# Inachenaent

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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

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

Talking in a programme 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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Balochistan or Quetta in- our effort is to ensure that stead of Islamabad," Solangi

> 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

and medical facilities were old. 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 (Motorway Chowk).

any kind of inconvenience" Murtaza Solangi remarked.

He said that yesterday

also, the negotiation committee held talks with the The minister pointed

out that the demands of the Security, ambulance protesters were decades

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



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

# Bilawal demands judicial investigation of cipher case

LARKANA (INP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and former foreign minis-ter Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has demanded iudicial investigation of cipher case.

Speaking to media in Larkana on Sunday, Bilawal said the cipher case is a serious matter and a judicial investigation must be carried out in this mat-

He said that relief has been given in the cipher case however the Bhutto family went through political victimization that why 'we want proper investi-

gation of the cipher case". The former foreign minister stated that the Expresident of US Donald Trump was tried in court and classified documents were recovered from his residence hereby the cipher case also requires investigation and the people of Pakistan should know the truth behind cipher NA-194 (Larkana-I).

APP adds: The Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and former Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari filed a nomination paper for the National Assembly seat of Larkana-Ratodero NA-194 (Larkana-I) for General Elections 2024 on Sun-

Bilawal Zardari, along with a great number of supporters and leaders, came to the Collectorate Building to submit his nomination papers in the office of Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Larkana, Asif Raza Chandio, who has been appointed as Returning Officer (R.O.) for NA-194 (Larkana-I). On the occasion, hundreds of leaders and workers of the PPP thronged in the office of Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Larkana/Re-

### 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 sponse team, Rescue Hafeez ur Rahman is overseeing the operation. Oalandarabad here Sunday.

The Rescue 1122, along with three ambuconcerted efforts to extinthe residents. Unfortu- and Sufyan. nately, the wood and clay house quickly caught fire, impeding rescue activitrapped within the collapsing structure and lost in the area

After hours of intense efforts, Rescue 1122 successfully recovered all the bodies buried in the debris, marking the comple-

The deceased persons were identified as the wife lances and locals made of Zakir, four daughters and four sons, including guish the fire and rescue Hashim, Qasim, Hasan.

ensuring a coordinated

and efficient response.

The community mourns the loss as authorities work to investigate the ties. Consequently, nine cause of the tragic incifamily members were dent and ensure the safety of other residents

#### Pakistan condemns custodial killing of three civilians in HOJK

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan strongly condemned the barbaric custodial killing of three Kashmiri civilians in Baffliaz, Poonch district of the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir

The slain civilians were tortured to death at a camp of the Indian occupation Army. A purported video clip of the Indian personnel stripping three men and sprinkling chilli powder on them is viral on social media. The incident, once again, exposes India's relentless state-terrorism in IIOJK, the Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson said in a statement. The perpetrators of these custodial killings must be held account-

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 Windar



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

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

However, the Election Commission will decide about qualification and disqualification of candidates, he added.

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

#### 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 Cour

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

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

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 Advocate.



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

### Caretaker PM stresses upon forging of unity under Quaid's guiding principles

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has stressed the need to forge unity for the continuity of democracy, peaceful coexistence and rule of law and the elimination of extremist forces. In a message on the observance of the 147th birthday of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of the nation, on Monday, the prime minister said that on this day, they should reaffirm their commitment to national unity and prosperous and

ISLAMABAD (APP):

progressive Pakistan. Quaid's principles of 'unity, faith and discipline' should be the guiding principles for all as a nation to realize the democratic state founder," he emphasized.

Extending facilitation to the nation on Quaid's birthday, the caretaker prime minister said that the entire nation was celebrating the occasion with zeal, fervour and reverence.

He said that they were blessed with a great leader who had led the Muslims of the sub-continent and at last achieved a separate homeland. Quaid-e-Azam had gathered the Muslims under one banner to wage a struggle for the realization of a separate new Muslim state on the global map.

Prime Minister Kakar said that the personality of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was still a beacon of guidance owing to his unmatched character and as conceived by their extraordinary leadership qualities.

#### Nawaz Sharif files nomination papers **for NA-130**

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on Sunday filed nomination papers to contest general elections from Lahore's National Assembly constituency NA-130.

Nawaz Sharif's nomination papers were submitted to the returning officer concerned by former MPA and provincial minister Bilal Yasin. The returning officer had fixed December 26 for the scrutiny of the nomination papers.
At least, 24 candidates

have submitted their papers to contest elections from the constituency. The other candidates include PTI's Dr Yasmin Rashid, PPP's Ahmad Khan, PML-N's Bilal Yasin and Waheed

# 160 candidates file nomination papers for three NA seats of Islamabad

many as 160 candidates have filed nomination papers for three National Assembly seats of Islamabad, as deadline concludes

According to details, Shoaib Shaheen of Pakistan Tehreek-Insaf (PTI) has filed nomination papers for all three seats i-e NA-46, NA-47 and NA-48. Aamir Mughal and

ISLAMABAD (INP): As Mustafain Kazmi have 47, transgender Nayab Ali filed nomination papers for NA-46 and NA-47.

Another PTI candidate Aamir Sheikh has filed nomination papers for NA-47 while Sardar Maroof Advocate filed nomination papers for NA-46.

PML-N's Riffat Chaudhry filed nomination papers from NA-48, Zeeshan Naqvi from NA-

minority candidate Sania Younas have also submitted nomination papers from Islamabad.

Candidates Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), Awami National Party and Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) have also submitted nomination papers for three NA seats of Islamabad.

### 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 state of Pakistan, President spirit of Christmas, pro-

mote unity, understanding and goodwill among all communities. Alvi continued that may the Christmas message of love, mercy and hope resonate in our hearts and guide us to a future filled with peace, joy, harmony and

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

Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam 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 mentioned.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): programs while national 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.

seminars will be organized (PMLN), Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Pakistan People's Party (PPP), NAzriya Pakistan private social organizations, during which speakers will pay tribute to the

Radio and TV channels will present special

147th birth anniversary of newspapers will publish special editions in tributes will be paid to the great leader of South

Various events and

by Pakistan Muslim League Foundation and public and valuable services of the founder of Pakistan for the country and nation.

PMLN Lawyers Forums will also organize a special event in which the father of the nation's birthday cake will be cut.



**LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab** Mohsin Naqvi talking to people during his visit to driving License center at Police Khidmat Larkaz

# Islamabad Capital Police beef up security for **Christmas**

**Independent Report** ISLAMABAD : Islamabad Capital Police (ICP) deployed over 1,500 officers from the Islamabad Capital Police and Pakistan Rangers to enhance security measures around Christian places of wor-

According to police sources on Sunday that these efforts aim to ensure a safe environment during the Christmas celebrations. The security teams have established special search and arrest points in proximity to Christian places of worship, reinforcing the effectiveness of security protocols.

Acting upon the directives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer, Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, a meeting was conducted by SSP Operations, Malik Jameel Zafar in Islamabad. During the meeting, officers were

essary measures to bolster the security of Christian places of worship in their spective areas. The directives include

instructed to take all nec-

the establishment of search points without causing disruptions, conducting thorough searches, maintaining constant communication with event organizers, ensuring punctuality, and implementing reasonable car parking arrangements. Security measures extend to preventing any harassment in open areas, providing adequate lighting, and addressing any violations related to loudspeakers. In preparation for Christmas, SSP Operations emphasized the deployment of more than 1,500 officers to ensure foolproof security. The Pakistan Rangers are collaborating with the police to further strengthen security measures.

# Daily soice 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

last month, an Israeli law-

maker proposed a bill that

would revoke citizenship of

those who showed sup-

to ancient practices when

people were banished from

kingdoms for 'disloyalty'.

When it was created in

1945, the UN defined citi-

zenship as a basic human

right. There are interna-

tional laws that disallow re-

voking of citizenship on

political, racial or ethnic

grounds. Yet, as reported

in the Washington Post this

year, one in five countries

had expanded provisions

to revoke nationalities for

reasons "related to disloy-

alty". About 70 per cent of

the 190 countries had some

law that could revoke citi-

citizenship is equally

centred around security

and loyalty to a militarised

state. Many have pointed

to the example of thou-

sands of Afghans who

have only known Pakistan

as their home but were

forced to move to Afghani-

stan. The media cheered

their 'return' because they

were depicted as criminals,

though crime has not dis-

appeared because the refu-

gees have. Shortly after as-

suming office, Imran Khan

pledged citizenship to 1.5m

Afghan refugees but had

to renege a mere few days

later, the first of many U-

turns that showed he was

steering

witness to a tiered system

of citizenship where good

and bad citizens are de-

fined by a revolving door

tomorrow's bad citizens

etc. We see this play out

ers who weasel them-

selves back into favour

by ceding space in ex-

change for power. But the

most vulnerable and

marginalised stay at the

bottom as we've seen

most recently with the

treatment meted out to

most with political lead-

leaders. Today's good

will

This country bears

policymaking ship.

citizens

Pakistan's concept of

This is a strange return

port for "terrorists".



Monday December 25, 2023

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. (Î had to look up Vanuatu after hearing about its 'citizen' of Pakistani descent, Farah Gogi.)

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

people in the world.

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

of citizenship in 15 EU coun-

disloyalty or treason. Just ers in Islamabad.

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

deals, etc. It's worth reminding who gets to protest and face no consequence and who gets water-cannoned in the middle of winter, detained and carted in buses as if they're being expelled. Today PTI — whose 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 tries on some grounds of Baloch women protest- Courtesy Dawn

# Ties with India



**Aizaz Ahmad** Chaudhry

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

One major issue that could not be settled was the dispute over the State of Jammu and Kashmir, which was forcibly occupied by India, in direct contravention of the terms for partition of British India. The state had a Muslim majority (78 per cent, with 93pc in the Valley), and was contiguous to the territories that were to become Pakistan. India has also violated every resolution of the UN Security Council (UNSC) adopted from 1948 to 1957, which stipulated that the state's political status should be decided by a plebiscite to be held under UN 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 aucodified 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 auyears, the Modi government has indulged in demographic engineering by issuing domiciles to millions of non-state persons. It has also engaged in electoral engineering to ensure that whenever polls are held, BJP would have a dominant position.

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

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

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

tonomy of Indian-occu- bilateral ties between Inpied Kashmir. This was dia and Pakistan. Both another blatant violation countries have been esof international law as tranged 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 tonomy. In the past four 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 of GB's elected assembly.

-- Courtesy Dawn

# Commerce News

**PCMEA terms launching** 

of EXIM bank inevitable

to boost exports

Carpet

# Pak economic landscape undergoing transformation due to SIFC: coordinator

Coordinator for Minister of State and Federal Tax the initiative holds investments." He said it Kashif Younis said on Pakistan's economic landscape had engages with various multi-billion undergone a remarkable countries and was fully agreements for the foreign transformation, largely committed to ensuring direct investment (FDI), because of establishment of the Special Investment country. He said its response to the SIFC. Facilitation Council (SIFC), which had successfully attracted foreign direct investment.

Speaking as the keynote speaker at a seminar on "The Impact of Economy", held under the aegis of Gold Ring close collaboration with mining and aviation

(APP): Economic Forum, a local and foreign linister of strategic think tank, he said stakeholders for attracting Meher immense significance, was good omen that Saudi said on particularly in the realm of Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait FDI as the SIFC effectively and Qatar had signed investment flows into depicting tremendous manifesto included foreign investment with a longterm goal of touching January next. He said these \$60bn in five years and eventually achieving the investment cooperation target of \$100bn.

Pakistan consistency in economic, waste water treatment,

which was likely to increase substantially from agreements encompass across diverse sectors such He said: "We need as energy, port operations,

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 cooperation



Committee Chowk area in the city.

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

community led by

Muhammad Arbab Khan,

President of the Pak-

British Friendship Council

North West Chapter UK,

he said that the primary

purpose of this visit was

to explore and enhance the

possibilities of expanding

trade relations, fostering

identifying potential

our

avenues

collaboration,

investment

between

# **PFC** to attend London expo, boosting trade opportunities

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.

LAHORE (INP): The Association Usman Vice problem faced

Chairman of the exporters.

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

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

over 0.94 million acres ISLAMABAD (APP): acres as the cultivation The wheat crop has been targets achieved by 99.63 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 meet requirements as well as to maintain strategic reserves throughout the year. The crop sowing targets for the current season (2023-24) completed cultivation of were fixed at 22.23 million over 103.08 per cent of during the days to come.

Security Commissioner Imtiaz Ali Gopang on

Wheat cultivation in

**Balochistan completed** 

The crop sowing was in full swing across the million acres as compared wheat-producing areas in the country as Punjab Province has surpassed its

areas against the set targets,

The Punjab, which is largest wheatproducing province of the country, has completed crop sowing over 16.48 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 caretaker government has embarked upon an ambitious plan for restructuring and reforming the Federal Board of

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

The government's highlighted the significance Documentation Law border controls while a time when country's strategy involves a economy is facing multi- comprehensive approach, faceted challenges, the intending to bridge fiscal collection - simultaneously trimming the expenditures.

Notably, the reform plan includes separating tax policy and revenue divisions within the FBR a move aimed at mitigating conflicts of interest in tax collection

Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue and Economic Affairs,

of proposed division, mandating various agencies revenue emphasizing that while the FBR concentrated on gaps by enhancing revenue 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 Shamshad Akhtar recently introducing a new

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

Furthermore, a key facet of the reform plan entails segregating customs trade facilitation and

revenue collection responsibilities will rest with the FBR.

Stakeholders, such as the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), have advocated leveraging 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 streamlined processes



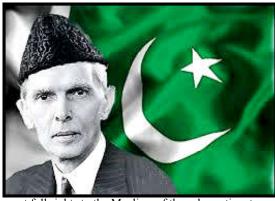
# UNITY FAITH DISCIPLINE

# 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 In the early years, the Quaid advocated Hin-du-Mus-

Monday December 25, 2023

Hindu country, and by 1916 he was elected its president. 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

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

As the first Governor-General of Pakistan, the Quaide-Azam worked to establish the new nation's government and policies, and to aid the millions of Muslim migrants who had emigrated from the new nation of India to Pakistan after independence, 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

departure of the British the

Muslims should also have

real freedom like the Hin-

dus. Mountbatten acted

upon the wishes of the

Hindu leaders and consid-

ered it as a "very great trag-edy"9 if the Quaid would

force him to give up the idea

firm stand of the Quaid,

Mountbatten and the Hin-

no practicable alternative to

some kind of division of the

British Raj between Mus-

lims and non-Muslims,

though this might have been

achieved in practice in a

number of ways. In the

event, by May 1947 the

However, due to the

By 1947, there existed

of a united India.

tion to India

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 ion that with a reasonable Hindus and the British. Within a short span of seven vears after the Lahore Resolution was far the best solution of the passed in March 1940, he successfully steered the ship of his nation to an independent state.

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

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

ernment 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 Azam wanted that after the 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 opinmeasure of goodwill between the communities a dus had to yield the parti-United india would be by 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 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 Hinconsidered it as a "very great tragedy" if the Quaid would force him to give up the idea of a united India.

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

Mountbatten called the Quaid as "a 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 of independence? Was he (united India with a weak centre) the Muslims would have been at the mercy of dians themselves? Nehru the Hindus. The Quaid-i- saw in the hurriedly vivi-

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 dus only. Mountbatten belief that Pakistan would not survive and eventually India would be one country.11 Mountbatten had the greatest doubts about the birth, survival and future of Paki-

> 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 too eager for the independence of India than the In-

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

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

The early period after the independence was very crucial for the survival of Pakistan. Those were the days of great turmoil in its history. Pakistan's enemies were out and out determined to wipe out its existence; and openly declared that it would not survive Pakistan's financial assets were not released, and its 36% share of military assets was also withheld by India. The withholding of cash balances and military assets could practically jam the working of its administrative machinery and render its defence weak and vulnerable. The country had yet to coin its money and establish its State Bank. Pakistan was almost penniless. Its borders with India were indefensible. Pakistan had to start everything from a "scratch" 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 for 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 homeland for the Indian Muslims and look after the management and consoli-

dation of Pakistan.

# Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali

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

fore he left for England. In London he joined Lincoln's Inn, one of the legal societies that prepared students for the bar. In 1895, at the age of 19, he was called to the bar. While in London Jinnah suffered two severe bereavements the deaths of his wife and his mother. Nevertheless, he completed his formal studies and also made a study of the British political system, frequently visiting the House of Com-mons. 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 Jinnah aspired during the worked day and night for him. Their efforts were to become "a Muslim the two organisations held crowned with success, and Naoroji became the British political institutions and in 1916 in Lucknow, first Indian to sit in the House of Commons. When Jinnah returned to Karachi in 1896, he found that his father's business had suffered losses and that he now had to depend on himself. He decided to start his legal practice in Bombay, but it took him years of work to estab-

lish himself as a lawyer.

Q u a i d - e - A z a m, out hobbies, his interest became 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 Petit, a Bombay Parsi millionaire—whom he married over tremendous opposition from her parents and others. The marriage proved an unhappy one. It was his sister Fatima who gave him

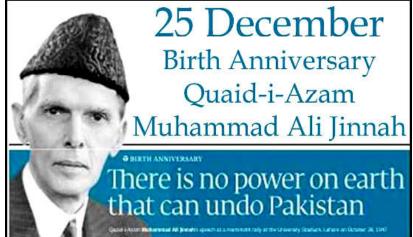
solace and company. Jinnah first entered politics by participating in the 1906 Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress, the party that called for dominion status and later for independence for India. Four years later he was elected to the Imperial Legislative Council—the beginning of a long and distinguished parliamentary ca-

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

"Ambassador of Hindu-Muslim unity." Jinnah's endeavours to bring about thepolitical union of Hindus and Muslims earned him the title of "the best ambassa- ing the 1920s the Muslim

1909 but hitherto resisted by the Congress. Meanwhile, a new

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



reer. In Bombay he came to know, among other important Congress personalities, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, the eminent Maratha leader. Greatly influenced by these 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 chief elements of his politics. At that time, he still looked upon Muslim interests in the context of Indian nationalism.

But, by the beginning of It was nearly 10 years later that he turned toward the 20th century, the conviction had been growing that the conversion in the conversion 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."

no matter to what com-

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

the present context should logically be ex-

tended to include vari-

ous sects and ethnic

iii) "... always be guided by the prin-

ciples of justice and fair

play, without any...

prejudice or ill-will,...

iv) "... the evil of nepotism and jobbery ... must be crushed re-lentlessly ... Never tol-erate any kind of job-

bery, nepotism or any influence directly or

v) "One of the big-

.. always be

groups).

partiality

indirectly...

tavouritism."

state." (This dictum in

munity he belongs,

ii) "... everyone...

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 hilafat committee.

When the failure of the Non-co-operation Movement and the emergence of Hindu revivalist movements led to antagonism and riots between the Hin dus 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

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

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

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

he had set out in that

memorable address.

gest 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, bei) "The first duty of ing "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,

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 whatever their race, plagued Pakistan.



Caretaker Federal Minister for religion Affairs and interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmad addressing the Tazeem Al Harmain

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-

kistan Navy and the Royal

Navy of Oman Bilateral

2023 (TAT-23) was con-

ducted in the Gulf of Oman.

of the series of Thamar Al

Tayyib exercises being con-

ducted between Pakistan

Navy and Royal Navy of

Oman since 2002, a news

Flotilla comprising of Paki-

The Pakistan Navy

release said on Sunday.

xercise Thamar Al Tayyib

This was 11th edition

# **ECP defers delimitation** grievance hearing, prioritizing elections

GILGIT: Chief MInister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji

Gulbar Khan addressing a press conference at CM

IG, DC Islamabad

transfer becomes

challenge for ECP

on Tuesday. In the letter Election Commission on

written by the Secretary December 26 to explain

Election Commission to the why these two officers

Secretary Establishment have not been replaced so

Nawaz Sharif's 74th birthday

to be celebrated today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Prime Minister of Pa-

kistan and leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz

(PMLN) Sharif's 74th birthday will be celebrated on

Monday, December 25. Events will be held across the

country, including those organized by Muslim League-N,

in which birthday cakes will be cut and prayers will be

offered for the health and well-being and long life of Mian

cember 25, 1949 in Lahore. He has the unique honor of

holding thrice as Chief Minister of Punjab and thrice

ISLAMABAD: Visitors looks enjoying Sunday

Holiday at Pakistan Monument in Federal Capital,

Nation to celebrate 147th birth anniversary of

Quaid-e-Azam with zeal and fervour on Dec 25.

Monday as all arrangements have been finalized.

**Tosha Khana case:** 

PTI's appeal ready

to end appeal against

**IHC** verdict

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, Elec-

tion Commission took ad-

vantage of the error in the

It is said in the peti-

verdict of the High Court.

tion that the Election Com-

mission has issued a noti-

fication of the disqualifica-

tion of the founder of PTI.

the elections are near

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

mitted the appeal in Su-preme 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 ob-

jections of the Registrar

SC, orders can be issued to

fix the case for hearing on

It is likely to be sub-

Khana case.

Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif was born on De-

Inspector General (IG)

Islamabad and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Islamabad has become a

test case for Election Com-

mission of Pakistan. On

August 17, a letter was sent

sion regarding the change of

both officers, but it could

not be implemented. ECP

summoned Secretary Es-

tablishment on the matter

Division, it is said that re- far.

Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

Prime Minister of Pakistan three times.

Deputy Commissioner

Islamabad and IG Islamabad

on August 17, the Election Commission has given the

powers to the federal govern-

letter that a report should

be sent to the Commission

immediately on this mat-

ter and appear before the

The letter has been It has been said in the

ment in the constitution

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) postponed the delimitation grievances hearing until after the General Elec-tions 2024, prioritizing the election schedule in line with the Supreme Court's directive to avoid disruptions.

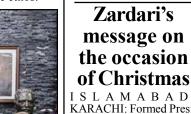
Referring to recent Supreme Court orders on the delimitation issue, the Election Commission of Pakistan in its orders emphasized that challenges to delimitation by the ECP will no longer lead to election delays. In a specific case, the Supreme Court underscored the importance of General Elections as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

ISLAMABAD (APP): tal democratic principle. diminishing the procedural significance of delimitation.

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.





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

President Asif Ali Zardari said that Quaid-e-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 fundamental rights of non-Muslim citi-

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

Bilateral naval exercise

Thamar Al Tayyib 2023

culminates in Arabian Sea

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 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 Tayyib 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 Noth Navies with an aim to of Oman in particular. stan Navy and Royal Navy

# Bilawal Bhutto paid rich tributes to Quaid on birth anniversary

K A R A C H I / 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 Birth-day anniversary being cel-ebrated on Monday (tomorrow). According to the press statement issued by Media Cell Bilawal House, the Chairman PPP, in his message to nation, said that as we celebrate the birthday of our Quaid, let us reflect on his steadfast commitment to justice, equality, and the principles that define the essence of Pakistan. He further said that Quaid-e-Azam

was a democratic visionary

leader, whose unwavering

dedication paved the way

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 democratic structure grounded in the principles of equal rights for all.



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 fam-

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

# Jamaat-e-Islami is representative party of oppressed class: Furgan

By Rana Shahid Mehmood

KOT ADU: The scales are like shadows for the ideological voters, who are being deprived from their right to express their opin-

Furqan Asif Buzdar. candidate for Provincial Assembly, will extend the scope of welfare work and service work.

According to the details, speaking to journalists at the center of Jamaat-e-Islami, Kot-addu, Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami, Kot Addu and the nominated candidate of constituency pp278, Furqan Asif

scales are like shadows for all the ideological voters of this city and constituency, from whom they have. The right of expression has been taken away from them.

We also condemned all such elements under the patronage of the influential government who want to do politics as a grab group under the guise of democracy.

And they will save Kot addu from their influence. They will extend the scope of public welfare work already carried out by Jamaat-e-Islami in Kot Adu. Jamaat-e-Islami is the representative party of the oppressed class. They are standing against the op-



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

Caretaker Prime Minister 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 sacrifice.

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

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

formed humanity with teachings of peace, brotherhood, tolerance and forbearance which led to the

The moral teachings and the guidance of the Prophet were a beacon for humanity for all times to

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

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

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

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

their countrymen proud. The prime minister said the Christian community laid down their lives for strengthening the foundation of the country and for its integrity and solidar-ity. 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

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.'

celebrate religious occa-

sions. "The State and every

citizen have the responsibil-

ity to protect their places

'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 | to be briefed on Palestine, Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (Online): A briefing will be given to the Senate Foreign Affairs

LAHORE (APP): has been achieved. General Manager (Projects) South, Chief 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 of ficials 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 deci sion of the Indian SC.

#### Over 446,000 illegal Afghans returned to their homeland

ISLAMABAD (INP): Repatriation of illegal foreign nationals including Afghans to their homeland is continuing in a dignified and safe manner on Sunday.

As per details, 1,159 illegal Afghan nationals returned to their country during past 24 hours, taking the total number of returned immigrants to 446,097. 54 vehicles were used to transport 287 men. 260 women and 612 chil dren to Afghanistan. The apex committee of the National Action Plan (NAP) in a meeting on October 3, chaired by Caretaker PM Anwaarul Haq Kakar gave a deadline to all foreignnationals living illegally in the country.

#### **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

# **WAPDA chairman visits** K-IV project to review construction progress

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-126 billion, expenditure till date is Rs.40 billion

Engineer/Project Director K-IV and representatives of the Consultants and the Contractors were also present during the

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



painting during the event in connection with 147th birth anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali

## SSP Safe City distribute gifts among Christian employees in connection with Christmas

**Independent Report** 

ISLAMABAD: Following the special directions of the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad Capital Police arranged ceremonies in connection with Christmas and distributed gifts among the Christian employees, a public relations officer

He said that, an event was organized at Safe City Islamabad which was attended by SSP Safe City as chief guest while Christian employees, and other senior police officers officials Islamabad Capital Police were also present.

On this occasion, the SSP Safe City said that we are proud of our Christian employees who are serving in various wings of the force. They said that minorities enjoy equal rights in the country and are contributing signifi-cantly to its develop-

He further said that the Christmas event gives a lesson in brotherhood and humanity, and all of us should work together to promote interfaith harmony. He also expressed good wishes for them, distributed gifts among them and announced holidays for Christian employees in the Islamabad Capital