



### UN rights chief warns starvation must not be allowed in war-ravaged Gaza

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, has urged Israel to act immediately to ensure that all those not involved in the clashes between Israeli occupation troops and Hamas fighters "to facilitate humanitarian food deliveries commensurate with needs." His appeal coincided with the adoption on Friday of a UN Security Council resolution demanding immediate, safe and unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance.



### Chaudhry Nisar says 'don't want to win elections on behalf of any party'

Former interior minister Chaudhry Nisar claimed Saturday that he does not want to win elections on behalf of any political party. While addressing an election rally, Chaudhry Nisar said that he wants to win elections solely on behalf of the people of the Sowan. He said that he had successfully served the people of the constituency after grabbing victory in the elections for the first time in 1985. (Details on Page 8)

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

## Israeli barbarism

Gaza reels under new massacres carried out by the Israeli army.



Photo: via Eye on Palestine

# Israel Responsible for Executing 'Entire Families': Hamas

### Spokesman Report

GAZA: The Palestinian Resistance Movement Hamas has said the Israeli occupation forces committed multiple executions by shooting entire families in several areas inside Gaza City and the northern Gaza Strip.

The statement came as the Israeli army escalated its military campaign on the besieged territory from land, air, and sea, increasing the number of deaths and injuries among civilians, the Middle-East Monitor reported.

"Several areas in Gaza City and in the northern Gaza Strip recorded liquidations and executions by the fascist Israeli occupa-

tion army of entire families," Hamas said.

This "happened to the Enaya family in Gaza City, whose members' bodies were found in their home after the occupation's withdrawal."

Several cases were also recorded of "the execution of civilian men in front of their families, including women and children, after their homes were stormed, according to the testimonies of these terrorist massacres," added Hamas.

On Wednesday, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) called on the Israeli authorities to immediately investigate alle-

gations that its forces killed at least eleven unarmed Palestinian men in front of their families in the Gaza Strip.

In a statement, the OHCHR said the "disturbing information" that it had received "raises alarm about the possible commission of a war crime." It said this comes in the wake of earlier allegations concerning the deliberate targeting and killing of civilians at the hands of Israeli forces.

Hold Biden, Israel and Supporters "Accountable"

Hamas, meanwhile, urged "the United Nations, the international community and all human rights and humanitarian institutions to raise their voices loudly in

the face of this arrogance and crimes, and the disregard for international and humanitarian law."

The movement called for "the occupation government and its international supporters, led by US President Joe Biden, to be held accountable for the crimes they committed against innocent civilians."

There are numerous accounts by witnesses who cited "field executions carried out by the Israeli army before their eyes, in addition to arbitrary arrests of civilians who were taken to unknown destinations," reports MEMO.

The renowned Norwegian activist, Dr Mads Gilbert, said in November that Israel has been systematically destroy-

ing the Palestinian health-care system in both Gaza and the West Bank over the years, and escalated it with the current assault on the enclave.

Speaking at a press conference in Cape Town, Dr. Gilbert said the bombing of hospitals and ambulances has been a "systematic modus operandi" for the Israeli occupation forces.

According to Gaza's Ministry of Health, 20,258 Palestinians have been killed, and 53,688 wounded in Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza starting on October 7. Palestinian and international estimates say that the majority of those killed and wounded are women and children.

## President extends condolences to bereaved families of Shuhada

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Saturday expressed condolences with the bereaved families of Shuhada of Pakistan Army who laid down their lives in North Waziristan and Balochistan. During separate telephonic conversations with the bereaved families, he expressed his sympathies, Presidential Press Wing said in a press release.

These personnel of Pak Army had embraced shahadat on 29 November in Razmak, North Waziristan and on 3 November in Pasni, Balochistan.



The president paid tribute to Lance Naik Ahsan Badshah, Lance Naik Sajjad and Lance Naik Pardam Wali. On behalf of entire nation, he paid tribute to their sacrifices.

The president also prayed for their high ranks and for the bereaved families to bear the losses with fortitude.

### SIFC timely decisions paving way to boost IT exports to \$10 bln: Minister



### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Dr Umar Saif, on Saturday, said that the timely decisions made by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) are yielding remarkable results and paving the way to boost Pakistan's IT exports to \$10 billion.

In a video message, the minister said, "We worked with the SIFC and the State Bank to make a significant policy intervention last month, allowing IT companies to keep 50% of their export revenue in dollars in an account in Pakistan and make their international expenses without any restrictions from this amount."

He said that, as a result of the govt initiative, IT companies are beginning to bring their dollars back home, and the country's export revenue jumped by 14% in November, a 20% increase compared to last year.

## Citizens of all faiths enjoying equal rights in Pakistan: PM

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Saturday reiterated that citizens of all faiths including Hindus, Sikhs and Christians were enjoying equal rights in Pakistan with dignity and the government would ensure protection of their places of worship.

Speaking at an event organized to celebrate Christmas here, he felicitated the Christian community on behalf of the government and the people of Pakistan. He said Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) signed the treaty of Najran that assured protection to the places of worship of Christians.

In view of that treaty, it was obligatory for the Muslims for all times to come to protect the religious places of Christians, he said adding, "We need to promote harmony, peace and love."

He recalled that a Christian King was the first one to lend support to the Muslims in their early days.

He said it was obligatory for Muslims to have faith in all prophets from Prophet Adam to Prophet Muham-

mad (PBUH). All Prophets were a guiding light for humanity, he said adding spirituality was a cure for the ills of humanity despite all the technological progress that humans had made.

He recalled the first speech of Quaid-e-Azam



Muhammad Ali Jinnah in the constituent assembly in which he outlined the basic principles of the state of Pakistan.

He quoted the Quaid as saying that "in course of time Hindus would cease to be Hindus and Muslims would cease to be Muslims, not in the religious sense because that is the personal faith of each individual, but in the political sense as citizens of the State."

In this way, Quaid-e-Azam made it clear that all Pakistani citizens had the same political rights, he stressed.

### ECP takes major decision regarding delimitations

### PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has taken a major decision regarding the pleas against the new delimitations ahead of the general elections 2024.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issued its verdict regarding the objections to the new delimitations.

The spokesperson announced that the commission will hear the objections to the new delimitations after general elections scheduled for February 8, 2024.

## Country's future tied to Constitution, election date secure: Solangi

### City Desk



ISLAMABAD: Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi, explicitly stated that the election date has not been altered, there should be no uncertainty about it and the future of the country is aligned with the constitution and democracy.

Speaking to the media following his participation in the "Second National Training of Journalists on China-Pakistan Relationship in the New Era; An Assessment of Ten Years of CPEC, and How is this relationship report in Pakistani media," he emphasized that, in accordance with the Constitution

should be no room for doubt on this matter. Responding to a question he said that an extension in the tenure of the caretaker government is not possible in accordance with constitutional provisions.

He remarked that Pakistan and China are steadfast, all-weather friends, and the bilateral relations of both nations will thrive under the caretaker government. Pointing to the recent visit of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar ul Kakar, he mentioned that during his trip to China, over 20 agreements spanning various sectors were signed between the two countries. The future of Pak-China relations appears promising.

### Former PAC chairman Noor Alam Khan joins JUI-F

### Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Noor Alam Khan, a former parliamentarian and chairman of the National Assembly's Public Accounts Committee, has reportedly joined the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F).

Speaking at a press conference on Saturday, JUI-F leader Senator Maulana Ataur Rahman congratulated Noor Alam Khan on joining the JUI-F and expressed hope that in the absence of rigging in the upcoming elections, the JUI-F could not be prevented from coming to power in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

## Malika-e-Tarannum Noor Jehan remembered on her death anniversary

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The 23rd death anniversary of Malika-e-Tarannum Noor Jehan was observed on Saturday. Her real name

was Allah Wasai. Born in Kasur in 1926, in a family of musicians, Noor Jehan started her musical career in Calcutta at the age of nine as a singer-child star. She was renowned as

one of the greatest and most influential singers of her time in South Asia and was given the honorific title of Malika-e-Tarannum. Noor Jehan ruled the film industry for more

than 35 years and recorded about 10,000 songs in various languages including Urdu, Punjabi and Sindhi. Noor Jehan was the voice that injected spir-

it into the Pakistan Army and the public during the 1965 war with India.

In 1957, Noor Jehan was awarded the President's Award for her acting and singing capabilities.

گیس کمپریسر لگاؤ کے توکنکشن گٹاؤ گے  
خبردار!  
گیس کمپریسر کا استعمال کسی بھی حادثہ کا سبب بن سکتا ہے۔  
گیس کمپریسر کے استعمال میں بلوٹ صارفین کا کنکشن فوری منتقل کر دیا جائے گا۔  
PID(L)1992-D  
گیس کمپریسر کی اطلاع 1199 بریدیں

# A Delegation of National Institute of Management Lahore visited Nishtar Medical University

**Kiran Asim**

MULTAN: According to details, the officers of the 34th Senior Management Course visited Nishtar Medical University yesterday and reviewed the medical facilities and other important aspects.

Observed the ongoing workshop regarding The members of the delegation also went to the museum in the Department of Anatomy. Meanwhile, a meeting was held in the Department of Medical Education of Nishtar Medical University under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr. Mahnaz Khakwani, in which the delegation was informed about the ongoing educational and teaching activities in Nishtar Medical University.

Briefing was given about various development projects and on this occasion souvenirs were also presented to the members of the delegation on behalf of Pro Vice Chancellor Nishtar Medical University as a gesture of goodwill.

The members expressed their satisfaction over the provision of medical



facilities, development projects and ongoing educational and teaching activities in Nishtar Medical University and Hospital and also thanked the Nishtar administration for their hospitality.

## Protestors demanded Govt to announce a package for the bereaved

**Adam Khan Wazir**

WANA: A protest demonstration was held in Shakai on Saturday regarding the killing of 5 laborers in the heartbreaking incident of Daza Ghundai area in South Waziristan Lower yesterday.

The protests were attended in large numbers by tribal elders, youths, scholars and political parties.

On this occasion Provincial Assembly (PA) candidate of PK 114, Taj Muhammad Wazir, addressed the protest that the heartbreaking incident of Daza Ghundai area yesterday is not only sad but also condemnable.

Taj Wazir criticized the current district administration and other security officials and said that five laborers belonging to the Shakai area were constructing a police station for the police, but unfortunately they were killed yesterday due to lack of protection by the current government.

He said that the oppressed people have reached the same conclusion by learning from their experiences that someone is involved behind such incidents.

He said that many obstacles have been erected in the way, in which the biggest obstacle is the state itself.

He said there is no room for anyone to doubt that there is the worst oppression of the Pakistani state.

The Taj further said that every voice raised against oppression is being tried to be suppressed.

He further said that the wound of one is the wound of all, not just in words, there is a need to prove with action, while the pain of others should be considered as one's own pain.



## Punjab CTD killed Terrorist involved in 50 murders, attack on intelligence agency office. CTD Spokesman

**Asim Tanveer**

MULTAN: The Punjab Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) on Saturday claimed to have killed a terrorist and his accomplice linked to over 50 murders and an attack on an intelligence agency office in Faisalabad.

According to the CTD spokesman, the intelligence-based operation took place in Chinot. During the CTD action, terrorist Ghazanfar Nadeem and his accomplice resisted, leading to an exchange of fire between CTD personnel and the terrorists. Both terrorists were killed in the exchange of fire.

The spokesman revealed that Nadeem, with a bounty of Rs2.5 million on his head, had been in hiding since 2011, evading security agencies. The law enforcement recovered modern weapons and explosives from the hideout where he was located, he said and added that Ghazanfar Nadeem alias Khalid Habib was known by various aliases, the terrorist was involved in 11 major operations including the ISI in Faisalabad, a suicide attack in Dera Ismail Khan and also a sectarian target killing.

The CTD spokesman further said that the elimination of the notorious figure was expected to result in a noticeable decrease in terrorist activities. He said that the accused was associated with the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan.

## Aftab Ahmed submits election papers in Attock district

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: As in other parts of the country, the process of obtaining and receiving election nomination paper is going on in Attock district which will be held till December 24, NA 49 Attock I and NA 50 Attock II, PP I Attock, PP II, Papers are being collected in the offices of District Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers in PP III, PP IV and Provincial Constituency PP V. Today, Sheikh Aftab Ahmed of NA 49 Attock I submitted the papers as PML-N. Former member of the National Assembly and Federal Minister Sheikh Aftab Ahmed while talking to the media outside the ARO office said that power has never belonged to anyone. There is a stain on the foot of the party. I am bound by every order of the top leadership. On this occasion, the media said that there are still candidates from PP III constituency. Are you not entitled to the ticket who stood by the side of the Muslim League-N? In response to the media, while maintaining the statement, he said that the ticket MPA ministry is secondary in my view. It is my loyalty and loyalty to my elders that I will continue to pay. I don't care about it because now the decision is in the hands of my top leadership and in the hands of the people. I am not submitting papers for the sake of corrupt political system. I am in contact with the people of my constituency. I don't mind swapping faces at a living-on-principles party.

## PTI protest injustice against PTI in Attock district after 'discriminatory' RO

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: Conduct of discriminative behaviour with representatives of PTI candidates who submitted nomination papers for national and provincial seats of Attock district as per Attock Election Commission of Pakistan's schedule. Wife of Maj. Tahir Sadiq strongly condemn the unethical, unconstitutional and unethical act of not allowing their nomination papers to be submitted and subjecting them to violence.

According to the details, the wife of Major (Rtd) Tahir Sadiq Ex-MNA PTI and his family members said during the conversation with the media that they can do in justice as much as they want. Raids were conducted at various places to arrest Maj Tahir Sadiq and his family members who had to submit the nomination papers to ROs and AROs there were unknown goons took our papers, beat up our supporters and kidnapped them. Major Tahir's daughter, ex-chairperson of Attock district, MNA, said that when my mother, the wife of Major Tahir, reached the RO of NA-49 Attock I to report the incident, he was not on the seat in his office.

On being informed that we have come to them to get justice they never came. Major Tahir's wife said that three of our people have been picked we will not leave the office until RO will not return, we will stand in front of his office. He requested the media to talk about justice if abuse continues, we will continue to tolerate it, we will not bow down. The purpose of all this is that Major Sadiq and his family do not participate in the election. A three-year-old child was hurt on the head as well. Major Tahir Sadiq is a well-known steadfast person who loves people and workers he was two time District Nazim and one time MPA. Maj. Tahir Sadiq's father and mother (Late) was MPA. His son was an MNA, his daughter was also MNA, his daughter was a former chairperson of the district council, and no political party has a greater political affiliation than him.

## Enjoyment

ISLAMABAD: Visitors are enjoying during their visits to Daman-e-Koh tourists spot in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online by Raja Farid

## Chairman BOG appointed Dr. Asif Kareem as Dean of AMC

**Adam Khan Wazir**

PESHAWAR: MTI Aboatabd Chairman Board of Governor (BOG) Mr. Muhammad Mushtaq Jadoon has appointed Dr Asif Kareem as Dean of Ayub Medical College, purely on the basis of seniority, both never met in life.

The Chairman met the newly appointed Dean on Saturday a few hours before his appointment.

Probably first ever appointment purely on merit and for sake of Allah, no ethnic, tribal linguistics



considerations. Purpose and message all across the board is clear and loud that we mean business on merit. Chairman using his discretionary powers under Section of MTI Act 2015.

on officiating basis till conclusion of inquiry against previous Dean. Chairman has requested all the staff from peon to Professors to rise above grouping and work for the better service delivery. We provided every opportunities by extending due courtesy to the errants to mend their ways and means but every gesture was returned and paid back with more intrigues and adding salt to the injuries constantly and continuously. Probably the management was not in habit of nice treatment and good we'll gestures and kept

on pushing the BOG to the breaking point of tensile strength. So the BOG and the Chairman had to take unpleasant decision. More such are in the pipeline. Chairman concluded his message that in his career spanned over four decades has never been a rent seeker. Rest assure every single penny of poor people of this Region shall be either recovered or the culprits shall face the consequences. More painfully to observe that local s at the helm of affairs played the role of mercenaries and "glorified" agents.

## Toxic vegetables grown with contaminated water destroyed

**Raza Naqvi**

ATTOCK: The Punjab Food Authority (PFA) destroyed vegetable cultivated over four kanal land with sewerage water in Hazro town of Attock.

According to a press release issued, a team of PFA carried out an operation at Hazro destroyed different vegetables cultivated on 4-kanal land.

District Food Safety Officer Zahoor Hussain said that a ban had been put on the cultivation of sewerage water grown vegetables and strict action was being taken against the farmers over violation.

## Modi administration's 'false flag' operation against innocent prisoners exposed

**Abdul Majeed Tahir**

MUZAFFARABAD: On the arrival of elections in India, the Modi government's propaganda of a possible false flag operation targeting innocent old prisoners has been exposed.

Modi government is crazy in hostility to Pakistan to win the election

The news of this false flag operation of the Modi government has been given in veiled words by the social media accounts managed by Raw

According to reports from Occupied Kashmir

In this possible false flag of the Modi government, the old prisoners of the Indian Army have been subjected to torture and linked to terrorism and involvement with Pakistan.

According to the sources, the Modi government has approved the false flag operation by seeing these prisoners as terrorists to hide the brutality of the Indian security forces on Kashmiris, which is also being discussed on social media by accounts linked to RAW.

By brutalizing these innocent prisoners, Indian security forces have pretended to blame Pakistan as usual, which is Modi's old tactic.

According to this plan prepared by the Modi government, the media has been completely blacked out in Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and mountains of cruelty and brutality are being unleashed on Kashmiris.

Kashmiri Hurriyatists Operations against the oppression of the Indian occupying forces are ongoing

in the war zone of illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir

In response to the brutality of the Indian security forces, on December 21, the Hurriyat militants attacked the Indian army in Sorankot, resulting in the death of 5 soldiers of the Indian occupying army and injuring 3 others.

In retaliatory action, the Indian security forces unleashed brutality on the innocent people of Poonch and Rajouri Indian security forces have detained more than 80 innocent Kashmiris and subjected them to third degree inhuman torture resulting in 4 innocent deaths.

Pakistan has nothing to do with the movement and activities of Hurriyatists against the Indian occupation army In the past too, India staged false

flag operation in Balakot and Pulwama drama to win elections

On February 26, 2019, Indian warplanes attacked Balakot

In February 2019, the Modi government tried to blame Pakistan by staging the Pulwama drama

The killing of five Indian soldiers in Rajouri sector in September 2023 was Modi's failed attempt to play politics with the blood of his own soldiers.

The war-obsessed Modi government and the Indian army want to hide their failures in Occupied Kashmir and vent their anger on Pakistan for taking offense at the killing of Sikhs at the international level, say experts.

With these tactics, Modi's India has already become infamous and disgraced all over the world, experts say.





**Karachi Festival**

# Education Minister visits Ethiopian Pavilion at Karachi Feast

**Spokesman Report**

KARACHI: Caretaker Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, H. E. Madad Ali Sindhi, graced the Ethiopian Pavilion with his presence at the Karachi Festival on Saturday.

On arrival, the minister was welcomed with warm hospitality by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE) in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, H. E. Jemal Beker Abdula.

The Pavilion, inaugurated on Friday in the presence of esteemed guests from the diplomatic corps, Government of Pakistan, civil society, business community, and media, served as a captivating proof to the rich tapestry of Ethiopian tourism, rich culture and heritage.

H. E. Madad Ali Sindhi witnessed mesmerizing cultural performances at the pavilion and savored Ethiopian coffee which had become centre of attraction at the Karachi Feast.

H. E. Madad Ali Sindhi commended



Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula for the commendable initiative of introducing Ethiopian tourism and culture to Pakistan. Recognizing the immense potential for tourism and the diverse cultural

offerings of Ethiopia, the Education Minister conveyed his gratitude to the Government of Ethiopia for the commencement of Ethiopian Airlines in Karachi which was instrumental in fostering connections between Pakistan and Africa.

Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula extended gratitude to the minister for gracing the Ethiopian tourism pavilion with his presence.

The ambassador highlighted the strong attachment of the people of Pakistan with Ethiopia which was a land of Bilal Habeshi and King Nejashi.

He expressed his resolve to strengthen bilateral relations between the two nations, acknowledging the appetite within Pakistan for fostering a robust connection.

Vowing continued efforts towards building bridges between the nations, the ambassador affirmed that the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia would take proactive measures to bring these two significant nations even closer through such initiatives in future.

## Embassy of Pakistan, Brussels celebrates Christmas with Christian diaspora in befitting manner



**PPA**

BRUSSELS: The Embassy of Pakistan, Brussels organized a Christmas Lunch to celebrate the special occasion in a befitting manner, along with the Christian diaspora on 23 December 2023.

On the occasion, Ambassador Anma Baloch, in her welcome remarks, said that the community played an important role as it was the flag-bearer, depicting harmony and interfaith traditions of Pakistan. The festivities at the Embassy were marked by a colourful Christmas tree on display and special decorations.

The Choir sang hymns and festive carols, while special prayers were offered by Pastor Saleem Najam, Pastor John Ashraf & Pastor Arshad khokhar for a secure and peaceful world, where all humanity would live in harmony together.

The guests were served traditional Pakistani cuisine and Christmas delicacies. The children especially enjoyed the occasion amidst presence of Santa Clause and gifts.

The event concluded with cake-cutting amidst many laughters and season greetings.

The event projected a 'Peaceful and Inclusive Pakistan'.

# Pak delegation visits AiMall Tech, Shenzhen, China

**News Desk**

BEIJING: A delegation of Pakistan's Artificial Intelligence Technology Center (AITC) comprised of Director General Nadeem Ahmed, Technical Director Dr. Aminuddin Qureshi, Directors Dr. Syed Khurshed Hasnain and Kamran Qureshi had a visit to Chinese AI company, Shenzhen AiMall Tech. Co., Ltd. to discuss bilateral cooperation. Both parties conducted in-depth discussions on various issues and future cooperation plans in the field of AI technology. Dr. Yang Heng, Chairman of AiMall, Chen Zai, Strategic Planning Director, and Ji Chuande, Technical Expert accompanied the visit.

Nadeem Ahmed analyzed the current development status of AI globally and in Pakistan, and introduced in detail the scientific research progress made by AITC in the field of AI through a video. "So far, AITC has established multiple core artificial intelligence laboratories such as computer vision, natural language processing, machine learning and deep learning, and is committed to conducting high-quality AI technology research and development in various fields," Dr. Yang



briefly introduced the overall development, technology application, industrial layout and strategic planning of AiMall. Subsequently, the two parties had specific discussions on topics such as AI large models, computer vision, embodied intelligence and other AI technology hotspots and industrial application development, and exchanged views on future business cooperation as well as training courses, CEN reported. The delegation also visited the AI product area of AiMall. Dr. Yang introduced the application of AI technology in different industries in China, "includ-

ing the retail fast-moving consumer goods industry, such as helping brands achieve rapid collection of offline real marketing data to accurately grasp market dynamics, and provide chain stores, properties, etc. with comprehensive AI solutions covering people-goods-field from field experience to personnel environment management."

In addition, the delegation's experience also included international hot technologies such as general + vertical industry AI language large model application Ask and Get, intelligent vision AI multi-per-

son real-time face-changing. "AITC devote to providing high-quality AI solutions customized according to needs, which coincides with the philosophy of AiMall. We highly look forward to exploring and promoting win-win development of AI technology," said the delegation members, who highly appreciated for AiMall's exploration in the field of AI.

Both parties totally agreed to contribute to promoting the high-quality development of AI technology under the framework of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt and Road Initiative.

BEIJING: Anwaar Mazhar, a Pakistani who lives in Xining, northwest China's Qinghai, bought a batch of relief materials after a magnitude 6.2 earthquake hit northwest China's Gansu and Qinghai provinces on Monday night and drove to the quake-hit areas in Jishishan County, Gansu Province, for supplies support on Wednesday. Next, Mazhar plans to replenish supplies and go to quake-hit areas in Qinghai Province, according to local social media.

Mazhar said that China has always been a "brother country" of Pakistan, and he has always remembered China's support to Pakistan before. Mazhar hoped to do his bit to bring warmth to quake-affected people. As of 8 am on Friday, the earthquake death toll had reached 117, by the number of injured persons standing at 781. By Friday noon, the number of relocation sites had reached 311, and 112,346 people had been transferred to safe places, according to the provincial earthquake relief headquarters.

## Pakistani in Qinghai heads to support supplies for quake-hit areas



**News Desk**

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## Society of Actuaries Launches Global Access Pilot Program in Pakistan



**PNP**

KARACHI: The internationally-renowned Society of Actuaries (SOA), based out of the United States, has announced the launch of its SOA Global Access Pilot Program in Pakistan, aimed at improving the accessibility and affordability of actuarial exams on a global scale.

As part of the SOA's strategic plan to accelerate growth in Pakistan, the SOA recognizes the need to address cost competitiveness in the actuarial profession's global landscape. To this end, the regional pilot program helps reduce financial barriers to the Associate-level pathway and encourages the expansion of the actuarial profession in Pakistan.

The pilot program introduces a three-tiered pricing structure as classified under World Bank income tiers. All candidates and members living in Pakistan already qualify for an international discount on ASA modules, which is being applied to all ASA components at a consistent 20% off as of October this year. The additional discount is being piloted for Pakistan with the hope of further expansion in the future.

"The SOA Global Access pilot program represents a pivotal step in our commitment to making actuarial exams accessible to candidates worldwide," said Andy Peterson, FSA, MAAA, FCA, Managing Director, International at SOA. "We believe this program will not only reduce financial barriers but also attract and support diverse talent in the actuarial profession," he added.

For more information about the SOA Global Access pilot program, including detailed pricing information and program updates, please visit [soa.org/globalaccess](http://soa.org/globalaccess).

# The moral fabric of the Indian judiciary lies in tatters: Dr. Fai

**Spokesman Report**

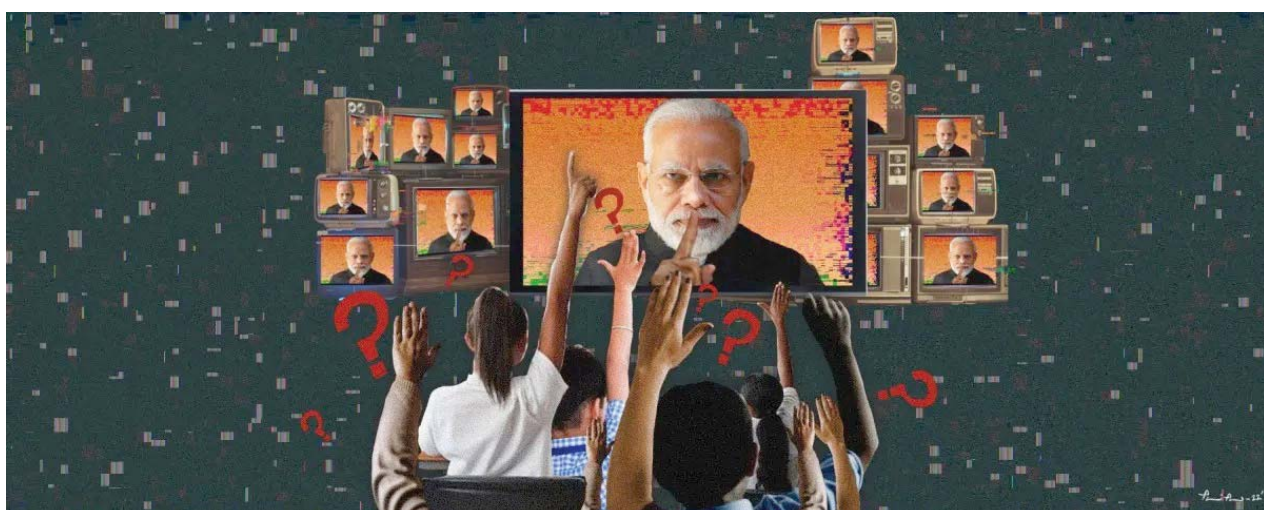
ISTANBUL: "The international community has recognized that national institutions such as the judiciary is important to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights. Although the United Nations has written declarations that affirm the right of vulnerable populations, there must be greater worldwide effort on the part of governments, NGOs, and UN agencies to incorporate peace, justice and human dignity into internationalization and globalization. Peace, justice and human dignity cannot take a back seat as societies globalize their trade, supply chaining, and outsourcing. Freedom and justice must prevail above all political and economic aspects of international trade relations, and treaties even if it requires canceling trade agreements with countries that blatantly allow gross human rights violations to continue," this was stated by Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, Chairman, World Forum for Peace & Justice.

Dr. Fai was speaking on the subject of, 'Determination of the Principles and Procedures of the Organization for Justice in India: A Case of Kashmir' during 'The Seventh International ASSAM Islamic Union Model Congress,' held on December 23, 2023, in Istanbul, Turkey

75 academics, scholars, intellectuals, diplomats, journalists, and experts from 30 countries made their interventions during the Congress.

Dr. Fai added that the conditions of administration of justice in Indian occupied Kashmir are appalling and frightening where the justice system has failed the hapless population of the State. We know that in particular the minimum standards for the respect of the most fundamental rights and dignity of detainees are absent in Kashmir. More shockingly, these arrogations of internationally recognized norms have been codified in laws passed by the Government of India which apply only to Jammu & Kashmir, specifically, 'The Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act' (PSA) and 'Armed Forces Special Powers Act' (AFSPA).

PSA has been in force in Jammu & Kashmir since 1978, and permits people to be detained for up to two years on vaguely defined ground to prevent them "from acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of the State or the maintenance of public order." The broad definition given in this act to these expressions permits people to be detained without trial for simply questioning whether Jammu and Kashmir should remain part of



India or not.

The provisions of PSA & AFSPA are incompatible with the requirements of Article 9(2) of ICCPR, which obliges India to ensure that anyone who is arrested is informed at the time of his / her arrest of the reasons for the arrest and informed promptly of any charges against him or her. Such provisions contravene Article 9(4) of ICCPR which requires all people arrested or detained to be brought before a court to decide without delay the lawfulness of detention.

All the aforesaid laws which are in force in Jammu & Kashmir make the armed forces immune from prosecution for

acts committed while exercising powers under these laws. Thus, these armed forces are encouraged to act with impunity. Section 7 of the 'AFSPA' provides that unless previous permission has been obtained from the Central government, "No prosecution suit or other legal proceeding shall be instituted...against any person in respect of anything done or purported to be done in exercise of the powers conferred by this act."

The laws conferring unrestricted and arbitrary powers on the armed forces continue to remain in operation in Jammu & Kashmir, with full impunity to the perpetrators or crimes

against the humanity and violations of fundamental human rights, threatening the very existence of the people of Kashmir. Indictments and appeals from more than dozen United Nations Thematic Special Rapporteurs; Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and others have failed to make India to withdraw these laws.

The arbitrary powers conferred upon the armed forces with virtual impunity from any legal action, are a part of deliberate Indian State policy wherein, arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, extra-judicial killing, killings of civilians and unarmed and peaceful demonstrators have

been used as a weapon of war. The motive behind these crimes against humanity is to force the Kashmiri people to abandon their struggle for fundamental human rights of self-determination.

United States, Department of State, Country Report 2022 on India cites, "A lack of accountability for official misconduct persisted at all levels of government, contributing to widespread impunity." Country report exposes the India's falsification in these words, "There were reports that police beatings of prisoners resulted in custodial deaths (see section 1.a.). There were reports of abuse in prisons by guards and

inmates, as well as reports of rape of detainees by police. According to human rights NGOs, police used torture, other mistreatment, and arbitrary detention to obtain forced or false confessions."

Dr. Fai emphasized that the judiciary is working under great strain in Jammu and Kashmir. The judges who try to dispense justice impartially are either transferred to a far-flung state in India or forced to resign or denied promotion which otherwise is due to them. According to the Human Right Watch / Asia Report and entitled, 'India's Secret Army in Kashmir,' "Fearing reprisals, judges have been reluctant to challenge the actions of the security forces."

There are thousands of cases of individuals in Kashmir, taken into custody by the armed forces and they are not heard from – they simply disappear. According to the United States, Department of State, Country Report, there are 8,000 to 10,000 persons who have disappeared in Kashmir.

The problems associated with attempting to curtail human rights abuses in Kashmir are further complicated by India's steadfast refusal to allow non-governmental organizations, like Amnesty International or United Nations Special Rapporteurs to investigate allegations in Kashmir.

*PIAF stresses need for solid steps to boost remittances*



**Commerce Desk**

LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) has said that foreign remittances flows are crucial which can support the country's account balance amidst low volumes of foreign direct investment (FDI) and nominal growth of exports.

The PIAF Chairman Faheemur Rehman Saigol said that overseas Pakistanis living in Gulf should further be motivated to maintain an upward momentum in remittances, as they contributed more than 60 percent of the total inflows during last couple of months.

He said that remittances can help not only in financing the deficit in import payments but also in foreign debt repayments, suggesting the government to focus on structural reforms, which can revive Pakistan's economic growth with major focus on incentives for overseas Pakistanis workers.

The PIAF Chairman said that Pakistan has been witnessing a significant decline in workers' remittances on a year-on-year basis, however it surged by 5.34% on a month-on-month basis, reaching a total of \$2.21 billion, owing to several positive factors, including improved transparency and the implementation of stringent measures against dollar smuggling. These initiatives have helped create a more secure and regulated environment for remittance transactions.

Faheem Saigol said that remittances for Sept came in at \$2.21 billion, according to data shared by the State Bank of Pakistan. This figure, while an improvement from last month's \$2.09 billion, was significantly lower than market expectations of \$2.4-2.5 billion. On a month-on-month basis, remittances rose by 5.3%. However, they declined by 11.24% compared to last year, when remittances stood at \$2.49 billion.

*China-Pakistan textile summit strengthens economic ties and collaboration*



**Spokesman Report**

BEIJING: The China-Pakistan Textile and Apparel Executive Summit and Business Meetings were held in Kunshan, East China's Jiangsu Province, last week. At least 100 representatives from the Chinese and Pakistani governments, trade associations and textile and apparel enterprises attended the event.

In his opening speech, Deputy Mayor of Kunshan Zhang Feng noted that the year 2023 marked the 10th anniversary of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the initiation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

As a flagship project of the Belt and Road, the CPEC has achieved significant cooperation results, particularly in the textile and apparel sector where there is substantial complementarity and potential for collaboration between the two countries, he said.

He expressed the hope that the summit would further deepen exchanges and cooperation in the textile and apparel industry, Global Times reported. Gohar Ejaz, Federal Minister for Commerce and Industries of emphasized Pakistan's traditional strength in textiles, citing natural conditions conducive to cotton production, a large and competitive workforce, a complete industrial chain, and favorable conditions for international market access.

He highlighted the potential for joint ventures between Chinese and Pakistani enterprises to produce different products along the textile value chain. Pakistan will provide comprehensive support for Chinese businesses investing in the country.

During the summit, the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textiles (CCCT) and the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

According to a post by the CCCT, the signing of the MOU will further promote and strengthen economic and trade cooperation between the textile and apparel industries of China and Pakistan.

This collaboration is expected to empower and facilitate the development of cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani businesses, pushing bilateral trade, investment, and supply chain cooperation in the textile and apparel sector to new heights.

# The economy is now showing signs of revival: S. M. Tanveer

**PPA**

ISLAMABAD: S. M. Tanveer, Punjab's Minister for Industries and Commerce said that the government is working hard and pursuing reforms in various sectors due to which the economy is now showing some signs of revival and vowed that all possible efforts would be made to put Pakistan on track of sustainable growth. He said that a Business Facilitation Centre has been established in Punjab as a One Window Facility to automate the licenses and NOCs required for starting up or expanding businesses that would help boost business activities. He said this while addressing a dinner reception hosted by Atif Ikram Sheikh, former President ICCI and Presidential candidate of UBG for FPCCI at his residence.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that the role of FPCCI is very important in promoting the private sector in the country and assisting the government in boosting exports, encouraging foreign investment, stimulating economic activity and UBG will strengthen FPCCI to play this role effectively.

Khalid Iqbal Malik, Group Leader ICCI said that the current leadership of FPCCI has failed to deliver for the business community and stressed that all chambers of commerce



and trade associations should support UBG in the upcoming elections of FPCCI so that this apex trade body could play an effective role in making Pakistan a hub of business and economic activities.

Zafar Bakhtawari, former President ICCI and Secretary General UBG Pakistan said that the private sector is the backbone of the economy

and there is a need to promote business leaders as role models in the country to attract youth towards entrepreneurship so that youth could drive Pakistan towards progress and prosperity.

Atif Ikram Sheikh, Presidential candidate of UBG for FPCCI said that they have prepared a plan to address the key issues of the business community and steer the economy out of trou-

ble. He said that they would realize the mission of the late SM Munir after winning the elections of FPCCI to make Pakistan a hub of business activities in the region.

Abdul Rauf Alam, Sheikh Abdul Razak, Waqar Bakhtawari, Zahid Maqbool, and others also spoke on the occasion and expressed strong support for UBG.

## Wheat

ISLAMABAD: A view of the grains loaded trucks parked in straight queue outside Floor Mills at Sector I-9 in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

## Inflation serious challenge due to constant hike in energy rates: FPCCI Presidential Candidate

**Spokesman Report**



ISLAMABAD: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's (FPCCI) Presidential Candidate for 2024 election Muhammad Ali Sheikh has said that the most serious challenge to the economy in the current fiscal year would be inflation, because it is already hitting economy due to continuous raise in oil prices and depreciation of local currency.

Muhammad Ali Sheikh warned the high cost of doing business has been hurting the economic growth, as the inflation rate bounced back to 29.2% in concluding month, hurting the trade and industry the most, who faced the brunt of a staggering 520% increase in gas prices.

Quoting the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, he said that the Consumer Price Index (CPI) surged to 29.2% last month compared to a year ago. The increase was more than market expectations and has lessened the prospects for a cut in the interest rates, which stand at the country's highest ever

level of 22%. This reading, the first announced by the PBS after the recently concluded International Monetary Fund (IMF) talks, in which the global lender also cut the inflation forecast for Pakistan to 22.8%, may strengthen the IMF's view of keeping the policy rate unchanged until core inflation starts easing out when the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meets on December 12th.

The IMF has released its executive board meetings' calendar till December 11th, and Pakistan's case has not yet been listed for the approval of the second loan tranche of \$700 million. This may make it difficult for the central bank to cut the interest rate before the board meeting.

## Secretary Labour visit LCCI

**PPA**

ISLAMABAD: Secretary Labour and Human Resource Punjab, Naeem Ghous, along with DG Labour Syeda Kulsum Hai and Director Labour Welfare Muhammad Shahid, conducted a constructive meeting with Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) Senior Vice President Zafar Mehmood Chaudhry today. The focus of the discussion was on fostering a collaborative environment to enhance the growth of the business community for the overall development of Pakistan.

Secretary Labour and Human Resource Punjab, Naeem Ghous, emphasized the pivotal role of the business community in the progress and prosperity of the nation. He affirmed that the Punjab Labour Department is dedicated to serving as a facilitator, ensuring maximum facilities for trade and industry.

Naeem Ghous further underlined the importance of promoting healthy labor management and industrial relations for socio-economic progress, emphasizing the fundamental role of the labor force in industrial development.



LCCI Senior Vice President Zafar Mehmood Chaudhry emphasized the need for trust-building between the business community and government departments, citing it as essential for smoother collaboration.

He emphasized on commitment from both sides to foster a stronger partnership between the government and the business community, with a shared vision of achieving sustained economic growth and development in Pakistan.

## Guangzhou-Lahore flight resumed on Dec 20

**Spokesman Report**

BEIJING: China Southern Airlines, one of Asia's largest carriers, has resumed its Lahore-Guangzhou flights on December 20 after a suspension from February 27, 2019. Aircraft Boeing flight No CZ6037 flew from Guangzhou and landed at Lahore Airport and flight No CZ 6038 took off from Lahore and reached Guangzhou on December 20.

The fully loaded flights signified passengers' soaring interest, a China South-

ern Airlines official told local media. She said that flight operations will continue for three days a week on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Earlier, China Southern Airlines resumed air routes from Lahore to Urumqi, with the first direct flight took off from Allama Iqbal International Airport at 9:50 am on June 13. The Urumqi-Lahore route was suspended on January 24, 2020, due to Covid-19 curbs on the aviation sector. The activity marked a defining moment for the resumption of flights after more than 3 years.

## Secretary Industries Ehsan Bhatta visits RCCI, BFC to open on January 15

**Tariq khattak**

RAWALPINDI: Secretary Industries Punjab Ehsan Bhatta visited Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI). During the visit, RCCI President Saqib Rafiq gave a detailed briefing on RCCI activities, discussed development projects and shared an update on facilities being provided to the business community for the promotion of trade activities in the region.

Secretary Industries said that in the light of the instructions of Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, business facilitation centers in six cities including Rawalpindi are being established. Business Facilitation Center (BFC) in Rawalpindi will be inaugurated on January 15, he added.

Secretary Industries appreciated the efforts of Rawalpindi Chamber for the establishment of Business Facilitation Center and assured full support from Punjab Government for the early completion of the center.

On this occasion, President Saqib Rafiq said that the BFC for business community in Punjab will serve as major step towards ease of doing business which will provide seamless interaction between the business community and 36 different departments.

Earlier, the Secretary Industries also visited the Business Facilitation Center site in RDA where he was given a detailed briefing on various parts of the proposed center, one window facility and operational matters.





## Education in Masjid

KARACHI: President Dr Arif Alvi and Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Dr. Aneeq Ahmed attending meeting with the delegation of Darul Uloom at Governor House on Saturday.



Photo: PID

## Efforts in collaboration with mosques vital to educate out-of-school children: President

### Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday stressed the need for making all possible efforts in collaboration with the mosques to educate around 28 million out-of-school children in the country. The president, chairing a meeting to discuss the role of mosques in promotion of

education, said the mosques could be used for promotion of literacy in the country. Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs, education ministers of Sindh and Azad Jammu and Kashmir, provincial education secretaries, and representatives of Auqaf and Religious Affairs departments attended the meeting.

In the meeting, the president was briefed about the Accelerated Learning Program. It was told that over 70,000 out-of-school children in Islamabad were enrolled in the schools. The Accelerated Learning Program Model envisages the provision of five-year education within 24 to 30 months and enrollment of the out-of-school children. The meeting

was told that the grown children, who were deprived of education, could benefit from the said program. It was told the said program was flexible, focused and low-cost initiative which could also be implemented at the places provided by the community, religious seminaries and second shifts in schools. Religious Affairs Minister

Aneeq Ahmed said the federal government would extend all possible facilities to educate the out-of-school children. The participants of the meeting agreed to formulate a policy paper to utilise the platform of mosques for the education purpose. The draft of the policy paper would be presented before the federal cabinet for approval.

in the February 8, 2024, general elections. He added that he has never disappointed his voters nor involved in any sort of corruption. The former interior minister said that he is contesting the general elections on two National Assembly (NA) and one Provincial Assembly (PA) seats [as an independent candidate]. He announced to closely monitor the election results and asked his supporters to stay vigilant during the counting of votes and inform him after witnessing any kind of violation. Chaudhry Nisar, after being elected as an MPA from a Rawalpindi constituency in 2018, took an oath as the provincial lawmaker in May 2021. The former federal minister had been elected from the Punjab Assembly constituency PP-10 in the 2018 general elections as an independent candidate. He didn't take the oath in protest against alleged rigging which he claimed led to his defeat in the National Assembly's constituency NA-59, Rawalpindi-III.

## Chaudhry Nisar says 'don't want to win elections on behalf of any party'



### PPA

RAWALPINDI: Former interior minister Chaudhry Nisar claimed Saturday that he does not want to win elections on behalf of any political party. While addressing an election rally, Chaudhry Nisar said that he wants to win elections solely on behalf of the people of the Sawan.

He said that he had successfully served the people of the constituency after grabbing victory in the elections for the first time in 1985.

"In this scenario, Pakistan can only be saved through a miracle. I want to assure you to play a role for a miracle after reaching the assembly."

"I believe in character but not vote. Everyone knows my services and my symbols can be seen everywhere in the area."

"My opponents had only constructed one road but in my tenure, several development projects were completed in this constituency."

Nisar hoped for his 'historical victory'

in the February 8, 2024, general elections. He added that he has never disappointed his voters nor involved in any sort of corruption.

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## Importance of information group increased manifold in age of narratives: Solangi

### City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi has said that in the age of propaganda, narratives and counter narratives, the importance of the job of the officers of Information group had increased manifold.

Delivering his keynote address at "Graduation Ceremony of Training Programmes Domain Specific 38th MCMC and 40th Specialised Training Programme", here the other day, he said the responsibility of officers of this group was countering propaganda of inimical forces and promote and project Pakistan's soft and positive image.

He said unlike many other groups of civil service, the information group officers had to work hard to improve



their skills by continuous study. "You have to love your job to improve your knowledge. You have to learn not only about media, media laws but politics, history, geography, art, culture, music and languages of the country," he added. He said that the focus

of the officers of the information group should be to adopt to rapidly changing media landscape. The minister said that when internet and social media were introduced, it was thought that new window of knowledge had been opened and the dependency of main-

stream media would end. Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid said that efforts were afoot for restructuring of the information group as per requirements of the modern times. She opined that restructur-

ing of the information group was imperative to meet the challenges of modern times. Shahera Shahid urged the officers and probationers of the group to work hard to improve the standing of their group.

Executive Director General of Information Service Academy Dr Tariq Mehmood in his welcome address, threw the light on the aims and objectives of the two courses.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi distributed the certificates among the participants of the two courses.

Senior officers from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting including Additional Secretary Information and Broadcasting Syed Mubashar Tauqir Shah and MD Associated Press of Pakistan were also present on the occasion.

## Don't make the villain - PTI founding chairman - a hero: PPP

### Bureau Report

KARACHI: The PPP on Saturday said the cipher saga was a drama staged for personal political gains that had led to the May 9 events, as senior party leader Sharjeel Inam Memon blasted the PTI founding chairman for his actions.

"Don't make the nation's villain a hero," the PPP leader said and added that the real political leaders had spent years in prison and faced much tougher situation, but didn't compromise on their principles.

He said that the parties using their constitutional right were declared traitors by using the cipher drama and the youth had been misguided - a reference to the tactics used by the PTI leadership before and after passage of no-confidence motion.

## Sitara e Imtiaz award returned in protest after Balochistan march crackdown

### Naveed Ahmad Khan

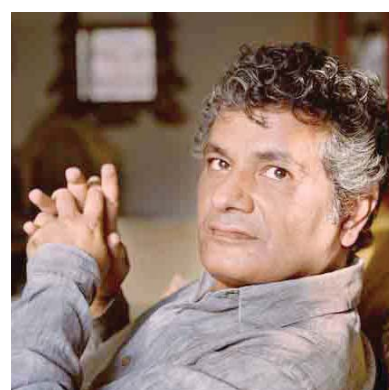
ISLAMABAD: Author and journalist Mohammad Hanif returned his "Sitara e Imtiaz" award on Saturday in protest against government's crackdown on participants of the Balochistan march, which was conducted against enforced disappearance of their family members.

Hanif made the announcement in a post shared on social media platform X. "In protest, returning my Sitara e Imtiaz, given to me by a state that continues to abduct and torture Baloch citizens," he wrote.

"Journalists of my generation have seen @SammiBaluch and @MahrangBaloch grow up in protest camps. Ashamed to witness a new generation being denied basic dignity," he added.

A women-led march from Turbat, initiated on Dec 6 following the alleged extrajudicial killing of a Baloch youth, reached Islamabad earlier this week. However, the capital police blocked entrances to the city and major routes leading to the National Press Club.

Later, the police started detaining



Baloch men and women in an action against them. Videos shared on social media showed security forces using water cannons and tear gas on the protesters, forcibly dragging Baloch individuals into police vans, and using batons against them.

Furthermore, the police dismantled protest camps and loudspeaker setups outside the National Press Club.

The actions drew massive criticism forcing the caretaker government to form a

negotiation team comprising Information Minister Murtaza Solangi, Fawad Hasan Fawad, and Jamal Shah to engage with the protesters' families.

Later, the interim government announced that all women and children detained during the police crackdown on Baloch protesters had been released.

However, Baloch sit-in continues in the capital city as they are now demanding the release of all detainees.



in protest, returning my Sitara e Imtiaz, given to me by a state that continues to abduct and torture Baloch citizens. Journalists of my generation have seen @SammiBaluch and @MahrangBaloch grow up in protest camps. Ashamed to witness a new generation being denied basic dignity.

"We want nothing from Pakistan, nothing at all, we need our loved ones back that are forcibly disappeared" words of a participant of #MarchAgainstBalochGenocide.

## Jahangir Tareen to contest polls from another constituency

### Asim tanveer

MULTAN: Patron In-chief of Istekham-e-Pakistan Party (IPP) Jahangir Tareen will also contest general elections from another constituency.

IPP Patron In-chief Jahangir Tareen will also contest general elections from NA-149 Multan.

Sources told that the politician has received nomination papers and his team is likely to submit the papers tomorrow.

Tareen had earlier received nomination papers to contest the general elections 2024 from one National Assembly and two Punjab Assembly seats.

According to details, the nomination papers were received by Tareen's legal team on his behalf. Jahangir Tareen acquired nomination papers to contest elections from election from NA-155-Lodhran-II, PP-227 Lodhran-IV and PP-228 Lodhran-V.



Ali Tareen will be covering the candidate of Jahangir Tareen, who has also received nomination papers for the same constituencies.

Earlier, it was reported that PML-N had agreed to support Jahangir Tareen-led IPP candidates in Lahore, Lodhran and Sahiwal.

PML-N would support IPP senior leader Aleem Khan on NA seat in Lahore and Nauman Langrial on NA Sahiwal seat, say sources, adding that the party will not field its candidate against IPP candidates Awn Chaudhry and Ishaq Khaqani.

## PTI set to challenge ECP verdict to regain electoral symbol



### Amjad Ali

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf is set to move court on Tuesday [Dec 26] against the decision given by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on the petitions challenging the PTI intra-party elections, party leader Barrister Gohar Ali Khan has said.

Interacting with media outside Adiala Jail on Saturday, Barrister Gohar called the revocation of PTI's electoral symbol of 'bat' a part of conspiracy.

While rejecting the ECP verdict, Gohar asserted that the PTI would regain its electoral symbol.

The PTI, he said, could challenge the ECP verdict either in the Supreme Court under Article 184 of the constitution or in the high court. "Both options are available."

Gohar requested courts to take up PTI's appeal on a priority as soon as it

was filed. He expressed confidence and hope that the court would grant relief by ordering the restoration of PTI's electoral symbol.

But the ECP had yet to provide the PTI with certified copies of the verdict, he added.

According to Gohar, the incarcerated PTI founder has instructed the team to challenge the ECP decision in court.

He said they had completed their consultations and were ready to move court on Tuesday, Dec 26, but added that it was yet to be decided whether to challenge the ECP verdict in the Supreme Court or a high court.

It is important to note here that after the ECP invalidated PTI's intra-party polls on Friday, all positions within the party ceased to exist.

But Gohar, who also ceased to be the party's new chairman, categorically stated that the PTI would be run the way it was being run before.