

# Independent

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## Bilawal demands judicial investigation of cipher case

Submitted nomination paper for NA-194-Larkana-I

LARKANA (INP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has demanded judicial investigation of cipher case.

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

He said that relief has been given in the cipher case however the Bhutto family went through political victimization that why "we want proper investigation of the cipher case".

The former foreign minister stated that the Ex-President of US Donald Trump was tried in court and classified documents were recovered from his residence hereby the cipher

case also requires investigation and the people of Pakistan should know the truth behind cipher case as it was security breach.

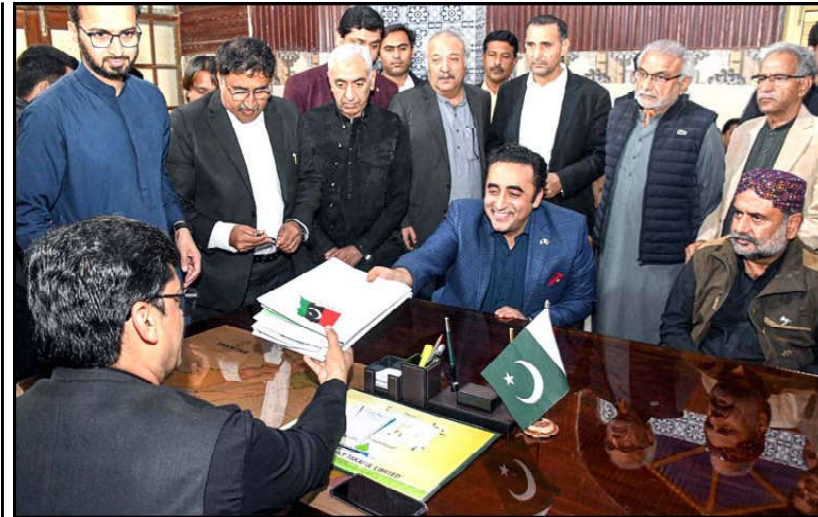
APP adds: The Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and former Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari filed a nomination paper for the National Assembly seat of Larkana-Ratodero NA-194 (Larkana-I) for General Elections 2024 on Sunday.

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

(Larkana-I). On the occasion, hundreds of leaders and workers of the PPP thronged in the office of Additional Deputy Commissioner-I Larkana/Returning Officer (R.O.) for NA-194 (Larkana-I).

They were holding party flags and raising slogans in her support. However, a group of PPP leaders and workers were allowed to enter the court premises.

President PPP Sindh Senator Nisar Ahmed Khuhro, Suhail Ahnwar Siyal, District President of PPP Larkana Khurshed Ahmed Junejo, Jameel Ahmed Soomro, Khair Muhammad Shaikh, and others were also accompanied by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.



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

## Tessori attends Parents Day celebrations at CCS

KARACHI (INP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori attended the 27th Annual Parents' Day celebrations of Cadet College Sanghar as the chief guest.

Rear Admiral Muhammad Saleem Hilal, Chairman Board of Governors, Commodore Zeeshan Ali, Members Board of Governors, Army officers, officers of district governments, dignitaries and parents of the cadets attended the event. Cadets' contingent presented guard of honour to the Governor Sindh. The cadets also performed parade, PT show, gymnastics, tiger squad drill, tent pegging and horse show during the ceremony. The Chief Guest appreciated the efforts of Cadet College Sanghar for achieving excellent results in the Education Board and appreciated the college administration for providing excellent training facilities to the students.

He also appreciated the role of Pakistan Navy in providing quality education in Pakistan, especially

in the coastal belt and remote areas of Sindh. Governor Sindh thanked Chairman Board of Governors for inviting him as chief guest at Cadet College Sanghar. Governor Sindh has shown excellent performance in curricular and co-curricular activities.

Cadet Muhammad Kabir (Senior) and Cadet Muhammad Huzaifa (Junior) were named player of the year, while cadets Muhammad Kabir (Senior) and Cadet Muhammad Huzaifa (Junior) were awarded and Badge of Honor. Jam Sadiq Ali Division won the Champions Trophy. The Governor also congratulated former Cadet Jawad Larak, former Cadet Major Muhammad Asif Khattak and former Cadet Lieutenant Commander Muhammad Shoaib for receiving the "Best Alumnae Award" from Cadet College Sanghar.

Governor Sindh also inaugurated the newly constructed Mehran Cadets Mess with the financial as-

sistance of the Government of Sindh, which has a seating capacity of 1,000 cadets and is equipped with all the facilities.

At the occasion, the Governor Sindh also planted a sapling as a memorial, he appreciated the efforts of Cadet College Sanghar for the timely completion of the project, Governor Sindh also witnessed the science, arts and cultural exhibition presented by the cadets and appreciated the hard work and efforts of the cadets. Earlier, Principal Cadet College Sanghar Commodore Zeeshan Ali SI (Military) while addressing the ceremony said that Cadet College Sanghar has achieved a prominent position in the higher educational institutions of the country through its conducive environment, adding that cadets are prepared for different walks of life by providing a healthy environment, including defense, civil services, medical, engineering and various fields.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing the 27th Annual parents day ceremony at Cadet College Sanghar.

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

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

He went on that the teachings of love, compassion and peace of Jesus (PBUH) are a beacon for us and guide us. The diversity of religions and cultures is a source of stability for Pakistan. Our Christian community has played a significant role in the social and economic development of the country. President also acknowledged the commendable services rendered by the Christian community for the promotion of peace, tolerance and harmony in the country.

On this festive occasion, let us celebrate the spirit of Christmas, promote unity, understanding and goodwill among all communities. Alvi continued that may the Christmas

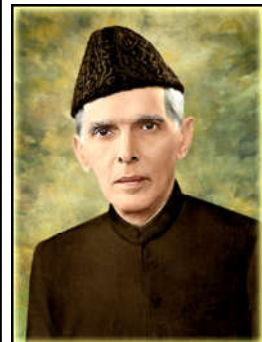
message of love, mercy and hope resonate in our hearts and guide us to a future filled with peace, joy, harmony and prosperity.

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

Government of Pakistan provides equal opportunities to all citizens irrespective of their colour, caste and creed: Arif Alvi Founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, in his historic speech on August 11, 1947, said that everyone will have equal rights, privileges and responsibilities regardless of color, caste and religion, and complete religious freedom will be achieved in the new state of Pakistan, President mentioned.

## Nation celebrates Quaid-e-Azam's 147th birthday

ISLAMABAD (Online): 147th birth anniversary of the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah will be celebrated on December 25.



Events will be held across the country on the birthday of Quaid-e-Azam.

Various events and seminars will be organized by Pakistan Muslim League (PMLN). Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Pakistan People's Party (PPP), NAZriya Pakistan Foundation and public and private social organizations, during which speakers will pay tribute to the valuable services of the founder of Pakistan for the country and nation.

## Nine family members die as house catches fire

ABBOTTABAD (APP): At least 9 persons of the same family were killed as their house engulfed in flames due to an electricity short circuit in Qalandarabad here Sunday.

The local emergency response team, Rescue 1122, swiftly mobilized its teams and recovered 8 bodies.

The Rescue 1122, along with three ambulances and locals made concerted efforts to extinguish the fire and rescue the residents. Unfortunately, the wood and clay house quickly caught fire, impeding rescue activities. Consequently, nine family members were trapped within the collapsing structure and lost their lives. After hours of intense efforts, Rescue 1122 successfully recovered all the bodies buried in the debris, marking the completion of the search operation. Emergency Officer Hafeez ur Rahman is overseeing the operation, ensuring a coordinated and efficient response. The deceased persons were identified as the wife of Zakir, four daughters and four sons, including Hashim, Qasim, Hasan, and Sufyan.



Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed addressing the Tazeeem Al Harmain Shareefain Conference at Karachi.

## Zardari's message on the occasion of Christmas

KARACHI: Formed President of Pakistan and President Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians, Asif Ali Zardari has congratulated the Christians all over the world, especially

members of the community living in Pakistan on the occasion of Christmas. He said that the role of the Christian community for the development of Pakistan is unforgettable.

President Asif Ali Zardari said that Quaid-e-Azam, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto had given all non-Muslims the right to be equal citizens in the 1973

Constitution. Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto had defended the fundamental rights of non-Muslim citizens.

Asif Ali Zardari said that the Christian community should ensure that their children attain higher education so that they can serve the country and the nation according to their ability and make Pakistan proud. On this festive occasion, the great sacrifice rendered by Shaheed Dr. Shahbaz Bhatti should also be remembered whose services for the country and democracy are unforgettable.

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

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

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

An early hearing is also being requested in the

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

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



KARACHI: Relatives of Baloch missing persons hold a protest rally in favor of their demands at Jhangir road in Provincial Capital.

## Negotiations underway with Baloch protesters Government striving to go towards solution of Balochistan protesters problem: Solangi

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

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

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

"We want to solve the problems of the protesters and talks should be held in Balochistan or Quetta instead of Islamabad," Solangi said. The minister for infor-

mation said that most of the protesters from Balochistan were women and at this time, they were present in front of the National Press Club. Security, ambulance and medical facilities were available for the protesters, Murtaza Solangi informed.

The minister said that it was the preference of the protesters to sit in front of the NPC and register their protest peacefully.

"Everyone is allowed to protest peacefully and our effort is to ensure that the protesters do not face any kind of inconvenience", Murtaza Solangi remarked.

He said that yesterday also, the negotiation committee held talks with the protesters.



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

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

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

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

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

However, the Election Commission will decide

about qualification and disqualification of candidates, he added.

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

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



Special Service Group of Pakistan Navy demonstrating drill onboard PNS ASLAT during Pakistan Navy - Royal Navy of Oman Bilateral Exercise Thamar Al Tayyib 2023.

## Cipher case hearing in special court to resume on Tuesday

ISLAMABAD (Online): The hearing of Cipher Case in the special court will start again tomorrow, December 26 (Tuesday).

In the meantime, there is a possibility that the witnesses presented by the prosecution will be cross-examined by the lawyer.

The hearing will be conducted by Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain of the Special Court.

It should be noted that the statements of 13 more prosecution witnesses were recorded in the cipher case.

The hearing of the case was adjourned till Tuesday, December 26.

Cipher case hearing was conducted by the special court judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain in Adiala Jail. During the hearing, the fami-

lies of former prime minister Imran Khan and former foreign minister shah Mehmood Qureshi were present in the court. During the hearing, 12 witnesses of the prosecution recorded their testimony. Among them were former Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Azam Khan, then Pakistan's Ambassador in US Asad Majeed.

The hearing continued for about 8 hours, which ended at 4:30 p.m. In the cipher case, the statements of 25 witnesses have been recorded so far, while the prosecution abandoned 3 witnesses as unnecessary.

In the hearing to be held on Tuesday, there is a possibility of cross-examination on the statements of the witnesses.



SUKKUR: Peoples Party (PPP) Senior Central Leader, Syed Khurshed Shah exchanges views with notable citizens during meeting held at his residency in Sukkur.

## 1405 nomination papers filed for Karachi's NA, PA seats

KARACHI (INP): The candidates intending to contest on the national or provincial assembly seats could submit their nomination papers till today (Sunday).

Total 1405 nomination papers have been submitted for Karachi's National and Sindh Assembly seats so far.

Intending candidates have filed 1072 nominations for 47 seats of Sindh Assembly from Karachi, while 333 nomination forms submitted for 22 National Assembly seats from the city.

Moreover, over 400 nomination papers have been submitted for special seats, reserved for women

and minorities, from Sindh. After submission of nomination forms today, election officials will begin scrutiny of candidates' papers from tomorrow (Monday).

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on appeals of various political parties, decided to extend the deadline for filing nomination papers for the upcoming general elections until December 24 (today).

As per the Commission's updated schedule, scrutiny of the nomination papers is slated to begin from Monday through the 30th of this month.

## Daily Voice of Masses Independent

### Hollowed out

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

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

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

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



Muna Khan

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

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

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

### Equal citizens

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

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

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

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

ers in Islamabad.

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

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

This revolving door of bad policies is exhausting.

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

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

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

### Ties with India



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Commerce News

### Pak economic landscape undergoing transformation due to SIFC: coordinator

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

### Means of production prices mostly rise in China

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

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

### PCMEA terms launching of EXIM bank inevitable to boost exports

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

Senior Vice Chairman of the

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

### Expanding tax base – A panacea to overcome budget deficit

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

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

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

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

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

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

Documentation Law mandating various agencies to provide data to FBR through an automated transmission system.

Collaboration with the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) has been sought to facilitate this process.

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

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

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

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



# UNITY FAITH DISCIPLINE

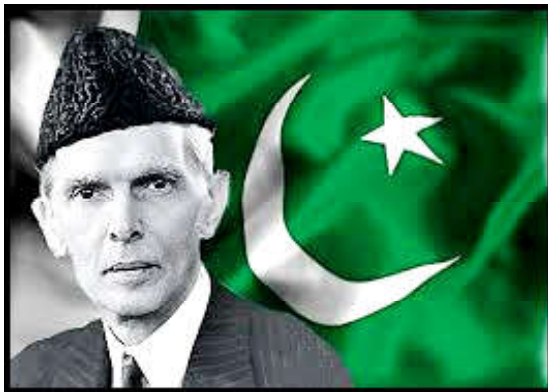


## Nation salutes Quaid on his birthday

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Muhammad Ali Jinnah

## The Greatest Leader of the Century

By **Muhammad Zahid Khan Lodhi**

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

The year 1940 is considered as a landmark in the history of Indo-Pakistan subcontinent as it proved a turning point in the Hind-Muslim relationship. The Muslim League categorically declared that the Hindu-Muslim unity was "neither possible nor practicable" because Hinduism and Islam were not only two different religions but also two paradoxical, different and distinct social orders. The working of Congress ministries in the Hindu dominated provinces had also given the Muslim a bitter experience.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Like the Hindus, Mountbatten never wanted to divide the subcontinent. In other words, he wanted to give freedom to the Hindus but not to the Muslims of Indo-Pakistan subcontinent.

In his ideal state for India (united India with a strong centre) the Muslims would have been ruined forever. In fact, the Indian National Congress and the Hindu leaders had always worked for a strong Centre prior to independence. Even, in Mountbatten's sub-ideal Indian State (united India with a weak centre) the Muslims would have been at the mercy of the Hindus. The Quaid-i-

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

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

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

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

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

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

The refugee problem and the Muslim genocide in India were threatening issues for the independence of Pakistan which the newly born country was "unprepared to stand". Even our friends said that Pakistan would not survive the refugee problem.<sup>14</sup> One million Muslims lost their lives in the communal riots while 7 million refugees came to Pakistan from across the border.

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

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

Since the partition of India had become inevitable, Mountbatten and the Hindu leaders were now determined not to let Pakistan be a viable and strong state. Their ultimate object was to unite India again. Pandit Nehru made no secret of his belief that Pakistan would not survive and eventually India would be one country.<sup>11</sup> Similarly, Mountbatten had the greatest doubts about the birth, survival and future of Pakistan.

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

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

## Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

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

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

When Jinnah returned to Karachi in 1896, he found that his father's business had suffered losses and that he now had to depend on himself. He decided to start his legal practice in Bombay, but it took him years of work to establish himself as a lawyer.

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

out hobbies, his interest became divided between law and politics. Nor was he a religious zealot: he was a Muslim in a broad sense and had little to do with sects. His interest in women was also limited to Ruttenbai—the daughter of Sir Dinshaw Petit, a Bombay Parsi millionaire—whom he married over tremendous opposition from her parents and others. The marriage proved an unhappy one. It was his sister Fatima who gave him solace and company.

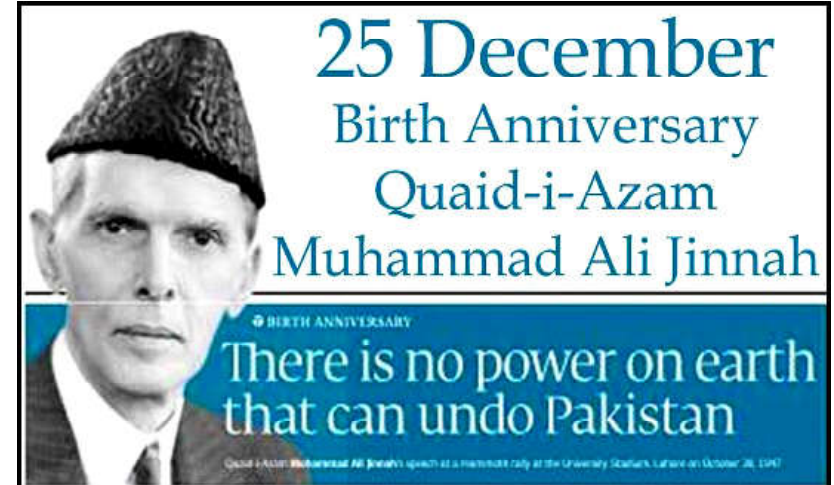
Jinnah first entered politics by participating in the 1906 Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress, the party that called for dominion status and later for independence for India. Four years later he was elected to the Imperial Legislative Council—the beginning of a long and distinguished parliamentary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

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

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

1909 but hitherto resisted by the Congress.

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



recer. In Bombay he came to know, among other important Congress personalities, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, the eminent Maratha leader. Greatly influenced by these nationalist politicians, Jinnah aspired during the early part of his political life to become "a Muslim Gokhale." Admiration for British political institutions and an eagerness to raise the status of India in the international community and to develop a sense of Indian nationhood among the peoples of India were the chief elements of his politics. At that time, he still looked upon Muslim interests in the context of Indian nationalism.

But, by the beginning of the 20th century, the conviction had been growing among the Muslims that

dor of Hindu-Muslim unity," an epithet coined by Gokhale. It was largely through his efforts that the Congress and the Muslim League began to hold their annual sessions jointly, to facilitate mutual consultation and participation. In 1915 the two organisations held their meetings in Bombay and in 1916 in Lucknow, where the Lucknow Pact was concluded. Under the terms of the pact, the two organisations put their seal to a scheme of constitutional reform that became their joint demand vis-à-vis the British government. There was a good deal of give and take, but the Muslims obtained one important concession in the shape of separate electorates, already conceded to them by the government in

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

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

## Jinnah as a role model

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

religion or creed.

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

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

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

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

Extending facilitation to the nation on Quaid's birthday, the caretaker prime minister said that the entire nation was celebrat-

ing the occasion with zeal, fervour and reverence.

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

Prime Minister Kakar said that the personality of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was still a beacon of guidance owing to his unmatched character and extraordinary leadership qualities. His resolve and undeterred will had infused the Muslims with firm determination and courage to face all the ordeals in the continuation of their struggle and in way of achievement of their great goal, Prime Minister Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saying.



KARACHI: Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed, and others cutting the cake during Christmas celebration ceremony in Clifton area in Provincial Capital.

## ECP defers delimitation grievance hearing, prioritizing elections

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

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

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

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has been mentioned as leaderless political party in fresh list of registered political parties of country released by ECP.

Name of PTI founder Imran Khan has been removed by ECP from the party heads as it released the fresh list of 175 registered political parties in Pakistan.

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

Earlier, PTI lost their electoral symbol 'bat' as the ECP announced the reserved verdict on the party's intra-party elections. The election commission earlier reserved its verdict on pleas challenging the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) intra-party elections after hearing arguments from all the parties.

Announcing the reserved verdict, a five-member bench of the Election Commission of Pakistan, headed by Chief Election Commissioner, Sikandar Sultan Raja, declared the PTI's intra-party elections null and void.

Following the ECP verdict, the newly elected PTI chairman Gohar Ali Khan who replaced Imran Khan earlier, will no longer remain as the party's head.



HYDERABAD: Leader of PTI Rehan Khan submitting his nomination papers for the seat of Provincial Assembly.

## Passing-out parade, annual parents' day held at Bakhtawar Cadet College

NAWABSHAH (APP): The 3rd Annual Parents Day and Passing Out Parade Full Rehearsal was held at Bakhtawar Cadet College for Girls here on Sunday, Commissioner Shaheed Benazirabad Division Syed Muhammad Sajjad Haider was chief guest on the occasion.

Deputy Commissioner Zahid Hussain Rind, college teachers and officials attended the program.

A smart contingent of cadets presented a salute and guard of honour to the chief guest. Girl cadets performed the parade, PT Show, Tiger Squad Drill and jumping event.

Addressing the occasion, the commissioner said that in a short period,

the girls of Bakhtawar Girls Cadet College have performed outstandingly in the field of education, adding that women play an important role in the development of developed countries.

The commissioner was optimistic that girl cadets would play a prominent role in their section after graduating from there.

The chief guest commended the efforts of cadets on the bright result from the Board of Education and appreciated the efforts of the college administration for extending training and education facilities to cadets. Earlier college Principal Dr Farkhunda Shaikh in her



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

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

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

In a message on the occasion of Christmas, he said, "The Christian community in Pakistan is celebrating Christmas in Pakistan and across the world and I and the whole nation felicitate the Christian brothers and sisters on the happy occasion of Christmas. Christmas is the name of love, brotherhood, patience and sacrifice." These values were critical in putting a society on the path of development, he added. The PM said the Prophet of Allah, Hazrat Essa (AS) healed the pain of humanity and took the message of God to the whole humanity.

Hazrat Essa (AS) reformed humanity with teachings of peace, brotherhood, tolerance and forbearance which led to the success of humans. The moral teachings and the guidance of the Prophet were a beacon for humanity for all times to come, he continued.

He said in the present age there was an acute need to follow Hazrat Essa's message of human compassion, affection, tolerance and fraternity. In the last few years at the international level, human society had been facing an adverse situation due to a wave of religious intolerance, he observed.

"To reverse this negative trend we have to spread Hazrat Essa's message of brotherhood and religious tolerance and follow his teachings to make the world a cradle of peace. In this way we can forever end hatred from the world," he remarked. He said the white colour in Pakistan's green flag represented the minorities including the Christian community which played a vital role in the progress and

## Pak condemns custodial killing of three civilians in IIOJK

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

The slain civilians were tortured to death at a camp of the Indian occupation Army. A purported video clip of the Indian personnel stripping three men and sprinkling chili powder on them is viral on social media.

The incident, once again, exposes India's relentless state-terrorism in IIOJK, the Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson said in a statement.

## Three killed, over 10 injured in bus-trailer collision

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

According to details, an over speeding passenger bus collided with a trailer on National Highway in Windar area of district Hub.

As a result of accident, three people including a woman were killed on the spot while over 10 including women and children were injured. The bodies and injured were shifted to Windar Hospital.

## Sindh Brohi Itehad felicitates newly elected body of Hyderabad Press Club

HYDERABAD (APP): Sindh Brohi Itehad Hyderabad Division has felicitated the newly elected body of Press Club Hyderabad. According to a press release, President Sindh Brohi Itehad Haji Abdullah Brohi, General Secretary Irshad Brohi, Press Secretary Muhammad Qasim Brohi and other office bearers have felicitated the newly elected body of Press Club including Sajid Khanzadas as president.

## NA Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf congratulates Christian community on Christmas

ISLAMABAD (Online): Speaker National Assembly and former Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan Raja Pervaiz Ashraf has congratulated the Christian community around the world especially in Pakistan on the joyous occasion of Christmas.

He said that the brothers and sisters belonging to the Christian community equal sharers in happiness.

He said that the Constitution of Pakistan guarantees the protection of the rights of all the minority communities living in the country. He said that every citizen in Pakistan has full freedom to live according to their religious beliefs and teachings and celebrate religious festivals without discrimination. Speaker said that Allah Almighty sent Prophet Jesus (peace be upon him) to preach peace, love, brotherhood and tolerance.

He said that Muslims consider Jesus as the chosen and true prophet of Allah and his birthday is as much a source of joy for Muslims as it is for the Christian community.

Appreciating the role of the members belonging to the Christian community in the Parliament, the Speaker said that the members belonging to the Christian community have always participated fully in the proceedings of the House and have played an active role in the legislative process. Appreciating the services of the Christian community in the construction and development of the country, the speaker said that the Christian community is rendering significant services in all spheres of life.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Farhatullah Babar addressing to the closing ceremony of Benazir Bhutto Shaheed National Tennis Championship organised by Sindh Government at Islamabad Tennis Complex.

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

Independent Report QUETTA: All is set to restore the Bolan Mail for Karachi from today (Monday).

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

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

Needless to mention here is that the Bolan Mail, which was suspended due to the floods and heavy rains in August last year, is being restored after one year and four months because of the special interest of the caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki.

All the necessary arrangements have been made by the Pakistan Railways.

As per the schedule, Bolan Mail would depart for Karachi from Quetta. It may be mentioned here that the caretaker Chief Minister had announced to restore the Bolan Mail on occasion of the Sibi-Harnai railway section on October 29, 2023.

Meanwhile, the caretaker Federal Minister Railways had fixed December 25 the day for restoration of the train service between Quetta-Karachi after completing the necessary arrangements in this regard.

The Pakistan Railways took steps on emergency basis for restoration of the train.

Thus, the train is going to be restored today now. Undoubtedly, the people of Balochistan would have comfortable and cheaper traveling facilities with restoration Bolan Mail.



HYDERABAD: Members of Sindh Hari Committee are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Hyderabad press club.

## Bilawal Bhutto paid rich tributes to Quaid-e-Azam on birth anniversary

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

According to the press statement issued by Media Cell Bilawal House, the Chairman PPP, in his message to nation, said that as we celebrate the birthday of our Quaid, let us reflect on his steadfast commitment to justice, equality, and the principles that define the essence of Pakistan.

He further said that Quaid-e-Azam was a democratic visionary leader, whose unwavering dedication paved the way for the creation of our beloved country, Pakistan. "Our Quaid's indomitable spirit and unparalleled leadership continue to inspire generations, reminding us of the ideals upon which our great nation stands," he added.

Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that PPP steadfastly upholds the visionary ideals and objectives of the nation's founder, working towards the realization of an inclusive, democratic, and progressive Pakistan. He pointed out that Quaid-e-Azam Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto fulfilled Quaid-e-Azam's vision by presenting the historic unanimous Constitution in 1973—a democratic structure grounded in the principles of equal rights for all and laying the groundwork for a robust defense, adding that in the face of the heartbreaking loss of her father, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto fearlessly took up the mantle, dedicating her life to the noble causes of democracy and uplifting the marginalized, ultimately making the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of these lofty ideals.



KARACHI: National Labour Federation Pakistan Karachi Zone organizes Gaza Labour March in support of Palestinians at Karachi Press Club.

## Bilateral naval exercise Thamar Al Tayyib 2023 culminates in Arabian Sea

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

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

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

The bilateral exercise was conducted in two phases. Harbour phase included operational and tactical level table top discussions and exercise planning conferences. During the Sea Phase of the exercise, both the navies conducted range of advanced operational exercises encompassing major facets of maritime operations related to Anti-Air, Anti-Surface Warfare and Counter Terrorism exercises.

## Political party's accounts involved in smear campaign against judges

ISLAMABAD (Online): Social media accounts linked to political parties were involved in the recent social media smear campaign against Chief Justice Qazi Faiz Isa and Supreme Court judges. An old letter exempting the wives of judges from checking at airports was used with regular planning, the matter was thrown out without investigation and a smear campaign was launched on social media against the judiciary, judges and their families.

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

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

According to government sources, a few social media activists also pushed the targeted agenda of that particular political party.



JAMSHORO: Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr Ikram Din Ujjan along with others sit on stage during Annual International Conference of Pakistan Society of Neurosurgeons at LUMHS premises in Jamshoro.

## SMIU VC presents tribute to Quaid-e-Azam on his 147th birth anniversary

KARACHI (APP): The Vice Chancellor of Sindh Madressatul Islam University, Alma Mater of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Dr Mujeeb Sahrai has presented a great tribute to the founder of Pakistan on his 147th birthday anniversary.

He said that Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was unique in his thinking, character, struggle and actions.

He said the Quaid was a popular personality and political leader of the sub-continent during the period when influential figures among Hindus, Sikhs and even Muslims were present, but Quaid-e-Azam

Muhammad Ali Jinnah proved himself to be the beloved leader of the Muslims due to his intelligence, truthfulness, honesty and unparalleled leadership skills and the Muslims of undivided India unanimously accepted him as their leader.

Dr Sahrai has further said that while Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had a modern concept of the development and efficiency of other sectors for his country and people, he also had a different view and outline among education. Apart from this, he gave great importance to education.