim and other Labour supporters over Keir Starmer's position on Gaza" and his refusal

for an immediate ceasefire. Labour leader Keir Starmer came under heavy criticism soon after the conflict erupted. On October 11 four days after Hamas killed Israeli citizens and Israel responded with an aggressive campaign of air attacks and blockades, Starmer gave an interview in which he said Israel had

the "right" to cut off power and water from Gaza. The party's refusal to call for a ceasefire had also led to the resignation of at least 70 Labour councillors, triggering a loss of control in four councils

The Labour Muslim Network, a British campaign group associated with the party, in February warned of the potential loss of support from Muslim voters if the party does not alter its stance on the over several months to call Gaza conflict.

Peru president's home raided in luxury watch investigation

Monitoring Desk

LIMA: Peruvian authorities raided President Dina Boluarte's home and the government palace early on Saturday as part of an ongoing corruption investigation related to undisclosed luxury watches.

The search was carried out "according to the court order," Colonel Harvey Colchado of the police told reporters.

He would not say whether anything suspect had been found.

According to a police document, about 40 agents and prosecutors were involved in the house raid, which was searching for Rolex watches that Boluarte had not publicly declared.

The raid "is for the purpose of search and seizure," police said.

military service, in Jerusalem.

The embattled president was at the palace at the time, officials said. In a brief message on X, the presidency said the search was carried out "normally and without any incident. Prime Minister

Gustavo Adrianzen slammed the raid as an "intolerable outrage" and "disproportionate and unconstitutional." He added, however, that Boluarte would "cooperate with the prosecution" and provide a statement when sum-

Authorities launched an investigation into Boluarte this month after a news outlet drew attention to pictures of her sporting luxury watches at public

Rolex watches can cost tens of thousands of

Indian opposition protest arrest of Delhi CM Kejriwal ahead of polls

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Top leaders of India's opposition coali-tion and thousands of supporters rallied in the capital on Sunday, decrying "autocracy" in protest at the arrest of a senior colleague ahead of general elec-

Arvind Keiriwal, chief minister of Delhi and a key leader in an opposition alli-ance formed to compete against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was detained earlier in March in connection with a long-run-

ning 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.

Egypt to receive first tranche of expanded IMF

CAIRO (INP): Egypt will receive the first tranche of an expanded loan agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) next week, Prime Minister Mostafa Madbouly said

specify the figure, but the IMF said on Friday the expanded \$8 billion financial support programme enables the immediate release of

month Extended Fund Facility signed in December 2022 which was put on hold after Egypt did not follow through on pledges to unpeg its currency, speed up the sale of state assets and implement other reforms.

loan next week

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: United Nations peacekeepers said three military observers and a during a news conference. translator were wounded on Madbouly did not Saturday in a blast in southern Lebanon, where Israel

border fire. \$820 million. The agreement expands a \$3 billion, 46-

peacekeepers wounded in Lebanon blast peacekeeping mission. Three UNTSO "mili-

tary observers and one and the Hezbollah movement trade frequent cross-

Peacekeepers from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) patrol the socalled Blue Line, the border demarcated by the UN in 2000 when Israeli troops added pulled out of southern Leba-

Kejriwal, at the Ramlila Ground in New Delhi.

Three UN

The UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) supports the cease the current heavy ex

Lebanese language assistant on a foot patrol along the Blue Line were injured when an explosion occurred near their location", UNIFIL spokesperson Andrea Tenenti said in a state-The wounded were

Sonia Gandhi and Sunita Kejriwal arrive to attend a protest rally against the

arrest of Aam Aadmi Party's main leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind

"evacuated for medical treatment" and UNIFIL is "investigating the origin of the explosion", Tenenti "Safety and security

of UN personnel must be guaranteed," the statement said, urging "all actors to

Indian BSF kills 3 Bangladeshis in five days

Bangladeshi national in Lalmonirhat border, taking to three the number of deaths in BSF shootings in the past five days.

Media reports said a Bangladeshi citizen was killed and two others were injured in firing by the Indian BSF along the border in Lalmonirhat's Kaliganj Upazila early Saturday.

The deceased, Murali Chandra, 42, was killed four days after the BSF killed 20year-old Liton Mia on March 26 in Lalmonirhat. The injured are Mizanur

LALMONIRHAT (INP): Rahman and Liton Mia, resi-Indian Border Security Force shot dead another Chandrapur area. According to Border

Guard Bangladesh, members of a patrol team of 75-Chitrakot BSF camp opened fire on some Bangladeshi cattle traders along the border, leaving Murali dead and two others injured at about 3:00am.

He told the media that

the body was kept in police custody and a letter was sent to the BSF. When the injured were dragged inside Bangladesh, the family members sent them to the hospital. Murali died on his way to Rangpur.

Family cries foul as Muslim leader dies in **Indian prison**

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: The suspicious death of Mukhtar Ansari, a jailed politician from Uttar Pradesh, will be investigated by a magistrate after his family claimed he was poisoned, reports said

on Friday. A three-member team is expected to commence the investigation into his death shortly, an order by Chief Judicial Magistrate

Finnish authorities detect sulphur-like smell in Helsinki

Monitoring Desk HELSINKI: A strong smell resembling that of sulphur or burnt rubber was detected in the region around Finland's capital Helsinki, the city's rescue department said on Sunday. The smell has been reported in an area spanning at least 60 km (37 miles) along Finland's southern coastline, the department said.

'The rescue department and other authorities are looking into the matter," it wrote in a post on X. There was no immediate indication that the smell was a health hazard, it added.

Russian media outlet Fontanka reported on Sunday that residents in several areas of St Petersburg, the Russian city closest to Finland, had complained of an unpleasant odour, comparing it to that of gas.

avert widespread death

needed to "prevent wide-spread death and total collapse of livelihoods and avert a catastrophic hunger crisis in Sudan," a United Nations-backed global authority on food security warned. The Integrated Food

tion (IPC) had been due to issue an update to its December analysis that found nearly 5 million were on the verge of catastrophic hunger. But it was unable to do Instead, the IPC said

famine. War erupted in Sudan

on April 15, 2023, between the Sudanese army (SAF) and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The UN has said nearly 25 million people half Sudan's

from Chad. The IPC estimated that nearly 5 million people were acutely malnourished, of whom 3.6 million are children under the age of five and 1.2 million are preg-

Police officers detain an ultra-Orthodox Jewish man, as members of the

'Brothers in Arms' reservist protest group stage a demonstration in the

ultra-Orthodox neighbourhood of Mea Shearim, demanding equality in Israel's

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

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

On this auspicious

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

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

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

suffers bird hit

in Islamabad

QUETTA (INP): Quetta-

tional Airline (PIA) flight

PK-235 suffered a bird hit

on Sunday morning, which

partially damaged the

flight's operation, however,

all the passengers in the

said that all passengers on

board were safe despite the

bird strike. The flight was

safely brought back to

Islamabad airport amid se-

the national carrier said af-

ter the incident flight was

damaged partially and an al-

ternative ilight was ai

ranged. The next flight will

depart for Quetta at 12.30

pm carrying all the passen-

gers, PIA spokesperson

Gilani stresses

imparting

services for

well-being of

people

MULTÂN (APP): Former

Prime Minister Syed

Yousaf Raza Gilani said

that Ramzan was a month

of mercy, blessings, sacri-

fice, and forgiveness and

everyone should come for-

ward to serve the human-

Zighum Ğilani and Syed

Madani Gilani at Union

Council Muhammadpur

Ghota. Addressing the attendees of NA-148 con-

He expressed these sentiments during an Iftar dinner organized by Syed

The spokesperson of

PIA spokesperson

plane remained safe.

curity measures.

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

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



Israeli cruel and inhumane acts and express unity with the innocent people of Palestine, at Shahrah-e-Quaideen in Karachi.

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

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

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

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

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

'Such a written agreement between the jail administration and a con-

victed prisoner is unprecedented", he said.

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

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

in Karachi

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

The suspects were arrested and cases were reg-

istered against them.

Ashrafi hails SIFC as catalyst for Pakistan's economic progress Expressing optimism, sulating the shared vision of

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

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

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

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

the government and the

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

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



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

QMC faces acute shortage of machinery

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

The QMC could not cause inconvenience to the collect the total waste produced per day by the city due to a shortage of staff and equipment. The total of 800 sanitary workers were carrying out cleanliness work in the city of four mil-

lion people.

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

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

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

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

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

said the government had made efforts to increase the waste collecting capacity of QMC by 500 tons to 1600 tons daily by outsourcing the Quetta solid waste



on unopposed elected senator Sardar Haji Umar

PPP likely to sweep Sindh amid PTI boycott of Senate election

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is likely to bag 10 Senate seats from Sindh out of the 12 as Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) announced a boycott of the Senate election slated for April 2.

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

PTI leader Haleem Adil Sheikh announced the boycott, saying that the PTI could elect four Senators from the province if the party had been given its

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



economic uplift, unveils development initiatives MIRPUR (APP): Amidst of residents, including an Iftar dinner hosted in his honor by Minister Wildlife Fisheries and Development Authority Muzaffarabad Sardar Javed Ayub, Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar

economic development of the region. Emphasizing the pivotal role of tourism and road infrastructure in generating local employment oppor-

those in remote and far flung areas. PM Anwar ul Haq on this occasion, outlined the government's dedication to uplifting the economically disadvantaged segments of society ul Haq reaffirmed the citing the provision of fi government's unwavering nancial assistance to widcommitment to prioritize ows, orphans, divorcees, the comprehensive sociothe elderly, and disabled individuals through the endowment fund scheme. Additionally, he underscored the government's resolve to ensure equitable application of the law tunities, the PM under- across the state and to utiscored the imperative of lize taxpayers' funds for the improving the livelihoods welfare of the people

Debt Inquiry Commission reveals irregularities in utilization of foreign loans

Hackers stealing sensitive

information of federal

ministries and divisions

ISLAMABAD (Online): Hackers have become active to

steal sensitive information of federal ministries and divi-

sions, efforts are being made to obtain information of

has sent a letter to all federal ministries and divisions and

warned them in this regard. According to the post, fake emails known as 'JS Code' are circulating, dangerous

'payloads' are attached to the fake e-mails, these fake e-

mails compromise the network or system security of the

ministries. According to the sources, in the letter, the min-

istries and divisions are advised to adopt a cautious atti-

According to media reports, the Cabinet Division

ministries and divisions through fake e-mails.

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

According to media reports, the inquiry com-mission submitted its report on foreign loans taken between 2008 and 2018 in June 2020. And there are scandal-

ous 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 received by the commis-

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

cally 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 recommendations of the inquiry commission were divided into six levels and in this regard the inquiry commission had ob-

stituency area. Naqvi greets Christian community on Easter

AHORE (APP): Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has felicitated the Christian community on Eas-

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



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

PBC, HCBA Abbottabad support Jillani-led commission while PTI rejects

QUETTA: People are busy in Eid shopping ahead of Eid-ul-Fitar during the

Holy Month of Ramadan-ul-Mubarak, in Quetta.

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

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

He stated that the recommendations provided by transparency, and honor of Similarly, the High

Court Bar Association Abbottabad (HCBA) has extended its full support to Justice Jillani's appointment for the commis-HCB is hopeful that

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

HCBA labelled the

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

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) on Sunday denounced the inquiry commission formed by the government after the Islamabad High Court's (IHC) judges' letter. Expressing his thoughts, JI acting emir Liaquat Baloch said: "This

matter requires a direct judicial decision but not an inquiry commission.' No implementation had been done in the past on the finding reports of same types of commis-

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

Expressing his thoughts, PTI leader Barrister Gohar Ali Khan said: "We denounce the formation of the inquiry commission under the chairmanship 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 chairmanship of serving

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

MQM-P warns to demonstrate against law, order situation

of chief justice of IHC and

the Chief Justice of Paki-

HCB Abbottabad em-

It is noteworthy that

stan (CJP) as unconstitu-

phasized its commitment

to the rule of law and con-

demned any unconstitu-

tional and undemocratic

the Pakistan Tehreek-e-

Insaf (PTI) has rejected the

commission led by

Tassaduq Jillani to probe

the matter of the letter

tabled by IHC judges.

KARACHI Muttahida Qaumi Move ment Pakistan (MQM-P) Sunday warned the Sindh government of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) to hold protest demonstra-tions against the law and order situation in Karachi. 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 ban-