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dailyindisb@gmail.com Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah www.dailyindependent.com.pk Gwadar

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ISLAMABAD: Baloch protesters stage sit-in outside National Press Club

Negotiations underway with Baloch protesters Govt striving to go towards solution of Balochistan protesters' problem: Solangi

Baloch protesters granted bail, set to be released: Islamabad Police; Govt establishes special Police Help Center to facilitate release of protesters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Sunday that it was an effort of the government to go towards the solution of the problem of protesters from Balochistan through negotiations. Talking in a programme on "GTV" the minister said that it was desire of the interim set-up that the protesters should go back to their homes with dignity, honour and safety. "We want to solve the problems of the protesters and talks should be held in Balochistan or Quetta instead of Islamabad," Solangi said. The minister for information said that most of the protesters from Balochistan were women and at this time, they were present in front of the National Press Club. Security, ambulance and medical facilities were available for the protesters, Murtaza Solangi informed. The minister said that it was the preference of the protesters to sit in front of the NPC and register their protest peacefully. "Everyone is allowed to protest peacefully and our effort is to ensure that the protesters do not face any kind of inconvenience", Murtaza Solangi remarked. He said that yesterday also, the negotiation committee held talks with the protesters. The minister pointed out that the demands of the protesters were decades old. When the protesters reached Islamabad, some people were already in the NPC, Murtaza Solangi added that protesters who came from Balochistan blocked the road near Chaungi No. 26 (Motorway Chowk).

Govt to thoroughly investigate complaints about hurdles in electoral process: PM

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has assured that the government would thoroughly investigate the complaints regarding hurdles to stop some people from taking part in the electoral process. While speaking during an interview with a private TV channel, he ruled out the policy of ousting anyone from political process and said that voters were free to elect candidates of their choice.

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar said in his opinion those who showed disruptive behavior and were involved in the incidents of May 9 should not be allowed to hold public office. However, the Election Commission will decide about qualification and disqualification of candidates, he added. The Prime Minister said state was a guarantor of the social order and when anyone challenges

this order he was an anarchist. Regarding arrival of protesters from Balochistan to Islamabad, he said everyone had the right to protest with lawful behavior. However, if a situation of law and order would be created then law enforcement agencies would come into action. Referring to situation in Palestine, PM Kakar said Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu was a war criminal and war crimes of Israel should be investigated as 7000 children were martyred.

Religions, cultures diversity is a source of stability for Pakistan: Dr. Arif Alvi

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Dr. Arif Alvi has said that Christmas has a special place in the hearts of our Christian brothers and is an opportunity to celebrate joy, contemplation and joy. He went on that the teachings of love, compassion and peace of Jesus (PBUH) are a beacon for us and guide us. The diversity of religions and cultures is a source of stability for Pakistan. Our Christian community has played a significant role in the social and economic development of the country. President also acknowledge the commendable services rendered by the Christian community

for the promotion of peace, tolerance and harmony in the country. On this festive occasion, let us celebrate the spirit of Christmas, promote unity, understanding and goodwill among all communities. Alvi continued that may the Christmas message of love, mercy and hope resonate in our hearts and guide us to a future filled with peace, joy, harmony and prosperity. He said that I am proud to say that minorities have all political, economic and social rights in Pakistan according to the Constitution of Pakistan. Our religion Islam fully recognizes and protects the rights of minorities.



ISLAMABAD: Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar in Balochistan House

Jan Achakzai says Baloch marchers tabled unconstitutional demands

QUETTA (INP): Caretaker Balochistan Information Minister Jan Achakzai Sunday termed the demands tabled by the Baloch marchers 'unconstitutional' and also rejected any kind of torture on women or use of water cannon in Islamabad. While addressing a press conference, Jan Achakzai claimed that women were neither tortured in Islamabad nor anyone targeted with water cannon. He said that Baloch marchers tabled unconstitutional demands.

He added that every Baloch is loyal to Pakistan like a Punjabi, Pathan and Sindh. He vowed to make Balochistan a peaceful place. He alleged that a small group of people marched towards Islamabad from Turbat with an agenda. He added that the marchers were demanding to free terrorists. Jan Achakzai said that hundreds of non-Balochs were brutally killed in Balochistan but no commission was formed to hold a thorough investigation. He added mostly missing persons were BLA members who were residing in India or hiding in the mountains. Yesterday, the government committee formed by the Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, held talks with the Baloch protesters in Islamabad tonight, the state news agency reported.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi calls on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.



QUETTA: Caretaker Provincial Information Minister Jan Achakzai addressing a Press conference

Nine family members die as house catches fire

ABBOTTABAD (APP): At least 9 persons of the same family were killed as their house engulfed in flames due to an electricity short circuit in Qalandarabad here Sunday. The local emergency response team, Rescue 1122, swiftly mobilized its teams and recovered 8 bodies. The Rescue 1122, along with three ambulances and locals made concerted efforts to extinguish the fire and rescue the residents. Unfortunately, the wood and clay house quickly caught fire, impeding rescue activities. Consequently, nine family members were trapped within the collapsing structure and lost their lives.

After hours of intense efforts, Rescue 1122 successfully recovered all the bodies buried in the debris, marking the completion of the search operation. Emergency Officer Hafeez ur Rahman is overseeing the operation, ensuring a coordinated and efficient response. The deceased persons were identified as the wife of Zakir, four daughters and four sons, including Hashim, Qasim, Hasan, and Sufyan. The community mourns the loss as authorities work to investigate the cause of the tragic incident and ensure the safety of other residents in the area.

Nawaz Sharif files nomination papers for NA-130

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Sunday filed nomination papers to contest general elections from Lahore's National Assembly constituency NA-130. Nawaz Sharif's nomination papers were submitted to the returning officer concerned by former MPA and provincial minister Bilal Yasin. The returning officer had fixed December 26 for the scrutiny of the nomination papers. At least, 24 candidates have submitted their papers to contest elections from the constituency. The other candidates include PPT's Dr Yasmin Rashid, PPP's Ahmad Khan, PML-N's Bilal Yasin and Waheed Alam Khan.

To cope with challenges facing country CM calls for following golden principles of Quaid-e-Azam

QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardaan Khan Domki has underlined the need to follow the golden principles of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to cope with the challenges facing the country. He also stressed the need to forge unity among our ranks. In a message issued here on the eve of birth anniversary of the father of nation Muhammad Ali Jinnah (Monday), the Chief Minister said that the golden principles of Quaid-e-Azam I.e., Unity, Faith and discipline provide base to make the country stronger. He said that we need to follow and truly implement these principles more than ever. He said that we can pay tributes to the Quaid by promoting harmony, enlightenment and democracy in the country. The Chief Minister said that the enemy of Pakistan has bent upon destabilizing the country, however, we are determined to foil their nefarious designs through unity. The caretaker Chief Minister said our forefathers got the country after great sacrifices and thus the people of the country and province would not let waste these sacrifices.

Governor for following Quaid principles to strengthen Pak

QUETTA (APP): Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar on Sunday urged to follow the principles of the father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah in its true spirit. "For the real development and prosperity of the country, we have to follow the principles of unity, faith and discipline, he said in his message on the eve of Quaid's birthday. He said "The best way to pay tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah is to not only stick to the principles he gave but also to make honest and conscious efforts for the uplift of the country and the nation to pave the way for the formation of a successful welfare state.

Quaid-e-Azam's 147th birthday to be celebrated today

ISLAMABAD (Online): 147th birth anniversary of the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah will be celebrated on December 25. Events will be held across the country on the birthday of Quaid-e-Azam. Various events and seminars will be organized by Pakistan Muslim League (PMLN), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Pakistan People's Party (PPP), NAZriya Pakistan Foundation and public and private social organizations, during which speakers will pay tribute to the valuable services of the founder of Pakistan for the country and nation. Radio and TV channels will present special programs while national newspapers will publish special editions in which tributes will be paid to the great leader of South Asia. PMLN Lawyers Forums will also organize a special event in which the father of the nation's birthday cake will be cut.

Inauguration ceremony of restoration: Karachi-bound Bolan Mail due to be restored today

QUETTA: All is set to restore the Bolan Mail for Karachi from today (Monday). The inauguration ceremony of the restoration of the Karachi-bound Bolan Mail is scheduled to be held at the Quetta railway station. The Federal Minister for Railways and Communications, Shahid Ashraf Tarar would be the chief guest at the inauguration ceremony of the train. Needless to mention here is that the Bolan Mail, which was suspended due to the floods and heavy rains in August last year, is being restored after one year and four months because of the special interest of the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardaan Khan Domki. All the necessary arrangements have been made by the Pakistan Railways. As per the schedule, Bolan Mail would depart for Karachi from Quetta. It may be mentioned here that the caretaker Chief Minister had announced to restore the Bolan Mail on occasion of the Sibi-Harnai railway section on October 29, 2023. Meanwhile, the caretaker Federal Minister Railways had fixed December 25 the day for restoration of the train service between Quetta-Karachi after completing the necessary arrangements in this regard. The Pakistan Railways took steps on emergent basis for restoration of the train. Thus, the train is going to be restored today now. Undoubtedly, the people of Balochistan would have comfortable and cheaper traveling facilities with restoration Bolan Mail.

Bilawal demands judicial investigation of cipher case

LARKANA (INP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has demanded judicial investigation of cipher case. Speaking to media in Larkana on Sunday, Bilawal said the cipher case is a serious matter and a judicial investigation must be carried out in this matter. He said that relief has been given in the cipher case however the Bhutto family went through political victimization that why "we want proper investigation of the cipher case". The former foreign

minister stated that the Ex-president of US Donald Trump was tried in court and classified documents were recovered from his residence hereby the cipher case also requires investigation and the people of Pakistan should know the truth behind cipher case as it was security breach. APP adds: The Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and former Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari filed a nomination paper for the National Assembly seat of Larkana-Ratodero NA-194 (Larkana-I) for General Elections 2024 on Sunday.

Pakistan condemns custodial killing of three civilians in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan strongly condemned the barbaric custodial killing of three Kashmiri civilians in Baffliaz, Poonch district of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). The slain civilians were tortured to death at a camp of the Indian occupation Army. A purported video clip of the Indian personnel stripping three men and sprinkling chilli powder on them is viral on social media. The incident, once again, exposes India's relentless state-terrorism in IIOJK, the Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson said in a statement. The perpetrators of these custodial killings must be held accountable.



LARKANA: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari submitted his nomination papers for NA 194 (Larkana-I) to returning officer for upcoming General Election 2024.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Hollowed out

Pakistani politics has been marred by the spectre of political engineering, a strategy employed to manipulate poll outcomes. This phenomenon is particularly prominent just before elections. Our political history unveils a short-sighted pattern of power dynamics being shifted to favour certain parties or individuals, at the cost of democratic principles.

Gen Ayub Khan is known to have first manipulated the polls in his electoral contest against Fatima Jinnah in 1965. Another instance dates back to 1977, when Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, allegedly attempted to get elected unopposed with the abduction of a rival candidate. Such tactics, including election day rigging to ensure a landslide, were responsible for the movement that led to his downfall. The 1990s marked an escalation in political engineering. The year 1997 witnessed Nawaz Sharif's ascent to power with a two-thirds majority, a victory tainted by allegations of state-sponsored manipulation. The PPP, a dominant force, was reduced to a mere 18 seats. These events raised serious questions about the integrity of the electoral process. Karachi's political landscape during this period was dominated by the MQM, which stands accused of using intimidation to stifle opposition. Smaller towns weren't immune either, with feudal lords resorting to ballot stuffing. Over time, various methods were utilised by the state to influence electoral outcomes. These include gerrymandering, the use of state resources for campaigning, politically motivated accountability drives against certain leaders, and control over media narratives. These tactics not only skew electoral results but also undermine the essence of democracy. They also don't stand the test of time. But that doesn't stop the 'puppeteers' from trying. Now a new campaign seems to be under way — this time against the PTI.

Party members are facing obstacles in filing nomination papers, police raids are targeting their families, and there is an atmosphere of intimidation. Such actions suggest a deliberate effort to exclude a major political force, undermining the democratic process. This tactic has broader implications: it potentially alienates voters, leading to a lower turnout on polling day.

Further, if key parties are forced out of the contest, their members will resort to contesting as independents. Post-election, these independents could be coerced into joining other political parties, complicating the political tapestry. The crux of the matter lies in the erosion of democratic norms. When poll processes are compromised, the legitimacy of the next government becomes questionable. As Pakistan navigates turbulent political waters, it must reflect on the long-term consequences of such manoeuvring. A collective effort is required to ensure fair, transparent, and credible elections, which are the cornerstone of any functioning democracy. Only through such measures can the faith of the populace in the democratic process be restored, paving the way for a more stable Pakistan.

Equal citizens



Muna Khan

Many of us are likely to know someone who travelled to another country to give birth and secure that country's citizenship for their child. It's easy if you have the money, though some countries have made acquiring citizenship through birth harder. You can also buy citizenship in exchange for investment in, for example, Dominica in the Caribbean or Montenegro in Europe or Vanuatu in Oceania. (I had to look up Vanuatu after hearing about its 'citizen' of Pakistani descent, Farah Gogi.)

However, citizenship by birth or investment doesn't define what it means to be a citizen. There are a lot of ethical questions around whether citizenship should be conditional like the case of Shamima Begum, the 'IS bride' who had her UK citizenship revoked and is stuck in a refugee camp, a victim of trafficking. The UK says Shamima is Bangladeshi by way of her parents but Bangladesh disagrees and refuses her entry so she remains one of the 4.4 million stateless people in the world.

It's become easier to deprive people of their citizenship in the name of security. This happened in March in Nicaragua which stripped the citizenship of 300 people, mainly opponents of President Daniel Ortega. Earlier this year, Ukraine's president Volodymyr Zelensky revoked citizenship of four lawmakers he accused of treason or supporting Russia — the same thing I suppose. You can be stripped of citizenship in 15 EU countries on some grounds of

disloyalty or treason. Just last month, an Israeli lawmaker proposed a bill that would revoke citizenship of those who showed support for "terrorists".

This is a strange return to ancient practices when people were banished from kingdoms for 'disloyalty'. When it was created in 1945, the UN defined citizenship as a basic human right. There are international laws that disallow revoking of citizenship on political, racial or ethnic grounds. Yet, as reported in the Washington Post this year, one in five countries had expanded provisions to revoke nationalities for reasons "related to disloyalty". About 70 per cent of the 190 countries had some law that could revoke citizenship.

Pakistan's concept of citizenship is equally centred around security and loyalty to a militarised state. Many have pointed to the example of thousands of Afghans who have only known Pakistan as their home but were forced to move to Afghanistan. The media cheered their 'return' because they were depicted as criminals, though crime has not disappeared because the refugees have. Shortly after assuming office, Imran Khan pledged citizenship to 1.5m Afghan refugees but had to renege a mere few days later, the first of many U-turns that showed he was not steering the policymaking ship.

This country bears witness to a tiered system of citizenship where good and bad citizens are defined by a revolving door of leaders. Today's good citizens will be tomorrow's bad citizens etc. We see this play out most with political leaders who weasel themselves back into favour by ceding space in exchange for power. But the most vulnerable and marginalised stay at the bottom as we've seen most recently with the treatment meted out to Baloch women protest-

ers in Islamabad.

Those managing Pakistan's affairs use their force against the most vulnerable. They are aided by political parties, lawyers, judges, celebrities and the media — all too happy to question people's patriotism for ratings, approval, deals, etc.

It's worth reminding who gets to protest and face no consequence and who gets water-cannoned in the middle of winter, detained and carted in buses as if they're being expelled. Today PTI — whose disorientation was ultimately rewarded — is expressing solidarity with Baloch protesters much like the Sharif family did when they were on the outside.

This revolving door of bad policies is exhausting.

Citizenship cannot be conditional on loyalty to the establishment, the prime minister of the day, or anyone's definition of virtue. Steps like blocking 'suspicious' CNICs of 70,000 people in Balochistan a few months ago, or of 18 PTI leaders a few days ago, does not make a state safer. It is farcical to continue to think so, especially for countries that pride themselves on being liberal.

I'm not here to lecture on citizenship but questioning the motives of one of the organisers of the Baloch long march, Dr Mahrang Baloch, and framing her as duplicitous is a disservice to audiences who deserve fair news coverage. Journalists who show allegiance to the powerful and not to their profession will ultimately pay a heavy price.

Marginalised communities bear a heavy price for being portrayed as bad citizens when they are merely asking for an end to enforced disappearances. It is grossly demeaning and requires a rethink, preferably by people elected to make policies grounded in fair principles of justice. -- Courtesy Dawn

Ties with India



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

Managing the troubled relationship with India has been Pakistan's most arduous foreign policy challenge. The mutual hostility has its roots in the bitterness of the manner in which the partition of British India occurred in 1947. Millions had to move across the newly created border. India's hesitation on giving Pakistan its share of finance, defence stores, and even canal waters added to the acrimony. However, all these issues were eventually settled one way or another.

One major issue that could not be settled was the dispute over the State of Jammu and Kashmir, which was forcibly occupied by India, in direct contravention of the terms for partition of British India. The state had a Muslim majority (78 per cent, with 93pc in the Valley), and was contiguous to the territories that were to become Pakistan. India has also violated every resolution of the UN Security Council (UNSC) adopted from 1948 to 1957, which stipulated that the state's political status should be decided by a plebiscite to be held under UN auspices.

Neither the wars between India and Pakistan in 1948, 1965 and 1999, nor the numerous bilateral peace initiatives, have resolved the matter. Complicating the matters further, four years ago, the Modi government abolished the 'statehood', announced Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh as two separate Union territories, and took away the special au-

tonomy of Indian-occupied Kashmir. This was another blatant violation of international law as codified in a series of UNSC resolutions.

Earlier this month, the Indian supreme court upheld the Aug 5, 2019, actions of the Modi government, but directed it to revert statehood to J&K, and hold elections there by September 2024. The decision came as a reality check to those Kashmiri leaders who had cooperated with the BJP government in the vain hope that they would retain their autonomy. In the past four years, the Modi government has indulged in demographic engineering by issuing domiciles to millions of non-state persons. It has also engaged in electoral engineering to ensure that whenever polls are held, BJP would have a dominant position.

Clearly, India is seeking to dissolve the dispute by changing the basic parameters of the disputed territory. The main motivation for this comes from the RSS philosophy of making India a Hindu state. The Modi government has further been emboldened by the fact that the US has selected India as a partner of choice and invested in its military and economic prowess. Regrettably, the international community has failed to condemn India for its illegal actions in J&K, ostensibly to protect their economic and commercial interests in the large Indian market.

These developments have been resented in Pakistan, where for centuries, the people of Pakistan, especially northern Punjab, and the people of Kashmir have lived together, bound by ties of faith and culture. Pakistan had, therefore, reacted to the Aug 5 action by lowering the level of diplomatic representation and stopping bilateral trade.

Where do we go from here? The issue of J&K is connected to the state of

bilateral ties between India and Pakistan. Both countries have been estranged neighbours for the past seven decades. Since 2016, there have been no formal contacts between the two countries, often described as 'no-contact warfare' by India against Pakistan.

Despite Pakistan's consistent desire for good-neighbourly ties, India continues to exhibit animosity. It has discouraged even sporting contacts, when it obliged its cricket team not to visit Pakistan for the Asian Cup, whereas the Pakistani team visited India for the World Cup. India has also paralysed Saarc, probably because it thinks this forum might be used by South Asian countries to join hands to counter-balance India.

This state of affairs does not augur well for peace in South Asia. Many scholars and former diplomats argue that India can neither isolate Pakistan nor make it irrelevant. It would be in the interest of both countries to shun mutual hostility and embrace a peaceful coexistence. An opening might arise after elections in both countries in 2024. The two countries could start with small steps to enhance mutual confidence, such as making the visa regime easier, promoting religious tourism, encouraging people-to-people contact, and restarting bilateral trade.

There have been suggestions that the two governments find an equivalent of the four-point formula of 2007 to help resolve this long-standing conflict. Meanwhile, Pakistan should maintain its support for the right of the people of J&K to self-determination. Subject to the final settlement of the dispute, Pakistan should also grant Gilgit-Baltistan the status of a provisional province in response to the desire of GB's elected assembly. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pak economic landscape undergoing transformation due to SIFC: coordinator

LAHORE (APP): Coordinator for Minister of State and Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis said on Sunday Pakistan's economic landscape had undergone a remarkable transformation, largely because of establishment of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), which had successfully attracted foreign direct investment.

Speaking at the keynote speaker at a seminar on "The Impact of SIFC on Pakistan Economy", held under the aegis of Gold Ring

Economic Forum, a strategic think tank, he said the initiative holds immense significance, particularly in the realm of FDI as the SIFC effectively engages with various countries and was fully committed to ensuring investment flows into country. He said its manifesto included foreign investment with a long-term goal of touching \$60bn in five years and eventually achieving the target of \$100bn.

He said: "We need consistency in economic, fiscal, trade policies and close collaboration with

local and foreign stakeholders for attracting investments." He said it was good omen that Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait and Qatar had signed multi-billion dollar agreements for the foreign direct investment (FDI), depicting tremendous response to the SIFC, which was likely to increase substantially from January next. He said these agreements encompass investment cooperation across diverse sectors such as energy, port operations, waste water treatment, food security, logistics, mining and aviation

sectors. Meher said the International Finance Corporation (IFC), in collaboration with the Board of Investment (BoI), had also introduced an ambitious investment plan to inject more than \$1.5bn in Pakistan's economy through both short- and long-term planning. He said economic partnership between China and Pakistan had also been reinforced by inking 20 agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation.



RAWALPINDI: A large numbers of people are busy is buying vegetables in Sunday weekly Bazar at Committee Chowk area in the city.



ISLAMABAD: An elderly labourer cutting wood into pieces for selling purpose at his workplace.

PFC to attend London expo, boosting trade opportunities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chief Executive Officer of the Pakistan Furniture Council (PFC), Mian Kashif Ashfaq, announced on Sunday that a PFC delegation would participate in the three-day London Expo starting on March 25 to explore new markets and promote bilateral trade.

Talking to a visiting delegation of the UK-based Pak origin business

community led by Muhammad Arbab Khan, President of the Pak-British Friendship Council North West Chapter UK, he said that the primary purpose of this visit was to explore and enhance the possibilities of expanding trade relations, fostering collaboration, and identifying potential investment avenues between our two countries.

Means of production prices mostly rise in China

BEIJING (Xinhua/APP): Most of the capital goods monitored by China's statistical authorities registered higher prices in mid-December compared with early December, official data showed Sunday.

Of the 50 major goods classified in nine categories, including seamless steel tubes, gasoline, coal, fertilizer, and some chemicals, 29 reported higher prices in the period.

PCMEA terms launching of EXIM bank inevitable to boost exports

LAHORE (INP): The Pakistan Carpet Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) has welcomed the establishment of the country's first Export-Import EXIM Bank and expressed the hope that the establishment of a special bank will increase exports and also help to get access to new international markets.

Senior Vice Chairman of the

Association Usman Ashraf, Chairman of Carpet Training Institute (CTI) Ijazur Rehman, Senior Central Leader Abdul Latif Malik, Senior Member Riaz Ahmed, Shahid Hasan Sheikh, Major (Rtd) Akhtar Nazir and Saeed Khan said in their joint statement said that the availability of credit insurance and guarantee services will solve a major problem faced by exporters.

Expanding tax base – A panacea to overcome budget deficit

ISLAMABAD (APP): At a time when country's economy is facing multifaceted challenges, the caretaker government has embarked upon an ambitious plan for restructuring and reforming the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

With its special focus on broadening the tax base, boosting tax to GDP ratio and augmenting revenues to overcome persistent fiscal challenges, the caretakers are exploring all avenues to expand tax base.

The government's strategy involves a comprehensive approach, intending to bridge fiscal gaps by enhancing revenue collection - simultaneously trimming the expenditures. Notably, the reform plan includes separating tax policy and revenue divisions within the FBR - a move aimed at mitigating conflicts of interest in tax collection.

Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Shamsad Akhtar recently

highlighted the significance of proposed division, emphasizing that while the FBR concentrated on collection, a separate tax policy division should be there to formulate policies. She also expressed optimism that the FBR is expected to surpass the targeted revenue collection of Rs. 9.4 trillion, with plans for additional measures in case of any revenue shortfall.

To broaden the tax base, the government is introducing a new

Documentation Law mandating various agencies to provide data to FBR through an automated transmission system. Collaboration with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has been sought to facilitate this process.

Furthermore, a key facet of the reform plan entails segregating customs from revenue collection mechanisms. The customs sector will pivot towards trade facilitation and

border controls while revenue collection responsibilities will rest with the FBR.

Stakeholders, such as the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), have advocated leveraging modern Information Technology (IT) systems to enhance tax collection efficiency.

They emphasize replacing outdated tax collection systems with automation and increased machine utilization for streamlined processes.



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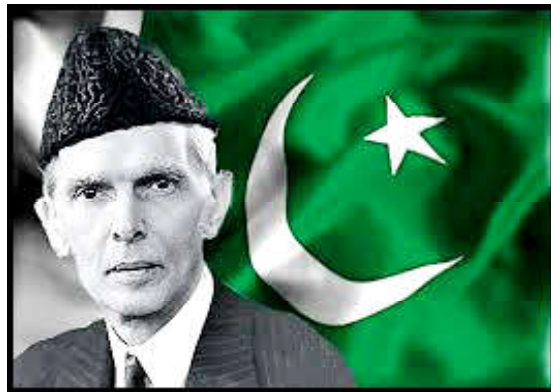


Nation salutes Quaid on his birthday

The nation celebrates the 146th birthday of Pakistan's founder and sub-continent's most prominent leader Quaid-e-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah today (December 25).

Since its creation in 1947 and the un-timely death of the Quaid about a year later, Pakistan has looked for someone to become his successor and take the country towards the heights which the Quaid thought was the destiny of the newly formed country.

Quaid remains the uniting factor for the country 72 years after his death. His words are still sacred for all the parties and groups in the country which was formed to



grant full rights to the Muslims of the sub-continent.

Mohammed Ali Jinnah was born on December 25, 1876 in Karachi, then part of Brit-ish-controlled India. His father was a prosperous Muslim merchant.

Jinnah studied at Bombay Uni-versity and at Lin-coln's Inn in London. He then ran a success-ful legal practice in Bombay. He was already a member of the Indian National Congress, which was working for au-

tonomy from Brit-ish rule, when he joined the Muslim League in 1913.

The league had formed a few years earlier to represent the interests of Indian Muslims in a predominantly Hindu country, and by 1916 he was elected its president.

In the early years, the Quaid advocated Hin-du-Muslim unity, helping to shape the 1916 Lucknow Pact between the Congress and the All-India Muslim League.

Later he became a key leader in the All India Home Rule League, and proposed a fourteen-point constitutional reform plan to safeguard the political rights of Muslims. In 1920, however, he resigned from the Con-gress when it agreed to follow a campaign of satyagraha, which he regarded as political anarchy.

By 1940, Jinnah had come to believe that Muslims of the Indian subcontinent should have their own state to avoid the possible marginalised status they may gain in a Hin-du-Muslim state. In that year, the Muslim League, led by the Quaid-e-Azam, passed the Lahore Resolution, demanding a sepa-rate nation.

During the Second World War, the League gained strength while leaders of the Congress were imprisoned, and in the elections held shortly after the war, it won most of the seats reserved for Muslims.

Ultimately, the Congress and the Muslim League could not reach a power-sharing for-mula for the subcontinent to be united as a single state, leading all parties to agree to the independence of a predominantly Hindu In-dia, and for a Muslim-majority state of Paki-stan.

As the first Governor-General of Pakistan, the Quaid-e-Azam worked to establish the new nation's government and policies, and to aid the millions of Muslim migrants who had emigrated from the new nation of India to Pakistan after independence, personally supervising the establishment of refugee camps. The Quaid died at age 71 in Sep-tember 1948, just over a year after Paki-stan gained independence from the United Kingdom.

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

Q u a i d - e - A z a m , Muhammad Ali Jinnah was born on 25th December 1876 at Vazeer Mansion Karachi, was the first of seven children of Jinnahbhai, a prosperous merchant. After being taught at home, Jinnah was sent to the Sindh Madrasah High School in 1887. Later he attended the Mission High School, where, at the age of 16, he passed the matriculation examination of the University of Bombay. On the advice of an English friend, his father decided to send him to England to acquire business experience. Jinnah, however, had made up his mind to become a barrister. In keeping with the custom of the time, his parents arranged for an early marriage for him before he left for England.

In London he joined Lincoln's Inn, one of the legal societies that prepared students for the bar. In 1895, at the age of 19, he was called to the bar. While in London Jinnah suffered two severe bereavements—the deaths of his wife and his mother. Nevertheless, he completed his formal studies and also made a study of the British political system, frequently visiting the House of Commons. He was greatly influenced by the liberalism of William E. Gladstone, who had become prime minister for the fourth time in 1892, the year of Jinnah's arrival in London. Jinnah also took a keen interest in the affairs of India and in Indian students. When the Parsi leader Dadabhai Naoroji, a leading Indian nationalist, ran for the English Parliament, Jinnah and other Indian students worked day and night for him. Their efforts were crowned with success, and Naoroji became the first Indian to sit in the House of Commons. When Jinnah returned to Karachi in 1896, he found that his father's business had suffered losses and that he now had to depend on himself. He decided to start his legal practice in Bombay, but it took him years of work to establish himself as a lawyer.

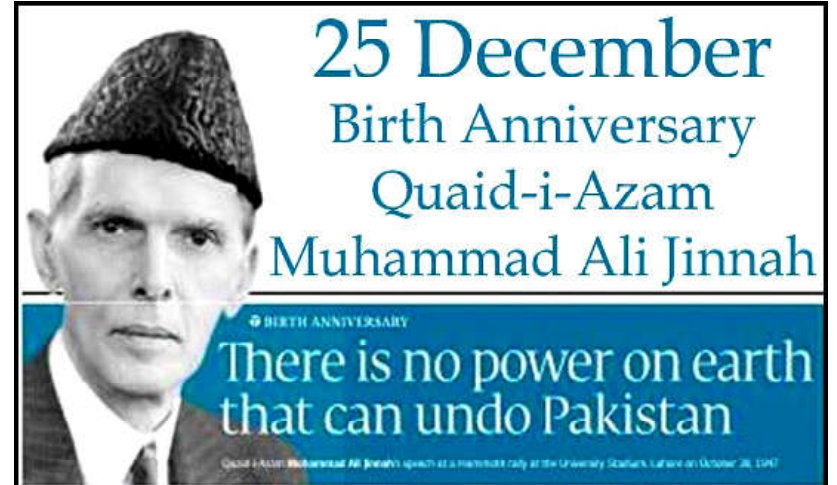
It was nearly 10 years later that he turned toward active politics. A man with

their interests demanded the preservation of their separate identity rather than amalgamation in the Indian nation that would for all practical purposes be Hindu. Largely to safeguard Muslim interests, the All-India Muslim League was founded in 1906. But Jinnah remained aloof from it. Only in 1913, when authoritatively assured that the league was as devoted as the Congress to the political emancipation of India, did Jinnah join the league. When the Indian Home Rule League was formed, he became its chief organiser in Bombay and was elected president of the Bombay branch.

"Ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity." Jinnah's endeavours to bring about the political union of Hindus and Muslims earned him the title of "the best ambassa-

1909 but hitherto resisted by the Congress. Meanwhile, a new force in Indian politics had appeared in the person of Mohandas K. Gandhi. Both the Home Rule League and the Indian National Congress had come under his sway. Opposed to Gandhi's Non-co-operation Movement and his essentially Hindu approach to politics, Jinnah left both the League and the Congress in 1920. For a few years he kept himself aloof from the main political movements. He continued to be a firm believer in Hindu-Muslim unity and constitutional methods for the achievement of political ends. After his withdrawal from the Congress, he used the Muslim League platform for the propagation of his views. But during the 1920s the Muslim

League, and with it Jinnah, had been overshadowed by the Congress and the religiously oriented Muslim Khilafat committee. When the failure of the Non-co-operation Movement and the emergence of Hindu revivalist movements led to antagonism and riots between the Hindus and Muslims, the league gradually began to come into its own. Jinnah's problem during the following years was to convert the league into an enlightened political body prepared to co-operate with other organisations working for the good of India. In addition, he had to convince the Congress, as a prerequisite for political progress, of the necessity of settling the Hindu-Muslim conflict.



Muhammad Ali Jinnah The Greatest Leader of the Century

By Muhammad Zahid Khan Lodhi

No single individual had a greater role for the liberation of Indian Muslims and the creation of a sovereign and independent state for them, than the Quaid-i-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah. His achievement lies in the fact that the single-handedly fought two rival nations i.e. the Hindus and the British. Within a short span of seven years after the Lahore Resolution was passed in March 1940, he successfully steered the ship of his nation to an independent state.

The year 1940 is considered as a landmark in the history of Indo-Pakistan subcontinent as it proved a turning point in the Hind-Muslim relationship. The Muslim League categorically declared that the Hindu-Muslim unity was "neither possible nor practicable" because Hinduism and Islam were not only two different religions but also two paradoxical, different and distinct social orders. The working of Congress ministries in the Hindu dominated provinces had also given the Muslim a bitter experience. So the Lahore resolution was passed on 23rd march, 1940 under the charismatic leadership of the Quaid-i-Azam. The Muslim League declared that nothing short of the demand of Pakistan shall be acceptable to the League.

In order to counter the determination of a separate homeland for the Muslims, the Indian National Congress and its Hindu leaders restored to negative secret overtures with the British government. Lord Wavell, the British Viceroy in India, had still to complete his tenure of office. An impartial and neutral Viceroy amongst the two nations was unsuited to the Hindus. They wanted a new viceroy who could possibly yield to their wishes.

With the change of government in London i.e. overthrow of Churchill's Conservative ministry and installation of Attlee's Labour government the Congress leaders thought that it was high time for them to avail of the opportunity. In order to gain their ulterior motives, the Hindus started a high level propaganda against Lord Wavell. The services of pro-Congress ministers, like Sir Stafford Cripps and Lord Pethick Lawrence were also fully utilised. Consequently, Wavell was recalled and Mountbatten appointed for a brief period of 143 days as the last Viceroy of the British government of the shortest tenure in the history of British India.

It was almost a mission with Mountbatten and the

British government to leave behind a United India after their departure from the subcontinent. The Hindu leaders urged Mountbatten to play a "historic" role in this connection. Mountbatten himself confessed:

"Nothing I have seen or heard in the past few weeks has shaken my firm opinion that with a reasonable measure of goodwill between the communities a United India would be by far the best solution of the problem."

To quote him again: "My own feeling was that a united India was, of course, the right answer..."

He "argued endlessly the case of a unified India." A unified India with a strong Centre was his best

Azam wanted that after the departure of the British the Muslims should also have real freedom like the Hindus. Mountbatten acted upon the wishes of the Hindu leaders and considered it as a "very great tragedy" if the Quaid would force him to give up the idea of a united India.

However, due to the firm stand of the Quaid, Mountbatten and the Hindus had to yield the partition to India.

By 1947, there existed no practicable alternative to some kind of division of the British Raj between Muslims and non-Muslims, though this might have been achieved in practice in a number of ways. In the event, by May 1947 the type of Partition proposed

sected subcontinent a "stepping-stone" to a united India and Mountbatten acted accordingly. Their object was to pressurise the Quaid-i-Azam and the Muslim leaders not to manage the affairs of Pakistan in a haste. In order to implement the Hindu scheme of making Pakistan an inherently weak state, the newly emerged state was deprived of its military and financial assets. Mountbatten not only announced the premature closure of Supreme Headquarters but also failed in the performance of his legal and moral duties to hand over to Pakistan its just share of assets. He deliberately manipulated indefensible and vulnerable boundaries between Pakistan and Bharat in order to make defence an uphill task for them, particularly for the new state of Pakistan.

The early period after the independence was very crucial for the survival of Pakistan. Those were the days of great turmoil in its history. Pakistan's enemies were out and out determined to wipe out its existence; and openly declared that it would not survive. Pakistan's financial assets were not released, and its 36% share of military assets was also withheld by India. The withholding of cash balances and military assets could practically jam the working of its administrative machinery and render its defence weak and vulnerable. The country had yet to coin its money and establish its State Bank. Pakistan was almost penniless. Its borders with India were indefensible. Pakistan had to start everything from a "scratch". The refugee problem and the Muslim genocide in India were threatening issues for the independence of Pakistan which the newly born country was "unprepared to stand". Even our friends said that Pakistan would not survive the refugee problem.¹⁴ One million Muslims lost their lives in the communal riots while 7 million refugees came to Pakistan from across the border.

The man who faced and solved all these problems with courage and determination was the Quaid-i-Azam. With his failing health, weak and feeble physique, he roared like a lion: "Pakistan has come to stay and play its great role for which it is destined.... Nothing on earth no can undo Pakistan."¹⁵ Being undaunted he could not be subdued by anybody and stood firm like a rock in angry seas. He had to accomplish his mission of a separate homeland for the Indian Muslims and look after the management and consolidation of Pakistan.

Before Mountbatten left for India in March 1947, he gave no indication in London of the necessity for the hurricane speed for the transfer of power. The British government had declared to grant independence to India in June 1948. Mountbatten wanted to shift the date of independence ten months earlier. The question arises why did he precipitate the date of independence? Was he too eager for the independence of India than the Indians themselves? Nehru saw in the hurriedly vivi-



choice, while a United India with a weak centre was his second best.

The Quaid was most distressed at the way Mountbatten's mind was working for a united India because it meant permanent and complete subjugation of the Muslims by the Hindus i.e. freedom not for the Muslims but for the Hindus only. Mountbatten considered it as a "very great tragedy" if the Quaid would force him to give up the idea of a united India.

It was on account of the unshakable stand taken by the Quaid-i-Azam that the "reluctant" Mountbatten, the British government and the Congress leaders had to bow and agree upon the division of India.

Mountbatten called the Quaid as "a psychopathic case" who was "intent on his Pakistan".

Like the Hindus, Mountbatten never wanted to divide the subcontinent. In other words, he wanted to give freedom to the Hindus but not to the Muslims of Indo-Pakistan subcontinent. In his ideal state for India (united India with a strong centre) the Muslims would have been ruined forever. In fact, the Indian National Congress and the Hindu leaders had always worked for a strong Centre prior to independence. Even, in Mountbatten's sub-ideal Indian State (united India with a weak centre) the Muslims would have been at the mercy of the Hindus. The Quaid-i-

Jinnah as a role model

Q u a i d - e - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah is the founding father of Pakistan. But to Pakistanis, he was something more: he is their role model. A role model if only because of the principles he had owned up and practised during his long political career, and, moreover, because of the congruence of his behaviour pattern and politics with his professed principles throughout his public life.

While Jinnah's own public life and political behaviour provide a role model for the rulers, administrators and politicians, he showed a remarkable perspicacity in identifying the problems that would be encountered in building up Pakistan as he envisaged it — as a welfare state.

The most critical problems confronting Pakistan today are, above all, those of law and order, corruption, nepotism and jobbery, and of greed, ineptitude, hypocrisy, and the insensitivities of those in power, whether in the government at various levels or in the opposition. On these problems Jinnah dwelt repeatedly during his tenure as governor-general, beginning with his August 11, 1947, address to the Constituent Assembly. Now, consider how relevant are the following guidelines he had set out in that memorable address.

i) "The first duty of a government is to maintain law and order, so that the life, property and religious beliefs of its subjects are fully protected by the state."

ii) "... everyone... no matter to what community he belongs, ... no matter what his colour, caste or creed, is first, second and last a citizen of this state with equal rights, privileges and obligations... we are all citizens and equal citizens of one state." (This dictum in the present context should logically be extended to include various sects and ethnic groups.)

iii) "... always be guided by the principles of justice and fair play, without any... prejudice or ill-will... partiality... or favouritism."

iv) "... the evil of nepotism and jobbery... must be crushed relentlessly... Never tolerate any kind of jobbery, nepotism or any influence directly or indirectly..."

v) "One of the biggest curses... is bribery and corruption. We must put that down with an iron hand..." This includes political bribery and corruption and saleable loyalty as well, which have corroded our entire political system and institutional structures, and have spawned the present political crisis.)



one state", with equal rights, privileges and obligations is the most important. Therein, he laid down the doctrine of a united, indivisible Pakistani nationhood, without any distinction of language, culture or ethnicity.

During the struggle for Pakistan period, it is true, he had pronounced Hindus and Muslims as two major nations in the subcontinent and, on that basis, demanded a separate homeland for Muslims. But with both the nations having attained statehood, there was a paradigm shift, and the two nations in the post-partition context were and are India and Pakistan. Jinnah was the first statesman to recognize this basic shift. Hence he declared Pakistan, which was and is multi-racial, multi-linguistic and multi-religious, to be a pluralist state, with equal rights, privileges and obligations for all its citizens, whatever their race,

religion or creed. He had invoked the Madinitic model of statehood in his reply to Lord Mountbatten on August 14, 1947, and that model was based on the Misaq-i-Madina, which Dr. Hamidullah describes as the first written constitution in the world. The Misaq-i-Madina, promulgated by the Prophet (PBUH), had envisaged a pluralist state (articles 1, 2, 25-35, and 46), bearing in mind the multi-racial, multi-lingual and multi-religious character of Madina, and its defence was made the collective responsibility of all its citizens (articles, 24, 44, 45a, and 45b). Hence Jinnah's pluralist doctrine for Pakistan is, by no means, in conflict with his declaration of Pakistan being an "Islamic democracy". And his pluralist doctrine continues to be extremely relevant in the context of the divisive forces and voices that have for long plagued Pakistan.

PM felicitates Christian community on Christmas, lauds their role in progress of Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar felicitated the Christian community on the occasion of Christmas and said the nation on this day should pledge to make Pakistan a model of religious tolerance and inter-faith harmony.

In a message on the occasion of Christmas, he said, "The Christian community is celebrating Christmas in Pakistan and across the world and I and the whole nation felicitate the Christian brothers and sisters on the happy occasion of Christmas. Christmas is the name of love, brotherhood, patience and sacrifice."

These values were critical in putting a society on the path of development, he added.

The PM said the Prophet of Allah, Hazrat Essa (AS) healed the pain of humanity and took the message of God to the whole humanity.

Hazrat Essa (AS) reformed humanity with teachings of peace, brotherhood, tolerance and forbearance which led to the

success of humans. The moral teachings and the guidance of the Prophet were a beacon for humanity for all times to come, he continued.

He said in the present age there was an acute need to follow Hazrat Essa's message of human compassion, affection, tolerance and fraternity.

In the last few years at the international level, human society had been facing an adverse situation due to a wave of religious intolerance, he observed.

"To reverse this negative trend we have to spread Hazrat Essa's message of brotherhood and religious tolerance and follow his teachings to make the world a cradle of peace. In this way we can forever end hatred from the world," he remarked.

He said the white colour in Pakistan's green flag represented the minorities including the Christian community which played a vital role in the progress and development of the country, and in all fields including defence, judiciary, arts, sports and education made

their countrymen proud.

The prime minister said the Christian community laid down their lives for strengthening the foundation of the country and for its integrity and solidarity. He said in the Quaid of Pakistan every person had complete religious freedom and the constitution of Pakistan provided special protection to minorities, adding every citizen was given equal rights and they had complete freedom of worship and had liberty to perform religious rituals and celebrate religious occasions. "The State and every citizen have the responsibility to protect their places of worship," he asserted.

He said, "The issues faced by Pakistan can only be resolved when we rise above the distinctions of colour, ethnicity, and religion and work day and night as a united nation for the progress of the country."

"Pakistan is our home and on this occasion of Christmas we should pledge that together we will make Pakistan a model of religious tolerance and brotherhood."



Caretaker Federal Minister for religion Affairs and interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmad addressing the Tazem Al Harmain Shareef conference at Karachi.

ECP defers delimitation grievance hearing, prioritizing elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) postponed the delimitation grievance hearing until after the General Elections 2024, prioritizing the election schedule in line with the Supreme Court's directive to avoid disruptions.

Referring to recent Supreme Court orders on the delimitation issue, the Election Commission of Pakistan in its orders emphasized that challenges to delimitation by the ECP will no longer lead to election delays. In a specific case, the Supreme Court underscored the importance of General Elections as a fundamen-

tal democratic principle, diminishing the procedural significance of delimitation.

The notification, endorsed by Chief Election Commissioner Sikkandar Sultan Raja and four members of the Election Commission, conveyed that the Supreme Court of Pakistan, in the proceedings related to the delimitation of District Zhob, Sherani (Civil Petition No 4305/2023 - Gul Khan and Others Vs. Saeed-ur-Rehman and Others), underscored that the execution of General Elections is not merely a procedural necessity but a fundamental principle upholding democratic ethos.

Bilateral naval exercise Thamar Al Tayyib 2023 culminates in Arabian Sea

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman Bilateral Exercise Thamar Al Tayyib 2023 (TAT-23) was conducted in the Gulf of Oman.

This was 11th edition of the series of Thamar Al Tayyib exercises being conducted between Pakistan Navy and Royal Navy of Oman since 2002, a news release said on Sunday.

The Pakistan Navy Flotilla comprising of Pakistan Navy Ship ASLAT with embarked helicopter, Fast Attack Craft PNS QUWWAT and PN Maritime Patrol Aircraft along with Special Operations Forces participated in the

exercise. The bilateral exercise was conducted in two phases. Harbour phase included operational and tactical level table top discussions and exercise planning conferences.

During the Sea Phase of the exercise, both the navies conducted range of advanced operational exercises encompassing major facets of maritime operations related to Anti-Air, Anti-Surface Warfare and Counter Terrorism exercises.

The exercise also involved Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) by ships of both Navies with an aim to

curb illicit activities at sea. Ex TAT- 23 provided an avenue to enhance mutual learning, improve inter-operability and opportunity for both navies to further hone their professional skills.

Pakistan and Oman share a common maritime area and both the navies closely cooperate with each other to maintain good order at sea. Regular conduct of bilateral Exercise Thamar Al Tayyib 2023 is a clear manifestation of strong fraternal and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Oman in general and Pakistan Navy and Royal Navy of Oman in particular.



Special Service Group of Pakistan Navy demonstrating drill onboard PNS ASLAT during Pakistan Navy-Royal Navy of Oman Bilateral Exercise Thamar Al Tayyib.

WAPDA chairman visits K-IV project to review construction progress

LAHORE (APP): WAPDA Chairman Lt-Gen (ret'd) Engineer Sajjad Ghani visited Greater Karachi Bulk Water Supply Scheme (K-IV Project) to review progress on the project.

According to WAPDA spokesman here on Sunday, the K-IV project envisages to provide 650 million gallon per day (MGD) to Karachi from Keenjhar lake. The project will be completed in two phases. At present, WAPDA is constructing Phase-I, which is scheduled for completion in October 2024. Phase-I of K-IV Project will supply 260 MGD to Karachi. PC-1 cost of the project is Rs 126 billion, expenditure till date is Rs.40 billion and accumulative progress of 40 per cent

has been achieved.

General Manager (Projects) South, Chief Engineer/Project Director K-IV and representatives of the Consultants and the Contractors were also present during the chairman's visit.

The chairman visited in detail several sites of the project and witnessed construction work going on there. The project team briefed the chairman about the progress achieved so far. It was briefed that construction activities are continuing on all eight sites of the project. These sites include intake structure, pumping stations, water conveyance system consisting of pressurized pipes, reservoirs and filtration plants, project offices, colony and the approach road.

Senate committee to be briefed on Palestine, Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (Online): A briefing will be given to the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee regarding Israel's barbaric bombing of Gaza and the termination of the special status of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Committee will meet tomorrow (Tuesday) at Parliament House under the chairmanship of Chairman Senator Farooq H. Naik. In the meeting, the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will give a briefing to the committee on the role of the Muslim Ummah and especially Pakistan regarding the ongoing barbaric bombardment by the Zionist forces in Gaza. In the meeting, the committee will also be informed about the situation created by the biased decision of the Indian SC.

GM Taj passes away Independent Report

QUETTA: The former Vice Chancellor, University of Balochistan and senior bureaucrat, civil service of Pakistan, Ghulam Muhammad Taj passed away after brief illness on Sunday.

The late Ghulam Muhammad Taj was father of the Secretary Government of Balochistan, Sheryar Taj, and brother of Engineer Umar Farooq Fateh Hussain, Fateh Ali Taj.

The Fateha Khawani for departed soul would be held at Arman Manzil located in front of Sariab police station, Sariab road Quetta which would continue for three days.

Bilawal Bhutto paid rich tributes to Quaid on birth anniversary

KARACHI / ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has paid rich tributes to Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah on his 147th Birthday anniversary being celebrated on Monday (tomorrow).

According to the press statement issued by Media Cell Bilawal House, the Chairman PPP, in his message to nation, said that as we celebrate the birthday of our Quaid, let us reflect on his steadfast commitment to justice, equality, and the principles that define the essence of Pakistan. He further said that Quaid-e-Azam was a democratic visionary leader, whose unwavering dedication paved the way for the creation of our be-

loved country, Pakistan. "Our Quaid's indomitable spirit and unparalleled leadership continue to inspire generations, reminding us of the ideals upon which our great nation stands," he added.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that PPP steadfastly upholds the visionary ideals and objectives of the nation's founder, working towards the realization of an inclusive, democratic, and progressive Pakistan. He pointed out that Quaid-e-Azam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto fulfilled Quaid-e-Azam's vision by presenting the historic unanimous Constitution in 1973—a democratic structure grounded in the principles of equal rights for all.

Zardari's message on the occasion of Christmas

ISLAMABAD / KARACHI: Formed President of Pakistan and President Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians, Asif Ali Zardari has congratulated the Christians all over the world, especially members of the community living in Pakistan on the occasion of Christmas. He said that the role of the Christian community for the development of Pakistan is unforgettable.

President Asif Ali Zardari said that Quaid-e-Azam, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had given all non-Muslims the right to be equal citizens in the 1973 Constitution. Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto had defended the fundamental rights of non-Muslim citizens.



QUETTA: Chairman Senate Mir Sadiq Sanjani giving away ticket of PB-45 to Ziaur Rehman Ishaqzai

Political party's accounts involved in smear campaign against judges

ISLAMABAD (Online): Social media accounts linked to political parties were involved in the recent social media smear campaign against Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa and Supreme Court judges.

An old letter exempting the wives of judges from checking at airports was used with regular planning, the matter was thrown out without investigation and a smear campaign was launched on social media against the judiciary, judges and their families.

Investigations by the institutions revealed propaganda accounts believed to be linked to a political party behind the campaign to defame judges.

According to government sources, the Aviation Division's post dated October 12 was first posted on December 16 (after about 2 months) by an account named JB affiliated to a political party, followed by the account of Umar Mehmood Hayat.

The above post was posted on December 16th at 11:49 PM. From this account, the judges and judiciary have

been illicit for the cases of PTI founder chairman.

According to government sources, a few social media activists also pushed the targeted agenda of that particular political party, and accounts linked to a political party actively participated in the campaign to assassinate judges and took the lead in spreading false propaganda virally.

Social media activists and a few vloggers who support a particular political party have been at the forefront of creating social media trends.

Even by taking screenshots of the news broadcast on a few TV channels, the nefarious purpose was furthered by the trolls connected to the political party on social media.

Propaganda was later countered by the clarification issued by the Supreme Court, but by then the character assassination campaign had reached its peak.

The sad thing is that the spreaders of this fake news did not even give an explanation to their followers, nor did they apologize.



MUZAFFRABAD: Activists of Pasban-e-Hurriyat shouting slogans during protest in favor of their in the city.

PTI leaderless party in fresh ECP's list of registered political parties

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has been mentioned as leaderless political party in fresh list of registered political parties of country released by ECP. Name of PTI founder Imran Khan has been removed by ECP from the party heads as it released the fresh list of 175 registered political parties in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Pervaz Khattak-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Parliamentarians has been included in the list.

Earlier, PTI lost their electoral symbol 'bat' as the ECP announced the reserved verdict on the party's intra-party elections. The election commission earlier reserved its verdict on pleas challenging the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) intra-party elections after hearing arguments from all the parties. Announcing the reserved verdict, a five-member bench of the Election Commission of Pakistan, headed by Chief Election Commissioner.

SC 2-member bench consist to hear 75 cases

ISLAMABAD (Online): 75 cases have been appointed for hearing in front of two member bench comprising of Acting Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Sardar Tariq Masood and Justice Athar Minallah on Principal Seat Islamabad.

These cases include various types of cases and bail cases.

The said bench will hear more than fifteen cases every day and this process will continue till December 29. The bench will hear more than 75 bail cases throughout the week, including pre-arrest, post-arrest, tax matters, tenancy law cases, family and family cases.

Information notices have also been issued to the parties for this.

Indian troops martyr one more youth

SRINAGAR (INP): Indian troops in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred one more Kashmiri youth in Jammu district of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the troops martyred the youth during a military operation in Akhnoor area of the district. The Indian troops also on Saturday martyred one youth in the same area.

Meanwhile, unidentified gunmen killed a former Senior Superintendent of Police.



LAHORE: Participant giving final touches to the painting during the event in connection with 147th birth anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Tosha Khana case: PTI's appeal ready to end appeal against IHC verdict

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has prepared an appeal on behalf of founder chairman Imran Khan to end the appeal against Islamabad High Court (IHC) verdict in Tosha Khana case.

It is likely to be submitted the appeal in Supreme Court (SC) on Monday, after which the appeal can be scheduled for hearing in the chamber of one of the judges of Acting Chief Justice Sardar Tariq Masood and Justice Athar Minallah. On the other hand, after visiting the objections of the Registrar SC, orders can be issued to fix the case for hearing on the next day.

A bench consisting of Acting Chief Justice Sardar Tariq Masood and Justice Athar Minallah can hear on Principle seat at Islamabad.

PTI founder Imran Khan filed an appeal in the SC to suspend the decision of the IHC in Tosha Khana case. It was said that the sentence in the Tosha Khana case has already been suspended. High Court only suspended the sentence, not the entire decision. Election Commission took advantage of the error in the verdict of the High Court.

It is said in the petition that the Election Commission has issued a notification of the disqualification of the founder of PTI, the elections are near.



LAHORE: The Jinnah Khamita Foundation is providing free wedding supplies to people at an event held at Bagh Jinnah.

Victory of Atif and Saquib is the victory of business community

QUETTA/PISHIN: The victory of Atif Ikram Sheikh and Saquib Fayyaz is the victory of business community.

Their young leadership struggle is not for power, rather for the service of the business community beyond personal interests they will work for the improvement of the country's economy and FPCCI.

While addressing joint meeting of PCCI Executive Members and Nominees for FPCCI Election 2024-2025 Muhammad Asif Tareen Patron-in-Chief Pashin

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and Executive Member Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) said that the success and failure of any institution depends on its leadership, vision, experience, hard work and efforts.

The joint central candidates of the Alliance, the candidate for President Atif Ikram Sheikh and Senior Vice President Saquib Fayaz Magu are talented, experienced, and aware of the situation.