# naenanaent

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Hold telephonic conversation President, PM express

concerns over inappropriate

police treatment against

**Baloch protestors** 

ISLAMABAD (APP): bonds.
President Dr Arif Alvi
and Caretaker Prime
Balochistan Governor

expressed concerns ation in the province as

over the inappropriate police treatment with the Boloch market with

Discussing the situation, both the president viewed that the police

ister viewed that the towards the protestors.

police should not have dealt with the protest-two sides believed that

ors strictly, a President the police should not

House press release have acted beyond their

ister told the president sized the measures to

that the detained pro- improve the law and

testors were being re- order situation in

Quetta Development Package roads:

Caretaker CM acknowledges

meritorious services of

**Commissioner Quetta** 

said. During the converlimits and powers.

leased on personal Balochistan.

protestors.

Malik Abdul Wali Khan

Kakar also called on

President Alvi and dis-

cussed the overall situ-

should show restraint

Both leaders empha-

Minister Anwaar-ul-

Haq Kakar on Friday

held a telephonic conversation wherein they

the Baloch protestors.

dent and the prime min-

sation, the prime min-

**Independent Report** 

QUETTA: The caretaker

Domki has acknowledged

efforts made by Commis-

sioner Quetta, Muhammad

Hamza Shafqaat for the

Quetta development pack-

age and especially for completion of the Sariab link

Badîni road.

### PM Kakar dispels doubts about election on Feb 8

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 pro-

vide security to political leaders, including the three time prime minister Nawaz Sharif, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Maryam Nawaz, Imran Khan, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and others.

Prominent political leaders could be targeted and the government would be blamed for any lapse in their security, he continued.

"It is the responsibility of the government to provide security to political leaders and voters of Paki-

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

It would be illegal to stop the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) from taking part in the elections, he said and

clarified there was no policy to stop the PTI from orga-

nizing public meetings.
On the election day, the candidates of PTI would be in the field and the voters would be voting for them, he

He said those who were involved in the incidents of May 9 were facing the law of the land. He was of the view that those involved in the May 9 incidents should not be public office-holders.

He said the Election Commission should look into complaints made by political parties about maladminis-

To a question, he said overall political circumstances triggered the actions against the PTI and lessons were

earnt by the State.

He said, "It is not our job to tell overseas Pakistanis" He was a "He way or " which political party they should support." However, the people should vote for a party which had an agenda for the economic revival of Pakistan, he opined. "I will vote for a party which has an agenda to revive the economy," he asserted.

The prime minister said there was a wave of terrorism in the country and there were forces which wanted to cause disruption in Pakistan and the government would make all efforts to protect the lives of people.



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.



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

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 Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has underlined 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.

The Governor was speaking to the members of

the committee formed led by the caretaker Federal Minister Fawad Hasan Fawad regarding the BYC march in Islamabad on Friday morning.

The committee was comprised the caretaker Federal Ministers Murtaza Solangi, Jamal Shah and Khalil George.

The Governor stressed that we need to take steps immediately in view of the tense situation of the region just because we can't afford more hatred and disputes.

that all government functionaries as well as political elders, religious leaders media persons and other leading personalities may play their wholehearted 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 requirements are being fulfilled in the case of the remaining other arrested persons, was informed further.

### **EC** extends date for filing nomination papers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission (EC) has extended the date for filing nomination papers for two days . Date has been ex-

tended 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

The EC while accepting the plea of political parties extended the date for filing nomination papers for two days.

EC has said the candidates now can file the nomination papers till December 24. Political parties can file preferential list of reserved seats till December 24.

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

EC had earlier fixed

Commissioner Quetta, the Chief Minister presented Chief Minister Balochistan, him a commendation cer-Mir Ali Mardan Khan tificate here on Friday. The Chief Minister the services and untiring also expressed best wishes

outstanding performance of

for him. Needless to mention here that the Commissioner Quetta played key role in completion of different de-

partment projects espe-

cially Sariab and adjacent

In recognition of the roads. Cipher case:

### SC approves bail pleas of PTI founder, Qureshi

Supreme Court (SC) has approved bail plea of founder PTI and Shah Mehmood Qureshi against surety bonds of Rs 10 lac each in cipher case.

Justice Athar Minallah has remarked offence has not been proved against founder PTI and he is inno-

Acting Chief Justice of Pakistan (ČJP) Sardar Tariq Masood remarked Shah Mehmood was wise person. He saved himself and asked founder PTI to read cipher. A 3-member bench of

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 remarked speedy trial is right of every accused. Why do you want that trial is not

witnesses in haste

ISLAMABAD (Online): informs government about cipher so that help could be sought in foreign policy. Objective of official secret act is only this the sensitive information could not go out to any one.

Counsel Suleman

Safdar said we have to see this sensitive information has been shared or otherwise. Justice Athar Minallah remarked the original cipher is in ministry of foreign affairs. If it has gone out then it is offence of ministry of foreign affairs. Suleman Safdar said former Prime Minister (PM) had said in a public meeting that the letter held by him is evidence of conspiracy. It has not been said any where in the public meeting that what is in cipher and it has come from

Justice Athar Minallah while raising questions on cipher case remarked how the investigator came to know meeting was held in Banigala. Did the investigation officer investigate the matter of disappearance of Azam Khan.

### 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-Insaf (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 he petitions challenging PTI's intra-party elections.

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

Babar Hassan Bharwana and Justice ® Ikramullah 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 Therefore the certificate

and Form-65 filed by the alleged Chairman, is hereby regretted and rejected ac-

Shah Muhammad Jatoi, cordingly. The provisions of Section 215 of the Election 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 Ali 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 authorities, prompted by the Supreme Court's directive and Election Act, 2017, and for the ECP to allay PTI's Election Rules, 2017. reservations regarding lack dated 4th December, 2023 per the PTI, the ECP assured its delegates that it would redress their griev-



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 border. 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 only. 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 passports. Residents of Chaman,

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

### 52 nomination papers filed for reserved seats in Balochistan, says Ejaz Anwar Chohan

**Independent Report** 

OUETTA: A total of 52 nomination papers have so far been submitted for the reserved seats of the national and provincial assemblies from the Balochistan province According to the Pro-

vincial Election Commissioner Ejaz Anwar Chohan, the process of submission of the nomination papers is continued for the seats reserved for the women and minorities. He informed that eight

nomination papers were submitted for the women reserved seats in the Na- province.

tional Assembly on Friday. Similarly, in all 15 nomination papers were submitted for the seats reserved for women in the provincial assembly.

The Provincial Election Commissioner told 10 papers were submitted for the seats reserved for minorities in the provincial assem-

It may be mentioned here that the Provincial Election Commissioner Ejaz Anwar Chohan has been appointed as the Returning Officer for the reserved seats of the provincial and National Assemblies in the

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

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

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 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 iden-tified as Mohammad Uzair, Baqar Ali, Shehbaz Ahmed, and Shehzad



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): ter. Security is being pro-Caretaker Federal Minister vided to women and chil-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 pro-

testors 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 committee

Caretaker Federal Minfurther said that today there is also meeting of this committee with Prime Minisdren 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

on February 8, 2024. Solangi said the Commission had also taken notice of the candidates' complaints regarding nomination papers, and the legitimate ones were being re-

"We are trying our best ister for Information has to find a remedy for the issues of which the Election Commission has taken no-

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 papers.

completed speedily. Justice Áthar Minallah remarked foreign ministry

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 5<sup>th</sup> 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

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

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

dent of China Economic fessionals of both countries and reducing regional dis-Net, reading out a congratulatory letter from Sun Weidong, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China.

stated,"Under the strategic guidance 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 fruit-To further strengthen

friendship and collaboramenced with Cui Jun, Presition, it added, media pro-

were expected to undertake significant responsibilities and tasks. 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 socioeconomic landscape, addressing 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

parities". 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. Zheng Qingdong, President and Editor-in-Chief of Economic Daily, highlighted the constructive role of Chinese and Pakistani media in creating an enabling



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

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

### Launch of Hajj App, mosque initiatives lauded

ISLAMABAD (APP): Maulana Syed Muhammad Abdul Khabir Azad on Friday praised caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed and team for launching the efficient Hajj app and their initiatives in providing excellent services to pilgrims, establishing mosque centers, and offering primary education

within mosques Talking to the Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Azad emphasized the urgent necessity for unity in the Islamic world. He highlighted that Islam guides us towards the unity of the Ummah, fostering peace, brother-

nication Authority (PTA)

has cautioned the public

against phishing, and

fraudulent links circulating

on Whatsapp, social media, and through text messages,

falsely claiming to be asso-

ciated with PTA's Device

Identification Registration

& Blocking System (DIRBS). The message

making the rounds purports

to be an official communi-

cation, stating that the

user's SIM is found to be

involved in "suspicious ac-

tivities" and that the user

should check the number of

SIMs at the given link. Al-

ternatively, another mes-

sage warned that the user's

phone registration will be

suspended unless they

visit the provided link, ac-

cording to a news release.

tics are designed to trick in-

dividuals into clicking on

malicious links, compro-

These deceptive tac-

hood, and a profound respect for humanity. The dignitaries en-

gaged in a comprehensive discussion on religious harmony, tolerance, the establishment of a violence-free promoting Pakistan's message, launching the Hajj app, and organizing Hajj arrangements. They actively exchanged ideas and shared opinions during the conversation.

Azad stated that the key elements needed for establishing peace in Pakistan at this moment encompass religious harmony, tolerance, regard for humanity, and the propagation of He called upon reli-

urged to refrain from click-

ing 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:

complaint.pta.gov.pk/

RegisterComplaint.aspx and PTA CMS mobile

their device, users should only visit <a href="https://dirbs.pta.gov.pk">https://dirbs.pta.gov.pk</a>, SMS IMEIs to 8484 from their

device, or through the offi-

Apple App Store.

information.

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

Electricity Supply Com- 2.26 billion have been re-

power pilferers is contin-

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

covered from some

1,30,000 defaulters during

the campaign, the QESCO

spokesman maintained.

Similarly, over Rs.

**Independent Report** 

QUETTA: In all 367 more

electricity connections of

the defaulters of utility bills

and arrears were discon-

nected and 67 tempered and

shunt meters were removed

during last 24 hours in all

operation circles of Quetta

According to the spokesman of QESCO, the

drive against defaulters and

pany (QESCO).

To check the status of

ttps:

PTA cautions public

about deceptive links

Urges vigilance & use of official

platforms for services

ISLAMABAD (APP): mising their personal infor-

The Pakistan Telecommu- mation. The public has been

gious scholars and ulema to actively contribute to fostering unity among the people and promoting national unity through sermons in mosques.

He commended the armed forces and security agencies of Pakistan for their unparalleled and enduring sacrifices in safeguarding the nation, a tribute that resonates throughout the entire country.

Azad said Pakistan is profound blessing from Allah Almighty, and the nation stands in solidarity with the Pakistani armed forces and security agencies dedicated to the safety and protection of our coun

### Two-way Link Badeni

Balochistan Caretaker 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

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

cial Device Verification App, available on both Google Play Store and arrested two persons and recovered from their possession 5.300 kg hashish in PTA has urged the public to stay vigilant and prioritize the use of its oftwo separate area of Loralai

ficial platforms/shortcodes According to police sources, on special directive to protect their personal 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

general elections scheduled for Feb 8 next year will only be acceptable to the nation if they are transparent, Jamaat-e-Islami chief Sirajul Haq asserted on Fri-

Interacting with a group of reporters after filconstitutional prerequisite.

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

### Initiative recognized as World Restoration Flagship by UN addresses the ecological The Initiative's dedi-

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's Living Indus Initiative has been selected as the World Restoration Flagship of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Res-

Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme UNEP), Inger Andersen announced the groundbreaking achievement in a letter addressed to Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, a news release said. The Living Indus Initiative stood out among more than 150 applications and garnered support from over 70 governments world-

QUETTA (APP): The sea-

soned journalist of Quetta,

Raza-ur-Rehman on Friday

cation to restoring millions of hectares in the Indus River basin, a critical ecosystem supporting 90% of Pakistan's population and driving a significant portion of its economy, earned it the prestigious recognition.

Pakistan's Living Indus

Developed jointly by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, provincial authorities, and the UN system, the Living Indus Initiative represents a collaborative effort to uplift the environmental and health conditions of the Indus Ba-

Its holistic approach

"I will try my best to

live up to the expectations

of the people and resolve

challenges faced by the fragile basin due to climate change, with a set of 25 measures emphasizing nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation strategies. Expressing her delight, Ms Inger Andersen commended the Living Indus Initiative for being one of the world's most promising, ambitious, and inspiring examples of large-scale restoration.

The recognition reflects the tireless efforts of everyone involved in and supportive of the initiative, highlighting its significant impact on both people and the planet.

### **Khattak says: Azam Khan** running PTI founder govt

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

"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 as chief minister Puniab by PTI founder was beyond

### Mosques can play role in preventing diseases: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): 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 virus. The meeting was attended by Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr certain diseases

Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed, provincial representatives and senior officials. President Alvi pointed out that the community participation could also reduce the burden of disease on the health system. It was agreed in the 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 and the first lady for playing a role in creating awareness about

### 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 prime

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 National Assembly constituency NA-44 Dera Ismail Khan. Former speaker Asad Qaiser has filed nomination papers from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa constituency PK-50 and National Assembly's NA-

The most notable contestant in the field for elections 2024 is former PML-N stalwart and ex-inminister 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.



QUETTA: Raza-ur-Rehman submitting his nomination 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 Provin-

cial 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 party and position he held in the party. He also announced to

contest the elections in his independent capacity. Therefore, he is also going

to launch his election campaign from now. Abdul Achakzai said that the people of Chaman should

know their real representatives and not pay attention to the hollow slogans. He said that he has never committed any negli-

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

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

## Road completed

Link Badeni Road.

QUETTA (APP) - Police town on Friday.

upcoming polio campaign

# nation: Siraj LOWER DIR (INP): The

ing 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

### filed the nomination papers the issue faced by an ordifor the provincial assembly's PB-42 Quetta nary man, once elected," he as an independent candidate It may be recalled that to run for the general elec-Raza-ur-Rehman is a senior tions 2024. journalist working in the It is the first time in media industry in Quetta. Mr Raza started his jour-

Quetta's senior journalist

files nomination papers

for PB-42

the history of Balochistan that a working journalist nalistic career with the print will contest the general elecmedia and later with the intions. Accompanied by the flux of electronic media, he joined Express news group prominent journalists, he and for the last over a defiled nomination papers at the office of Assistant cade, he has been associated Commissioner Quetta.

Talking to newsmen, 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 issues could be addressed nalists and Quetta Press

with the same news group. He, as an active media person, remained in key positions in media bodies including the Federal Union of Journalists, the Balochistan Union of Jour-

# comprehension he re-

ZHOB: Provincial Secretary Science & Information Technology Muhammad Ayaz Khan Mandokhail addressing students who complet training course at

### DC chairs meeting to review measures of anti-polio drive starting from Jan 8

KALAT (APP): Deputy Commissioner Kalat Hafiz Muhammad Qasim Kakar Tehsils of Kalat district, a total of 209 health departon 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

were discussed in the meet-

ter anti-polio drops to protect children from this disease. Children need to be healthy to build a healthy society to create a polio-free society, we all have to fight together against a disease like polio, he said. He said that for which we have to raise 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.

age across the district.

Addressing the meeting, the deputy commis-



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

### DC chairs meeting to take action against illegal medical stores

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner Quetta Lt ® ment teams would partici-pate in this campaign, Saad Bin Asad on Friday chaired a meeting of Quetta Drug Inspection Team to which could administer anti-polio drops to children take action against illegal between up to five years of medical stores in the city.

The meeting was attended by all drug inspectors of Quetta. In the meeting,

sioner said that polio was a Deputy Commissioner contagious disease and it was important to adminis-Quetta formed teams of drug inspectors for different areas which in the first phase would warn all unregistered medical store owners to get their registration done immediately, otherwise their illegal medical stores would be closed.

He said that in the second phase, these teams would take action against all medical stores that did not have license and they would be sealed.

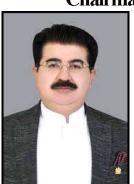
### Mainly cold, cloudy weather forecast for **Balochistan**

Quetta (APP)-The Met Office has forecast mainly cold weather with partly cloudy condition in most parts of the province during next 24 hours. According to the Met

Office, the minimum temperature in Kalat was recorded at -2.5 degree centigrade and – 2 degree centigrade in Quetta on Fri-



### 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 ternational markets, making 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

but have resounded in in-

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



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-

in spearheading Pakistan's

economic journey

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

I also wish to reiterate

development

exports

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**



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 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

Achievement Awards is a the Government's resolve to facilitate the business community in their efforts to boost Pakistan's trade and playing greater role in the

country's economy. I commend the endeavors 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 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 international 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

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

the country.

ance of trade has become ir-

relevant under the new

phase of global trade but

equilibrium in trade has sig-

nificance when economy is

facing contraction. How-

ever, 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 in-

dustry in Pakistan that feels

threatened from the compe-

tition of Chinese products.

fearful as elimination of cus-

tom duties would lead to

substantial revenue losses as

Pakistan heavily relies on

taxation on international

trade for revenue generation.

According to the latest fig-

ures, 40% of the Pakistan's

total revenue is from taxes

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

on import of goods.

Pak- Iran PTA:

The public sector is also

Evaluating the viability of trade agreements

### 11th FPCCI Achievement Awards

Saturday December 23, 2023

### **Creating employment** through entrepreneurship



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 create 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 improveployn with in ent get ac from hands both them use to tions i neurial infrastructure such as readily available finance. conducive governmental

rates related to unem-	ments in quality of life
ment. It has proven	more and more people
time that employees	employment, the count
repreneurial ventures	middle class will grow,
ccess to mentorship	ting it on the path
the entrepreneur and	transitioning from a de
s-on work experience,	oping country to a de
of which empower	oped one.
with skills they can	The retail sector is
o further their ambi-	third largest contributo
in life. Countries in the	Pakistan's economy, o
d with better entrepre-	tributing about 18-20%

	The retail s	sector is t	he
third	largest co	ontributor	to
Paki	stan's eco	nomy, co	n-
tribu	ting about	18-20%	of
the C	3DP and tl	ne employ	yer
	illions of		
	d by the in		
TAN		44	
har	Chara of	Chara	

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%
Wor	ld Bank En	trepreneu	rship Datal	pase

trial infrastructure boast a better quality of life and prosperity.

Entrepreneurship 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 also more likely to send their permarkets, hypermarkets, creating a more balanced and

tail, one of the principal sectors of entrepreneurship, is going through a transition phase in Pakistan and the world over. Most of the structured retailing in Pakistan has started recently and

is 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 entrepreneurship 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 entrepreneur ship 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 training in specific fields of study with the objective of

> 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

many restrictive policies

are still in place. After the

passing of three decades, the SAFTA has not been

fully implemented in Paki-

stan due to complex rela-

tions with neighbouring

countries but other SAFTA

member countries have in-

tegrated their economies

and benefitted greatly from

this collaboration. Same as

the Economic Cooperation

Organization Trade Agree-

ment (ECOTA) was signed

in 2003, but after passing

of many years, it has yet to

become fruitful for Paki-

stan. While other countries

in the region have allowed

the movement of goods by

acceding to the TIR Con-

vention (which works un-

der an international guaran-

tee system and facilitates

the movement of trucks and

containers), Pakistan has

vet to follow suit. Similar

setback to Pakistan's inte-

gration with regional trade

blocs has been its failure to

put into effect the various

regional transit agreements

to which it is a signatory.

agreement is the Afghani

stan Pakistan Transit and

Trade Agreement, but since

its implementation in 2011

most of Afghanistan's tran-

sit trade (which was previ-

ously routed through Paki-

stan) has been diverted to

Iranian ports because of the

complex provisions and

procedures outlined in the

agreement. This is unfortu-

nate, given that Pakistan's

ports could provide Central

Asia the shortest overland

route to sea, and there is

tremendous export poten-

tial among the Central Asian

markets. The regional trade

The only operational

entrepreneurship, and pro-

vide support for students

interested in starting up a

### children to educational insti- etc. and expected to show resilient economy. 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.

Despite its strategic 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 greatly from lower trade and

Pakistan is a signatory to two very important re-Agreement (SAFTA) and Organization Trade Agreeboth are of little service to Pakistan as any normal trading arrangements with have vet to be established. items under its positive list.

transportation costs.

gional trade agreements the South Asia Free Trade the Economic Cooperation ment (ECOTA). However, the members of these blocs The SAFTA was signed in 2006 but unfortunately, Pakistan allowed only a limited number of trade In March 2012, the coun-

sions, as an important form of economic and trade rela try liberalized its trade polito its trade advantage. The cies to some extent although tions between countries. PAKISTAN Number Number Share of Share of of female of male female male Year business business business business directors directors directors directors 18.5% 81.5% 2014 2,259 9,968 2015 2,167 11,757 15.6% 84.4% 16.4% 83.6% 2016 2,705 13,839 15.6% 84.4% 2017 3,440 18,613 85.6% 2018 14.4% 3,950 23,572 13.9% 86.1% 2019 4,554 28,293 86.1% 13.9% 2020 5,612 34,619 World Bank Entrepreneurship Database

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

> PARISTANISTRADEAWITH DV/BERTSTAN (MILLION US\$) TOTAL TOTAL % SHARE % SHARE BALANCE **IMPORTS** YEAR EXPORTS IMPORTS IN TOTAL EXPORT OF IN TOTAL TRADE OF TRADE PAKISTAN EXP. PAKISTAN 93.0 23,778.6 0.3 60,391.1 0.0 34.3 116.4 (71.1)23,818.8 0.1 50,511.0 0.2 121.4 (73.3)22,245.7 0.1 45,841.7 0.2 177.4 (75.9)28,880.0 0.2 73,106.6 0.2

> > 0.4

tween

31,175.9

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.

63.6

22.7

24.0

50.7

110.8

2019

2020

2021

2022

29.3

93.8

97.4

126.6

123.7

234.5

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-

(12.9)

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

Uzbekistan covering a total 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.

71,104.7

0.2

Pakistan and

In order to compliance 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

that, although theory of bal- a total of 311 tariff lines on ket for 261 tariff lines covering traditional as well as preferential rates. It included non-traditional sectors such edible palm oil products, sugar confectionary, cocoa as leather, rice, dates, manproducts, 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 UŜ \$ 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-

goes, 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), Transit trading partner, but followed by China (8%

	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			share	c) IIK 7%	Germai

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

PTA; Pakistan Indonesia

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

The bilateral relations 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 Agreement Establishing a Free

1.4	71,104.6	1.2	
	s), UK 7%		
	pain and I		
5% c	f Pakista	n expo	rts.
	21.5 p		
Pakis	tan's expo	rts share	by
its tra	ding partn	iers	-

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 Index. LPI provides country-wide assessments of six aspects of logistics performance: trade- and transport related infrastructure, customs and border management, logistics services quality, timeliness of shipments, ability to track and trace, and the availability of competitively priced international shipments. Pakistan could only be achieved potential benefits from overseas trade specifically from trading partners by reducing trade cost, cost of pro-

ducing exportable surplus

improving shipping con-

nectivity and enhancing lo-

gistics performance. Im-

provement in domestic

commerce to serve as

buffer stock removal of in-

frastructure bottlenecks

and business friendly

policy to establish confi-

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

agreements (RTAs) are expredominantly contained periencing unprecedented rapid development in terms raw materials and intermeof economic growth of the diary goods. In return, China countries. With the increase eliminated tariff on finished in the depth of RTA provigoods. 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

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

e Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Republic of Türkiye signed in Islamabad, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the 22nd day of March, 201 6. Pakistan and Turkey's Trade in Goods Agreement, which was signed in August 2022, has finally come into effect on May 1, 2023, as per mutual agreement. The Trade in Goods Agreement signifies a notable milestone in the historic brotherly relations between Pakistan and Turkey and envisages further integration of the markets and business communities of both countries. This agreement is expected to increase bilateral trade across various sectors and bring reciprocal tariff concessions extended to select exports of both countries.

Under the agreement, Paki-

stan has gained preferential

access to the Turkish mar-