

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 05. No. 344 Jamadi-us-Sani 09, 1445 AH Saturday December 23, 2023 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

PM dispels doubts about election on Feb 8

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

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

To a question, he said the government would provide security to political leaders, including the three time prime minister Nawaz Sharif, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Maryam Nawaz, Imran Khan, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and others.

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

"It is the responsibility of the government to

provide security to politi-cal leaders and voters of the State. Pakistan. He said, "It is not our

He said the caretaker job to tell overseas Pakistanis which political party government would fulfill its responsibility during the they should support. ing of elections. However, the people It would be illegal to should vote for a party holding of elections.

stop the Pakistan Tehreekwhich had an agenda for the e- Însaf (PTI) from taking economic revival of Pakipart in the elections, he said stan, he opined. "I will vote and clarified there was no for a party which has an policy to stop the PTI from agenda to revive the economy," he asserted. organizing public meetings.

On the election day, The prime minister the candidates of PTI said there was a wave of would be in the field and the voters would be voting and there were forces which wanted to cause disfor them, he commented.

He said those who ruption in Pakistan and the government would make all were involved in the incidents of May 9 were facing efforts to protect the lives the law of the land. He was of people. About the disof the view that those inappearance and surfacing of volved in the May 9 incicertain politicians, he said dents should not be public the government had no concern with it and those indi-He said the Election viduals were responsible for

Commission should look their actions and stance. into complaints made by Responding to political parties about maladministration. To a question, he said overall political circumstances triggered

query, the prime minister said demonstrations in democratic societies were held with the permission of

Lahore. Bilawal Bhutto submitted the nomination papers through a representative. PPP's Hafiz Ghulam Mohiuddin and Mian Misbahur Rehman also filed their nomination papers for PP-170 and PP-169 in Lahore.

Meanwhile, the proess of filing of nomination

President, PM hold telephonic conversation; express concerns over inappropriate police treatment against Baloch protestors

ISLAMABAD (APP): House press release said. President Dr Arif Alvi and Caretaker Prime Minister tion, the prime minister told Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on the president that the deriday held a telephonic

During the conversa-

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

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday declared the intra-party elections conducted by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) null and void, with-

drawing the party's elec-toral symbol – bat. The electoral watchdog ruled that the party did not hold the elections in line with its constitution, the Election Act, 2017, and the Election Rules, 2017, and was thus ineligible to obtain the election symbol of ʻbat

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

bench included ECP members Nisar Ahmed Durrani, Shah Muhammad Jatoi, Babar Hassan Bharwana and Justice ® Ikramullah Khan The reserved verdict

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

In its decision, the ECP observed that "the PTI did not comply with the Commission's directions rendered therein order dated 23rd November, 2023 and failed to hold intraparty election in accordance with PTI prevailing Consti-tution, 2019 and Election Act, 2017, and Election



KARACHI: The Caretaker Sindh Minister for Irrigation Eshwar Lal called on Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at the Governor House here.

Governor Sindh inaugurates Ethiopian tourism desk at Karachi Feast ISLAMABAD (APP): paralleled tourism offerings, Governor of Sindh Muhammad Kamran Khan was a testament to the enduring bond between Ethio-Tessori and Ambassador of pia and Pakistan. Governor Ethiopia to Pakistan Jemal Tessori, addressing the me-Beker Abdula opened the dia, emphasized the Ethiopian Tourism Desk on longstanding relations between the two nations, Friday. This grand occasion, rooted in shared history, set to culminate on Decemvalues, culture, and religion. ber 24, 2023, was attended He commended Amby a diverse audience, inbassador Abdula for his tirecluding Honorary Consul less efforts in fortifying the of Ethiopia in Karachi bilateral relations, noting Ibrahim Tawab, members of the impactful presence of the diplomatic corps, govthe Ethiopian Embassy in ernment officials, business Pakistan despite being escommunity, media, and reptablished just a year ago. resentatives from civil so-Moreover, the Goverciety, said a news release of nor expressed gratitude to the Ethiopian Embassy isthe Government of Ethiosued here. pia for launching Ethiopian The pavilion, giving a Airlines in Karachi which captivating display of played a critical role in connecting Pakistan with the Ethiopia's multifaceted culture, rich heritage, and unwhole African continent.



office-holders.

Caretaker Federal Education Minister, Madad Ali Sindhi addressing the 1st Annual Conference 2023 "Examination and Assessment Practices in Pakistan at Karachi.

Need to reform examination. assessment system as per modern era: Minister

photo with the President, Directing Staff of National Defence University and graduating Civil Service officers of National Security Course-2024. **Bilawal Bhutto files** nomintion papers for NA-128 constituency

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a group

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairpapers by candidates for national and provincial asman Bilawal Bhutto semblies in Lahore continued on the third day on Fri-day. Besides Bilawal Zardari on Friday filed nomination papers to contest general election from Bhutto, other prominent National Assembly Con-stituency NA-128 in candidates who submitted nomination papers include Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party's (IPP) Abdul Aleem

Khan for NA-119 and PP-149, IPP's Shoaib Siddiqui for PP-150, IPP's Aun Chaudhry for NA-124, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) Malik Saif-ul-Malook Khokhar

for NA-134 and Abid Khan for NA-117.

Agriculture backbone of country's economy: Governor

KARACHI (APP): The Caretaker Sindh Minister for Irrigation Eshwar Lal called on Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at the Governor House here on Friday.

of the canal system in the province, the availability of water for various crops, problems of tail-end farmers and other related issues.

The Governor said that agriculture was the backbone of the country's economy. He said that crop production could be increased with better distribution of canal water. He further said that effective measures were necessary to save water from wastage.

IGP Sindh meets thalassemiastricken honorary

Captain KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP)

On the occasion, they discussed the improvement

KARACHI (INP): Care- implementation of knowl- accordingly. taker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhi has stressed stressed the need for a paradigm shift in educational examinations and assessment systems to align them with the requirements of the era of modern technology

Addressing the inau-gural session of the 2-day IBCC 1st Annual Conference titled "Examination and Assessment Practices in Pakistan" here on Friday. he said that examinations and assessment were pillars of the educational system and we have to adopt those measures which encourage

edge Organized by the In- nificance of utilizing adter Board Coordination vanced technologies in as-Commission (IBCC) here at sessment the minister a private university, the stated that the use of digiconference was attended by tal technology in the examivice-chancellors of universities, chairmen of different boards of education from also urged the need to take across the country, acadepivotal steps for maintainmicians, teaching faculty

honesty and transparency Speaking on the occa-sion, Madad Ali Sindh said in the system. The Education Minister reiterated that there was that with extensive research no other option for the deand advent of modern technologies educational scevelopment and progress of narios around the globe Pakistan except quality education and focusing on were transforming rapidly and it was essential for Pathree core factors- better curriculum, trained teaching faculty and a conducive and abilities and practical and assessment systems encouraging environment.

ECP Sindh fixes date for

scrutiny KARACHI (APP): The Provincial Election Commission of Sindh has set December 25 as the new date for scrutiny here on Friday

According to a spokesman for ECP Sindh, the candidates, who were, earlier, invited for scrutiny KARACHI: Chief Justice Sindh High Court on December 24 were then Mr.Justice Ageel Ahmed Abbasi along with Presiadvised to visit ECP Sindh dent Justice Helpline International Nadeem on December 25. The deci-A.Shaikh and others unveiling the trophy during sion was made given an an-Grand opening ceremony of 5th Law Students nouncement by the Election Commission of Paki-Cricket League 2023 at Karachi Gymkhana Ground. stan to extend the date for

PPP will emerge winning December. party of country in election

HYDERABAD (INP): People's Party (PPP) would Former Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon has stated that general elections are scheduled for February 8th and on this day, the party receiving a mandate must work diligently to solve people's issues. He asserted that Election Day will decide whether the people endorse hate politics or prioritize issue resolution.

Speaking to the media outside the RO office after submitting his nomination papers for the provincial assembly constituency PS-61 Hyderabad on Thursday, Memon said, he believes the public is now more aware and they will not get involved in politics of any conspiracy or linguistic fights. He expressed confidence that the Pakistan homeless people.

secure 95% of the seats in Sindh and emerge as a successful party, both provincially and at the Federal level. He further remarked that on February 8th, whichever party receives the people's mandate should wholeheartedly work towards resolving their public issues. The people are not interested in who is going to jail or getting released but they want to see their issues resolved. Sharjeel Memon said that PPP has a sustainable manifesto to solve all problems because our chairman Bilawal Bhutto is saying that if he comes into power, he will make ensure to double the salaries of government employees, give

on complaints of obstacles in electoral process ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has taken note of complaints concerning obstacles faced by political groups and independent candidates in the electoral process. In response to these concerns, the ECP has issued letters to the provincial election commissioners, chief secretaries and all police inspectors general, stressing the need to address the complaints in accordance with the law. The letter highlights

that complaints, relayed through the media, have jobs to the unemployed and surfaced regarding difficulconstruct houses for the ties in obtaining and collecting nomination papers.

conversation wherein they expressed concerns over Underscoring the sigthe inappropriate police treatment with the Baloch protestors.

Discussing the situation, both the president and the prime minister viewed nation could help improve that the police should not the educational system. He have dealt with the protestors strictly, a President

ns were D ing released on personal bonds. Meanwhile

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



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

Full confidence in EC, General Elections will be held on time, Solangi The demands of pro-

have been released.

the committee.

Minister.

Caretaker Federal

Security is being pro-

vided to women and chil-

dren who have come from

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information are long standing. Murtaza Solangi has said that general elections will be held as per schedule

We have full confinomination papers till 24 dence on Election Commission (EC). I cannot comment on internal matters of **ECP** takes action political parties. PEMRA act provides job protection to journalists.

While talking to me-dia, Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Murtaza Solangi said that legal steps will be taken to protect the employment of iournalists.



KARACHI: Youngsters from Balochistan Province are shouting slogans during protest in the favor of their demands outside Press Club.

Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar Raja. had a meeting on Friday with Honorary Captain Bilal, who battles thalassemia, showcasing his fondness and dedication to the police force.

Expressing deep affection for the police and other law enforcement bodies in the country, Honorary Captain Bilal highlighted his unwavering commit-ment by regularly meeting them, stating that this was the essence of the day's meeting

Welcoming honorary Captain Bilal at the Central Police Office (CPO), the IGP Sindh commended and lauded his fervent devotion. sincerity, and enthusiasm towards the forces.

PPP carried out record development work in Karachi: Senator Mehdi

KARACHI (APP): Provincial General Secretary Pakistan Peoples Party Sindh, Senator Waqar Mehdi, on Friday, said that the PPP carried out record development and welfare works in Karachi and seeing those services citizens of Karachi voted in local body electestors from Baluchistan tions.

Senator Wagar Mehdi Women and children in a statement issued here, said that Bilawal Bhutto Most of the men Zardari made Asia's biggest have also been released. trauma center in Karachi Committee is doing its and provided free cardiac work. Governor of treatment facilities at Baluchistan also joined NICVD in the metropolis.

PPP Sindh government also gave gifts of flyovers, Minister for Information underpasses, public parks has further said that today and playgrounds to the people of Karachi. there is also meeting of this committee with Prime

Cold, dry weather forecast for Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department on Friday forecast cold and dry weather in most parts of Sindh province during the next 24 hours.

However, fog and smog are likely to prevail Jacobabad, Mohenjodaro, Sukkur, Larkana, Dadu, Ghotki and Padidan during the morning and night hours.

Mainly, cold and dry weather is likely to prevail in the province.



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

Sports activities too important for young generation: Murtaza

KARACHI (APP): Mayor cellent football talent in this area of Korangi and there Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that sports was a need for a quality activities are very important for our young generation, that is the reason we are trying to establish sports fields and stadiums in every part of the city. He said this while addressing the opening ceremony of the renovated

football stadium in Korangi Nasir Colony on Friday. Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah

Murad, Vice Chairman of Korangi Town, local leaders of PPP and other personalities were also present on this occasion.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that there is exresidents of Korangi.

football stadium. Sensing this need we have completed the repair and renovation work on of this stadium on a priority basis to provide better facilities for sports and recreation to the youth. He said that we are soon going to build the first metropolitan university of Pakistan which will be the first university of its kind. Youths will be greatly helped in building their future, today he also approves Korangi University campus where he will make the program according to the requirements of the



and students.

kistan to bring necessary critical thinking, creative changes in its examination

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OPINION

Daily **Independent**



Flies on the wall

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

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

ISI cannot trace the source of the audio leaks. Other intelligence agencies like the IB and FIA. too, have previously denied knowledge of the source of similar leaks. So if the nation's top agencies cannot trace the culprits, then who can?

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

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

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

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

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



tioned here. A prominent religious scholar, a committed educator and innovative thinker visited the scenic but communally tense Gilgit-Baltistan in the backdrop of the recent tension caused by a religiously sensitive issue. The issue was thankfully Jan-e-Alam Khaki defused by efforts of the

Literally, 'healing wounds' government and saner is a laudable act, no matter members of society. Meetin which context it is exering communities to do cised. It means a lot metawhat we are talking about phorically in the social conhere — 'the healing of text, where individuals or wounds' — following the communities deeply 'hurt' lowering of tensions was each other because of one a dire need to strengthen excuse or another. Probpeace. This, to me, was an ably, mental or psychologiunusual act of generosity cal wounds cause greater in the true spirit of Islam pain than physical ones, which advises: "The Beand may sustain far longer lievers are but a single than physical wounds. Brotherhood: So make Words, as the fapeace and reconciliation

mous saying goes, hurt between your two (condeeper than the strike of a tending) brothers... . sword. I call hurtful words (49:10)

weapons of mass destruc-The leader in question' when used in a comtion made a point of meetmunal context, while on ing all major communities the other hand, beautiful and their representatives, and inspiring words give ulema and dignitaries. fresh life to individuals and From whatever I could communities. Due to anger gather from the speeches (regarded as fire) erupting he made to the select gathfor any reason, people get erings he held (now on upset and cause harm -YouTube) with different physical or otherwise — to communities. I summarise those who inflict it. Once a few key points from his this happens, someone, or talks

some people, need to re-First, meeting these sort to 'therapeutic' treatcommunities as an outment to heal and defuse reach step to foster broththe toxic situation beerly feelings and remove tween individuals or in misunderstandings was itself a great 'healing' step. The healing of

He listened to them first bewounds through building fore he spoke to them bridges among communiindeed, an important step ties — whether faith-based to better understand and or tribal-based - is one of heal. This generous gesthe prime tasks of civil soture must have given a ciety and society in genfeeling of healing.

eral. Meetings between The second point leaders or general commuwas that he emphasised nity members is a dire need on the commonalities of to bridge gaps in relations faith, while at the same and remove misundertime accepting differstandings. That ours is a ences of interpretations, divided society is to state right from the early histhe obvious; what we can tory of Islam. Differences do to heal old wounds or should not lead to conrecent injuries is not that frontations, he emphasised. Communal

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

and heal the hurt men- oped regarding the major pillars of Islam on which there is overall agreement - and these examples are plentiful, he pointed out. The third point worth highlighting from his speech was discouraging those who create discord by arousing the emotions of the members of other communities, and particularly those whose business it is to provoke the masses through emotional and polemical speeches. He argued not to leave the

> exploit and encourage discord. He suggested that the elders in communities, like in the family, should ensure that such elements are discouraged and not given centre

stage to cause trouble. Even if a person tends to create mischief, the other community members should not support them and take sides with the wrong person. The ists hailing from other com-Quranic guidance (5:2), munities, as well as ordiwhich says, "Help ye one nary people. another in righteousness women, the and piety, but help ye not

need to do.

А

today.

Commerce News

one another in sin and snaked Balochistan and then the rancour" provides guid-Seraiki, Pakhtun and ance regarding what we Puniabi heartlands. It was commentator the most meaningful exmade a succinct remark pression of democratic asabout the talks referred pirations and what a volto above and observed, untary federation could look like in recent times. "Each word is a golden word; my request is for And then they reached the visiting each district of outskirts of Islamabad.

Pakistan taking this The demands of the marchers are simple message." Scholars and leaders of this stature, enough, but it is precisely with this kind of highly their simplicity that is unpalatable to those who rule articulated view in a modern idiom rooted in us: to bring an end to the essential Islamic teachdastardly practice of enforced disappearances, as ings, are in short supply well as 'encounter killings', Mawlana Jalaluddin Rumi rightly which is what triggered the says, "Tu barai wasl initial protest in Turbat and kardan aamadi; ne barai accountability for those fasal kardan aamadi" who are known to be meaning, "O humans, you have been asked to complicit in all such practices. Simple demands, with earth-shattering implicaunite, not divide." We need more such inspiring leaders with the ca-

pacity to heal wounds such demands is so taboo? through their efforts and inspiring talks. -- Cour-tesy Dawn boo for Baloch youth to state what pretty much ev-

Baloch question

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

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

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

their already gaping wounds? Zubeida Mustafa wrote last week on these pages about the systemic and systematic oppression

that steadily increased disaffection amongst the Bengalis and led to the eventual creation of Bangladesh. presumably One

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

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

The marchers asked

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

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

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

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

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

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

ture. -- Courtesy Dawn

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar There is no single issue that clarifies one's political position in Pakistan than the Baloch question. This

was made brutally clear this past Wednesday space vacant for them to night when a caravan of peaceful, unarmed protesters who had made their way to Islamabad from Turbat were violently re-

Led

by

young

caravan

through

fused entry into the federal capital. In the preceding few weeks, the Baloch long march had literally made waves, mobilising thousands of Baloch women, men and children, along with progressive political workers, ethnic-national-

Good to use natural elements to support agricultural activities

disproportionately

affected because they lack

added.

and

LAHORE (APP): biostimulant, etc. Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Dr Kausar Abdullah Malik has said ways, often exacerbating using natural elements for existing challenges to crop supporting agricultural production. Smallholder activities is most desirable farmers in developing approach. countries were the most vulnerable

He said this while addressing the 5th PlantwisePlus National Forum meeting at a local hotel on Friday.

He said, "Climate change and realisation to move away from fossil fuel technology are highly important.

He said anything related to bio was quality and quantity of extremely important crops, or in some cases diversify into new forms of whether it was biocontrol, farming and livelihoods. He aware of SPS. biopesticide, biofertilizer,

said that it was very important to look at soil He said that climate change was impacting health to obtain desired agriculture in a number of results.

Dr Kausar said, "We are consuming most important resources of gas and energy in developing fertilizers." Fertilizers were important but the way they were being used was illogical, he added. The minister said that import the capacity to cope with uncertainties created by a and export depend on sanitary and phytosanitary rapidly changing world, he measures as it was He said smallholders extremely important. He needed to adapt to farming suggested the Centre for practices to climate Agriculture and Bioscience hazards to maintain the International (CABI) to impart training to all our

potential exporters and

importers as they were not

Gold rates up

Rs 171,325, the All Sindh

Sarafa Jewellers Association

reported. The price of per

tola and ten gram silver

witnessed no change and

was sold at Rs.2,650 and Rs.2,271.94 respectively.

Shipping

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

Senate body discusses financial challenges faced by PSM

Independent Report by **Rs.1,800** ISLAMABAD: ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee per tola price of 24 karat gold on Industry decreased by Rs 1,800 and Production was sold at Rs 219,800 on discussed multiple options Friday against its sale at Rs to address the financial 218,000 on the last trading challenges of Pakistan Steel day. The price of 10 grams Mill. The meeting, chaired of 24 karat gold also by Senator Khalida Ateeb, increased by Rs 1543 to Rs was held at the Parliament 188,443 from Rs 186,900 House to deliberate on whereas the prices of 10 critical issues concerning gram 22 karat gold went down to Rs 172,740 from the industrial sector of the

country

previous recommendations concerning Pakistan Steel and Friday Mill, National Fertilizer Corporation, and Pakistan Industrial Technical Assistance Center.

September 2023, initially

Speakers discuss future opportunities in building **IT talent ecosystem**

The

the region.

Speakers at an event hosted The University of Bahrain is a partner for the Huawei ICT (Information Communications Technology) Competition 2023-2024 regional final and hosted the official closing and awards ceremonies for the programme this year. The forum panel discussion featured Dr Jassim Haji, President of

the International Group of Artificial Intelligence: Dr Hessa Jassim Al-Junaid. Dean of the College of Information Technology, University of Bahrain; Dr socio-economic growth in

comprehensive update on Of profound concern the progress regarding the for the committee was the alarming surge in theft incidents within Pakistan Steel Mill, resulting in substantial financial losses. Officials revealed that

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

Zong announces special offer on Christmas ISLAMABAD (APP)

Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecom operator announced a special data roaming bundle for the United Kingdom to ensure the combined consumption seamless and uninterrupted connectivity at affordable rates this Christmas.

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

during the past week, This customized according to the PBS data. bundle is designed to ensure that you get access to the best data roaming services at affordable prices.

Pakistan's textile exports reach \$6.88bln in 5 months ISLAMABAD (APP):

Pakistan exported textile products worth \$6,883.615 million during the initial five months of

the current financial year (2023-24), the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The exports of the product however witnessed a decline of 6.50 percent during July-November (2023-24) when compared to the exports of \$7,361,914 million during July-November (2022-23). The textile

commodities that witnessed positive growth in trade included raw

Indicator (SPI), witnessed a

decrease of 0.51 percent for

ended on December 21, the

(PBS) reported on Friday.

under review in the above-

compared to 311.58 points

The SPI for the week

which grew by 253.10 percent, from \$11.253 million last year to \$39.733 million this year.

Likewise, the exports of cotton yarn increased by 50.30 percent, from \$328.197 million last year to \$493.277 million this year, cotton carded or combed by 22.86 percent, from \$0.477 million to \$0.586 million and towels by 0.74 percent, from \$409.510 million to \$412.544 . The textile commodities that witnessed negative growth include cotton cloth, the exports of which declined by 13.35 percent, from \$903.685 million to \$783.087 million, yarn other than cotton yarn by 11.47 percent.

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

Weekly inflation falls by 0.51%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The review witnessed an weekly inflation, measured increase of 42.60 percent. by the Sensitive Price The weekly SPI with

the base year 2015-16=100 covers 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups. The SPI for the groups during the week

Pakistan Bureau of Statistics lowest consumption group up to Rs 17,732, decreased by 0.39 percent and went down to 304.83 points mentioned group was recorded at 310.00 points as from last week's 306.02 points. The SPI for consumption groups from Rs 17,732-22,888, Rs 22,889-29,517; Rs 29,518-As compared to the 44,175 and above Rs corresponding week of last 44,175 it decreased by 0.40 year, the SPI for the percent, 0.39 percent, 0.44 combined consumption and 0.59 percent percent group in the week under respectively.

PESHAWAR: Chairperson, Intellectual Property of Pakistan (IPO-Pakistan), Ambassador Farukh Amil addressing an awareness session on **Intellectual Property Rights.** IPO Pak emphasis need

for creating awareness on **Intellectual Property Rights**

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

business development. He expressed these ensure their effective views during an awareness session on 'Protection and enforcement of IPRs: Business development

industrialists' jointly organized by (IPO-Pakistan) and the Industrialists Association Peshawar (IAP) here. Speaking as chief guest, Farukh Amil said that the workshop aimed

to raise awareness among people, manufacturers and industrialists in Peshawar about IPRs related services including trademarks. copyrights and patent designs that were protected by his organization and

enforcement by law enforcement agencies to avoid counterfeiting and piracy of their products. Qasim during last 24 hours.

namely, Seaspan Ganges, SpilKartini, Vanquish. oil.

Terminal, Liquid Terminal, Oil Terminal and Bulk Terminal respectively on 21st December. Meanwhile three more ships, Sheng De Hai, Estia and Silver Eleaner also arrived at

activity at **Port Qasim** ISLAMABAD (APP): KARACHI (APP) Shipping activity reported

by the University of Bahrain on the sidelines of at the Port where five ships the Huawei ICT Competition 2023-2024 Nord regional final awards Kamome ceremony in Manama, Victoria and Sheng Ping Hai delved into discussions carrying Container, Edible about future opportunities Gasoline and in building the IT talent Coal, berthed at Container ecosystem and the significance of public-private partnerships in

nurturing innovations. They called upon supplementing university curricula with practical skills and training, fostering outer-anchorage of the Port

The Chief Financial Officer of Pakistan Steel Mill highlighted a 25% increase in the temporary relief allowance for employees, effective since

During the meeting, the committee received a duration.

emphasizing its one-year



ndependent

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National News

Page 03

IPMG meeting urges Fortifying gender data collection to promote gender equality

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

The two-day 21st IPMG meeting, held under the auspices of the National Commission on the Status of Women initiating positive change (NCSW), and with support from UN Women and the United States, concluded here on Friday during which speakers construct a society where shared vision of a more every woman's voice inclusive society, where echoes, and her rights and every woman can thrive contributions are valued.

LAHORE (APP): The and contribute to the nation's progress. The Provincial Ministerial IPMG was established in 2009 enhance to Nilofar Bakhtiar, chairperson NCSW, said:

"This assembly serves as a crucial platform, fostering collaboration and on the path to gender equality and empowerment of women in Pakistan Together, let's unite to construct a society where



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

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

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

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

Pakistan Hasan Addressing a ceremony organized by businessman Muhammad

RPO orders foolproof security

on Christmas AISALABAD (APP): Regional Police Officer (RPO) Dr. Muhammad Abid Khan has issued instructions for ensuring foolproof security arrangements on Christmas. He directed the capital police officer (CPO) Faisalabad, district police officers (DPOs) of three districts including Jhang, Toba Tek Singh and Chiniot to make foolproof security arrangements in churches. Christian settlements, special markets and celebration points on Christmas.

Archbishop Rawalpindi-Islamabad Dr Joseph Arshad in connection with Christmas celebrations, Mushaal said that atrocities were being committed on minorities in India and the countries, Hindu, Sikh and international community Christian leaders, Ulema should to take notice of that. Station Commander Rawalpindi Brig. Ahmad Nawaz, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leaders Chaudhry Tanveer, Barrister

Arshad, in his remarks, Daniyal, said,"Christmas gives us Chaudhry Osama, Malik the message of peace and brotherhood, and the Abrar, Ziaullah Shah and Rashid Khan, Pakistan Christian community will Peoples Party's Sibt-ulcontinue to strive for the Bukhari, development Sheikh

Shoaib Sadal, Member of He urged the the peace committee, Babu Christian community to Sajid Amin Khokhar, remember their needy and Frayad Francis, Napoleon deserving brothers in the Gomez, Sanobar Gill, festivities of Christmas and ambassadors of various share them in their joy.

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

He congratulated the

and other

about

the

LAHORE (APP): US Kristin Hawkins has said women become a source of positive change in societies through the life transforming skills and confidence gained from sports.

Speaking at a four-day US funded sports workshop for women at taxpayer's money. The University of Education Cabinet was briefed in (UoE) Township here on preparations for the Friday, she said sports contribute to characterupcoming general elections.It would ensure building and help women become positive agents of the availability and change and reminded the workshop participants of their unique role as educators, coaches, and mentors in helping young women develop their leadership skills.

were issued three days after the tests. The CM warned that hospitals found to be directed the health secretary that all hospitals causing delay in delivering CT scans and MRI reports would face administrative action

facility for providing CT During his visit, the CM inspected various wards, interacted with He made a surprise parents of children and inspected the medical visit to Children's Hospital on Friday where parents facilities. The CM also raised concerns regarding inspected up-gradation work, engaged with the scans and MRI reports. The CM was informed that labourers and assessed CT scans and MRI reports progress.



CM orders 24/7

CT-Scan, MRI

reports facility

Independent Report

LAHORE: Chief Minister

Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has

must adhere to a 24/7

scans and MRI reports to

delayed issuance of CT

patients.

Raza Gillani submitting his nomination papers with his supporters at the Commissioner's office.

Kristin Hawkins sees women become agents of change through sports

With the sole purpose Consul General in Lahore of empowering young women, the workshop was conducted by coaches, trainers, and educators from Baylor University and University of North Carolina, Wilmington, in partnership with the UoE, Township. Female sports educators, trainers, and coaches from 10 schools and four universities across Punjab attended the workshop.

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

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

KARACHI: PPP Senator Saleem Mandviwala talk-

ing to media persons after submission of nomina-

tion paper for NA 241 General Elections 2024 at

Firdous says:

Every political step of IPP

will lead to the country's

Assistant Commissioner office.

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

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

prosperity of the beloved country like before." Hafeez, **KP** Cabinet reiterated commitments to provide level playing field in Election

and

Caretaker Provincial Cabinet of Khyber and safety of the Pakhtunkhwa on Friday reiterated its commitment to provide a level playing field to all political parties and has asked them to follow the Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) during their election campaigns.

Besides the directives the Commissions, these SOPs include holding large political gatherings in designated areas notified by

PESHAWAR (APP): The government during daylight been mobilized for the to ensure efficient security purpose and every effort is being made to ensure participants. transparency and efficient utilization of the The cabinet met

under the Chairmanship of the Caretaker cabinet, Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Arshan Hussain Shah finalized preparations for the upcoming general elections in light of the directives of the Election

The Chief Minister

resources, mapping of that every effort will be missing facilities, and made to ensure free and fair placement of IT staff and elections in the province. equipment. The Cabinet assured that provision of

detail

placement of human Election Commission reiterating

the provincial said that all resources have ramps at polling stations.

Izhar Bukhari, Hafiz Iqbal Rizvi andPir Azmatullah, and administrative officers attended the ceremony. Archbishop Dr Joseph

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

tion.

Yemen.

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

ing Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) presi-

dential candidate gestures during an election cam-

No functional

hospitals left in

northern Gaza: WHO

paign event in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

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

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

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

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

"We'll allow other war between Israel and talk about their participa- Islamist group Hamas.

The war began on The United States Oct. 7 when Hamas fightlaunched Operation Prosers stormed across the perity Guardian two days Gaza border into southern ago, saying more than a Israel, where Israeli audozen countries had agreed thorities say the militants killed about 1,200 mostly to participate in an effort that will involve joint pacivilian Israelis and fortrols in Red Sea waters near eigners

Israel's retaliatory Each country will con- bombardment and invasion tribute what they can, Ryder said, dubbing it a cials state is aimed at wiping out Hamas, has killed nearly 20,000 Palestinians, "coalition of the willing." "In some cases that "We've had over 20 will include vessels. In other according to health officials

coastal enclave.

in the densely populated, **Diplomatic ties** with US could break down where tearful mourners over asset

grieve for the victims. seizures

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Russia may cut diplomatic ties with the Jnited States if Washington confiscates Russian assets frozen over the Ukrainian war, the Interfax news agency quoted Deputy oreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov as saying on Fri-

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

Monitoring Desk

GENEVA: There are no longer any functional hospitals in the north of the Gaza Strip, the World Health Organisation ers," (WHO) said Thursday, describing "unbea-rable" scenes of largely abandoned patients begging for food and water.

The UN health agency said it had led missions to two badly damaged hospitals, Al Shifa and Al Ahli, in the north of the Palestinian territory on Wednesday.

"Our staff are running relations with the United out of words to describe the States as "below zero" beyond catastrophic situabecause of U.S. military tion facing remaining pati-ents and health workand financial aid for Ukraine in the war now said Richard approaching the end of its Peeper-korn, the WHO second year. representative for the occu-Ryabkov said Russia, pied Palestinian territory.

which sent forces into His comment came Ukraine in February 2022 amid increasingly frantic in what it called a "special diploma-tic efforts to semilitary operation", would cure a pause in the war that not be the one to initiate a Hamas says has already break in diplomatic ties, claimed 20,000 lives in but such a rupture could Gaza, 70 per cent of them be prompted by a variety women and children. of factors



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

Czech police seek motive in Prague mass shooting that killed 15

Monitoring Desk sity on Friday as police PRAGUE: Czech authoripursued the investigation at ties sought a motive on Frithe campus in Prague's hisday in a student's gun attoric centre. tack that killed 15 people at a Prague university,

year-old student, killed himself after the attack, shooting dead 15 people and have left a sea of candles to wounding 25 others.

The gunfire on Thursand their identity. It's 15 day at the Charles University's Faculty of victims of the mad gunman Arts sparked frantic scenes and the gunman himself," of students running from Interior Minister Vit Rakusan told public broadthe attack that was the caster Czech TV, revising Czech Republic's worst down a previous toll of 14 victims. He added that three

A makeshift memorial of hundreds of candles of the wounded were forflickered outside the univereigners.

Japan prepares for missile shipments after easing arms export restrictions

Monitoring Desk TOKYO: Japan said on Fri-

shooting in decades.

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

ment in the Indo-Pacific.

"This holds significant meaning in terms of further strengthening the Japan-U.S. alliance. It will contribute not only to Japan's security but also the peace and stability of the wider Indo-Pacific region," Chief Cabinet Secre-

Although Japan's new export controls still prevent it from shipping weapons to countries that are at war, it may indirectly benefit Ukraine in its war with Russia as it gives the United States extra capacity.

No deal with Turkey on Swedish included "nuclear and stra-NATO bid: Hungary's Orban **Monitoring Desk**

BUDAPEST: There is no

Hungarian-Turkish deal

about the ratification of

North Korea's Kim warns of 'nuclear attack' if 'provoked'

nuclear

attack Pyongyang on the United

But Kim told his

Washington, Seoul and

States or South Korea

would result in the end of

the North Korean regime.

military's missile bureau

"not to hesitate (launching)

even a nuclear attack when

Monitoring Desk SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned Pyongyang will not hesitate to launch a nuclear attack if "provoked with nukes", state media said on Thursday, while Seoul and its allies called for "dialogue without preconditions"

the enemy provokes it with nukes," Pyongyang's offi-cial Korean Central News Kim's warning follows a meeting between Agency said. South Korea and the United States last week in Washington, where they discussed nuclear deterrence in the event of conflict with the North.

Tokyo released a statement shortly afterwards, urging the nuclear-armed country to "stop conducting further provocations and accept The meeting's agenda our call for engaging in substantive dialogue without tegic planning", and the al-



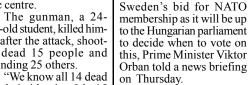
Jordanian journalists denounce the killing of Al Jazeera cameraman Samer Abu Daqqa during a demonstration in front of the broadcaster's office in Amman, Jordan.

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

ited self-ruled Taiwan in WASHINGTON: The top August 2022.

U.S. military officer held a virtual meeting with his Chinese counterpart on Thursday, the Pentagon said, in the first such conversation in over a year amid hopes by U.S. officials that it could lead to a broader restoration of ties between the two militaries. The video teleconference followed an agreement between U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping last month to resume military-to-military ties severed by Beijing after then-House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi vis-

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



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

in no rush to ratify Sweden's NATO accession.

Turkiye detains 304 over Islamic State ties

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

The majority of the suspects were detained in Turkiye's three biggest cities of Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir. Yerlikava said on social messaging platform X. He said the operation, "Op eration Heroes-34".

tary Yoshimasa Hayashi said following the announcement.

Saturday December 23, 2023

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

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

The Forum saw the unfolding of several key events, including the CPEC Golden Anchor Awarding Ceremony, the launch of the CPEC Media Forum Balochistan Initiative, and

Pakistan research paper, and people from all sectors, the unveiling of its Joint China-Pakistan relations Statement. The Forum comhave grown in depth in remenced with Cui Jun, Presicent years and bilateral codent of China Economic Net, operation in various fields reading out a congratulatory has yielded fruitful results. letter from Sun Weidong,

Vice Minister of Foreign friendship and collaboration, Affairs of China. it added, media profession-The letter stated,"Under als of both countries were

the strategic guidance of the expected to undertake sigleaders of the two countries nificant responsibilities and

> **Bilawal condemns** firing incident in

South Waziristan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pa-

kistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Friday strongly condemned the killing of

five labourers in firing at the

under-construction police station in South Waziristan.

a statement, demanded that

the incident should be in-

vestigated and the accused

brought to book immedi-

pressed sympathy and soli-darity with the families of

martyred workers. Meanwhile, President

of Pakistan Peoples Party

Parliamentarians Asif Ali

grief over the killing of five

The PPP chairman, in

. Bilawal Bhutto ex-

BEIJING (APP): The 8th the Perceptions on CPEC in and the care and support of tasks. The positive role of CPEC in Pakistan was echoed by Murtaza Solangi, Caretaker Federal Minister for Information & Broadcasting, who stated that the economic corridor "has To further strengthen transformed Pakistan's socioeconomic landscape, ad-

dressing a dire energy crisis and crumbling infrastructure, has generated 236,000 jobs since 2013.

Pakistan's Living Indus Ini-

tiative has been selected as

the World Restoration Flag-

ship of the United Nations

Decade on Ecosystem Res-

the United Nations Envi-

ronment Programme

(UNEP), Inger Andersen

announced the ground-

Executive Director of

toration.

(CPO).

in recent days.

police's commitment ex-

at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Pakistan's Living Indus Zaradri, Sharif families to field Initiative recognized as World next generation **Restoration Flagship by UN** in elections 2024 ISLAMABAD (APP):

of hectares in the Indus LAHORE (INP): The next generation of the two po-River basin, a critical ecolitical families, Zaradri and system supporting 90% of Sharif, are gearing up to contest February 8, 2024 Pakistan's population and driving a significant portion elections. of its economy, earned it the Maryam Nawaz, the

prestigious recognition. daughter of former prime Developed jointly by the Ministry of Climate minister Nawaz Sharif, will contest elections for Punjab Change and Environmental Assembly from five con-Coordination, provincial austituencies. It may be re-called that People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhuttothorities, and the UN system, the Living Indus Initiative represents a collabora-Zardari who used to contive effort to uplift the envitest elections from Larkana, ronmental and health condihas decided to run from tions of the Indus Basin. Its Lahore this time and filed holistic approach addresses nomination papers for Nathe ecological challenges tional Assembly constitufaced by the fragile basin due ency NA-128.

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

Gilani, Dehr, **Dogar submit** nomination papers

MULTÂN (ÎNP): Former Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani and former MNAs Abdul Ghaffar Dogar and Ali Musa Gilani submitted nomination papers on Friday

The former PM and MNA Ahmad Hussain Dehar submitted papers for NA-148 from PPP and PML-N respectively, whereas Abdul Ghaffar Dogar and Ali Musa Gilani filed their nominees for NA-151 from PML-N and PPP respectively.

Meanwhile, former PTI's leader Akhtar Malik, Iqbal Siraj, Syed Babar Shah, Iqbal Siraj, Arshad Ran and Malik Anwar also submitted their papers for different constituencies of Punjab Assembly, added the source. It's important to note that Election Commission had extended the date for submitting the papers for two days.

Mosques can play role in preventing diseases: President

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

preventing diseases.

Chairing a meeting re-

garding the importance of

the mosques in creating

awareness about health is-

sues, the president said that

during the corona virus, the

religious scholars and

Imams (prayer leaders)

played an important role in

preventing spread of the

virus. The meeting was at-

tended by Caretaker Fed-

eral Health Minister Dr

Nadeem Jan, Caretaker

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Reli-President Dr Arif Alvi on gious Affairs Aneeq Ahmed, Friday said that the provincial representatives mosques and pulpits could and senior officials. play an important role in

President Alvi pointed out that the community participation could also reduce the burden of disease on the health system.

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

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



KARACHI: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman talks with media persons after submits nomination papers for constituencies NA-246 to Returning Officer for participate in General Election, in Karachi.

Expensive electricity problem for masses, punishment for industry: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chair- of electricity in the public man of National Business and industrial sectors was Group Pakistan, President continuously decreasing of Pakistan Businessmen but regardless of consumpand Intellectuals Forum, tion, the government has to and All Karachi Industrial pay capacity payments to Alliance, and former pro- power producers, increas-

SC approves bail pleas of PTI founder, Qureshi ISLAMABAD (Online): Tariq Masood remarked Supreme Court (SC) has

LARKANA: President PPP Sindh. Senator Nisar

Ahmad Khuhro submits his nomination form from

PS 11 to returning officer for upcoming General

Cipher case:

approved bail plea of founder PTI and Shah Mehmood Qureshi against surety bonds of Rs 10 lac each in cipher case.

Election 2024.

Athar Justice Minallah has remarked offence has not been proved against founder PTI and he is innocent.

Acting Chief Justice recorded statements of 12 of Pakistan (CJP) Sardar witnesses in haste

PTA cautions public about deceptive links Urges vigilance & use of official *platforms for services*

ISLAMABAD (APP): The given link. Alternatively, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has cautioned the public against phishing, and fraudulent links circulating on Whatsapp, social media, and through text messages, falsely claiming to be associated with PTA's

tics are designed to trick in-Device Identification Regisdividuals into clicking on tration & Blocking System malicious links, compro-(DIRBS). mising their personal infor-

mation. The public has

Zardari also expressed his Shah Mehmood was wise person. He saved himself Terming it a "very bru-tal act", he called for bringand asked founder PTI to read cipher. A 3-member bench of

another message warned

that the user's phone regis-

tration will be suspended

unless they visit the pro-

vided link, according to a

news release.

ing the terrorists and plan-SC presided over by Actners involved in the killing ing CJP Sardar Tariq of workers to justice. Masood took up the bail pleas for hearing Friday. Counsel for PTI

Kundi submits nomination papers, founder said trial court has

laborers

ately

optimistic to victorious against

opponents DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Faisal karim kundi, a former Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Central Information Secretary on Friday submitted his nomination

papers for the general elections set to take place on February 8, 2024. Kundi, appearing in person at the returning

officer's office along with These deceptive tachis supporters, filed his nomination papers for NA 44 (DIKhan -I).

Speaking to media persons after filing his papers, Kundi said this time PPP

breaking achievement in a letter addressed to Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, a news release said The Living Indus Initiative stood out among

more than 150 applications and garnered support from over 70 governments worldwide. The Initiative's dedication to restoring millions tation strategies.

to climate change, with a set of 25 measures emphasizing nature-based solutions

and ecosystem-based adap-

IGP holds meeting with Karachi CCA

KARACHI (APP): Inspecpeace; it includes safetor General of Police (IGP) guarding life, property, honour, and dignity. He Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar Raja, held a meeting on Friday emphasized the importance with a six-member delegaof effective, coordinated tion from the Karachi operations to ensure the Goods Carrier Association, protection of citizens. led by Noor Khan Niazi, at

IGP Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar Raja, issued directhe Central Police Office tives to establish a coordi-During the meeting, the nation committee with delegation conveyed their AIGP Operations Sheeraz satisfaction with the law and Nazeer as the focal person, order situation in the provaiming to strengthen and ince, according to a spokesenhance the cooperation beman for Sindh Police. They tween transporters and the commended the proactive police, ensuring future intermeasures taken by the poactions are robust and efficient. The meeting was at-tended by AIGP Admin and AIGP Operations, with DIGP Hyderabad, lice, expressing gratitude for the successful recovery of a cargo vehicle stolen in Malir In response, IGP SSP Naushero Feroz, th conveyed that the and Shaheed Sindh conveyed that the and

Benazirabad participat-

the rounds purports to be an official communication, stating that the user's SIM is found to be involved in suspicious activities" and that the user should check the number of SIMs at the

Regional Head Federal Ombudsman held open court in Larkana

SEPCO

LARKANA (APP): On the SEPCO Larkana, R.O special directives of Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, Regional Head Federal Ombudsman at Sukkur Syed Mehmood Ali Shah heard complaints against Sukkur Electric Supply Company (SPECO) and Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) in open court held at the Provincial Ombudsman's Office, on Friday. Officer

Revenue



HYDERABAD: Writer and intellectual Wasatullah Khan, Nazir Leghari, Hussain Khan, Riaz Sohail on stage in a session during 9th Ayaz Mela at Sindh Museum.

Sindh Madressah University to organise 6 International Conferences

opment, the Faculty of

ence on Re-Imagining

Applied Linguistics and

Faculty of Education its

KARACHI (APP): Sindh ence on Green and Sus-Madressatul Islam Univertainable Environment, sity (SMIU) has decided to the Faculty of Social Sciences its 2nd Interna-tional Conference on organise six International Conferences during 2nd Media and Social Devel-Global Research Congress scheduled on February 28 Language and Culture its and 29 2024. According to a statement issued here by 2nd International Conferthe university's media department, international conferences will be held on the sideline of the Global Research Congress-24.

2nd International Confer-Among these conence on Teacher Educaferences the Faculty of tion for Sustainable De-Information Technology velopment and the Facwill organize the 3rd Inulty of Management, Busiternational Conference ness Administration & on Computing and Re-Commerce will organize its 3rd International Conlated Technologies, the Faculty of Sciences its ference on Management, 2nd International Confer- Business and Leadership.

been urged to refrain from step into the election race clicking on links from unwith the backing of the known numbers/senders area's two esteemed politiand report such phone cal families including numbers/links for blocking Miankhel and Makhdoom through PTA's complaint at Dera Ismail Khan to semanagement system. cure stunning victory

ECP takes notice of PTI's reservations on 'level

playing field' Kambar-SLAMABAD (INP): The Shahdadkot, Executive Engi-Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has taken neer (Rural) SEPCO and other related officers, while on benotice of Pakistan Tehreekhalf of Sui Southern Gas Come-Insaf's (PTI) reservapany (SSGC), Deputy Chief tions regarding the lack of a Manager Larkana, other oflevel playing field in the ficers of SSGC Larkana and run-up to upcoming general petitioners also appeared elections, scheduled for February 8, 2024. The electoral watchand presented their issues against SEPCO and SSGC including complaints of

dog has sent a letter to provincial election commis-

sioners, chief secretaries and inspector-generals (IGs), ordering them to remove PTI's complaints about mishandling of its candidates and facing difficulties in filing nomination papers. "The ECP has re-

ceived complaints about obstacles in electoral process, including subnission of nomination papers"

Suspected street criminal arrests in injured condition HYDERABAD (APP): Hyderabad Police arrested

stand why drugs are being a suspected criminal in an used, there are many sociinjured condition after the etal reasons, and the lack of alleged encounter. rehabilitation centers is also The police spokesman one of the reasons that figsaid that during patrolling, ures of drug addicts are on there was an encounter bethe rise

HEJ Auditorium.

tween the police and armed ence that Gutka is also a street criminals near the type of drug but society Islamabad phatak. does not consider it as a drug Meanwhile, as a result of two-way firing, one of which is a matter of conthe 2 armed accused on a cern, we will make center

motorcycle was arrested along with his weapon in an injured condition. The detained injured

suspect, identified as Saraj Language Practices, the Qureshi, was promptly transferred to the hospital for medical care. According to police sources, the arrested individual is associated with an active street criminal gang. Further investigations have started and efforts have been expedited to capture the fugitive accomplice.

tends beyond maintaining ing through a video link



KARACHI: Leader of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Farooq Sattar submit nomination papers to contest for the upcoming general elections at Regional Offices in Provincial Capital.

KU conference on substance abuse prevention program intervention in HEIs

"We have completely KARACHI (APP): The Institute of Clinical Psyforgotten Islamic teachings chology of the University on drugs. Religious scholof Karachi on Friday orgaars are not providing adnized a one-day national equate awareness for drug conference on "substance prevention. Vape and elecuse prevention and treattronic cigarettes are against ment: bridging the gap beour social values, it is also a tween research and pracform of addiction, and it is tice" (ICP-NCSUPT-2023), Local Challenge more dangerous than smoking cigarettes.' Dr Saad Niaz shared

Fund (LCF) by the Higher Education Commission, that the role of media is also Pakistan and supported by World Bank held at KU's very important for the prevention of drugs, there should be a program on it Addressing the inauin the morning shows regugural session, the chief guest larly. Regional Directorate of the national conference, Commander, RD ANF the provincial health min-Sindh Brig Umar Farooq ister Dr Saad Khalid Niaz mentioned that ANF Sindh said that we need to underseized six metric tons of drugs in 2023, which are worth 81 million dollars in the international market, and arrested 252 traffickers this year. Another guest of

honor, the Chairman of the He informed the audi-Sindh Mental Health Authority Senator Dr Karim Ahmed Khawaja said that urged that we have to look at the possible way forward to prevent the use of substances in society. of excellence in universities.



vincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that expensive electricity has become a problem for the people and a punishment for the industry.

Talking to business community on Friday, he ment, and income will be said that the consumption adversely affected.

OGRA hikes **RLNG** price by \$1.41 per MMBTŨ

ISLAMABAD (Online): Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has issued notification of the hiking of the price of re-gasified liquefied natural gas (RLNG).

According to issued notification, the price of RLNG has been in-creased by \$1.41 per MMBTU.

The prices of RLNG have been increased by \$1.31 per MMBTU for Sui Northern Gas Company while the prices of RLNG have been increased by \$1.41 per MMBTU for Sui Southern.

RLNG price for Sui Northern has been set at \$14.81 per MMBTU.

RLNG price for Sui Southern has been set at \$15.45 per MMBTU.

Crackdown against transporters for overcharging

HYDERABAD (APP): On the directives of Deputy Commissioner Tariq Qureshi, Secretary RTA Hyderabad Region Saleem Memon took major action against the transporters charging excessive fares to passengers near Bhatai Nagar flyover. During this action, 61 passenger vehicles travelling between Hyderabad and Karachi were stopped and checked.

Secretary RTA in-quired about fares from Prof. Ikram Din Ujjan while passengers and imposed presiding over the meeting, heavy fines on 16 transsaid that after a prolonged period of seven years, the Senate meeting is taking place. porters charging excessive fares, while passengers in 24 vehicles were refunded over 47,400 rupees. convened by LUMHS was

Secretary RTA on December 29, 2016. During this period, LUMHS has Hyderabad Region, Saleem made significant progress, introducing several new aca-Memon, mentioned in a statement that despite reductions in diesel and petrol demic programs, establishing the Bilawal Medical College, prices, some transporters continue to overcharge paslaunching the College of Technology and most recently exsengers

ing the losses of this inefficient sector while reducing production.

Mian Zahid Hussain warned that if electricity rates were not reduced production, exports, employ-

SSP Keamari dismisses 9 officials for crimes, 2 for absenteeism

KARACHI (APP): Senior show-cause notices were Superintendent of Police (SSP) Arif Aslam Rao of District Keamari has terminated nine officials linked to drug, gutka/mawa smuggling, and other organized crimes, along with two officials due to consistent absenteeism.

served to those implicated in the inquiry, leading to decisions made after hearings in an orderly room on Friday.

In total, 22 police officers and officials appeared before SSP Keamari during the proceedings.

The directives in-Following the issuance of show-cause notices cluded the dismissal of 11 to the dismissed individuofficials, service forfeiture als, an inquiry, conducted for eight, halting the increby the authorized officer, ment of two, and ordering a re-inquiry for one official.



Ujjan addressing during 14th Senate Meeting at LUMHS Jamshoro.

LUMHS Senate meeting held after seven years, highlighted important achievements HYDERABAD (APP): The

panding the Thatta campus. He further added that 14th Senate meeting of Liaquat University of Mediduring this period 15 meetcal and Health Sciences ings of the syndicate, 14 (LUMHS), Jamshoro, was held on Friday after a hiatus

The Vice Chancellor

The last Senate session

of seven years.

meetings of academic council, 17 meetings of the advance studies and research board, 09 meetings of the finance & planning committee were held, whereas 14 meetings of the selection board were also conducted. According to a state-

ment issued by the media coordinator to VC-LUMHS, Dr. Ujjan further informed that the University has launched Executive MBA Program and has established collaboration with Silicon Valley California USA, 29 Students of the first batch got a chance of training program.

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah printed at Dhoom Printing Press Building No. RY/9/11/6X11/7, Mashoor Mahal, Off: I. I. Chundrigar Road, Karachi and Published from Room # 44, 3rd Floor, Handicraft Building, Abdullah Haroon Road, Saddar, Karachi Cell No. 0300-3898091 E-mail: dailyindkhi@gmail.com, khi.editor@gmail.com



Mr. Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani Chairman Senate

but have resounded in in-

ternational markets, making

us all immensely proud. It

is with great respect and admiration that we ac-

knowledge the high achiev-

ers of this year. The FPCCI

Achievement Awards are

not mere accolades but a

recognition of the remark-

able journeys, relentless

determination, and innova-

tive ventures that have set

these individuals and

organisations apart. Earning

this prestigious award un-

derscores their exemplary

contributions and places

them among the elite in both

Pakistan and abroad. Such

recognitions are pivotal.

They not only celebrate

success but also motivate

the broader business com-

munity to aspire, innovate,

and contribute more pro-

foundly to the socio-economic

fabric of Pakistan. It is through

these accomplishments and

the continuous encourage-

ment from platforms like

FPCCI that we pave the

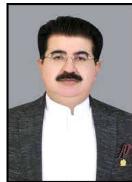
way for a more prosperous

and progressive future for

our nation. May the laurels

of today inspire many more

success stories tomorrow.



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

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



and may the FPCCI continue its commendable work in spearheading Pakistan's economic journey. We all know that Pakistan has unique location and talented people, but the platforms to recognize the services of these people are

organizing of achievement

award is really praisewor-

thy. Such important Award



reaching international mar-kets and I commend them market.

The Federation of Pakistan will play a role to boost the Chambers of Commerce & confidence of people in Industry (FPCCI) is orgamarketing their activities. nizing the 11th FPCCI Every successful nation al-Achievement Awards to ways wants the quick conrecognize the outstanding vergence of the country performance of individuals which is possible only in and firms for enhancing the that condition when couninsignia of Pakistan. As we tries adopt export led know that, in knowledge growth and investment-led drive global culture and hugrowth policies for comman development, progrespetitiveness, diversification sive nations atheistically and value addition. 1 am search for new ideas, confident that this event people, talents creative will open up a new vista of plans innovative methods fresh opportunities and to renovate the old and obgreatly help in promoting solete systems and infratrue image of Pakistan structure with new passion which need bareness at sigand ambitions for a better nificant level.

I congratulate to all valfuture. In the era of globalization and economic inteiant winners for their dedigration the issues of sociocated efforts which are economic development is highly admirable and it is one of the category of my conviction that our FPCCI's achievements people will perform better in future too to accelerate

Despite all challenges the progress of Pakistan's like infrastructure, lack of economy which is the need knowledge creating activiof the time. I congratulate ties and educational and all the awardees, and conhealth backwardness, our vey my best wishes to the people are still competitive organizers for the success in marketing their talent in of the ceremony.

ity products.

FPCCI is making vig-

orous efforts to promote

our businesses, and the

Awards represent but one

thering the trade and indus-

try interests of the coun-

try. In the wake of the nu-

merous crises confronting

our country, strong exports

are the need of the hour

Despite the problems of

law and order and power

crisis, Pakistan's business

community has remained

steadfast to increase the

exports potential of Paki-

stan and exploiting the new

market for diversification of

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

Haji Ghulam Ali Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

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

plays vital role in the economy by creating jobs, providing goods services, and stimulating economic growth. It is also an important source of tax revenue for governments. Indeed the individuals and organizations of industrial sector not only collaborate with governments to gain access

It is heartening to know that to resources and develop the Federation of Pakistan new products but also en-Chambers of Commerce able government to invest and Industry (FPCCI) is in infrastructure and other organizing the 11th FPCCI important projects. Con-Achievement Awards, to gratulate all award winners strengthen the confidence of for their dedicated efforts. Pakistani individuals and It is my firm belief that our organizations who perindividuals and organizaformed exceptionally in tions will perform even bettheir respective fields and ter future to accelerate the pace of Pakistan's I am pleased to learn that FPCCI's Achievement pace economy. Award has generated fair

I would like to convey my best wishes to the President of FPCCI, Mr. competition amongst individuals and organizations Irfan Iqbal Sheikh and his and boosts their dynamism, entire team for organizing which will lead Pakistan to the Award successfully the road of self-reliance. with this hope that FPCCI Economic development, will continue its efforts by open trade and social emanway of providing marketcipation always take place ing opportunities to individuin those countries where als and organizations both creativity, freedom of thoughts and actions are at home and abroad.

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



Syed Mehdi Shah **Governor Gilgit-Baltistan**



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



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

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



ages the entrepreneurs not only to play more vibrant role in the socio-economic development but also provides an opportunity for organisations and individuals to gain fresh ideas to improve their performance by learning the best practices of finalists and winners I am quite optimistic that FPCCI will continue to support commendable activities of recognizing and admiring high achievers, which surely motivates and encourages individuals and organizations to further explore creativity and skills that propel them to achieve even higher goals. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of FPCCI, its President Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Office Bearers and the Executive Committee Members, for holding this extraordinary event. Your support allows the winners to gain the recognition they de-I congratulate all the award winners on their achievements and wish them continued success in future. It is a pleasure to be in the company of so many high-achieving organisations and individuals.



sectors.

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

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

role in motivating the corporate sector of any country to reach out to new heights of excellence. In an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world, Apex trade bodies play a vital role in both national and international affairs and make significant contributions that benefit society at large, from spurring economic growth to promot-

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

their profile and reputation

award winners and their

achievements despite the

challenges faced by the busi-

ness community in Pakistan

are highly commendable.

This speaks of their dedica-

tion, devotion and commit-

ment to their business inter-

ests and valuable contribu-

tion towards Pakistan's

vener and Members of the

Awards Committee, the Se-

nior Vice President, Vice

laurels

I thank my team, Con-

The performances of

among all circles.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh **President FPCCI**

plishment.



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

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

ceremonies play a major am pleased to know that following its past tradition, the FPCCI is organizing

awards

the 11th FPCCI Achievement Awards to confer awards to the leading entrepreneurs of Pakistan in recognition of their exceptional performance this year.

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

I commend the endeavors of Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI and his entire team on hold ing the Awards ceremony for recognizing the efforts of entrepreneurs and also appreciate the contribution congratulate the award

the

exports

winners and wish them of the private entrepreneurs for promoting the image of greater success in the fu-the country through qual-Mr. Rizwan Ahmed Bhatti

> increasing both quality and quantity of our manufac-

who have achieved highest level of performance. FPCCI is undoubtedly playing a crucial role in promoting export-oriented industry in Pakistan, and the Achievement Awards motivate businesspersons to

prosperity.

in the future.

formance, and look forward

to their continued success

Presidents, Coordinators, the Secretary General of Chambers of Commerce FPCCI and his team for and Industry (FPCCI) is their dedication and hard organizing its 11th Achievework put in organizing this ment Awards in order to event. I am confident the honor the business houses Achievement Award will who have made an outmotivate and encourage othstanding contribution toers to put in more efforts wards Pakistan's business into their respective areas of performance.

interest and come out with outstanding achievements cation offers our manufacwhich will not only reward turers a great opportunity them but will also serve trade to serve the markets in the and economic interests of region, provided they have the Pakistan. I congratulate exportable surplus of manuall the Award Winners and factures. We should, therewish them a continued success in their endeavors, with methods and the public pri-



facet of the complex role played by FPCCI in fur-I am glad to learn that the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) is organizing the 11th FPCCI Achievement Awards to pay tribute to the proficient and bright people and organization who have performed well in the field of trade. industry, economic, science, academia, research and development, commercial and socio-economic development. The institution of Achievement Awards is one of the praiseworthy contri-

I also wish to reiterate butions of FPCCI towards the the Government's resolve promotion of merit and experto facilitate the business tise and serves to provide reccommunity in their efforts ognition to the unfaltering memto boost Pakistan's trade bers and organization of the and playing greater role in Pakistani Community. development of In this era of competicountry's economy. tion, there is a dire need that

we recognize the motivate the services of individuals and organization whose are tinue their efforts for the performing well in their area prosperity of our country.



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

dedication these individuals In these circumstances, due recognition of exporthave built efficient & comoriented industry through mercial organizations that events such as the Achievecontribute to the economic ment Awards provides ingrowth and development of dustrialists with the encourthe communities in which agement to continue their they serve. The instituting of FPCCI Achievement efforts to put Pakistan on the road to growth and Awards is a great initiative of FPCCI to further moti-I congratulate President vate the star performers un-FPCCI and all FPCCI der the prevailing conditions when global economy is Achievement Award Winners on their excellent perslow down and affecting our

> economic progress. Pakistan economy, particularly industry, agricul-

in other nations to the prosperity and development of the nation.

of interest to boost the

economy by devising strat-

egies that give us an edge over

our competitors. These

bright people are not only

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

I extend my warm felicitations to the president FPCCI and his team for organizing such a prestigious event and also on bringing out an impressive souvenir on this occasion. I also extend my felicitations to the FPCCL Achievement Awards Winners on their excellent performance and

hope that they will con-

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

> ture and services are increasingly exposed to serious challenges of competitiveness. In order to improve the competitiveness, there is immediate need to work on relevant indicators as with current performance, Paki-

stan cannot ideally compete and fetch a good share in the international market. Competitiveness is key for Pakistan's Industry. In today era, it is impossible to compete in global market without being productive and efficient. I hope that the export awards would serve to encourage a healthy competition in all sectors of economy improving productivity, harnessing new markets and meeting the international challenges.

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

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

that the private sector plays a pivotal role in the country's economic growth and helps ensuring the policies are broad-based and are being followed by business sector. I truly admire FPCCI's contributions to promote activities in the field of trade, industry and business sector of Pakistan

while organizing such events and honouring companies and individuals who are making life easier by providing quality products and services

FPCCI Achievement Awards certainly encour-

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



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

ports and imports for the benefit of all trading parties. Innovation, technological advancement and policy framework have historically proven to be the primary reason behind the enhancement of export. Unfortunately, Pakistan is behind the other countries in innovation, technological advancement and consistent Policies during the recent decades. Despite above handicaps, Export Process-Zones Authority (EPZA) has taken measures

to boost exports and facilitate Foreign Direct Investment (FDIs) in its established Zones in the country, hence achieved export growth in the FY 2019-20 US\$ 638.022 million, FY 2020-21 US\$ 974.600 million and FY 2021-22 US\$ 934.997 through manufacturing Sector. EPZA is trying its best to enhance its share in the national exports. EPZA efforts have resulted

in the cumulative exports of US\$ 11,875.00 million till the end of FY 2022-23. There is a dire

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

the country. 4. Last but not least, I congratulate all the award winners for their commendable performance and wish them success in future.



I am glad to know that the Federation of Pakistan achieve ambitious business targets

Pakistan's strategic lo-

fore, adopt innovative vate partnership model for



Daily soice of Masse Independent

Evaluating the viability of trade agreements

Page В

non-traditional sectors such

as leather, rice, dates, man-

goes, cutlery, sports goods,

seafood, processed agricul-

tural products, rubber tubes

and tires, plastics, and engi-

neering goods. While Turkey

has been granted concessions

on 130 tariff lines, including

products such as black tea,

processed food products and

flavorings, industrial raw ma-

ery, and parts of electronic

equipment. akistan exports

to Türkiye was expanding

rapidly till the imposition of

duties by Türkiye Authori-

ties. However, after strong

advocacy by business com-

munity the two countries

agreed to sign FTA instead

PTA, both countries now

trading under agreement on

trade in goods. Volume of

trade between Pakistan and

Karachi

11th FPCCI Achievement Awards

Creating employment through entrepreneurship



Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI

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

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

households, thus reducing of generational improvecrime rates related to unemployment. It has proven with time that employees employment, the country's in entrepreneurial ventures middle class will grow, setget access to mentorship ting it on the path of from the entrepreneur and hands-on work experience, both of which empower oped one. them with skills they can use to further their ambitions in life. Countries in the

Pakistan's economy, conworld with better entrepretributing about 18-20% of the GDP and the employer neurial infrastructure such as readily available finance, of millions of people enconducive governmental gaged by the industry. Re-

| | | PAKISTAN | | |
|------|---|--|---|---|
| Year | Number of female business directors | Number of male business directors | Share of female business directors | Share of male business directors |
| 2014 | 2,259 | 9,968 | 18.5% | 81.5% |
| 2015 | 2,167 | 11,757 | 15.6% | 84.4% |
| 2016 | 2,705 | 13,839 | 16.4% | 83.6% |
| 2017 | 3,440 | 18,613 | 15.6% | 84.4% |
| 2018 | 3,950 | 23,572 | 14.4% | 85.6% |
| 2019 | 4,554 | 28,293 | 13.9% | 85.1% |
| 2020 | 5,612 | 34,619 | 13.9% | 86.1% |
| Wor | ld Bank En | trepreneu | rship Datal | oase |

policies, and healthy indus- tail, one of the principal sectrial infrastructure boast a tors of entrepreneurship, is better quality of life and going through a transition prosperity. phase in Pakistan and the Êntrepreneurship is

world over. Most of the not only a solution to unstructured retailing in Pakiemployment; it can be a stan has started recently and road map to a better life. is engaged mainly in urban Generating employment on

areas. a micro-level is a key to na-The retail sector likely tional economics on a macro touches you as a citizen evlevel. It is a universal truth ery day, possibly multiple that employed people will times a day. From promispend more, thus, giving a nent fashion brands to footboost to the country's gross wear and groceries and food domestic product. They will and fuel, retail transactions also contribute to national are what an average indiexchequer by paying taxes, vidual goes through every and by doing so, contribute day. Pakistan has around 2 to a country's national inmillion retailers, of which come, are more likely to save 0.8 million represent the and invest to make larger FMCG modern trade and asset purchases in the fugeneral trade channels, inture. The people on a more cluding kiryanas, general stable financial footing are stores, medical stores, sualso more likely to send their permarkets, hypermarkets, creating a more balanced and allows other people to sup- children to educational insti- etc. and expected to show resilient economy.

port themselves and their tutions, setting off a chain an annual growth rate households, thus reducing of generational improve- (CAGR 2023-2028) of 16.58%, resulting in a proments in quality of life. As jected market volume of more and more people gain US\$300.80m by 2028. In Pakistan developing the retail sector as entrepreneurship can be a key driver of transitioning from a developing country to a develjob creation and employment growth, and for good The retail sector is the reason. Starting a business third largest contributor to

is not an easy task, but it can lead to significant benefits, both for the individual entrepreneur and the economy as a whole. By providing new products, services, and innovations to the market, entrepreneurs can stimulate economic growth and create new job opportunities. Entrepreneurship can create more and more jobs both directly and indirectly and can affect employment growth overall depending on the facilities provided by the government declaring the retail sector as an industry. In developing entrepreneurship in the country, it is necessary to promote technical education rather than conventional education. To extend entrepreneurship to all fields of study in vocational education it should be linked with practical training in specific fields of study with the objective of entrepreneurship, and provide support for students interested in starting up a

business Trade bodies and business associations should take steps to promote partnerships between Technical Vocational Institutions and enterprises and motivate more business people to get involved in entrepreneurship education to promote economic diversification in Pakistan. By encouraging the establishment of businesses in different sectors entrepreneurs reduce reliance on a single industry

Regional Trade: a tool for economic development

PAKISTAN



many restrictive policies are still in place. After the passing of three decades,

By Suleman Chawla

Senior Vice President, FPCCI

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

YEAR EXPORTS

63.6

22.7

24.0

50.7

110.8

Trade in Goods Agreement,

Trade & Investment Frame-

work Agreement between

Pakistan and USA and

Agreement on South Asian

Free Trade Area. Recently,

Pakistan is also negotiating

differ in scope and nature

and unfortunately inad-

equately utilized to produce

desired results instead con-

tributed in imbalance in Pa-

kistan trade. Pakistan's ex-

port is significantly low then

All these agreements are

FTA with GCC.

97.4

126.6

123.7

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

that, although theory of bal- a total of 311 tariff lines on ket for 261 tariff lines covequilibrium in trade has significance when economy is facing contraction. However, during expansion of the economy industrial demand for input material need to be satisfied. One of the major impediments has been the concerns of the domestic industry in Pakistan that feels threatened from the competition of Chinese products. The public sector is also

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

Pak - Iran PTA became operational in September 2006. When this PTA began during 2006 the total trade between Pakistan and Iran

ance of trade has become ir- preferential rates. It included ering traditional as well as relevant under the new edible palm oil products, phase of global trade but sugar confectionary, cocoa products, consumer goods, chemicals, tableware, kitchenware, rubber products, wood products, glassware products and electronic products. Pakistan has offered the same preferential treatment on edible palm oil products from Indonesia as provided to Malaysia under Pakistan Malaysia Free terials and parts of machin-Trade Agreement. Prior to the PTA volume

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

Pakistan Uzbekistan signed a Prefer-

ential Trade Agreement (PTA) in March 2022 be-

Türkiye has seen significant growth after implementation of the agreement. Current volume of bilateral two way trade is US\$1.3 billion in which share of Pakistan's exports is US \$ 432 million while

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

Agreement Pakistan being the signatory of the various international protocols/agreements has granted transit trade facilities. Afghanistan Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement was signed in 1965 and has been modified accordingly. Similarly, The Agreement between Tajikistan and Pakistan had been negotiated and finalized, covering trade and transit of goods by road and rail along with customs procedures, largely on the template of Transit Trade Agreement between Pakistan and Uzbekistan, which was a comprehensive agreement, implemented since March 2022.

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

While Pakistan's exports mainly depending on USA's market (19% shares), Transit trading partner, but followed by China (8%

imports. Surprisingly, in some cases Pakistan's imports have increased manifold from its FTAs/PTAs partners The low utilization and

trade deficit indicates failures of receiving potential benefits from partners under agreements.

EXPORT OF OF TRADE PAKISTAN 23,778.6 343 23,818.8 (71.1) (73.3) 22,245.7 28,880.0 (75.9) (12.9)31,175.9

lion in which Pakistan exports to Iran is US \$781 million while Iran exports to Pakistan is US \$ 1363 mil-

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

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

0.1 45,841.7 73,106.6 0.2 04 71,104.7 tween

2021

TOTAL % SHARE % SHARE IMPORTS INTOTAL INTOTAL OF IMPORTS EXP. PAKISTAN 60,391.1 0.0 0.3 0.1 50,511.0 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.2 Pakistan and Uzbekistan covering a total of thirty-four goods. The

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

under the PTA. In order to compliance international treaty and rights of the landlocked countries, Pakistan has also given transit trade facility via its ports to Uzbekistan un-

der Transit Trade Agreement which was signed in Though Pakistan and Uzbekistan are PTA and

was US \$ 638 million and Preferential Trade Agreewas showing expansionary ment Pakistan-Türkiye trend as Pak- Iran bilateral PARKERANES TRADE WHELE WARDERS FAW (MILLION USS) TOTAL BALANCE TOTAL IMPORTS TRADE 29.3 93.0 93.8

116.4 121.4 177.4 234.5 trade was US \$ 366 million during 2002-03. However, current volume of bilateral trade has significantly increased to US \$ 2144 mil-



SAARC CCI

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

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

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

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

ghanistan

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

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

Despite its strategic geographical location, Pakistan has yet to leverage this try liberalized its trade policies to some extent although to its trade advantage. The

fully implemented in Pakistan due to complex relations with neighbouring countries but other SAFTA member countries have integrated their economies and benefitted greatly from this collaboration. Same as the Economic Cooperation Organization Trade Agreement (ECOTA) was signed in 2003, but after passing of many years, it has yet to become fruitful for Pakistan. While other countries in the region have allowed the movement of goods by country straddles a key acceding to the TIR Contrade route between the envention (which works unergy-rich countries of westder an international guaranern and central Asia and tee system and facilitates those in South Asia with a high demand for energy. the movement of trucks and containers), Pakistan has Pakistan's three seaports yet to follow suit. Similar i.e. Karachi. Port Oasim. setback to Pakistan's integration with regional trade shortest routes linking Afblocs has been its failure to China. put into effect the various Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to the rest regional transit agreements to which it is a signatory. The only operational of the world. At present. agreement is the Afghanihowever, hardly any transtan Pakistan Transit and sit trade passes through these Pakistani ports despite the fact that all these

Trade Agreement, but since its implementation in 2011. most of Afghanistan's trancountries would benefit sit trade (which was previgreatly from lower trade and ously routed through Pakistan) has been diverted to Pakistan is a signatory Iranian ports because of the to two very important recomplex provisions and gional trade agreements the procedures outlined in the South Asia Free Trade agreement. This is unfortu-Agreement (SAFTA) and nate, given that Pakistan's the Economic Cooperation ports could provide Central Organization Trade Agreement (ECOTA). However, Asia the shortest overland both are of little service to route to sea, and there is tremendous export poten-Pakistan as any normal tial amor trading arrangements with markets the members of these blocs have yet to be established. agreeme perienc The SAFTA was signed in 2006 but unfortunately, rapid de Pakistan allowed only a of econ countrie limited number of trade in the d items under its positive list. In March 2012, the counsions, as ofecond tions be

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

Critical evaluation the SAFTA has not been these agreements is discussed below to emphasize reviewing and cautious ap proach while setting suc agreements.

Pak - China FTA: Volume of bilateral trac

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

sides. The tariff concessions committed by Pakistan in

| | | | | (Million 0.5 | Φ) | | | |
|------|----------------|---------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| YEAR | <i>EXPORTS</i> | IMPORTS | TOTAL TRADE | BALANCE OF TRADE | TOTAL EXPORT OF PAKISTAN | % SHARE IN TOTAL EXP. | TOTAL IMPORTS OF PAKISTAN | % SHARE IN TOTAL IMPORTS |
| 2018 | 1,356.4 | 510.3 | 1,866.6 | 846.1 | 23,778.6 | 5.7 | 60,391.1 | 0.8 |
| 2019 | 1,183.6 | 580.5 | 1,764.1 | 603.1 | 23,818.8 | 5.0 | 50,511.0 | 1.1 |
| 2020 | 871.2 | 518.5 | 1,389.7 | 352.7 | 22,245.7 | 3.9 | 45,841.7 | 1.1 |
| 2021 | 835.9 | 640.5 | 1,476.4 | 195.4 | 28,880.0 | 2.9 | 73,106.6 | 0.9 |
| 2022 | 988.9 | 958.0 | 1,946.9 | 30.9 | 31,175.9 | 3.2 | 71,104.7 | 1.3 |

made to the extent of the

Pakistan - Indonesia

value of imported goods.

preferential trade agreement forcement of the electronic data exchange. It is worth mentioning

PAKISTAN'S TRADE WITH TURKIYE (MILLION US\$)

| YEAR | EXPORTS | IMPORTS | TOTAL TRADE | BALANCE OF TRADE | TOTAL EXPORT OF PAKISTAN | SHARE IN TOTAL EXP. | TOTAL IMPORTS OF PAKISTAN | % SHARE IN TOTAL IMPORTS |
|------|----------|------------|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2018 | 330.7 | 462.2 | 793.0 | (131.5) | 23,778.6 | 1.4 | 60,391.1 | 0.8 |
| 2019 | 306.3 | 550.2 | 856.5 | (243.9) | 23,818.8 | 1.3 | 50,511.0 | 1.1 |
| 2020 | 268.8 | 620.2 | 888.9 | (351.4) | 22,245.7 | 1.2 | 45,841.7 | 1.4 |
| 2021 | 314.8 | 773.1 | 1,087.9 | (458.3) | 28,880.0 | 1.1 | 73,106.6 | 1.1 |
| 2022 | 432.4 | 870.3 | 1,302.7 | (437.9) | 31,175.9 | 1.4 | 71,104.6 | 1.2 |
| hamh | ersofcom | nerce were | unfor | tunately hil | ateral trade | share | s), UK 7% | , Germar |

chambers of commerce were unfortunately, bilateral trade allowed to begin barter trade. Ministry of Commillion. merce of Pakistan issued notification to begin implementing the "Business-totween Pakistan and Business (B2B) Barter Uzbekistan are helpful for Trade Mechanism, 2023, improving and capturing allowing public and private Central Asia Market to trade entities to engage in trade Pakistani products. Pakiwith Iran, Afghanistan and stan is also achieving other Russia under the B2B targets than trade by sign-Mechanism. Trade of goods ing such agreements with under a B2B BT arrange-Uzbekistan which is one of ment allowed on the printhe major nations of CARs, ciple of import followed by ECO and SCO which an export. The export would be emerging and influential bloc.

6%, Spain and UAE shares is very low just US \$ 235 5% of Pakistan exports. Only 21.5 percent of The bilateral relations Pakistan's exports share by and trade agreements be-

Pakistan – Türkiye

The Framework Agree-

Trade in Goods Agreement

Trade Area between the Is-

access to the Turkish mar-

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

Reduced cost influence the nature, direction and composition of trade flows, however, Pakistan's trade does not enjoy improved trade facilitation. Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) predicts that a reduction in trade costs in Pakistan to the level of those of Singapore could increase Pakistan's GDP by \$10 billion, create 2.2 million jobs and reduce poverty by 5%. Pakistan ranks 122nd out of 167 countries on the Logistic Performance Index (LPI). Neighbouring India stands at 44th and Bangladesh at 100th. China ranks 19th, Indonesia 61, Sri Lanka 73 Uzbekistan 88, Tajikistan 97 and Iran ranks at 123rd on Logistic Performance Index. LPI provides country-wide assessments of six aspects of logistics performance: trade- and transport related infrastructure, customs and border management, logistics services quality, timeliness of shipments, ability to track and trace, and the availability of competitively priced international shipments. Pakistan could only be achieved potential benefits from overseas trade specifically from trading partners by reducing trade cost, cost of producing exportable surplus improving shipping connectivity and enhancing logistics performance. Improvement in domestic commerce to serve as buffer stock removal of infrastructure bottlenecks and business friendly policy to establish confidence

| | g the Central Asian | 2022 | 988.9 | 958.0 | 1 | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| ei ii ev o es le s | The regional trade nts (RTAs) are ex- ng unprecedented elopment in terms mic growth of the . With the increase pth of RTA provi- an important form mic and trade rela- ween countries. | the first phase of the FTA predominantly contained raw materials and interme- diary goods. In return, China eliminated tariff on finished goods. Protocol on the Phase-II of the CPFTA has been signed by Pakistan and China during the visit of the Prime Minister to Beijing on 28th April, 2019. In pursu- | | | | |
| R0122 570 | Share of male business directors | ance of Ameno an integ stan Fre Under | of Article ding Proto ralpartofthe e Trade A the Phas | 79(2), the col will form China-Paki- Agreement. e-II, Paki- l enhanced | - | |
| 6 | 81.5% | | | essions on | | |
| 6 | 84.4% | ests, re | evision of | xport inter- safeguards | | |
| 6 | 83.6% | mecha | nism for pi | rotection of | | |
| 6 | 84.4% | | | stry, inclu- | | |
| 6 | 85.6% | ment c | lause as a s | afety valve | | |
| 6 | 86.1% | | | f payments ffective en- | | |
| - | 00 4 0/ | | | electronic | | |

was signed on February 3, lamic Republic of Pakistan 2012 after conclusion of proand the Republic of Türkiye longed negotiations, which signed in Islamabad, the Iswere initiated in August lamic Republic of Pakistan 2002. The Preferential on the 22nd day of March, Trade Agreement became 201 6. Pakistan and Turkey's operational in September Trade in Goods Agreement, 2013 after many rounds of which was signed in August negotiations. Under the 2022, has finally come into agreement, Indonesia agreed effect on May 1, 2023, as to offer market access to per mutual agreement. The Pakistan for 220 tariff lines Trade in Goods Agreement on preferential rates. The list signifies a notable milestone included fresh fruits, cotton in the historic brotherly reyarn, fabrics, readymade lations between Pakistan garments, fans, sports and Turkey and envisages goods, leather goods and further integration of the other industrial products. markets and business com-After PTA's implementamunities of both countries. tion, Indonesia will be able This agreement is expected to increase exports of crude to increase bilateral trade palm oil to Pakistan, across various sectors and whereas Pakistan can export bring reciprocal tariff confruits, value-added textiles, cessions extended to select carpets, fabrics, leather exports of both countries. goods, chemicals, surgical Under the agreement, Pakiequipment and other items. stan has gained preferential

Pakistan offered Indonesia

PTA; Pakistan Indonesia ment Establishing a Free PAKISTAN'S TRADE WITH AFGHANISTAN