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ISLAMABAD: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar meeting talking with members of the committee formed led by the caretaker Federal Minister Fawad Hasan Fawad regarding the Baloch Yakjethi March

PTI loses electoral symbol 'bat' as ECP voids intra-party polls

Barrister Gohar announces to knock at court's doors against ECP decision to take away 'bat' electoral symbol

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday declared the intra-party elections conducted by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Ínsaf (PTI) null and void, withdrawing the party's electoral symbol – bat.

The electoral watchdog ruled that the party did not hold the elections in line with its constitution, the Election Act, 2017, and the Election Rules, 2017, and was thus ineligible to obtain the election symbol of

A five-member bench, led by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, gave the decision on the petitions challenging PTI's intra-party elections.

Other members of the bench included ECP members Nisar Ahmed Durrani,

founder PTI and Shah

Mehmood Qureshi against surety bonds of Rs 10 lac

has remarked offence has

not been proved against founder PTI and he is inno-

Acting Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Sardar Tariq

Masood remarked Shah

Mehmood was wise per-

son. He saved himself and

asked founder PTI to read

SC presided over by Acting CJP Sardar Tariq Masood took up the bail

pleas for hearing Friday.

Counsel for PTI

founder said trial court has

recorded statements of 12

The acting CJP

witnesses in haste.

at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Independent Report

QUETTA: A total of 52

nomination papers have so

far been submitted for the

reserved seats of the na-

tional and provincial assem-

blies from the Balochistan

vincial Election Commis-

sioner Ejaz Anwar Chohan,

the process of submission

of the nomination papers is

continued for the seats re-

served for the women and

nomination papers were

submitted for the women

reserved seats in the Na-

He informed that eight

According to the Pro-

province

minorities

A 3-member bench of

Justice Athar Minallah

each in cipher case.

Cipher case:

SC approves bail pleas

of PTI founder, Oureshi

ISLAMABAD (Online): marked speedy trial is right of every accused. Why do approved bail plea of you want that trial is not

completed speedily.

Justice Athar Minallah

remarked foreign ministry

informs government about

cipher so that help could be

sought in foreign policy.

Objective of official secret

act is only this the sensi-

tive information could not

Safdar said we have to see

this sensitive information

has been shared or otherwise

Justice Athar Minallah re-

marked the original cipher is

in ministry of foreign affairs.

If it has gone out then it is

offence of ministry of for-

former Prime Minister (PM) had said in a public

meeting that the letter held

by him is evidence of con-

tional Assembly on Friday Similarly, in all 15 nomi-

nation papers were submit-

ted for the seats reserved

for women in the provin-

Commissioner told 10 pa-

pers were submitted for the

seats reserved for minori-

ties in the provincial assem

here that the Provincial Elec-

tion Commissioner Ejaz

Anwar Chohan has been

Officer for the reserved

seats of the provincial and

National Assemblies in the

province

ppointed as the Returning

The Provincial Election

It may be mentioned

cial assembly.

Suleman Safdar said

Suleman

go out to any one

eign affairs.

ISLAMABAD: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul

Wali Khan Kakar calls on President Dr Arif Alvi,

52 nomination papers filed for

reserved seats in Balochistan,

says Ejaz Anwar Chohan

Counsel

The reserved verdict was announced a day after the Peshawar High Court directed the ECP to decide the petitions filed against PTI's intra-party elections in accordance with the law. In its decision, the ECP

observed that "the PTI did not comply with the Commission's directions rendered therein order dated 23rd November, 2023 and failed to hold intra-party election in accordance with PTI prevailing Constitution, 2019 and Election Act, 2017, and Election Rules, 2017. Therefore the certificate dated 4th December, 2023 and Form-65 filed by the alleged Chairman, is hereby regretted and rejected ac-

Shah Muhammad Jatoi, Babar Hassan Bharwana and Justice ® Ikramullah Khan. cordingly. The provisions of Section 215 of the Elec-tion Act, 2017 are hereby invoked and PTI is hereby declared ineligible to obtain the Election Symbol, for

which they have applied

It may be noted that the ECP rendered the intraparty polls as invalidated hence, Barrister Gohar Al Khan, who became the the party's chairman, would no longer be the party's top

The development came shortly after the PTI held discussions with ECP au thorities, prompted by the Supreme Court's directive for the ECP to allay PTI' reservations regarding lack of a level-playing field. As per the PTI, the ECP as sured its delegates that it would redress their griev

Hold telephonic conversation

President, PM express concerns over inappropriate police treatment against **Baloch protestors**

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi and Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday held a telephonic conversation wherein they cussed the overall situ-expressed concerns ation in the province as over the inappropriate police treatment with

the Baloch protestors.
Discussing the situation, both the president and the prime minister viewed that the police should not have dealt with the protestors strictly, a President House press release said. During the conversation, the prime minister told the president

Meanwhile, Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar also called on President Alvi and disation in the province as well as police maltreatment against the Baloch protestors.

The governor viewed that the police should show restraint towards the protestors.

In the meeting, the two sides believed that the police should not have acted beyond their limits and powers.
Both leaders empha-

sized the measures to that the detained pro- improve the law and testors were being re-leased on personal Balochistan.



participating in a protest held against arrest of participants of Baloch Yakjethi March in Islamabad

Passport making for Chaman people eased to facilitate in cross

border movement QUETTA (INP): The passport making for people has been eased under One Document Regime to facilitate them in movement across Pak-Afghan international bor-

Earlier, there was only one room of the Passport Office Chaman, but now it is expanded and ten counters have been established. Two counters have been allocated for women

Similarly, a new Passport Office with five counters has also been established in Qilla Abdullah under One Document Re-

People from Chaman, Qilla Abdullah and other surrounding areas are now approaching to these offices for making pass-Residents of Chaman,

who were present at the Regional Passport Office. lauded have government's initiatives.

Quetta Development Package roads: Caretaker CM acknowledges meritorious services of **Commissioner Quetta**

Independent Report

Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has acknowledged the services and untiring efforts made by Commissioner Quetta, Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat for the Quetta development package and especially for completion of the Sariab link Badini road.

In recognition of the roads.

outstanding performance of Commissioner Quetta, the

Chief Minister presented QUETTA: The caretaker

him a commendation certificate here on Friday. also expressed best wishes here that the Commissioner Quetta played key role in completion of different department projects especially Sariab and adjacent

5 laborers killed, one injured in firing on under construction police station

PESHAWAR (APP): At least five laborers were killed and one sustained injuries in an armed attack on an under-construction police station in Wanna, district of South Waziristan, confirmed Farmanullah, District Police Officer (DPO)

The DPO told media that the attack was carried out late Thursday night resulting in the tragic loss of

five lives, with one worker sustaining injuries.

The Chief Minister

Needless to mention

The bodies and the injured were shifted to district hospital Wana he said adding that further details would be shared after the investigation.

The victims, hailing from Punjab, were identified as Mohammad Uzair, Baqar Ali, Shehbaz Ahmed, and Shehzad

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar reaches Islamabad:

Governor calls for taking tense situation and sensitivity emerged due to Islamabad's arrests serious

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Gover-Balochistan Minister Malik Abdul Wali Hasan Fawad regard-Khan Kakar has un-derlined the need to take the tense situation and sensitivity of matter seriously, which otherwise emerged due to the arrests of people of Baloch Yekjehti Committee (BYC) in Islamabad. The Governor believed that the issues being faced can be sorted out after knowing the same with mutual understanding.

speaking to the mem-

caretaker Federal as well as political Hasan Fawad regard-ing the BYC march in sons and other lead-Islamabad on Friday

caretaker Federal Ministers Murtaza Solangi, Jamal Shah and Khalil George. The Governor

stressed that we need to take steps immediately in view just because we can't afford more ha-The Governor was tred and disputes.

He said it is high

bers of the commit- time that all governtee formed led by the ment functionaries Fawad elders, religious ing personalities morning.

The committee was comprised the was comprised the may play their whole-hearted role in the public interest.

Earlier, the Governor was briefed about the latest situation and informed that the arrested women and children have already been released.

While the legal of the tense situa-tion of the region ing fulfilled in the case of the remaining other arrested persons, it was informed further.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a group photo with the President, Directing Staff of National Defence University and graduating Civil Service officers of National Security Course-2024.

JUI-F chief submits nomination paper for NA-265 Pishin

QUETTA (APP): Nomination Papers of Maulana Fazl-ur-Rehman, Chief of the Jameet Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) were submitted on Friday for NA-265 Pishin for the upcoming general elections.

Provincial Ameer JUI-F Maulana Abdul Wasey, on behalf of the JUI-F central Ameer, submitted the nomination papers at Pishin district of Balochistan.

Kamran Senator Murtaza, Asghar Tarin were prominent among other leadership of the party who accompanied the JUI-F provincial Ameer.

EC extends date for filing nomination

papers ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EĆ) has extended the date for filing nomination papers for

two days Date has been extended on the pleas of political

parties. Political parties including MQM, JUI-F, PML-N and Balochistan Awami party had requested the EC to extend the date for filing nomination papers without

changing the date for polls. The EC while accepting the plea of political parties extended the date for filing nomination papers for two days. EC has said the candi-

dates now can file the nomi-nation papers till December 24. Political parties can file preferential list of re-served seats till December

The scrutiny of papers will be conducted from December 25 to 30.

EC had earlier fixed the date from December 20 to 22 for filing and receiving nomination papers.

The political parties while raising objection over it had demanded of EC to extend the date for filing nomination pa-

about election on Feb 8

PM dispels doubts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Thursday said there should be no doubt about polls on February 8 as the election process had started with the candidates filing their nomination papers and the political parties busy in building narratives to attract voters.

In an interview with a private television channel, he said it was a constitutional requirement to hold elections which would be held on February 8 after which a new elected government would be formed.

To a question, he said the government would provide security to political leaders, including the three time prime minister Nawaz Sharif, Maulana

Nawaz, Imran Khan, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and

Prominent political leaders could be targeted and the government would be blamed for any lapse in their security, he contin-"It is the responsibil-

ity of the government to provide security to political leaders and voters of Pakistan.

He said the caretaker government would fulfill its responsibility during the holding of elections.

It would be illegal to stop the Pakistan Tehreeke- Insaf (PTI) from taking part in the elections, he said and clarified there was no policy to stop the PTI from organizing public



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs, Murtaza Solangi addresses the graduation ceremony of 38th MCMC Domain Specific Training and 40th Specialized Training Program at Information Service Academy Auditorium.

Full confidence in EC, elections will be held on time, Solangi ISLAMABAD (Online): committee.

Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi has said that general elections will be held as per schedule. We have full confidence on Election Commission (EC). I cannot comment on internal matters of political parties.

PEMRA act provides job protection to journal-

While talking to media, Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi said that legal steps will be taken to protect the employment of journalists.

The demands of protestors from Baluchistan are long standing. Women and children have been released. Most of the men have also been released. Committee is doing its work. Governor of Baluchistan also joined the on February 8, 2024.

Caretaker Federal Minister for Information has further said that today there is also meeting of this committee with Prime Minister. Security is being provided to women and children who have come from Balochistan.

APP adds: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Friday the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP extended the date for submission of nomination papers by two days on the demand of various political parties. Talking to the 'Dawn News", he said the ECP had not made any changes in the date of elections, which would be held

QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over a meeting

Daily Aoice of Masse, Independent

Flies on the wall

For the past few years, dubiously recorded private conversations of public figures have been released to the media, or uploaded on social media, in an effort to sully reputations. Victims of this detestable practice have included people from the sporting world, judges and politicians including prime ministers, and even their relatives. The million-rupee question is: who is responsible?

The Islamabad High Court attempted to answer this query while hearing petitions related to illegal wiretapping. During Wednesday's hearing of former first lady Bushra Bibi's case, the attorney general told the court that the ISI, FIA and IB are "not allowed to record any conversations" adding that if any government agency was in-

volved in this practice, "it is doing so illegally".
Further, the IHC was reportedly told that the ISI cannot trace the source of the audio leaks. Other intelligence agencies like the IB and FIA, too, have previously denied knowledge of the source of similar leaks. So if the nation's top agencies cannot trace the culprits, then who can?

It is common practice the world over for intelligence agencies to monitor suspected hostile actors and foreign agents who intend to harm the country. To do so is no doubt necessary — while following SOPs to avoid violating the rights of innocent people. But to extend these powers to secretly record personal conversations of public figures and private citizens cannot be justified.

What national security objectives are served by illegally recording personal calls or messages, and then releasing these, initiating a frenzy in the media and cyberspace? In fact, the policy of electronic eavesdropping by powerful quarters is a continuation of the practice of maintaining 'files' on public figures, and releasing these as and when

As for those reacting gleefully to their opponents' dirty laundry being aired publicly through such means, they should remember that the same weapon can be deployed against them at some point. Both Imran Khan and Shehbaz Sharif can testify to this, as the conversations of both gentlemen were leaked from the time they were in the Prime Minister's Office.

The IHC has said it could appoint local and foreign experts in case the state failed to provide information about the leaks. The solution could lie in appointing an empowered commission to investigate the source of the

Forensic experts, as well as those familiar with the technology in question, can be brought on board to trace the culprits, and help end this vile practice. Illegally recording and releasing personal conversations has no place in a democratic polity, and is more suited to police states. If the state does not want to be seen as complicit in these shady activities, it must endeavour to unveil the source of the leaks.

Healing wounds

in the true spirit of Islam

which advises: "The Be-

lievers are but a single

Brotherhood: So make

peace and reconciliation

between your two (con-

The leader in ques-

tending) brothers... .

tion made a point of meet-

ing all major communities

and their representatives.

ulema and dignitaries.

From whatever I could

gather from the speeches

he made to the select gath-

erings he held (now on

First, meeting these

reach step to foster broth-

erly feelings and remove

misunderstandings was it-

self a great 'healing' step.

He listened to them first be-

fore he spoke to them —

indeed, an important step

to better understand and

heal. This generous ges-

ture must have given a

was that he emphasised

on the commonalities of

faith, while at the same

time accepting differ-

right from the early his-

should not lead to con-

emphasised. Communal

frontations,

The second point

feeling of healing.



Jan-e-Alam Khaki

Literally, 'healing wounds' is a laudable act, no matter in which context it is exercised. It means a lot metaphorically in the social context, where individuals or communities deeply 'hurt' each other because of one excuse or another. Probably, mental or psychological wounds cause greater pain than physical ones, and may sustain far longer than physical wounds.

Words, as the fa-

mous saying goes, hurt deeper than the strike of a sword. I call hurtful words weapons of mass destruction' when used in a communal context, while on the other hand, beautiful and inspiring words give fresh life to individuals and communities. Due to anger (regarded as fire) erupting for any reason, people get upset and cause harm physical or otherwise — to those who inflict it. Once a few key points from his this happens, someone, or talks some people, need to resort to 'therapeutic' treatment to heal and defuse the toxic situation between individuals or in communities.

The healing of wounds through building bridges among communi-— whether faith-based or tribal-based — is one of the prime tasks of civil society and society in general. Meetings between leaders or general community members is a dire need to bridge gaps in relations and remove misunderstandings. That ours is a ences of interpretations, divided society is to state the obvious; what we can tory of Islam. Differences do to heal old wounds or recent injuries is not that obvious.

In this context, let me interpretations need to mention a case study in be restricted for internal which a certain faith leader attempted to build bridges consumption, while consensus should be devel-

and heal the hurt men- oped regarding the major tioned here. A prominent pillars of Islam on which religious scholar, a comthere is overall agreement mitted educator and inno-- and these examples are plentiful, he pointed out. vative thinker visited the

The third point scenic but communally worth highlighting from tense Gilgit-Baltistan in the backdrop of the recent tenhis speech was discoursion caused by a reliaging those who create giously sensitive issue. discord by arousing the The issue was thankfully emotions of the members defused by efforts of the of other communities, government and saner and particularly those members of society. Meetwhose business it is to ing communities to do provoke the masses what we are talking about through emotional and here — 'the healing of polemical speeches. He wounds' — following the argued not to leave the lowering of tensions was space vacant for them to a dire need to strengthen exploit and encourage peace. This, to me, was an discord. unusual act of generosity He suggested that the elders in communi-

should ensure that such elements are discouraged and not given centre stage to cause trouble. Even if a person tends to create mischief, the other community members should not support them and take sides with the wrong person. The Quranic guidance (5:2), which says, "Help ye one another in righteousness and piety, but help ye not one another in sin and YouTube) with different rancour" provides guidcommunities, I summarise ance regarding what we need to do. A commentator

ties, like in the family,

made a succinct remark communities as an out- about the talks referred to above and observed, "Each word is a golden word; my request is for visiting each district of Pakistan taking this message." Scholars and leaders of this stature, with this kind of highly articulated view in a modern idiom rooted in essential Islamic teachings, are in short supply Mawlana today. Jalaluddin Rumi rightly says, "Tu barai wasl kardan aamadi; ne barai

fasal kardan aamadi' meaning, "O humans, you have been asked to unite, not divide." We need more such inspiring leaders with the capacity to heal wounds through their efforts and inspiring talks. -- Cour-

Baloch question



Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

There is no single issue that clarifies one's political position in Pakistan than the Baloch question. This was made brutally clear this past Wednesday night when a caravan of peaceful, unarmed protesters who had made their way to Islamabad from Turbat were violently refused entry into the federal capital.

In the preceding few weeks, the Baloch long march had literally made waves, mobilising thousands of Baloch women, men and children, along with progressive political workers, ethnic-nationalists hailing from other communities, as well as ordinary people.

Led young women, the caravan snaked through Balochistan and then the Seraiki, Pakhtun and Puniabi heartlands. It was the most meaningful expression of democratic aspirations and what a voluntary federation could look like in recent times. And then they reached the

outskirts of Islamabad. The demands of the marchers are simple enough, but it is precisely their simplicity that is unpalatable to those who rule us: to bring an end to the dastardly practice of enforced disappearances, as well as 'encounter killings', which is what triggered the initial protest in Turbat and accountability for those who are known to be complicit in all such practices. Simple demands, with earth-shattering implica-Why is it that raising

such demands is so taboo? And why is it especially taboo for Baloch youth to state what pretty much ev-

knows: that there are some functionaries of the state who do what they want and cannot be held to ac-

It is telling that while the long march was making its way through the country, mainstream parties were busy wooing Balochistan's proverbial electables. Sarfraz Bugti, the caretaker interior minister who resigned as soon as the Election Commission confirmed the Feb 8 poll date, was in particular demand. He eventually joined

The caretaker prime minister also hails from Balochistan. In the aftermath of the violent crackdown on the long marchers, it was reported that he took urgent notice. As did the Islamabad High Court after a petition was filed on behalf of the hundreds who were detained. Which begs the question: why is it that the Baloch are repeatedly brutalised and nominal remedial action taken only after more salt is rubbed in their already gaping wounds?

Zubeida Mustafa wrote last week on these pages about the systemic and systematic oppression that steadily increased disaffection amongst the Bengalis and led to the eventual creation of Bangladesh.

presumably One writes such words in the hope that the lessons of history are learned, but the Baloch question makes clear not only that nothing has been learned but that the state is even more militarised now

Indeed, the scenes on the outskirts of Islamabad this past week make it more difficult to convince the sceptics that a democratic federation in which ethnic nations like the Baloch enjoy genuine citizenship is still a possibility. To be sure, there is no other way to describe the attitudes and actions of those who rule us as old-fashioned colonial statecraft.

The marchers asked

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan exported textile

\$6,883.615 million during

the initial five months of

the current financial year

(2023-24), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS)

witnessed a decline of 6.50

percent during July-November (2023-24) when

compared to the exports of

\$7,361,914 million during

July-November (2022-23).

witnessed positive growth

in trade included raw

cotton, the exports of

The exports of the

products

reported.

product

The

commodities

Pakistan's textile exports

reach \$6.88bln in 5 months

worth

however

textile

eryone in Pakistan already to be let into the federal capital and be allowed to say their piece. Their language was not incendiary - it was, in fact, a plea to be heard. They certainly did not come with the loftiest of expectations, given the historical track record.

This is precisely why the young women and mothers who came on foot to what is supposed to be the symbol of the federation, simply asking to be allowed to make their way to a peaceful protest camp, should not have been baton-charged, hosed with water cannons and bundled into police

Mainstream Pak-is--tan has been exposed to some of these tactics in recent months, especially those who continue to pledge their allegiance to the jailed former prime minister. Many of those who have now experienced the big stick ask rhetorically how and why they are being treated so brutally.

The truth is that they are only now being subjected to the treatment that many Baloch and those who have stood in solidarity with them suffered for a long time. To recognise this is to truly open up the possibility of a deeper democratic struggle in which the most oppressed is given cen-

Indeed, the solidarities that were expressed along the route of the long march should not be forgotten in the clamour of what happened when it actually entered Islamabad.

The establishment will not be held to account by bourgeois politicians who want to cosy up to it. The only hope is for all progressives — and the ordinary people who came out onto the streets to make clear their abhorrence for disappearances and 'encounter' killings — to recognise that that can maybe, just maybe, still lead to a just and democratic future. -- Courtesy Dawn

percent, from \$11.253

million last year to \$39.733

cotton yarn increased by 50.30 percent, from \$328.197

million last year to \$493.277

million this year, cotton

carded or combed by 22.86

percent, from \$0.477 million

to \$0.586 million and towels

by 0.74 percent, from

\$409.510 million to \$412.544

. The textile commodities that

witnessed negative growth

include cotton cloth, the

exports of which declined by

13.35 percent, from \$903.685

million to \$783.087 million,

yarn other than cotton yarn

by 11.47 percent.

Likewise, the exports of

million this year.

Commerce News

Good to use natural elements to support agricultural activities

Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik has said using natural elements for supporting agricultural activities is most desirable approach.

addressing the 5th PlantwisePlus National Forum meeting at a local hotel on Friday. He said, "Climate

He said this while

change and realisation to move away from fossil fuel technology are highly important.

He said anything related to bio was extremely important whether it was biocontrol, biopesticide, biofertilizer,

biostimulant, etc. He said that climate change was impacting agriculture in a number of ways, often exacerbating existing challenges to crop production. Smallholder farmers in developing countries were the most vulnerable

disproportionately affected because they lack the capacity to cope with uncertainties created by a rapidly changing world, he

He said smallholders needed to adapt to farming practices to climate hazards to maintain the quality and quantity of crops, or in some cases diversify into new forms of farming and livelihoods. He

important to look at soil health to obtain desired results.

Dr Kausar said, "We are consuming most important resources of gas and energy in developing fertilizers." Fertilizers were important but the way they were being used was illogical, he added. The minister said that import and export depend on sanitary and phytosanitary measures as it was extremely important. He suggested the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) to impart training to all our potential exporters and importers as they were not aware of SPS.

Gold rates up by Rs.1,800

per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 1,800 and was sold at Rs.2,650 and Rs.2,271.94 respectively.

Shipping activity at

Shipping activity reported at the Port where five ships namely, Seaspan Ganges SpilKartini, Kamome Vanauish. Victoria and Sheng Ping Hai carrying Container, Edible

Gasoline and Coal, berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Terminal, Oil Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on 21st December. Meanwhile three more ships, Sheng De Hai. Estia and Silver Eleaner also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim during last 24 hours.

LAHORE: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Kauser Abdullah Malik addresses at CABI 5th Plant Wise Plus National Forum Lahore.

Senate body discusses financial challenges faced by PSM

Independent Report SLAMABAD: Senate Standing Committee Industry

Production discussed multiple options to address the financial challenges of Pakistan Steel Mill. The meeting, chaired by Senator Khalida Ateeb, was held at the Parliament House to deliberate on critical issues concerning the industrial sector of the

During the meeting, emphasize the committee received a duration.

ISLAMABAD (APP):

Speakers at an event hosted

by the University of

Bahrain on the sidelines of

the Huawei ICT Competition 2023-2024

regional final awards

ecosystem and the

comprehensive update on the progress regarding the previous recommendations concerning Pakistan Steel Mill, National Fertilizer Corporation, and Pakistan Industrial Technical

Assistance Center. The Chief Financial Officer of Pakistan Steel Mill highlighted a 25% increase in the temporary relief allowance for employees, effective since September 2023, initially emphasizing its one-year

Of profound concern for the committee was the alarming surge in theft incidents within Pakistan Steel Mill, resulting in substantial financial losses.

Officials revealed that since 2021, thefts have escalated, causing a loss of approximately 18 million rupees, with recoveries amounting to 4.9 million rupees. The theft of machinery and assets has significantly impacted the operations and stability of Pakistan Steel Mill.

Zong announces special offer opportunities in building on Christmas ISLAMABAD (APP):

Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecom rates this Christmas.

that believes in inclusivity, this bundle has been tailormade for those celebrating the festivities of the occasion said a news

This customized bundle is designed to ensure that you get access to the best data

Two new Carrefour supermarkets open their doors in DHA Lahore, graced by the presence of Umer Lodhi, the Country Manager of Carrefour Pakistan, who joyfully cut the ribbon at the inauguration ceremony.

Weekly inflation falls by 0.51%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The review witnessed an weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed a decrease of 0.51 percent for the combined consumption groups during the week ended on December 21, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday.

The SPI for the week under review in the abovementioned group was recorded at 310.00 points as compared to 311.58 points during the past week, according to the PBS data.

As compared to the combined consumption and group in the week under respectively.

increase of 42.60 percent. The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16=100

covers 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

The SPI for the

lowest consumption group

up to Rs 17,732, decreased by 0.39 percent and went down to 304.83 points from last week's 306.02 points. The SPI for consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-44,175 and above Rs corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the percent, 0.39 percent, 0.44 percent, 0.39 percent, 0.44 and 0.59 percent

IPO Pak emphasis need for creating awareness on **Intellectual Property Rights**

PESHAWAR: Chairperson, Intellectual Property

of Pakistan (IPO-Pakistan), Ambassador Farukh

Amil addressing an awareness session on

PESHAWAR (INP): Ambassador Farukh Amil, Chair-Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan (IPO-Pakistan) here on Friday said Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) were very important for the promotion of genuine trade and underscored the need for the creation of awareness among manufacturers, people and industrialists on its registration, protection and enforcement for genuine

Intellectual Property Rights.

business development. He expressed these views during an awareness Business development piracy of their products.

opportunities for industrialists' jointly organized by (IPO-Pakistan) and the Industrialists Association Peshawar (IAP) here.

Speaking as chief guest, Farukh Amil said that the workshop aimed to raise awareness among people, manufacturers and industrialists in Peshawar about IPRs related services including trademarks, copyrights and patent designs that were protected by his organization and ensure their effective enforcement by law session on 'Protection and enforcement agencies to enforcement of IPRs: avoid counterfeiting and

ISLAMABAD (APP): The

was sold at Rs 219,800 on Friday against its sale at Rs 218,000 on the last trading day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also increased by Rs 1543 to Rs 188,443 from Rs 186,900 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs 172,740 from Rs 171,325, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver witnessed no change and

Port Qasim KARACHI (APP)

ceremony in Manama, delved into discussions about future opportunities in building the IT talent programme this year. The forum panel

significance of public-private partnerships in nurturing innovations. They called upon supplementing university curricula with practical skills and training, fostering socio-economic growth in

Speakers discuss future

IT talent ecosystem The University of

Bahrain is a partner for the Huawei ICT (Information Communications Technology) Competition 2023-2024 regional final and hosted the official closing and awards ceremonies for the

discussion featured Dr Jassim Haji, President of the International Group of Artificial Intelligence; Dr Hessa Jassim Al-Junaid Dean of the College of Information Technology, University of Bahrain; Dr

operator announced a special data roaming bundle for the United Kingdom to ensure seamless and uninterrupted connectivity at affordable As an organization

roaming services at affordable prices.

were issued three days after the tests. The CM warned

that hospitals found to be

causing delay in delivering

CT scans and MRI reports

would face administrative

CM inspected various

wards, interacted with

parents of children and

inspected the medical

facilities. The CM also

inspected up-gradation

work, engaged with the

labourers and assessed

During his visit, the

CM orders 24/7

CT-Scan, MRI

reports facility

action.

Independent Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has

directed the health secretary that all hospitals

must adhere to a 24/7

facility for providing CT

scans and MRI reports to

visit to Children's Hospital

on Friday where parents

raised concerns regarding

delayed issuance of CT

scans and MRI reports.

The CM was informed that

CT scans and MRI reports progress.

He made a surprise

IPMG meeting urges Fortifying gender data collection to promote gender equality

Group (IPMG) discussed 2009 the use of data more coordination on gender effectively in efforts to equality and women's promote gender equality in Pakistan.

The two-day 21st chairperson NCSW, said: IPMG meeting, held under the auspices of the acrucial platform, National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW), and with support from UN Women and the United States, concluded here on Friday during which speakers shared vision of a more

LAHORE (APP): The participants in the Inter-Provincial Ministerial IPMG was established in to enhance empowerment in Pakistan.

Nilofar Bakhtiar, chairperson NCSW, said: a crucial platform, fostering collaboration and initiating positive change on the path to gender equality and empowerment of women in Pakistan. Together, let's unite to construct a society where every woman's voice inclusive society, where echoes, and her rights and



KARACHI: PPP Senator Saleem Mandviwala talking to media persons after submission of nomination paper for NA 241 General Elections 2024 at Assistant Commissioner office.

Firdous says: Every political step of IPP will lead to the country's construction, development

SIALKOT (APP): Central Central Information Secretary Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) and former Federal Minister Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan has said that every political step of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) will lead to the country's construction and development and to divert the resources of a strong and powerful Pakistan towards the development and prosperity of the people of NA-70, there must be sincere and honest leadership from the constituency.

In a statement issued here to the media on Friday, country.

Information Secretary Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) and former Federal Minister said that the President of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) Abdul Aleem Khan issued instructions to his candidates participating in the elections to receive nomination papers and submit them in time. Dr. Firdous Ashiq Awan said that the People's friendly manifesto of Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) and the implementation of ongoing struggle in the interest of the



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with during function organized in connection with the Quaid Day at the Governor House.

Christian community playing key role in Pak development, prosperity: Mushaal

RAWALPINDI (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment, Mushaal Hussein Mullick, congratulating the Christian community on Christmas, has said that the Christian community was playing a key role in the development and prosperity of the country.

She said that the Christian community members were performing significant services while all the minorities including the Christian community equal rights in

Addressing a ceremony organized by

RPO orders

foolproof

security

on Christmas

to make foolproof security

Christian settlements, special

markets and celebration

points on Christmas.

arrangements in churches

Archbishop Rawalpindi-Islamabad Dr Joseph Arshad in connection with Christmas celebrations, Mushaal said that atrocities were being committed on minorities in India and the international community should to take notice of that. Station Commander

Rawalpindi Brig. Ahmad Nawaz, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leaders Chaudhry Tanveer, Daniyal, Barrister Chaudhry Osama, Malik Abrar, Ziaullah Shah and Rashid Khan, Pakistan Peoples Party's Sibt-ul-

the peace committee, Babu Sajid Amin Khokhar, Frayad Francis, Napoleon Gomez, Sanobar Gill, ambassadors of various countries, Hindu, Sikh and Christian leaders, Ulema Izhar Bukhari, Hafiz Iqbal Rizvi andPir Azmatullah, and administrative officers attended the ceremony. Archbishop Dr Joseph Arshad, in his remarks, said,"Christmas gives us the message of peace and brotherhood, and the Christian community will

continue to strive for the

urged Christian community to remember their needy and deserving brothers in the festivities of Christmas and share them in their joy.

was a message of peace, reconciliation and love. The community would continue its efforts for the promotion of love and affection. On this occasion, special guest Mushaal Mullicik lit the candle of peace along with Dr Joseph Arshad and other distinguished guests. A Christmas cake was also

purpose and every effort

is being made to ensure

transparency and efficient

taxpayer's money. The

Cabinet was briefed in

about preparations for the

upcoming general elections.It would ensure

the availability and placement of human

resources, mapping of

detail

He congratulated the

Christian community on Christmas, which, he said,

Kristin Hawkins sees women become agents of change through sports

his supporters at the Commissioner's office.

MULTAN: Senior Vice Chairman PPP, Syed Yousaf

Raza Gillani submitting his nomination papers with

LAHORE (APP): US Consul General in Lahore of empowering young Kristin Hawkins has said women, the workshop was women become a source of positive change in societies through the life from Baylor University transforming skills and confidence gained from

Speaking at a four-day US funded sports workshop for women at University of Education (UoE) Township here on Friday, she said sports contribute to characterbuilding and help women become positive agents of change and reminded the workshop participants of their unique role as educators, coaches, and mentors in helping young women develop their

With the sole purpose conducted by coaches, trainers, and educators and University of North Carolina, Wilmington, in partnership with the UoE, Township. Female sports educators, trainers, and coaches from 10 schools and four universities

workshop. "Not everyone, who participates in sports, will on to professionally, but the confidence, teamwork, and skills that we learn from sports can help us become a force for positive change, no matter what we do in

across Punjab attended the

Muhammad Hafeez, country like before." **KP Cabinet reiterated commitments** to provide level playing field in Election PESHAWAR (APP): The government during daylight been mobilized for the

Caretaker Provincial to ensure efficient security FAISALABAD (APP) Cabinet of Khyber Regional Police Officer Pakhtunkhwa on Friday (RPO) Dr. Muhammad Abid reiterated its commitment Khan has issued instructions to provide a level playing for ensuring foolproof field to all political parties security arrangements on and has asked them to Christmas. He directed the follow the Standing capital police officer (CPO) Operating Procedures Faisalabad, district police officers (DPOs) of three (SOPs) during their election campaigns. districts including Jhang, Toba Tek Singh and Chiniot

Besides the directives the Election Commissions, these SOPs include holding large political gatherings in designated areas notified by the provincial said that all resources have ramps at polling stations.

and safety of the participants. utilization of the

The cabinet met under the Chairmanship of the Caretaker cabinet, Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Arshan Hussain Shah finalized preparations for the upcoming general elections in light of the directives of the Election Commission reiterating that every effort will be made to ensure free and fair elections in the province.

missing facilities, and placement of IT staff and equipment. The Cabinet The Chief Minister assured that provision of

leadership skills. life," Hawkins said. North Korea's Kim

warns of 'nuclear

attack'if 'provoked' **Monitoring Desk** SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned Pyongyang will not hesitate to launch a nuclear attack if "provoked with nukes", state media said on Thursday, while Seoul and

without preconditions" Kim's warning follows a meeting between South Korea and the United States last week in Washington, where they discussed nuclear deterrence in the event of conflict with

the North. The meeting's agenda included "nuclear and stra-

"not to hesitate (launching) even a nuclear attack when its allies called for "dialogue the enemy provokes it with nukes," Pyongyang's offi-cial Korean Central News Agency said.

Pyongyang on the United

States or South Korea

would result in the end of

But Kim told his

the North Korean regime.

military's missile bureau

Washington, Seoul and Tokyo released a statement shortly afterwards, urging the nuclear-armed country to "stop conducting further provocations and accept our call for engaging in substantive dialogue without



Jordanian journalists denounce the killing of Al Jazeera cameraman Samer Abu Daqqa during a demonstration in front of the broadcaster's of-

US, China top military officials speak for first time in over a year

U.S. military officer held a virtual meeting with his Chinese counterpart on Thursday, the Pentagon said, in the first such conversation in over a year amid hopes by U.S. officials that it could lead to a broader restoration of ties

ence followed an agree-

August 2022. U.S. Air Force General

Charles Q. Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and General Liu Zhenli of China's People's Liberation Army touched on "a number of global and regional security issues," Brown's office said. Liu is the chief of the Joint Staff Department of the Central Military Commission (CMC), the military body responsible for China's combat operations and planning. Pentagon officials say communication between the two militaries is crucial to preventing a miscalculation from spiraling into conflict.

The crisis in the Red

Sea has grown out of the

war between Israel and

Gaza border into southern

Israel, where Israeli au-

killed about 1,200 mostly

civilian Israelis and for

bombardment and invasion

Israel's retaliatory

thorities say the militants

More than 20 countries now part of US-led Red Sea coalition, Pentagon says

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: A total of more than 20 countries have agreed to participate in the new US-led coalition safeguarding commercial traffic in the Red Sea from attacks by Yemen's Houthi movement as more nations join the effort, the Pentagon said on Thursday.

Still, the new Pentagon total would suggest that at least eight of the countries who have signed up have also declined to be publicly named, in a sign of political sensitivities of the operation as regional tensions soar over the Israel-Hamas

Patrick Ryder said, noting he told a news briefing. declarations by Greece and

We'll allow other countries, defer to them to talk about their participa-

Each country will contribute what they can, Ryder said, dubbing it a "coalition of the willing." 'In some cases that

"We've had over 20 will include vessels. In other

"Our staff are running

said Richard

out of words to describe the

beyond catastrophic situa-

tion facing remaining

pati-ents and health work-

Peeper-korn, the WHO

representative for the occu-

amid increasingly frantic

diploma-tic efforts to se-

cure a pause in the war that

Hamas says has already

claimed 20,000 lives in

Gaza, 70 per cent of them

women and children

His comment came

pied Palestinian territory.

Gaza's ruling Palestinian Islamist group Hamas. The war began on The United States Oct. 7 when Hamas fighters stormed across the

launched Operation Prosperity Guardian two days ago, saying more than a dozen countries had agreed to participate in an effort that will involve joint patrols in Red Sea waters near

nations now sign on to par- cases, it could include staff ticipate," Major General or other types of support,"

Lai Ching-te, Taiwan's vice president and the rul-

ing Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) presi-

dential candidate gestures during an election cam-

No functional

hospitals left in

northern Gaza: WHO

paign event in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

Monitoring Desk

GENEVA: There are no

longer any functional hos-

pitals in the north of the

Gaza Strip, the World Health Organisation

(WHO) said Thursday, de-

scribing "unbea-rable" scenes of largely abandoned

patients begging for food

said it had led missions to

two badly damaged hospi-

tals, Al Shifa and Al Ahli, in

the north of the Palestinian

territory on Wednesday.

The UN health agency

and water.

of Gaza, which Israeli officials state is aimed at wip ing out Hamas, has killed nearly 20,000 Palestinians, according to health officials in the densely populated. coastal enclave.



Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia may

cut diplomatic ties with the United States if Washington confiscates Russian assets frozen over the Ukrainian war, the Interfax news agency quoted Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov as saying on Fri-

The United States "must not act under an illusion... that Russia is clinging with both hands to diplomatic relations with that country,' Ryabkov said.

Russia has described relations with the United States as "below zero" because of U.S. military and financial aid for Ukraine in the war now approaching the end of its

second year. Ryabkov said Russia which sent forces into Ukraine in February 2022 in what it called a "special military operation", would not be the one to initiate a break in diplomatic ties but such a rupture could be prompted by a variety of factors



Czech Interior Minister Vit Rakusan and Police Chief Martin Vondrasek give a press conference in the Ministry of the Interior in Prague, Czech Republic.

Czech police seek motive in Prague mass shooting that killed 15

International News

Monitoring Desk PRAGUE: Czech authorities sought a motive on Friday in a student's gun attack that killed 15 people at a Prague university, where tearful mourners have left a sea of candles to

grieve for the victims. The gunfire on Thursday at the Charles and their identity. It's 15 University's Faculty of Arts sparked frantic scenes of students running from the attack that was the Czech Republic's worst shooting in decades.

A makeshift memorial flickered outside the univer- eigners.

sity on Friday as police pursued the investigation at the campus in Prague's historic centre.

The gunman, a 24year-old student, killed himself after the attack, shooting dead 15 people and wounding 25 others. 'We know all 14 dead

victims of the mad gunman and the gunman himself," Interior Minister Vit Rakusan told public broadcaster Czech TV, revising down a previous toll of 14 victims. He added that three of hundreds of candles of the wounded were for-

Japan prepares for missile shipments after easing arms export restrictions

Monitoring Desk TOKYO: Japan said on Fri-

day it would prepare to ship Patriot air defence missiles to the United States after revising its arms export guidelines earlier that day, in the pacifist nation's first major overhaul of such export curbs in nine years. The announcement comes as Japan, which had long adopted a stance of not allowing exports of deadly weapons, seeks to boost its defence industry amid an increasingly tense security environment in the Indo-Pacific.

meaning in terms of further strengthening the Japan-U.S. alliance. It will contribute not only to Japan's security but also the peace and stability of the wider Indo-Pacific region," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi said following the announcement. Although Japan's new export controls still prevent it from shipping weapons to countries that are at war, it may indirectly benefit Ukraine in its war with Russia as it gives the United States extra capacity.

No deal with Turkey on Swedish NATO bid: **Hungary's Orban**

Monitoring Desk

Orban said there was

Turkiye detains 304 over **Islamic State ties**

thorities have detained 304 people suspected of having ties to the militant group Islamic State in operations across 32 provinces, Interior Minister Ali Yerlikaya said on Friday.

suspects were detained in Turkiye's three biggest cities of Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir, Yerlikaya said on social messaging platform X. He said the operation, "Op-

Hungarian-Turkish deal about the ratification of Sweden's bid for NATO membership as it will be up to the Hungarian parliament to decide when to vote on this, Prime Minister Viktor Orban told a news briefing on Thursday.

no great willingness among ruling party lawmakers in Budapest to approve Sweden's bid. Sweden's application has been held up by Turkey and Hungary's refusal to support it. Orban said in September that Hungary was in no rush to ratify Sweden's NATO accession.

Monitoring Desk

ANKARA: Turkish au-

The majority of the eration Heroes-34".

tegic planning", and the allies reiterated that any preconditions"

fice in Amman, Jordan.

ited self-ruled Taiwan in **Monitoring Desk**

WASHINGTON: The top

between the two militaries. The video teleconfer-

ment between U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping last month to resume military-to-military ties severed by Beijing after then-House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi vis-

every woman can thrive

Pakistan's Living Indus Ini-

tiative has been selected as

the World Restoration Flag-

Mosques can play role in preventing diseases: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): and senior officials. President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday said that the mosques and pulpits could play an important role in preventing diseases.

Chairing a meeting regarding the importance of the mosques in creating awareness about health issues, the president said that during the corona virus, the religious scholars and Imams (prayer leaders) played an important role in preventing spread of the

The meeting was attended by Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr Nadeem Jan, Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed, provincial representatives

President pointed out that the community participation could also reduce the burden of disease on the health sys-

meeting that a policy draft on the role of mosques towards public health would be prepared in two weeks. The health minister appreciated the president

It was agreed in the

and the first lady for playing a role in creating awareness about certain

The provincial representatives informed the meeting about the measures taken for the health of the people in their respective



DIR: Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haq talking with mediamen after submit nomination paper for

Zaradri, Sharif families to field next generation in elections 2024

generation of the two political families, Zaradri and Sharif, are gearing up to contest February 8, 2024 elections. Maryam Nawaz, the daughter of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, will contest elections for Punjab Assembly from five constituencies. It may be recalled that People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari who used to contest elections from Larkana, has decided to run from Lahore this time and filed nomination papers for National Assembly con-

stituency NA-128. Meanwhile, the old guard of the PPP, Asif Zardari, received nomination papers from Nawab Shah constituency NA-207 for National Assembly on

LAHORE (INP): The next dent Shehbaz Sharif will contest elections from National Assembly constituency NA-123 and Punjab's PP-158 and PP-164.

Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani will contest elections from NA-260 of the National Assembly and constituency PB-32 of Balochistan. The JUI-F chief, Fazlur Rehman got nomination papers from stituency NA-44 Dera Ismail Khan. Former speaker Asad Qaiser has filed nomination papers from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa constituency PK-50 and National Assembly's NA-

contestant in the field for elections 2024 is former PML-N stalwart and ex-in-PTI founder was beyond minister and PML-N Presi- Nisar Ali Khan.

Sponsorship Scheme Hajj applications submission deadline extended till Dec 31

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony has extended the deadline for submitting Hajj applications under the Sponsorship Scheme till December 31.

The step had been taken on the insistence of overseas Pakistanis while there would be no extension in the deadline for Regular Scheme as the number of applications submitted had already crossed its quota, a ministry spokesperson said on Friday. The spokesperson made it clear that there would be no further extension in the deadline for submission of applications to ensure smooth and timely arrangements for Hajj.

He said the balloting for the regular Government Scheme would be held on December 28. Over 66,000 applications had received under the scheme, he added.

The spokesperson advised the Hajj applicants to acquire signed copies of their computerized Hajj forms from the respective banks and rectify any errors in their details on the spot. This proactive measure was recommended to prevent any inconvenience in the future, he added.

Meanwhile, the Saudi Aviation authorites have instructed airlines to submit their Hajj flight schedules by January 2, 2024, to ensure the seamless operation of flights.



nation papers to Returning Officer for participate in General Election during meeting held at Election Commission Office in Quetta.

Khaliq resigns from BAP; would take part in elections in ind. capacity

Independent Report QUETTA: The Provincial Vice President of Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) and former Provincial Minister Captain (Retd) Abdul Khaliq

Achakzai has tendered resignation from the party. Addressing a workers convention in Chaman on Friday, Abdul Khaliq Achakzai said he has decided to resign from the

in the party. He also announced to contest the elections in his independent capacity. Therefore, he is also going

party and position he held

Abdul

Achakzai said that the people of Chaman should know their real representatives and not pay attention

never committed any negli-

Haji Attaullah Khan Achakzai and others also addressed the public gath-



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi chairing a meeting on health related issues and role of Mosques

8th CPEC Media Forum calls for objective narrative of CPEC amid fruitful outcomes

Quetta's senior journalist

files nomination papers

for PB-42

China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Media Forum was held in Beijing, Islamabad and Gwadar, both online and offline.

The Forum saw the unfolding of several key events, including the CPEC Golden Anchor Awarding Ceremony, the launch of the CPEC Media Forum Balochistan Initiative, and the Perceptions on CPEC in Pakistan research paper, and the unveiling of its Joint

The Forum commenced with Cui Jun, President of China Economic Net, reading out a congratulatory letter from Sun Weidong, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China.
The lette

Khattak says: Azam Khan running PTI founder govt

PESHAWAR (Online) Pervez Khattak, chairman PTI Parliamentarians has said Azam Khan was running the government of PT

"the bureaucrat whom powers were given has become approver today, he said this in a statement issued here Friday

He stated Azam appointed chief secretaries and IG's in Punjab, KP and Gilgit-Balstistan. PTI had to suffer heavily due to Azam Khan. He went on to say Usman Buzdar was not in PTI and he had won the election as independent candidate. The logic behind appointing Usman Buzdar

DC chairs

meeting to

take action

against illegal

medical stores

QUETTA (APP): Deputy

Commissioner Quetta Lt ®

Saad Bin Asad on Friday

chaired a meeting of Quetta

Drug Inspection Team to

take action against illegal

The meeting was at-

In the meeting,

medical stores in the city.

tended by all drug inspec-

Deputy Commissioner

Quetta formed teams of

drug inspectors for differ-

ent areas which in the first

phase would warn all un-

registered medical store

owners to get their registra-

tion done immediately, oth-

erwise their illegal medical

ond phase, these teams

would take action against all

forecast for

Balochistan

Quetta (APP)-The Met

Office has forecast mainly

cold weather with partly cloudy condition in most

parts of the province dur-

Office, the minimum tem-

perature in Kalat was re-corded at -2.5 degree cen-tigrade and -2 degree cen-

tigrade in Quetta on Fri-

According to the Met

ing next 24 hours.

He said that in the sec-

stores would be closed.

tors of Quetta.

BEIJING (APP): The 8th stated,"Under the strategic cioeconomic landscape, adguidance of the leaders of the two countries and the care and support of people from all sectors, China-Pakistan relations have grown in depth in recent years and bilateral cooperation in various fields has yielded fruitful results.

To further strengthen friendship and collaboration, it added, media professionals of both countries were expected to undertake significant responsibilities

The positive role of CPEC in Pakistan was echoed by Murtaza Solangi, Caretaker Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, who stated that the economic corridor "has transformed Pakistan's so-

QUETTA (APP): The sea-

soned journalist of Quetta,

Raza-ur-Rehman on Friday

filed the nomination papers

for the provincial assembly's PB-42 Quetta

as an independent candidate

to run for the general elec-

the history of Balochistan

that a working journalist

will contest the general elec-

tions. Accompanied by the

prominent journalists, he

filed nomination papers at

the office of Assistant

Raza-ur-Rehman said that

he wanted to serve people

and parliament, as a main

pillar of the state is the best

forum from which public

ZHOB: Provincial Secretary Science & Information Technology Muhammad

Ayaz Khan Mandokhail addressing students who complet training course at

Talking to newsmen,

Commissioner Quetta.

It is the first time in

tions 2024.

dressing a dire energy crisis and crumbling infrastructure, has generated 236,000 jobs since 2013, and is set to create 1.2 million direct jobs, contributing to local workforce development and reducing regional dis-

In response to the use of selective facts, emotions, and sometimes misleading stories by the Western media against CPEC, Solangi urged the media personnel of both countries to engage in the objective reporting of CPEC and disseminate accurate and unbiased narratives responsibly.

"I will try my best to

It may be recalled that

live up to the expectations

of the people and resolve

the issue faced by an ordi-

nary man, once elected," he

Raza-ur-Rehman is a senior

media industry in Quetta.

Mr Raza started his jour-

nalistic career with the print

media and later with the in-

flux of electronic media, he

joined Express news group

and for the last over a de-

cade, he has been associated

with the same news group.

person, remained in key

positions in media bodies

including the Federal Union

of Journalists, the

Balochistan Union of Jour-

He, as an active media

journalist working in the

highlighted the constructive role of Chinese and Pakistani media in creating an enabling public atmosphere for CPEC.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Chairman yet to come

He suggested that both sides should jointly navigate through challenges for more development opportunities, enhance exchanges people-to-people bonds and connectivity, and conduct impartial, evidence-based news report-

of the Senate's Defence Committee and Pakistan-China Institute, noted that CPEC, featuring openness, inclusivity, and connectivity, had advanced notably and "the best of CPEC is

ship of the United Nations measures emphasizing na-Decade on Ecosystem Resture-based solutions and ecosystem-based adapta-Executive Director of tion strategies. Expressing her delight, the United Nations Envi-Programme Ms Inger Andersen com-(UNEP), Inger Andersen announced the groundbreaking achievement in a

Pak Living Indus

Initiative recognized

as World Restoration

Flagship by UN

ISLAMABAD (APP): addresses the ecological

mended the Living Indus Initiative for being one of the world's most promisletter addressed to Federal ing, ambitious, and inspir-Minister for Climate ing examples of large-scale Change and Environmental restoration. Coordination, a news re-The recognition release said. The Living Indus flects the tireless efforts of Initiative stood out among everyone involved in and more than 150 applications supportive of the initiative,

challenges faced by the frag-

ile basin due to climate

change, with a set of 25

and garnered support from highlighting its significant over 70 governments worldimpact on both people and The World Restora-The Initiative's dedication to restoring millions tion Flagships, including the of hectares in the Indus Living Indus Initiative, will River basin, a critical ecosystem supporting 90% of Pakistan's population and driving a significant portion

be publicly announced in February 2024 during the sixth United Nations Environment Assembly in (UNEA6). The announceof its economy, earned it the ment will be celebrated Developed jointly by through a global media the Ministry of Climate campaign and wide online Change and Environmental outreach, with an anticipated reach of millions of Coordination, provincial authorities, and the UN system, the Living Indus This recognition

marks a significant milestone for Pakistan, showcasing its commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable develop-



prestigious recognition.

Initiative represents a col-

laborative effort to uplift the

environmental and health

conditions of the Indus Ba-

QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Finance Minister Amjad Rasheed cutting Christmas cake alongwith Christian community

Two-way Link Badeni Road completed

QUETTA Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki on Friday lauded Commissioner Quetta Division Hamza Shafqaat for taking practical measures to complete the work of two-way

Link Badeni Road. Appreciating his performance and efforts, especially the comprehensive completion of the two-way project of Link Badini Sariab Road, the CM also awarded him with a certificate of admiration.

Two drug pushers held with 5. 300 kg chars in Loralai

QUETTA (APP) - Police arrested two persons and recovered from their possession 5.300 kg hashish in two separate area of Loralai town on Friday.

According to police sources, on special directive of Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Loralai Range Nazir Ahmed Kurd & SSP Loralai Muhammad Zafar under the supervision of SDPO Kaleemullah, SHO Abdul Rehman Loni, Loralai police conducted raid at two different places and 3. 300 kg of hashish was recovered from the possession of Zainullah a resident of Peshawar.

In the second raid, Anwar Ali Shah resident of Peshawar was arrested with 2 kg chars by police. Further investigation

was underway.

Only transparent **elections** acceptable to nation: Siraj

LOWER DIR (INP): The general elections scheduled for Feb 8 next year will only be acceptable to the nation if they are transpar-ent, Jamaat-e-Islami chief Sirajul Haq asserted on Fri-

Interacting with a group of reporters after filing his nomination papers for the National Assembly constituency of NA-7 Lower Dir on Friday, Siraj emphasised that the general elections [on Feb 8] were a constitutional prerequisite.

The JI leader said that suspicions and doubts were dispelled with the issuance of the election schedule by the Election Commission

PTA cautions public about deceptive links

Urges vigilance & use of official platforms for services

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has cautioned the public against phishing, and fraudulent links circulating on Whatsapp, social media, and through text messages,

falsely claiming to be associated with PTA's Device Identification Registration & Blocking System (DIRBS). The message RegisterComplaint.aspx and PTA CMS mobile making the rounds purports to be an official communication, stating that the user's SIM is found to be involved in "suspicious activities" and that the user should check the number of SIMs at the given link. Alternatively, another message warned that the user's App, available on both

visit the provided link, according to a news release. These deceptive tactics are designed to trick individuals into clicking on

phone registration will be

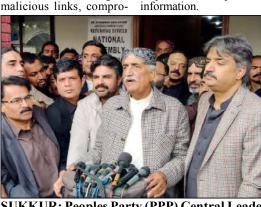
suspended unless they

mation. The public has been urged to refrain from clicking on links from unknown numbers/senders and report such phone numbers/links for blocking through PTA's complaint management system (toll-free number: 0800-55055, web link: https: complaint.pta.gov.pk/

To check the status of their device, users should only visit https://dirbs.pta.gov.pk, SMS
IMEIs to 8484 from their device, or through the official Device Verification

Apple App Store.
PTA has urged the public to stay vigilant and prioritize the use of its official platforms/shortcodes to protect their personal information.

Google Play Store and



SUKKUR: Peoples Party (PPP) Central Leader and Candidates, Syed Khursheed Shah and Nasir Hussain Shah talks with media persons after submit nomination papers to Returning Officer for participate in General Election during meeting held at Election Commission Office in Sukkur.

367 more power connections disconnected; 66 tempered & shunt meters removed Recoveries from defaulters &

pilferers cross Rs. 2.5 billion power pilferers is contin-

Independent Report QUETTA: In all 367 more electricity connections of the defaulters of utility bills and arrears were disconnected and 67 tempered and shunt meters were removed during last 24 hours in all operation circles of Quetta Electricity Supply Company (QESCO).

According to the spokesman of QESCO, the drive against defaulters and

ued all over the province.
The QESCO has

managed to collect over Rs. 320 million on account of the detection and fine from the power pilferers in the

Similarly, over Rs.
2.26 billion have been recovered from some
1,30,000 defaulters during the campaign, the QESCO spokesman maintained.

medical stores that did not have license and they would be sealed. Mainly cold, to launch his election camcloudy paign from now. weather

to the hollow slogans. He said that he has

gence in serving the masses. He also said that he considered public service as his duty and his past character is not hidden from



which could administer

anti-polio drops to children

between up to five years of

ing, the deputy commis-

sioner said that polio was a

contagious disease and it

was important to adminis-

ter anti-polio drops to pro-

tect children from this dis-

ease. Children need to be

healthy to build a healthy

society to create a polio-free

Addressing the meet-

age across the district.

DC chairs meeting to review

on Friday presided over a meeting to review measures for the upcoming polio campaign of the district starting from January 8, 2024. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Siraj Karim Baloch SP Kalat Babar Mushtaq, Assistant Commissioner Manguchar Barkat Baloch District Health Officer Dr Naseem Longo, WHO Dr Naseer Kurd, SHO Kalat, Levies

Risaldar Jan Mohammad Longo and other heads of departments attended the meeting. The measures of the

WHO representative Dr. Naseer Kurd gave a detailed briefing on the polio campaign and said that

39196 children would be administered polio drops in

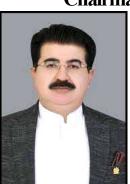
society, we all have to fight together against a disease like polio, he said. He said that for which we have to upcoming polio campaign were discussed in the meetraise awareness among the people, it was the responsibility of the orators, scholars, journalist community, poets and writers of the area to play a role in raising awareness among the people against polio.



Province are shouting slogans during protest in the favor of their demands outside National Press Club in Federal Capital.



Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani **Chairman Senate**



The Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) have consistently championed the economic growth and advancement of our beloved nation through its determination and hard work. Its commitment to nurturing businesses, promoting commerce, and upholding the highest standards of industry excellence is unparalleled. The year 2022 stands as a testament to the resilience and prowess of our business community. Through challenges and changing landscapes, our industrious professionals have not only adapted but thrived, marking significant milestones in the socio-economic development of Pakistan. Their efforts are not

us all immensely proud. It is with great respect and admiration that we acknowledge the high achievers of this year. The FPCCI Achievement Awards are not mere accolades but a recognition of the remarkable journeys, relentless determination, and innovative ventures that have set these individuals and organisations apart. Earning this prestigious award underscores their exemplary contributions and places them among the elite in both Pakistan and abroad. Such recognitions are pivotal. They not only celebrate success but also motivate the broader business community to aspire, innovate, and contribute more profoundly to the socio-economic fabric of Pakistan. It is through these accomplishments and the continuous encouragement from platforms like FPCCI that we pave the way for a more prosperous and progressive future for our nation. May the laurels of today inspire many more success stories tomorrow, and may the FPCCI continue its commendable work in spearheading Pakistan's

but have resounded in in-

ternational markets, making

Dr. Umar Saif Federal Minister for IT & Telecom, Science & Technology

economic journey



just of national significance,

I am delighted that the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry is organizing its 11th Achievement Awards ceremony this year in recognition of the services of talented people and reputed organizations and, as usual, is bringing out an informative Achievement Award Souvenir on the occasion.

I am very happy to note that the aims of this award is to give recognition to individuals and organizations whose achievement has contributed significantly in the growth and development of Pakistan. The Awards promote healthy competition among people and encourage them to strive harder to push the boundaries of excellence. The Award recipient would have demonstrated past accomplishments and forward thinking to advance the notions of sustainability in every possible way.

We all know that Pakistan has unique location and talented people, but the platforms to recognize the services of these people are organizing of achievement award is really praiseworthy. Such important Award ceremonies play a major role in motivating the corporate sector of any country to reach out to new heights of excellence. In an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, Apex trade bodies play a vital role in both national and international affairs and make significant contributions that benefit society at large, from spurring economic growth to promot-

ing good governance. On this joyous occasion, allow me to congratulate FPCCI on its devotion and sincere efforts to promote talent of the country I also felicitate all Award Winners on their performance and hope that the business community will continue its efforts for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan. I hope that the award winner will not only maintain the record of their best performance but also become role models for other people to compete for this coveted accomplishment.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh **President FPCCI**



The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry being the apex representative body of the business community of Pakistan taking pride of initiative to acknowledge the outstanding performances of business entities and individuals in their respective fields through Achievement Awards.

After successful organization of the previous events, FPCCI is holding the 11th Edition of "Achievement Awards", as a flagship event which is regularly organized to honor the achievements of enterprises in their respective fields, acclaiming as symbol of prestige and recognition at national and international level. The FPCCI Achievement Awards helps Award Winners, in the elevation of their profile and reputation among all circles.

The performances of award winners and their achievements despite the challenges faced by the business community in Pakistan are highly commendable. This speaks of their dedication, devotion and commitment to their business interests and valuable contribution towards Pakistan's

I thank my team, Convener and Members of the Awards Committee, the Senior Vice President, Vice Presidents, Coordinators, the Secretary General of FPCCI and his team for their dedication and hard work put in organizing this event. I am confident the Achievement Award will motivate and encourage others to put in more efforts into their respective areas of interest and come out with outstanding achievements which will not only reward them but will also serve trade and economic interests of the Pakistan. I congratulate all the Award Winners and wish them a continued success in their endeavors, with

Justice (retd) Maqbool Baqar Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh reaching international mar-

kets and I commend them

on this achievement. On

this occasion, I also applaud the role of FPCCI in

promoting technology, ex-

port, economic growth, and

prosperity and assisting

traders and industrialist in

addressing the new chal-

lenges being faced in the

sphere of international

will play a role to boost the

confidence of people in

marketing their activities.

Every successful nation al-

ways wants the quick con-

vergence of the country,

which is possible only in

that condition when coun-

tries adopt export led

growth and investment-led

growth policies for com-

petitiveness, diversification

and value addition. 1 am

confident that this event

will open up a new vista of

fresh opportunities and

greatly help in promoting

true image of Pakistan,

which need bareness at sig-

iant winners for their dedi-

cated efforts which are highly admirable and it is

my conviction that our

people will perform better

in future too to accelerate

the progress of Pakistan's

economy which is the need

of the time. I congratulate

all the awardees, and con-

vey my best wishes to the

ity products.
FPCCI is making vig-

orous efforts to promote

our businesses, and the

Awards represent but one

facet of the complex role played by FPCCI in fur-

thering the trade and indus-

try interests of the coun-

try. In the wake of the nu-

merous crises confronting

our country, strong exports are the need of the hour.

Despite the problems of

law and order and power

crisis, Pakistan's business

community has remained

steadfast to increase the

exports potential of Paki-

stan and exploiting the new

market for diversification of

the Government's resolve

to facilitate the business

community in their efforts

to boost Pakistan's trade

and playing greater role in

ors of Mr. Irfan Igbal

Sheikh, President FPCCI

and his entire team on hold

ing the Awards ceremony

for recognizing the efforts

of entrepreneurs and also

congratulate the award

winners and wish them

country's economy.

development

I commend the endeav-

I also wish to reiterate

exports

the

I congratulate to all val-

nificant level

I believe that this event



The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) is organizing the 11th FPCCI Achievement Awards to recognize the outstanding performance of individuals and firms for enhancing the insignia of Pakistan. As we know that, in knowledge drive global culture and human development, progressive nations atheistically search for new ideas, people, talents creative plans innovative methods to renovate the old and obsolete systems and infrastructure with new passion and ambitions for a better future. In the era of globalization and economic integration the issues of socioeconomic development is one of the category of FPCCI's achievements awards.

Despite all challenges like infrastructure, lack of knowledge creating activities and educational and health backwardness, our people are still competitive organizers for the success in marketing their talent in of the ceremony.

Mr. Ahmed Irfan Aslam **Federal Minister for Climate Change** and Environmental coordination



I am pleased to know that following its past tradition, the FPCCI is organizing the 11th FPCCI Achievement Awards to confer awards to the leading entrepreneurs of Pakistan in recognition of their exceptional performance this year.

The organization of Achievement Awards is a commendable step because they recognize the achievements of exporters and service sector who dare to venture in new areas and succeed. By learning from the example of successful achievers, new entrepreneurs will also encourage to take bold initiatives and win a seal of approval from the apex body. On this occasion, I would also like to appreciate the contribution of the private entrepreneurs for promoting the image of

greater success in the futhe country through qual- ture. Mr. Rizwan Ahmed Bhatti CEO, Pakistan Industrial

Development Corporation



I am glad to know that the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) is organizing its 11th Achievement Awards in order to honor the business houses who have made an outstanding contribution towards Pakistan's business performance.

Pakistan's strategic location offers our manufacturers a great opportunity to serve the markets in the region, provided they have exportable surplus of manufactures. We should, therefore, adopt innovative methods and the public private partnership model for

increasing both quality and quantity of our manufac-

On this occasion, FPCCI pays due tribute to all those entrepreneurs who have achieved highest level of performance FPCCI is undoubtedly playing a crucial role in promoting export-oriented industry in Pakistan, and the Achievement Awards motivate businesspersons to achieve ambitious business

In these circumstances due recognition of exportoriented industry through events such as the Achieve ment Awards provides industrialists with the encouragement to continue their efforts to put Pakistan on the road to growth and

prosperity. Î congratulate President FPCCI and all FPCCI Achievement Award Winners on their excellent performance, and look forward to their continued success in the future

Haji Ghulam Ali Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



It is heartening to know that the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) is organizing the 11th FPCCI Achievement Awards, to strengthen the confidence of Pakistani individuals and organizations who performed exceptionally in their respective fields and

I am pleased to learn that FPCCl's Achievement Award has generated fair competition amongst individuals and organizations and boosts their dynamism, which will lead Pakistan to the road of self-reliance. Economic development, open trade and social emancipation always take place in those countries where creativity, freedom of

welcomed and due recognition is given to the individuals who participate actively in attaining the objectives. The industrial sector

plays vital role in the economy by creating jobs, providing goods services, and stimulating economic growth. It is also an important source of tax revenue for governments. Indeed the individuals and organizations of industrial sector not only collaborate with governments to gain access to resources and develop new products but also enable government to invest in infrastructure and other important projects. Congratulate all award winners for their dedicated efforts. It is my firm belief that our individuals and organizations will perform even better future to accelerate the pace of Pakistan's economy.

I would like to convey my best wishes to the President of FPCCI, Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh and his entire team for organizing the Award successfully with this hope that FPCCI will continue its efforts by way of providing marketing opportunities to individuals and organizations both thoughts and actions are at home and abroad.

Mr. Aneeg Ahmed **Minister for Religious Affairs** & Interfaith Harmony



I am glad to learn that the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) is organizing the 11th FPCCI Achievement Awards to pay tribute to the proficient and bright people and organization who have performed well in the field of trade, industry, economic, science, academia, research and development, commercial and socio-economic development. The institution of Achievement Awards is one of the praiseworthy contributions of FPCCI towards the promotion of merit and expertise and serves to provide recognition to the unfaltering mem-

Pakistani Community. In this era of competition, there is a dire need that we recognize the motivate the services of individuals and organization whose are

bers and organization of the

of interest to boost the economy by devising strategies that give us an edge over our competitors. These bright people are not only in other nations to the prosperity and development of the nation.

I anticipate that the FPCCI's Awards will generate new fair competition amongst organization and individual and boost their dynamism which will lead Pakistan to the road of selfreliance. I hope that the Achievement Awards will further encourage the country's people to perform outstanding to improve the status of country in industries, commercial and socioeconomic activities and to enhance the progress of Pakistan in national and international market.

I extend my warm felicitations to the president FPCCI and his team for organizing such a prestigious event and also on bringing out an impressive souvening on this occasion. I also extend my felicitations to the Achievement Awards Winners on their excellent performance and hope that they will continue their efforts for the performing well in their area prosperity of our country.

Mr. Muhammad Alamgir Chaudhry **CEO, National Productivity Organization**



It gives me immense pleasure to know that FPCCI is organizing the 11th Achievement Awards in the honor of the leading entrepreneurs of Pakistan whose performance is outstanding in bringing the much-needed foreign exchange to build the reserve of the country.

Through hard work and dedication these individuals have built efficient & commercial organizations that contribute to the economic growth and development of the communities in which they serve. The instituting of FPCCI Achievement Awards is a great initiative of FPCCI to further motivate the star performers under the prevailing conditions when global economy is slow down and affecting our

economic progress. Pakistan economy, particularly industry, agricul-

ture and services are increasingly exposed to serious challenges of competitiveness. In order to improve the competitiveness, there is immediate need to work on relevant indicators as with current performance, Pakistan cannot ideally compete and fetch a good share in the international market. Competitiveness is key for Pakistan's Industry. In today era, it is impossible to compete in global market without being productive and efficient. I hope that the export awards would serve to encourage a healthy competition in all sectors of economy improving productivity, harnessing new markets and meeting the inter-

national challenges.

I congratulate FPCCI on its devotion and sincere efforts to promote entrepreneurship in the country. I also extend my heartiest felicitations to all Awards Winners on their outstanding performance and contribution in economic development of country. Their achievements and contributions to our business landscape have indeed set a high bar for the entrepreneurs of

Syed Mehdi Shah Governor Gilgit-Baltistan



I am pleased to know that the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) is organizing a prestigious event of the 11th FPCCI Achievement Awards, to leading individuals and organizations in lieu of their outstanding performance. These awards have great significance in the present competitiveness environment and they provide an opportunity to the individuals and organization to identify challenges, analyze emerging trends and devise new strategies for recognizing the talent of the coun-

The FPCC Achievement Awards encourage those who have done well during the previous year, and also act as a catalyst in generating fresh efforts to meet upcoming challenges to improve the image of country. I hope that the FPCCI Achievement Awards will recognize the individuals and organizations that have contributed extraordinary in the fields of trade, industry, social sector, science, research and others and reveal the highest values of their pro-

I believe that FPCCI Achievement Awards will motivate the individuals and organizations to vigorously play their crucial role in the growth and economic development of the country. I extend my warm felicitations to Irfan Iqbal Sheikh President of FPCCI, and his entire team on organizing this splendid Award ceremony in Pakistan. I also wish all award winners to continue good fortune and success for the future.

Mr. Mohamed Karmoune Ambassador of His Majesty the King of Morocco, Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps



I am pleased be part of FPCCl's 11th Achievement Awards which has a widespread recognition at national and international level and considered as an occasion of pride and gratification for the distinguished winners. As we all are well aware

that the private sector plays a pivotal role in the country's economic growth and helps ensuring the policies are broad-based and are being followed by business sector I truly admire FPCCI's contributions to promote activities in the field of trade industry and business sector of Pakistan while organizing such events and honouring companies and individuals who are making life easier by providing quality products and services

FPCCI Achievement Awards certainly encour-

ages the entrepreneurs not only to play more vibrant role in the socio-economic development but also provides an opportunity for organisations and individuals to gain fresh ideas to improve their performance by learning the best practices of finalists and winners.

quite optimistic that FPCCI will continue to support commendable activities of recognizing and admiring high achievers, which surely motivates and encourages individuals and organizations to further explore creativity and skills that propel them to achieve

even higher goals. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of FPCCI, its President Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Office Bearers and the Executive Committee Members, for holding this extraordinary event. Your support allows the winners to gain the recognition they de-

I congratulate all the award winners on their achievements and wish them continued success in future. It is a pleasure to be in the company of so many high-achieving organisations

Dr. Saifuddin Junejo **Chairman Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA)**



It is a well known fact that export is one of the important pillars of economic development and plays incredibly important role to strengthen the national economy as it offers people and firms many more markets for their goods. In modern times one of the core functions of diplomacy and foreign policy between governments is to foster economic trade, encourage exports and imports for the

benefit of all trading parties. Innovation, technological advancement and policy framework have historically proven to be the primary reason behind the enhancement of export. Unfortunately, Pakistan is behind the other countries in innovation, technological advancement and consistent Policies during the recent decades. Despite above handicaps, Export Processing Zones Autnormy (EPZA) has taken measures to boost exports and facilitate Foreign Direct Investment (FDIs) in its established Zones in the country, hence achieved export growth in the FY 2019-20 US\$ 638.022 million, FY 2020-21 US\$ 974.600 million and FY 2021-22 US\$ 934.997 through manufacturing Sector. EPZA is trying its best to enhance its share in the national exports. EPZA efforts have resulted in the cumulative exports of US\$ 11,875.00 million till the end of FY 2022-23.

There is a dire

need to pursue an integrated approached wherein public and private sector work as partners to facilitate and promote an innovative and modern culture for promoting exports. FPCCI being an apex body of trade and industry is undoubtedly playing a crucial role in promoting trade and industry in Pakistan. The Achievement Awards are one of the major activities which encourage the business community and the exporters of Pakistan who are working tirelessly to promote Pakistani products in the International market and earn precious foreign exchange for the country.

Last but not least, I congratulate all the award winners for their commendable performance and wish them success in future.

11th FPCCI Achievement Awards

Creating employment through entrepreneurship

ments in quality of life. As

more and more people gain

employment, the country's

middle class will grow, set-

transitioning from a devel-

directors directors directors

18.5%

15.6%

16.4%

81.5%

84.4%

83.6%



Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI

Unemployment is one of the major driving forces behind social unrest, rising crime rate, mental health issues and even terrorist activities in Pakistan. Being an entrepreneur, I strongly believe that entrepreneurship spurs economic growth in several ways. The most obvious one is generating employment opportunities for skilled/unskilled and educated youth of the country Entrepreneurs, at even the most basic scale, employ people, providing them with incomes that they can spend, initiating earn money programs, which fuel the movement of the national economy and also encourage people to do their own business and cre-

ate more jobs. The entrepreneurs are responsible for creating jobs with varying qualification requirements. For example, smaller entrepreneurs are more willing to hire employees with limited or no education, thus providing opportunities to people from all sections of society. Entrepreneurs also tend to hire locally, which reinforces the social fabric of their surrounding communities and is instrumental in promoting social change. Establishing and running a business encourages the people, while the resultant

households, thus reducing of generational improvecrime rates related to unemployment. It has proven with time that employees in entrepreneurial ventures get access to mentorship from the entrepreneur and hands-on work experience, oping country to a develthem tions worl neuri cond

directors

2.259

2,167

2,705

2014

2015

2016

in life d with ial in adily	ther their a e. Countries i n better entre frastructure available fina e governme	n the epre- such ance,	Pake tribu the of n	I largest co istan's econ uting about GDP and th nillions of ed by the in	nomy, con- 18-20% of the employer people en-
	Number	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	ber	Share of female	Share of male

9,968

11,757

13,839

15.6% 84.4% 2017 18,613 3,440 85.6% 2018 14.4% 23,572 3,950 13.9% 86.1% 2019 4,554 28.293 13.9% 86.1% 5,612 34,619 policies, and healthy indus-

prosperity. Êntrepreneurship is not only a solution to unemployment; it can be a road map to a better life. Generating employment on a micro-level is a key to national economics on a macro level. It is a universal truth that employed people will spend more, thus, giving a boost to the country's gross domestic product. They will also contribute to national exchequer by paying taxes, and by doing so, contribute to a country's national income, are more likely to save and invest to make larger asset purchases in the future. The people on a more stable financial footing are

trial infrastructure boast a

better quality of life and

tail, one of the principal sectors of entrepreneurship, is going through a transition phase in Pakistan and the world over. Most of the training in specific fields of structured retailing in Pakistan has started recently and entrepreneurship, and prois engaged mainly in urban

The retail sector likely touches you as a citizen every day, possibly multiple times a day. From prominent fashion brands to footwear and groceries and food and fuel, retail transactions are what an average individual goes through every day. Pakistan has around 2 million retailers, of which 0.8 million represent the FMCG modern trade and general trade channels, including kiryanas, general stores, medical stores, su-

port themselves and their households, thus reducing of generational improve- (CAGR 2023-2028) of 16.58%, resulting in a projected market volume of US\$300.80m by 2028. In Pakistan developing the retail sector as entrepreneurting it on the path of ship can be a key driver of job creation and employment growth, and for good reason. Starting a business is not an easy task, but it can lead to significant benefits, both for the individual entrepreneur and the economy as a whole. By providing new products, services, and innovations to the market, entrepreneurs can stimulate economic growth and create new job opportunities. Entrepreneurship can create more and more jobs both directly and indirectly and can affect employment growth overall depending on the facilities provided by the government declaring the retail sector as an industry. In developing entrepreneurship in the country, it is necessary to promote technical education rather than conventional education. To extend entrepreneurship to all fields of study in vocational education it should be linked with practical

Trade bodies and business associations should take steps to promote partnerships between Technical Vocational Institutions and enterprises and motivate more business people to get involved in entrepreneurship education to promote economic diversification in Pakistan. By encouraging the establishment of businesses in different sectors entrepreneurs reduce reli also more likely to send their permarkets, hypermarkets, creating a more balanced and

many restrictive policies

are still in place. After the

passing of three decades, the SAFTA has not been

fully implemented in Paki-

study with the objective of

vide support for students

interested in starting up a

children to educational insti-Regional Trade: a tool for economic development



Vice President SAARC CCI

In the civilized world, different forms of trade have existed for thousands of vears. Whether or not analyzing the trade routes of antiquity or modern times. trade and commerce have played a vital role in business expansion, developing national economies and nation building. In the modern times have witnessed the birth of a global economy and Regional trading blocs provide countries with the ability to exchange goods with member countries with minimal or no tariffs or cumbersome trade regulations countries today engage in some form of global trade.

We witness that over the last three decades, the intensification of regional trade has played a powerful role in economic and political integration. For example, the EU's original free trade area evolved into a customs union, which later became an economic and monetary union. Almost two thirds of the EU's trade is conducted between members. Similarly, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). which was created 30 years ago to expand trade between the US, Canada, and Mexico, has been a great success. Trade between NAFTA members has grown by over 500 percent. Similarly, since the formation of the ASEAN Free Trade Area in 1992, many ASEAN economies have registered miraculous growth rates and their intra-regional trade is now over 25 percent.

Regional trade has been an important factor in the economic success of many countries. Within most trading blocs, intra-regional trade comprises 40 percent or more of each member country's individual trade. However, for the regional arrangements of which Pakistan is a member, intraregional trade accounts for less than 5 per cent.

PAKISTAN								
Adult Population	Year	Number of new Limited Liability Companies	New business density rate					
92,399,584	2006	4,117	0.04					
95,241,842	2007	3,356	0.04					
98,165,302	2008	3,458	0.04					
101,152,817	2009	2,414	0.02					
104,187,043	2010	2,868	0.03					
107,101,806	2011	3,367	0.03					
110,060,746	2012	3,928	0.04					
113,060,252	2013	3,937	0.03					
116,096,389	2014	4,680	0.04					
119,164,298	2015	5,385	0.05					
122,150,863	2016	6,716	0.05					
125,175,221	2017	9,624	0.08					
128,222,837	2018	12,991	0.10					
131,288,856	2019	15,958	0.12					
134,372,752	2020	19,791	0.15					

Pakistan's strategic location is its greatest asset, but it has not leveraged this to its advantage. Although Pakistan was a relatively forward-looking country until the mid-1960s its policies have not been favorable to promoting trade and economic development since then. While other successful developing countries have espoused liberal trade regimes since the 1980s resorting to protectionism only on a selective basis— Pakistan continues to rely on import substitution policies. Clearly, the country needs to revisit its regional and global trade poli-

The studies and data reflect that until the 1960s, Pakistan was a relatively forward-looking country and its economic activity more integrated with the rest of the world. Its volume of manufactured exports exceeded those of the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia combined and many other counties of the world. Today, however, Pakistan's total exports are only a fraction of the exports of any of these individual countries.

geographical location, Pakistan has yet to leverage this country straddles a key trade route between the energy-rich countries of western and central Asia and those in South Asia with a high demand for energy Pakistan's three seaports i e Karachi Port Oasim and Gwadar provide the shortest routes linking Afghanistan. China. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to the rest of the world. At present, however, hardly any transit trade passes through these Pakistani ports despite the fact that all these countries would benefit

transportation costs. Pakistan is a signatory to two very important regional trade agreements the South Asia Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) and the Economic Cooperation Organization Trade Agreement (ECOTA). However, both are of little service to Pakistan as any normal trading arrangements with the members of these blocs have vet to be established. The SAFTA was signed in 2006 but unfortunately, Pakistan allowed only a limited number of trade items under its positive list. In March 2012, the coun-

Despite its strategic

stan due to complex relations with neighbouring countries but other SAFTA member countries have integrated their economies and benefitted greatly from this collaboration. Same as the Economic Cooperation Organization Trade Agreement (ECOTA) was signed in 2003, but after passing of many years, it has yet to become fruitful for Pakistan. While other countries in the region have allowed the movement of goods by acceding to the TIR Convention (which works under an international guarantee system and facilitates the movement of trucks and containers), Pakistan has vet to follow suit. Similar setback to Pakistan's integration with regional trade blocs has been its failure to put into effect the various regional transit agreements to which it is a signatory. The only operational

agreement is the Afghani stan Pakistan Transit and Trade Agreement, but since its implementation in 2011 most of Afghanistan's transit trade (which was previgreatly from lower trade and ously routed through Pakistan) has been diverted to Iranian ports because of the complex provisions and procedures outlined in the agreement. This is unfortunate, given that Pakistan's ports could provide Central Asia the shortest overland route to sea, and there is tremendous export potential among the Central Asian markets. The regional trade agreements (RTAs) are experiencing unprecedented rapid development in terms of economic growth of the countries. With the increase in the depth of RTA provisions, as an important form try liberalized its trade poliof economic and trade rela-

PAKISTAN									
Year	Number of female business directors	Number of male business directors	Share of female business directors	Share of male business directors					
2014	2,259	9,968	18.5%	81.5%					
2015	2,167	11,757	15.6%	84.4%					
2016	2,705	13,839	16.4%	83.6%					
2017	3,440	18,613	15.6%	84.4%					
2018	3,950	23,572	14.4%	85.6%					
2019	4,554	28,293	13.9%	86.1%					
2020	5,612	34,619	13.9%	86.1%					

Evaluating the viability of trade agreements



By Suleman Chawla Senior Vice President,

FPCCI Pakistan has signed 12 trade agreements, some of them are PTAs, FTAs, Transit Trade and Trade in Goods Agreements. Pakistan singed Transit Trade Agreement with Afghanistan and Tajikistan, Pak-Malaysia Free Trade Agreement, Pak-China Free Trade Agreement, Pak-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement, Pak-Mauritius Free Trade Agreement, Pakistan Pak -Iran Preferential Trade Agreement Pakistan-Uzbekistan Preferential Trade Agreement Pakistan-Türkiye

ance of trade has become irrelevant under the new phase of global trade but equilibrium in trade has significance when economy is facing contraction. However, during expansion of the economy industrial demand for input material need to be satisfied. One of the major impediments has been the concerns of the domestic industry in Pakistan that feels threatened from the competition of Chinese products.

The public sector is also fearful as elimination of custom duties would lead to substantial revenue losses as Pakistan heavily relies on taxation on international trade for revenue generation. According to the latest figures, 40% of the Pakistan's total revenue is from taxes on import of goods. Pak- Iran PTA:

Pak – Iran PTA became operational in September 2006. When this PTA began during 2006 the total trade between Pakistan and Iran was US \$ 638 million and was showing expansionary trend as Pak- Iran bilateral

that, although theory of bal- a total of 311 tariff lines on ket for 261 tariff lines covpreferential rates. It included edible palm oil products, sugar confectionary, cocoa products, consumer goods, chemicals, tableware, kitchenware, rubber products, wood products, glassware products and electronic products. Pakistan has offered the same preferential treatment on edible palm oil products from Indonesia as provided to Malaysia under Pakistan Malaysia Free Trade Agreement.

Prior to the PTA volume of bilateral trade was US \$ 1.65 billion in 2012 Pakistan exports to Indonesia were US \$ 273 million while Indonesia exports to Pakistan were US \$ 1.38 billion. However, volume of two ways trade has grown significantly US \$ 4.5 billion but share of Pakistan's exports remained low in comparison just 188 million dollar against US \$ 4331 million (4.3 billion).

Pakistan Uzbekistan Pakistan

Uzbekistan signed a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) in March 2022 be-

	PAKISTAN'S IRADE WITH UZBEKISTAN (MILLION US\$)										
YEAR	EXPORTS	IMPORTS	TOTAL TRADE	BALANCE OF TRADE	TOTAL EXPORT OF PAKISTAN	% SHARE IN TOTAL EXP.	TOTAL IMPORTS OF PAKISTAN	% SHARE IN TOTAL IMPORTS			
2018	63.6	29.3	93.0	34.3	23,778.6	0.3	60,391.1	0.0			
2019	22.7	93.8	116.4	(71.1)	23,818,8	0.1	50,511.0	0.2			
2020	24.0	97.4	121.4	(73.3)	22,245.7	0.1	45,841.7	0.2			
2021	50.7	126.6	177.4	(75.9)	28,880.0	0.2	73,106.6	0.2			
2022	110.8	123.7	234.5	(12.9)	31,175.9	0.4	71,104.7	0.2			
ade ii	n Goods A	greement,	trade	was US \$ 3	366 million	tween	Pakist	an an			

Trade in Goods Agreement, Trade & Investment Framework Agreement between Pakistan and USA and Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area. Recently, Pakistan is also negotiating FTA with GCC.

All these agreements are differ in scope and nature and unfortunately inadequately utilized to produce desired results instead contributed in imbalance in Pakistan trade. Pakistan's export is significantly low then imports. Surprisingly, in some cases Pakistan's imports have increased manifold from its FTAs/PTAs

The low utilization and trade deficit indicates failures of receiving potential benefits from partners under agreements

these agreements is discussed below to emphasize reviewing and cautious approach while setting such agreements.

Pak - China FTA: Volume of bilateral trade between Pakistan and China is increasing under the Pak -China FTA which was become operational in 2007. At the time of FTA (2006-07), volume of bilateral trade was US \$ 4110 million and balance of trade of US \$ 2958 million was in favour of China. On completion of the Phase-I, which was from 2007 to 2011, the volume of bilateral trade was stood at US \$ 10558.1 million in which share of Pakistan exports was US \$2118.4 million while share of Chinese exports was US \$ 8439.7 million. In the first phase both sides were agreed on the elimination of tariff on 30% of the products. The second phase envisages liberalisation of tariff up to 90% of the goods from both sides. The tariff concessions committed by Pakistan in

trade was US \$ 366 million during 2002-03. However, current volume of bilateral trade has significantly increased to US \$ 2144 million in which Pakistan exports to Iran is US \$781 million while Iran exports to Pakistan is US \$ 1363 mil-

Under the Agreement, Pakistan offered concessions to Iran on 338 tariff lines, whereas Iran gave concessions on 309 tariff lines. Preferences granted by both countries to each other cover approximately 18% of MFN tariff of both coun-

Pakistan and Iran has also signed a barter trade agreement Government ministries from both sides and Quetta and Zahedan

of thirty-four goods. The main objectives of the PTA is to lower duties which was ranges from 20 percent to 100 percent while NTBs (Non-tariff barriers) are to be reduced by mutual recognition of standards and easing procedural requirements for goods covered under the PTA. In order to compliance

Uzbekistan covering a total

international treaty and rights of the landlocked countries, Pakistan has also given transit trade facility via its ports to Uzbekistan under Transit Trade Agreement which was signed in

Though Pakistan and Uzbekistan are PTA and Transit trading partner, but followed by China (8%

ering traditional as well as non-traditional sectors such as leather, rice, dates, mangoes, cutlery, sports goods, seafood, processed agricultural products, rubber tubes and tires, plastics, and engineering goods. While Turkey has been granted concessions on 130 tariff lines, including products such as black tea, processed food products and flavorings, industrial raw materials and parts of machinery, and parts of electronic equipment. akistan exports to Türkiye was expanding rapidly till the imposition of duties by Türkiye Authorities. However, after strong advocacy by business community the two countries agreed to sign FTA instead PTA, both countries now trading under agreement on trade in goods. Volume of trade between Pakistan and Türkiye has seen significant growth after implementation of the agreement. Current volume of bilateral two way trade is US\$1.3 billion in which share of Pakistan's exports is US \$ 432 million while

Türkiye exports to Pakistan is US \$ 870 million. Pakistan Afghanistan and Tajikistan Transit Trade

Agreement Pakistan being the signatory of the various international protocols/agreements has granted transit trade facilities. Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement was signed in 1965 and has been modified accordingly. Similarly, The Agreement between Tajikistan and Pakistan had been negotiated and finalized, covering trade and transit of goods by road and rail along with customs procedures, largely on the template of Transit Trade Agreement between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, which was a comprehensive agreement, implemented since

March 2022. Besides above PTAs/ FTAs and trading agreements, Pakistan is also negotiating bilateral trading arrangements, with Singapore (FTA), Thailand and Gulf Cooperation Countries

While Pakistan's exports mainly depending on USA's market (19% shares),

	PAKISTAN'S TRADE WITH TÜRKIYE (MILLION US\$)										
YEAR	EXPORTS	IMPORTS	TOTAL TRADE	BALANCE OF TRADE	TOTAL EXPORT OF PAKISTAN	% SHARE IN TOTAL EXP.	TOTAL IMPORTS OF PAKISTAN	% SHARE IN TOTAL IMPORTS			
2018	330.7	462.2	793.0	(131.5)	23,778.6	1.4	60,391.1	0.8			
2019	306.3	550.2	856.5	(243.9)	23,818.8	1.3	50,511.0	1.1			
2020	268.8	620.2	888.9	(351.4)	22,245.7	1.2	45,841.7	1.4			
2021	314.8	773.1	1,087.9	(458.3)	28,880.0	1.1	73,106.6	1.1			
2022	432.4	870.3	1,302.7	(437.9)	31,175.9	1.4	71,104.6	1.2			
	0		0			chare	c) IIK 7%	German			

chambers of commerce were allowed to begin barter trade. Ministry of Commerce of Pakistan issued notification to begin implementing the "Business-to-Business (B2B) Barter Trade Mechanism, 2023, allowing public and private entities to engage in trade with Iran, Afghanistan and Russia under the B2B Mechanism. Trade of goods under a B2B BT arrangement allowed on the principle of import followed by export. The export would be made to the extent of the value of imported goods. Pakistan - Indonesia

unfortunately, bilateral trade is very low just US \$ 235

and trade agreements between Pakistan and Uzbekistan are helpful for improving and capturing Central Asia Market to trade Pakistani products. Pakistan is also achieving other targets than trade by signing such agreements with Uzbekistan which is one of the major nations of CARs, ECO and SCO which an emerging and influential bloc. Pakistan – Türkiye

Trade in Goods Agreement The Framework Agree-

Trade Area between the Is-

signed in Islamabad, the Is-

across various sectors and

bring reciprocal tariff con-

cessions extended to select

exports of both countries.

Under the agreement, Paki-

stan has gained preferential

access to the Turkish mar-

6%, Spain and UAE shares 5% of Pakistan exports. Only 21.5 percent of Pakistan's exports share by its trading partners.

Pakistani exporters are overabundance of various fixed and variable costs, such as documentation, transportation, border delays, tariffs, and non-tariffs, inadequate IT and shipping connectivity.

Reduced cost influence the nature, direction and composition of trade flows, however, Pakistan's trade does not enjoy improved trade facilitation. Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) predicts that a reduction in trade costs in Pakistan to the level of those of Singapore could increase Pakistan's GDP by \$10 billion, create 2.2 million jobs and reduce poverty by 5%. Pakistan ranks 122nd out of 167 countries on the Logistic Performance Index (LPI). Neighbouring India stands at 44th and Bangladesh at 100th. China ranks 19th, Indonesia 61, Sri Lanka 73, Uzbekistan 88, Tajikistan 97 and Iran ranks at 123rd on Logistic Performance lamic Republic of Pakistan Index. LPI provides counand the Republic of Türkiye try-wide assessments of six aspects of logistics perforlamic Republic of Pakistan mance: trade- and transport on the 22nd day of March, related infrastructure, cus-201 6. Pakistan and Turkey's toms and border manage-Trade in Goods Agreement, ment, logistics services qualwhich was signed in August ity, timeliness of shipments, 2022, has finally come into ability to track and trace, effect on May 1, 2023, as and the availability of comper mutual agreement. The petitively priced interna-Trade in Goods Agreement tional shipments. Pakistan signifies a notable milestone could only be achieved poin the historic brotherly retential benefits from overlations between Pakistan seas trade specifically from and Turkey and envisages trading partners by reducfurther integration of the ing trade cost, cost of promarkets and business comducing exportable surplus munities of both countries. improving shipping con-This agreement is expected nectivity and enhancing loto increase bilateral trade gistics performance. Im-

provement in domestic

commerce to serve as

buffer stock removal of in-

frastructure bottlenecks

and business friendly

policy to establish confi-

COIIIII	iitted by i	akistan in	PIA;	Pakistan	Indonesia	ment	Establishi	ng a Fre			
	PAKISTAN'S TRADE WITH AFGHANISTAN (Million US\$)										
YEAR	EXPORTS	IMPORTS	TOTAL TRADE	BALANCE OF TRADE	TOTAL EXPORT OF PAKISTAN	% SHARE IN TOTAL EXP.	TOTAL IMPORTS OF PAKISTAN	% SHARE IN TOTAL IMPORTS			
2018	1,356.4	510.3	1,866.6	846.1	23,778.6	5.7	60,391.1	0.8			
2019	1,183.6	580.5	1,764.1	603.1	23,818.8	5.0	50,511.0	1.1			
2020	871.2	518.5	1,389.7	352.7	22,245.7	3.9	45,841.7	1.1			
2021	835.9	640.5	1,476.4	195.4	28,880.0	2.9	73,106.6	0.9			
2022	988.9	958.0	1 946 9	30.9	31.175.9	3.2	71.104.7	1.3			

the first phase of the FTA predominantly contained raw materials and intermediary goods. In return, China eliminated tariff on finished goods. Protocol on the Phase-II of the CPFTA has been signed by Pakistan and China during the visit of the Prime Minister to Beijing on 28th April, 2019. In pursuance of Article 79(2), the Amending Protocol will form an integral part of the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement. Under the Phase-II, Pakistan has secured enhanced and deeper concessions on products of its export interests, revision of safeguards mechanism for protection of the domestic industry, inclusion of the balance of payment clause as a safety valve against balance of payments difficulties, and effective enforcement of the electronic

> data exchange. It is worth mentioning

preferential trade agreement was signed on February 3, 2012 after conclusion of prolonged negotiations, which were initiated in August 2002. The Preferential Trade Agreement became operational in September 2013 after many rounds of negotiations. Under the agreement, Indonesia agreed to offer market access to Pakistan for 220 tariff lines on preferential rates. The list included fresh fruits, cotton yarn, fabrics, readymade garments, fans, sports goods, leather goods and other industrial products. After PTA's implementation, Indonesia will be able to increase exports of crude palm oil to Pakistan, whereas Pakistan can export fruits, value-added textiles, carpets, fabrics, leather goods, chemicals, surgical equipment and other items.

Pakistan offered Indonesia