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Negotiations underway with Baloch protesters

Govt striving to go towards solution of Balochistan protestors' problem: Solangi

Baloch protesters granted bail, set to be released

for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Sunday that it was an effort of the government to go towards the solution of the problem of protestors from Balochistan through negotiations.

on "GTV" the minister said that it was desire of the interim set-up that the protestors should go back to their homes with dignity, honour and safety.

'We want to solve the problems of the protesters and talks should be held in

The minister for information said that most of the protesters from Balochistan were women and at this time, they were present in front of the National Press

available for the protesters, Murtaza Solangi informed.

The minister said that it was the preference of the protestors to sit in front of the NPC and register their protest peacefully. "Everyone is allowed

to protest peacefully and

ISLAMABAD (APP): Balochistan or Quetta in-Caretaker Federal Minister stead of Islamabad," Solangi the protestors do not face any kind of inconvenience" Murtaza Solangi remarked.

He said that yesterday also, the negotiation committee held talks with the protestors. The minister pointed

out that the demands of the ough negotiations. Security, ambulance protesters were decades and medical facilities were old.

When the protestors reached Islamabad, some people were already in the NPC, Murtaza Solangi added that protesters who came from Balochistan blocked the road near Chaungi No. (Motorway Chowk).



LARKANA: Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardar submitted his nomination papers for NA 194 (Larkana-1) to returning of ficer for upcoming General Election 2024.

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

investigation of cipher case

LARKANA (INP): Chair- case as it was security

(PMLN),

country and nation.

APP adds: The Chair-

man of Pakistan Peoples

Party (PPP) and former

Foreign Minister Bilawal

Bhutto Zardari filed a

nomination paper for the

National Assembly seat of

Larkana-Ratodero NA-

194 (Larkana-I) for Gen-

eral Elections 2024 on Sun-

Zardari, along with a great

number of supporters and

leaders, came to the

Collectorate Building to

submit his nomination pa-

pers in the office of Addi-

tional Deputy Commis-

sioner-I Larkana, Asif Raza

Chandio, who has been ap-

pointed as Returning Of-

ficer (R.O.) for NA-194

(Larkana-I). On the occa-

sion, hundreds of leaders

and workers of the PPP

thronged in the office of

Additional Deputy Com-

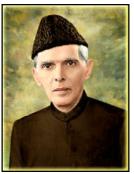
missioner-I Larkana/Re-

turning Officer (R.O.) for NA-194 (Larkana-I).

Bhutto

Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (Online): 147th birth anniversary of the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah will be celebrated



on December 25

Events will be held across the country on the birthday of Quaid-e-Azam. Various events and seminars will be organized

man Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and

former foreign minis-

ter Bilawal Bhutto

Zardari has demanded

judicial investigation of

Larkana on Sunday,

Bilawal said the cipher

case is a serious matter and

a judicial investigation must

be carried out in this mat-

been given in the cipher case

however the Bhutto fam-

ily went through political

victimization that why

"we want proper investi-

gation of the cipher case".

minister stated that the Ex-

president of US Donald

Trump was tried in court

and classified documents

were recovered from his

residence hereby the ci-

pher case also requires in-

vestigation and the people

of Pakistan should know

the truth behind cipher

The former foreign

He said that relief has

Speaking to media in

cipher case.

Pakistan condemns custodial killing of three civilians by Pakistan Muslim League in HOJK Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Pa-ISLAMABAD (INP): Pa-

kistan People's Party (PPP), NAzriya Pakistan kistan strongly condemned the barbaric custodial killing of three Foundation and public and Kashmiri civilians in private social organiza-Baffliaz, Poonch district of tions, during which speakers will pay tribute to the the Indian Illegally Occuvaluable services of the pied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). founder of Pakistan for the The slain civilians were

Radio and TV chantortured to death at a camp of the Indian occupation nels will present special Army. A purported video programs while national clip of the Indian personnewspapers will publish nel stripping three men and special editions in which sprinkling chilli powder on tributes will be paid to them is viral on social methe great leader of South dia. The incident, once PMLN Lawyers Foagain, exposes India's relentless state-terrorism in IIOJK, the Foreign Office rums will also organize a special event in which the (FO) spokesperson said in father of the nation's birtha statement. The perpetra day cake will be cut. tors of these custodial killings must be held account-Bilawal demands judicial

India's brutal occupation is the root cause of all major issues in IIOJK. The Kashmiri people must realize their inalienable right to self-determination, as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, it concluded.

Three killed, over 10 injured in bus-trailer collision

HUB (INP): At least three people including a woman were killed and more than 10 others injured in collision between passenger bus and a trailer on Sunday. According to details, an

over speeding passenger bus collided with a trailer on National Highway in Windar area of district Hub As a result of accident,

three people including a woman were killed on the spot while over 10 including women and children were injured.

The bodies and injured were shifted to Windan Hospital



Pakistan Navy - Royal Navy of Oman Bilateral Exercise Thamar Al Tayyib 2023 (TAT – 23) was conducted in Gulf of Oman.



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

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

ISLAMABAD Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has assured that the government would thoroughly investigate the complaints regarding hurdles to stop some people from taking part in the electoral

While speaking during an interview with a private TV channel, he rule out the policy of ousting anyone from political process and said that voters were free to elect candidates of their

multiple external and internal challenges.

said in his opinion those who showed disruptive behavior and were involved in the incidents of May 9 should not be allowed to hold public office. However, the Election

Commission will decide about qualification and dis-qualification of candidates, he added.

The Prime Minister said state was a guarantor of the social order and when anyone challenges this order he was an an-

Regarding arrival of protesters from Balochistan to Islamabad, he said everyone had the right to protest with lawful behavior. However, if a situation of law and order would be created then law enforcement agencies would come into

Referring to situation in Palestine, PM Kakar said Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu was a war criminal and war crimes of Israel should be investigated as 7000 children were martyred.

Governor for following Quaid principles to strengthen Pak

QUETTA (APP): Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar on Sunday urged to follow the principles of the father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali "For the real development and prosperity of the country, we have to follow the

principles of unity, faith and discipline, he said in his message on the eve of Quaid's He said "The best way to pay tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah is to

not only stick to the principles he gave but also to make honest and conscious efforts for the uplift of the country and the nation to pave the way for the formation of a successful

Today is a very important day in the history of the sub-continent of Pakistan because this day is the birthday of this great personality. Thanks to the vision, and

leadership skills of our Quaid, we are living in an independent country Pakistan. Governor Balochistan further said that today we as a nation are struggling with



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

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

Independent Report QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has underlined the need to follow the golden principles of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to cope with the

He also stressed the need to forge unity among

challenges facing the coun-

our ranks. In a message issued here on the eve of birth anniversary of the father of nation Muhammad Ali Jinnah being observed today (Monday), the Chief Minister said that the golden principles of Quaid-e-Azam I.e., Unity, Faith and disci-

the country stronger. He said that we need to follow and truly implement these principles more than

He said that we can pay tributes to the Quaid by promoting harmony, enightenment and democracy in the country. The Chief Minister

said that the enemy of Pakistan has bent upon destabilizing the country, however, we are determined to foil their nefarious designs through unity.

The caretaker Chief Minister said our forefathers got the country after great sacrifices and thus the people of the country and province would not let

pline provide base to make Nine family members die as house catches fire

ABBOTTABAD (APP): At least 9 persons of the same family were killed as their house engulfed in flames due to an electricity short circuit in Qalandarabad here Sunday. The local emergency response team, Rescue 1122, swiftly mobilized its teams and recovered 8

bodies. The Rescue 1122, along with three ambulances and locals made concerted efforts to extinguish the fire and rescue the residents. Unfortunately, the wood and clay sponse.

house quickly caught fire, impeding rescue activities. Consequently, nine family members were trapped within the collapsing structure and lost their lives

After hours of intense efforts, Rescue 1122 successfully recovered all the bodies buried in the debris, marking the completion of the search operation. Emergency Officer Hafeez ur Rahman is overseeing the operation, ensuring a coordinated and efficient re-

PTI to file application in **IHC today for** return of bat **symbol**

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaaf (PTI) has prepared a appeal for the return of the election symbol "Bat" which will be filed in Islamabad High Court today (Monday).

A constitutional petition along with that also been prepared against Election Commission of Pakistan's verdict. which will be filed in Supreme An early hearing is also

being requested in the application.

The application has been prepared on the direction of Chairman Barrister Gohar, who himself will appear in the High Court and request the court to return the bat symbol.

Sources said that PTI has also prepared an application under Article 184(3) of the Constitution to approach the Supreme Court, which will be followed by Sardar Latif Khan Khosa Advo-

It should be noted that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Barrister Gauhar had said that he will approach the court to take back the symbol of the bat and it is hoped that the Supreme Court will intervene and our symbol will be restored

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Dr. Arif Alvi has said that Christmas has a special place in the hearts of our Christian brothers and is an opportunity to celebrate joy, contemplation and joy.

He went on that the

teachings of love, compassion and peace of Jesus (PBUH) are a beacon for us and guide us.

The diversity of religions and cultures is a source of stability for Pakistan. Our Christian community has played a significant role in the social and economic development of the country.

President also acknowledge the commendable services rendered by the Christian community for the promotion of peace, tolerance and harmony in the country.

On this festive occasion, let us celebrate the spirit of Christmas, promote unity, understanding and goodwill among all communities. Alvi continued that may the Christmas message of love, mercy and hope resonate in our hearts and guide us to a future filled with peace, joy, harmony and

prosperity. He said that I am proud to say that minorities have all political, economic and social rights in Pakistan according to the Constitution of Pakistan. Our religion Islam fully recognizes and protects the rights of mi-

Founder of Pakistan, Q u a i d - e - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah, in his historic speech on August 11, 1947, said that everyone will have equal rights, privileges and responsibilities regardless of color, caste and religion, and complete religious freedom will be achieved in the new state of Pakistan, President



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

Jan Achakzai says

Baloch marchers tabled unconstitutional demands

Balochistan Information Minister Jan Achakzai Sunday termed the demands tabled by the Baloch marchers 'unconstitutional' and also rejected any kind of torture on women or use of water cannon in Islamabad.

While addressing a press conference, Jan Achakzai claimed that women were neither tortured in Islamabad nor anyone targeted with water cannon. He said that Baloch marchers tabled unconstitutional mands.

He said that the state could not unarm its institutions to leave the terrorists freehanded. Achakzai claimed that some elements were attempting to create chaos ahead of the general elections.

The caretaker information minister said that the surrender of disgruntled Baloch leaders shocked India.

Baloch is loval to Pakistan like a Punjabi, Pathan and Sindhi. He vowed to make Balochistan a peaceful place. He alleged that a small

group of people marched towards Islamabad from Turbat with an agenda. He added that the marchers were demanding to free terrorists.

Jan Achakzai said that hundreds of non-Balochs were brutally killed in Balochistan but no commission was formed to hold a thorough investigation. He added mostly missing persons were BLA members who were residing in India or hiding in the mountains.

Yesterday, the government committee formed by the Caretaker Prime Min-Anwaar-ul-Haq ister Kakar, held talks with the Baloch protesters in Islamabad tonight, the state news agency reported.



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

Inauguration ceremony of restoration:

Karachi-bound Bolan Mail due to be restored today

Independent Report

QUETTA: All is set to restore the Bolan Mail for Karachi from today (Mon-

The inauguration ceremony of the restoration of the Karachi-bound Bolan Mail is scheduled to be held at the Quetta railway sta-

The Federal Minister for Railways and Communications, Shahid Ashraf Tarar would be the chief guest at the inauguration ceremony ceremony of the

Needless to mention here is that the Bolan Mail, which was suspended due

to the floods and heav rains in August last year, is being restored after one year and four months because of the special interest of the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan

All the necessary arrangements have been made by the Pakistan Railways. As per the schedule.

Bolan Mail would depart for Karachi from Quetta.

It may be mentioned here that the caretaker Chief Minister had announced to restore the Bolan Mail on occasion of the Sibi-Harnai railway section on October 29,

Daily Aoice of Masse, Independent

Hollowed out

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

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

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

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

Equal citizens



Muna Khan

Many of us are likely to know someone who travelled to another country to give birth and secure that country's citizenship for their child. It's easy if you have the money, though some countries have made acquiring citizenship through birth harder. You can also buy citizenship in exchange for investment

in, for example, Dominica in the Caribbean or Montenegro in Europe or Vanuatu in Oceania. (I had to look up Vanuatu after hearing about its 'citizen' of Pakistani descent, Farah

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

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

disloyalty or treason. Just ers in Islamabad. last month, an Israeli lawmaker proposed a bill that would revoke citizenship of those who showed sup-

port for "terrorists".

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

law that could revoke citi-

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

This country bears witness to a tiered system of citizenship where good and bad citizens are defined by a revolving door of leaders. Today's good will citizens tomorrow's bad citizens etc. We see this play out most with political leaders who weasel themselves back into favour by ceding space in exmarginalised stay at the bottom as we've seen

policymaking ship.

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

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

This revolving door of bad policies is exhaust-

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

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

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

Ties with India



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

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

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

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

pied Kashmir. This was another blatant violation of international law as codified in a series of UNSC resolutions. Earlier this month,

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

polls are held, BJP would

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

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

Where do we go from here? The issue of J&K is of GB's elected assembly. connected to the state of

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

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

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

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

Commerce News

Pak economic landscape undergoing transformation due to SIFC: coordinator

Coordinator for Minister of State and Federal Tax the initiative holds investments." He said it Ombudsman Kashif Younis said on Pakistan's economic landscape had undergone a remarkable transformation, largely because of establishment of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), which had successfully attracted foreign direct investment.

Speaking as the keynote speaker at a seminar on "The Impact of Pakistan

(APP): Economic Forum, a local Meher immense significance, particularly in the realm of FDI as the SIFC effectively engages with various countries and was fully committed to ensuring investment flows into country. He said its manifesto included foreign investment with a longterm goal of touching \$60bn in five years and eventually achieving the target of \$100bn.

He said: "We need consistency in economic, Economy", held under the aegis of Gold Ring close collaboration with mining and aviation

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

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



Committee Chowk area in the city.



RAWALPINDI: A large numbers of people are busy is buying vegetables in Sunday weekly Bazar at

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

Muhammad Arbab Khan,

President of the Pak-

British Friendship Council

North West Chapter UK,

he said that the primary

purpose of this visit was

to explore and enhance the

possibilities of expanding

trade relations, fostering

identifying potential

and

avenues

our two

collaboration,

investment

between

PFC to attend London expo, boosting trade opportunities

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

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

Means of production prices mostly rise in China

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

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

PCMEA terms launching of EXIM bank inevitable to boost exports

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

Chairman of the exporters.

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

current season (2023-24)

Balochistan completed over 0.94 million acres ISLAMABAD (APP): acres as the cultivation areas against the set targets, The wheat crop has been targets achieved by 99.63 The Punjab, which is

sown across more than 22.14 million acres of land in various crop-growing regions during the current Rabi season in order to staple food requirements as well as to maintain strategic reserves throughout the year. The crop sowing targets for the per cent, said Food Security Commissioner Imtiaz Ali Gopang on

The crop sowing was

Wheat cultivation in

wheat-producing areas in the country as Punjab Province has surpassed its completed cultivation of were fixed at 22.23 million over 103.08 per cent of during the days to come.

largest wheatproducing province of the country, has completed crop sowing over 16.48 in full swing across the million acres as compared to the fixed targets of 16.00 million acres during the current season, he said wheat sowing targets and adding that more areas to come under crop cultivation

Expanding tax base – A panacea to overcome budget deficit

ISLAMABAD (APP): At a time when country's strategy economy is facing multi- comprehensive approach, faceted challenges, the intending to bridge fiscal caretaker government has embarked upon an ambitious plan for restructuring and reforming

the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). With its special focus and augmenting revenues to overcome persistent fiscal challenges, the caretakers are exploring all avenues to expand tax base.

The government's involves a gaps by enhancing revenue collection - simultaneously trimming the expenditures.

Notably, the reform plan includes separating tax policy and revenue divisions within the FBR on broadening the tax base, a move aimed at mitigating boosting tax to GDP ratio conflicts of interest in tax

collection Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs, Shamshad Akhtar recently

emphasizing that while the FBR concentrated on collection, a separate tax policy division should be there to formulate policies.

She also expressed optimism that the FBR is expected to surpass the targeted revenue collection of Rs. 9.4 trillion, with plans for additional measures in case of any

revenue shortfall. To broaden the tax introducing a new trade facilitation and streamlined processes.

through an automated transmission system. Collaboration with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has been sought to facilitate this process. Furthermore, a key

facet of the reform plan entails segregating customs

highlighted the significance of proposed division, mandating various agencies revenue collection to provide data to FBR responsibilities will rest with the FBR.

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

They emphasize replacing outdated tax from revenue collection collection systems with mechanisms. The customs automation and increased base, the government is sector will pivot towards machine utilization for

1909 but hitherto resisted

force in Indian politics had

appeared in the person of

Mohandas K. Gandhi. Both

the Home Rule League and

gress had come under his

sway. Opposed to Gandhi's Non-co-opera-

tion Movement and his es-

sentially Hindu approach

to politics, Jinnah left both

the League and the Congress in 1920. For a few

years he kept himself aloof

from the main political

movements. He continued

to be a firm believer in

Hindu-Muslim unity and

constitutional methods for

the achievement of politi-

cal ends. After his with-

drawal from the Congress,

the Indian National Con-

Meanwhile, a new

by the Congress.



UNITY **FAITH** DISCIPLINE Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

Q u a i d - e - A z a m, out hobbies, his interest be-

Muhammad Ali Jinnah was

born on 25th December

1876 at Vazeer Mansion

Karachi, was the first of

Jinnahbhai, a prosperous

merchant. After being

taught at home, Jinnah was

up his mind to become a

barrister. In keeping with

the custom of the time, his

early marriage for him be-

Lincoln's Inn, one of the le-

students for the bar. In

1895, at the age of 19, he

was called to the bar. While

in London Jinnah suffered

In London he joined

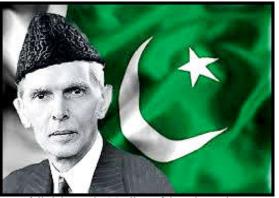
children

Nation salutes Quaid on his birthday

founder and sub-continent's most prominent leader Quaid-e-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah today (December

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

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



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

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

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

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

The league had formed a few years earlier to represent the interests of Indian Muslims in a predominantly Hindu country, and by 1916 he was elected its president. In the early years, the Quaid advocated Hin-du-Mus-

lim unity, helping to shape the 1916 Lucknow Pact between the Congress and the All-India Muslim League. Later he became a key leader in the All India Home

Rule League, and proposed a fourteen-point constitutional reform plan to safeguard the political rights of Muslims. In 1920, however, he resigned from the Con-gress when it agreed to follow a campaign of tyagraha, which he regarded as political anarchy. By 1940, Jinnah had come to believe that Muslims

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

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

parents arranged for an Ultimately, the Congress and the Muslim League could not reach a power-sharing for-mula for the subcontinent fore he left for England. to be united as a single state, leading all parties to agree to the independence of a predominantly Hindu In-dia, and for a Muslim-majority state of Paki-stan. gal societies that prepared

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

Muhammad Ali Jinnah

The Greatest Leader of the Century

By Muhammad Zahid Khan Lodhi

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

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

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

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

It was almost a mission with Mountabattan and the

British government to leave behind a United India after their departure from the subcontinent. The Hindu leaders urged Mountbatten to play a "historic" role in connection.1 Mountbatten himself con-

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

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

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

departure of the British the Muslims should also have real freedom like the Hindus. Mountbatten acted upon the wishes of the Hindu leaders and considered it as a "very great trag-edy"9 if the Quaid would force him to give up the idea of a united India. However, due to the

Azam wanted that after the

firm stand of the Quaid, Mountbatten and the Hindus had to yield the partition to India By 1947, there existed

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



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

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

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

would force him to give up

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

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

by Mountbatten seemed to offer the only escape from a political impasse.

Since the partition of India had become inevitable, Mountbatten and the Hindu leaders were now determined not to let Pakistan be a viable and strong state. Their ultimate object was to unite India again. Pandit Nehru made no secret of his belief that Pakistan would not survive and eventually India would be one coun-Similarly, Mountbatten had the greatest doubts about the birth, survival and future of Paki-

In order to favour the Hindus and make Pakistan a weak and feeble state, Mountbatten jeopardised the Muslims interests through the sinister device of "other factors" which only worked for the benefit of Bharat. On this pretext, he sliced away certain Muslim majority areas

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

sected subcontinent a 'stepping-stone"12 to a India Mountbatten acted accordingly. Their object was to pressurise the Quaid-i-Azam and the Muslim lead ers not to manage the affairs of Pakistan in a haste.

In order to implement the Hindu scheme of making Pakistan an inherently weak state, the newly emerged state was deprived of its military and financial assets. Mountbatten not only announced the premature closure of Supreme Headquarters but also failed in the performance of his legal and moral duties to hand over to Pakistan its just share of assets. He deliberately manipulated indefensible and vulnerable boundaries between Pakistan and Bharat in order to make defence an uphill task for them, particularly for the new state of Pakistan.

The early period after

the independence was very crucial for the survival of Pakistan. Those were the days of great turmoil in its history. Pakistan's enemies were out and out determined to wipe out its existence; and openly declared that it would not survive. Pakistan's financial assets were not released, and its 36% share of military as sets was also withheld by India. The withholding of cash balances and military assets could practically jam the working of its administrative machinery and render its defence weak and vulnerable. The country had yet to coin its money and establish its State Bank. Pakistan was almost penniless. Its borders with India were indefensible. Pakistan had to start every thing from a "scratch" 13 The refugee problem and the Muslim genocide in India were threatening issues for the independence of Pakistan which the newly born country was "unprepared to stand". Even our friends said that Pakistan would not survive the refugee problem."14 One million Muslims lost their lives in the communal riots while 7 million refugees came to Pakistan from across the

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

He had to accomplish his

mission of a separate home

land for the Indian Mus-

lims and look after the

management and consoli-

dation of Pakistan.

sent to the Sindh Madrasasah High School in Petit, a Bombay Parsi millionaire—whom he married 1887. Later he attended the over tremendous opposition Mission High School, from her parents and othwhere, at the age of 16, he ers. The marriage proved an passed the matriculation unhappy one. It was his sisexamination of the Univerter Fatima who gave him sity of Bombay. On the advice of an English friend, solace and company. Jinnah first entered polihis father decided to send tics by participating in the him to England to acquire 1906 Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress, business experience. Jinnah, however, had made

came divided between law

and politics. Nor was he a

religious zealot: he was a

Muslim in a broad sense and

had little to do with sects.

His interest in women was

also limited to Ruttenbai—

the daughter of Sir Dinshaw

the party that called for dominion status and later for independence for India. Four years later he was elected to the Imperial Legislative Council—the beginning of a long and distinguished parliamentary ca-

two severe bereavementsthe deaths of his wife and his mother. Nevertheless, he completed his formal studies and also made a study of the British political system, frequently visiting the House of Commons. He was greatly influenced by the liberalism of William E. Gladstone, who had become prime minister for the fourth time in 1892, the year of Jinnah's arrival in London. Jinnah also took a keen interest in the affairs of India and in Indian students. When the Parsi leader Dadabhai Naoroji, a leading Indian nationalist, ran for the English Parliament, Jinnah and other Indian students worked day and night for him. Their efforts were crowned with success, and Naoroji became the first Indian to sit in the House of Commons. When Jinnah returned to Karachi in 1896, he found that his father's business

years of work to establish himself as a lawyer. It was nearly 10 years later that he turned toward

had suffered losses and that

he now had to depend on

himself. He decided to start

his legal practice in

Bombay, but it took him

know, among other important Congress personalities, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, the eminent Maratha leader. Greatly influenced by these nationalist politicians, Jinnah aspired during the Gokhale." Admiration for and an eagerness to raise the status of India in the international community and to develop a sense of Indian nationhood among the peoples of India were the

endeavours to bring about he used the Muslim League thepolitical union of Hindus platform for the propagaand Muslims earned him the tion of his views. But durtitle of "the best ambassaing the 1920s the Muslim 25 December Birth Anniversary Quaid-i-Azam

their interests demanded the

preservation of their sepa-

rate identity rather than

amalgamation in the Indian

nation that would for all

practical purposes be

Hindu. Largely to safeguard

Muslim interests, the All-

India Muslim League was

founded in 1906 But Jinnah

remained aloof from it. Only

in 1913, when authorita-

tively assured that the

league was as devoted as the

Congress to the political

emancipation of India, did

Jinnah join the league. When

the Indian Home Rule

League was formed, he be-

came its chief organiser in

Bombay and was elected

president of the Bombay

"Ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity." Jinnah's

branch.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah There is no power on earth that can undo Pakistan

reer. In Bombay he came to early part of his political life to become "a Muslim" and participation. In 1915 the two organisations held British political institutions and in 1916 in Lucknow, chief elements of his politics. At that time, he still looked upon Muslim interests in the context of In-

dian nationalism. But, by the beginning of the 20th century, the conviction had been growing ates, already conceded to active politics. A man with- among the Muslims that them by the government in Muslim conflict.

a government is to maintain law and or-

der, so that the life,

property and religious beliefs of its subjects are fully protected by the state."

ii) "... everyone...
no matter to what com-

munity he belongs,

no matter what his

colour, caste or creed,

is first, second and last

a citizen of this state with equal rights, privi-leges and obligations...

we are all citizens and

equal citizens of one

state." (This dictum in

the present context

dor of Hindu-Muslim unity," an epithet coined by Gokhale. It was largely through his efforts that the Congress and the Muslim League began to hold their annual sessions jointly, to facilitate mutual consultation their meetings in Bombay where the Lucknow Pact was concluded. Under the terms of the pact, the two organisations put their seal to a scheme of constitutional reform that became their joint demand vis-à-vis the British government. There was a good deal of give and take, but the Muslims obtained one impor-

League, and with it Jinnah, had been overshadowed by the Congress and the religiously oriented Muslim Khilafat committee.

When the failure of the Non-co-operation Movement and the emergence of Hindu revivalist movements led to antagonism and riots between the Hindus and Muslims, the league gradually began to come into its own. Jinnah's problem during the following years was to convert the league into an enlightenedpolitical body prepared to co-operate with other organisations working for the good of India. In addition, he had to convince the Congress, tant concession in the as a prerequisite for politishape of separate elector- cal progress, of the necessity of settling the Hindu-

Jinnah as a role model

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

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

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

he had set out in that

i) "The first duty of

memorable address.

should logically be extended to include various sects and ethnic groups).
iii) "... always be guided by the principles of justice and fair

play, without any...

prejudice or ill-will,...

partiality

favouritism."

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

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

In these precepts the one relating to united nationhood, being "equal citizens of



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

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

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



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

ECP defers delimitation grievance hearing, prioritizing elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): tal democratic principle, of Pakistan (ECP) postponed the delimitation grievances hearing until after the General Elections 2024, prioritizing the election schedule in line with the Supreme Court's directive to avoid

disruptions. Referring to recent Supreme Court orders on the delimitation issue, the Election Commission of Pakistan in its orders emphasized that challenges to delimitation by the ECP will no longer lead to election delays. In a specific case, the Supreme Court underscored the importance of General Elections as a fundamendiminishing the proce-dural significance of de-The notification, en-

dorsed by Chief Election

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



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

Victory of Atif and Saquib is the victory of business community

Independent Report

victory of Atif Ikram Sheikh and Saquib Fayyaz is the victory of business

Their young leader-

While addressing joint meeting of PCCI Executive Members and efforts.

QUETTA/PISHIN: The Nominees for FPCCI Election 2024-2025 Muhammad Asif Tareen Patron-in-Chief Pashin Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and ship struggle is not for Executive Member Fedpower, rather for the ser- eration of Pakistan Chamvice of the business comber of Commerce and Inmunity beyond personal dustry (FPCCI) said that interests they will work the success and failure of any institution depends the country's economy on its leadership. An institution is recognized by

IG, DC Islamabad transfer becomes challenge for ECP

ISLAMABAD (Online): tablishment on the matter Inspector General (IG) Islamabad and Deputy (DC) Commissioner Islamabad has become a test case for Election Commission of Pakistan. On August 17, a letter was sent to the Establishment Division regarding the change of on August 17, the Election both officers, but it could not be implemented. ECP summoned Secretary Es-

on Tuesday. In the letter written by the Secretary Election Commission to the Secretary Establishment Division, it is said that regarding the change of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad and IG Islamabad Commission has given the powers to the federal government in the constitution.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bilateral naval exercise Thamar Al Tayyib 2023 culminates in Arabian Sea

kistan Navy and the Royal Navy of Óman Bilateral Exercise Thamar Al Tayyib 2023 (TAT-23) was conducted in the Gulf of Oman.

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

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

Zardari's message on

the occasion

of Christmas SLAMABAD

KARACHI: Formed Presi-

dent of Pakistan and Presi-

dent Pakistan Peoples

Party Parliamentarians.

Asif Ali Zardari has con-

gratulated the Christians all

over the world, especially

members of the community

living in Pakistan on the

occasion of Christmas. He

said that the role of the

Christian community for

the development of Paki-

Zardari said that Quaid-e-

Awam, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali

Bhutto had given all non-

Muslims the right to be

equal citizens in the 1973

Constitution. Shaheed

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto

had defended the fundamen-

tal rights of non-Muslim citi-

President Asif Ali

stan is unforgettable.

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

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

The exercise also involved Coordinated Patrol

Ex TAT- 23 provided an avenue to enhance mutual learning, improve inter-operability and opportunity for both navies to further hone their professional

Pakistan and Oman share a common maritime area and both the navies closly cooperate with each other to maintain good order at sea. Regular conduct of bilateral Exercise Thamar Al Tayvib 2023 is a clear manifestation of strong fraternal and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Oman in general and Paki-(CORPAT) by ships of stan Navy and Royal Navy both Navies with an aim to of Oman in particular.

Bilawal Bhutto paid rich tributes to Quaid on birth anniversary

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has paid rich tributes to Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah on his 147th Birthday anniversary being celebrated on Monday (tomorrow). According to the press statement issued by Media Cell Bilawal House, the Chairman PPP, in his message to nation, said that as we celebrate the birthday of our Quaid, let us reflect on his steadfast commitment to justice, equality, and the principles that define the essence of Pakistan. He further said that Quaid-e-Azam was a democratic visionary

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

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that PPP steadfastly upholds the visionary ideals and objectives of the nation's founder, working towards the realization of an inclusive, democratic, and progressive Pakistan. He pointed out that Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto fulfilled Quaid-e-Azam's vision by presenting the historic unanimous Constitution in 1973—a leader, whose unwavering dedication paved the way for the creation of our be-



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

SC 2-member bench consist to hear 75 cases

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

These cases include various types of cases and bail cases.

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

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

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

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

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

Earlier, PTI lost their electoral symbol 'bat' as the ECP announced the reserved verdict on the

tions. The election commission earlier reserved its verdict on pleas challenging the Pakistan Tehreeke-Insaf's (PTI) intra-party elections after hearing arguments from all the par-

Announcing the reserved verdict, a fivemember bench of the Election Commission of Pakistan, headed by Chief Election Commissioner, Sikandar Sultan Raja, declared the PTI's intraparty elections null and

Following the ECP verdict, the newly elected PTI chairman Gohar Ali Khan who replaced Imran Khan earlier, will no longer



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

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

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar felicitated the Christian community on the occasion of Christmas and said the nation on this day should pledge to make Pakistan a model of religious tolerance and inter-faith harmony.

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

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

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

Hazrat Essa (AS) reformed humanity with teachings of peace, brotherhood, tolerance and for-

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

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

In the last few years at the international level, human society had been facing an adverse situation due to a wave of religious intolerance, he observed. "To reverse this negative trend we have to spread

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

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

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

ity to protect their places of worship," he asserted. He said, "The issues faced by Pakistan can only be resolved when we rise above the distinctions of colour, ethnicity, and religion and work day and night as a united nation for the progress of the country.'

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



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

Senate committee | WAPDA chairman visits to be briefed on Palestine, **Kashmir**

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

Committee will meet tomorrow (Tuesday) at Parliament House under the chairmanship of Chairman Senator Farooq H. Naik.

In the meeting, the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will give a briefing to the committee on the role of the Muslim Ummah and especially Pakistan regarding the ongoing barbaric bombardment by the Zionist forces in Gaza. In the meeting, the committee will also be informed about the situation created by the biased decision of the Indian SC.

GM Taj passes away **Independent Report**

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

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

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

Indian troops martyr one more youth

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

Media Service, the troops martyred the youth during a military operation in Akhnoor area of the district. The Indian troops also on Saturday martyred one youth in the same area. Meanwhile, unidentified gunmen killed a former Senior Superintendent of

K-IV project to review construction progress LAHORE (APP): has been achieved.

briefing will be given to the WAPDA Chairman Lt-Gen (retd) Engineer Sajjad Ghani visited Greater Karachi Bulk Water Sup-Scheme (K-IV Project) to review

progress on the project. According WAPDA spokesman here on Sunday, the K-IV

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

(Projects) South, Chief Engineer/Project Director K-IV and representatives of the Consultants and the Contractors were also present during

chairman's visit. The chairman visited in detail several sites of the project and witnessed construction work going on there. The project team briefed the chairman about the progress achieved so far. It was briefed that construction activities are continuing on all eight sites of the project. These sites include intake structure, pumping stations, water conveyance system consisting of pressurized pipes, 126 billion, expenditure reservoirs and filtration plants, project offices, accumulative colony and the approach progress of 40 per cent road.

Political party's accounts involved in smear campaign against judges

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

An old letter exempting the wives of judges from checking at airports was used with regular planning, the matter was thrown out without investigation and a smear campaign was launched on social media against the judiciary, judges and their families. Investigations by the institutions revealed propaganda accounts believed to be linked to a political party behind the campaign to defame judges.

According to government sources, the Aviation Division's post dated October 12 was first posted on December 16 (after about 2 months) by an account named JB affiliated to a political party, followed by the account of Umar Mehmood Hayat. The above post was posted on December 16th at 11:49 PM. From this account, the judges and judiciary have been criticized for the cases

of PTI founder chairman. According to government sources, a few social media activists also pushed the targeted agenda of that

ISLAMABAD (Online): political party actively participated in the campaign to assassinate judges and took the lead in spreading false propaganda virally.

Social media activists and a few vloggers who support a particular political party have been at the forefront of creating social media trends. Even by taking screenshots of the news broadcast on a few TV channels, the nefarious purpose was furthered by the trolls connected to the political party on social media.

Propaganda was later countered by the clarification issued by the Supreme Court, but by then the character assassination campaign had reached its peak The sad thing is that the spreaders of this fake

news did not even give an explanation to their followers, nor did they apologize. This is not the first time, the political party has

tried every trick in the past to put the judiciary and judges under pressure. Former chairman of the political party has

openly threatened Judge Zeba, this case is still under hearing.

According to analysts, Judge Humayun Dilawar, who sentenced the former chairman, was also particular political party, attacked by political party and accounts linked to a workers in London