

Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah said...

Do not forget that the armed forces are the servants of the people. You do not make national policy; it is we, the civilians, we decide these issues and it is your duty to carry out these tasks with which you are entrusted.



Rana Sanaullah's car crashes into tractor in Faisalabad

PML-N leader and former interior minister Rana Sanaullah's car crashed into a tractor-trolley on Saddhar Bypass near Faisalabad. As per details, the accident occurred when a tractor-trolley loaded with sugarcane crashed into PML-N leader Rana Sanaullah's vehicle due to fog. However, former interior minister Rana Sanaullah and his family members remained safe and left for Lahore to attend a party meeting.

Simultaneously published from Islamabad, Lahore and Multan

Naval Exercise

Group photo of Special Service Group of Pakistan Navy and Royal Navy of Oman onboard PNS ASLAT during Bilateral Exercise Thamar Al Tayyib 2023



Pakistan, Oman hold 'Thamar Al Tayyib 2023' naval exercise

Spokesman Report

The bilateral exercise of the Pakistan Navy and Royal Navy of Oman Thamar Al Tayyib 2023 was conducted in the Gulf of Oman. This was the 11th edition of the series of Thamar Al Tayyib exercises being conducted between the Pakistan Navy and the Royal Navy

of Oman since 2002. PN 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 oper-

ational and tactical level tabletop discussions and exercise planning conferences. During the Sea Phase of the exercise, both navies conducted a range of advanced operational exercises encompassing major facets of maritime operations related to Anti-Air, Anti-Surface Warfare and Counter Terrorism exercises.

The exercise also involved Coordinated Patrol by ships of both Navies with an aim to curb illicit activities at sea. ExTAT-23 provided an avenue to enhance mutual learning, improve inter-operability and opportunity for both navies to further hone their professional skills. Pakistan and Oman share a common maritime area and

both the navies closely cooperate with each other to maintain good order at sea. Regular conduct of bilateral Exercise Thamar Al Tayyib 2023 is a clear manifestation of strong fraternal and brotherly relations between Pakistan and Oman in general and the Pakistan Navy and Royal Navy of Oman in particular.

Pakistan condoles martyrdom of 12 Turkish soldiers

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday condole the martyrdom of 12 Turkish soldiers during counter-terrorism operations, reported quoting MoFA. In a statement, the Foreign Office Spokesperson said, "We are deeply saddened to learn that 12 Turkish soldiers have been martyred during counter-terrorism operations on 22-23 December 2023." "We express deepest condolences to the bereaved families and wish speedy recovery to the injured. Pakistan stands in firm solidarity with Turkiye in this moment of grief." "Pakistan strongly condemns the scourge of terrorism. We are confident that the brotherly Turkish nation will overcome this tragedy with characteristic grit and determination," she added.

Government striving to go towards solution of Balochistan protestors problem: Solangi

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Solangi said on Sunday that it was an effort of the government to go towards the solution of the problem of protestors from Balochistan through negotiations. Talking in a programme on "GTV" the minister said that it was desire of the interim set-up that the protestors should go back to their homes with dignity, honour and safety. "We want to solve the problems of the protestors and talks should be held in Balochistan or Quetta instead of Islamabad," Solangi said. The minister for information said that most of the protestors 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 protestors, Murtaza Solangi informed.



The minister said that it was the preference of the protestors to sit in front of the NPC and register their protest peacefully. "Everyone is allowed to protest peacefully and our effort is to ensure that the protestors do not face any kind of inconvenience", Murtaza Solangi remarked. He said that yesterday also, the negotiation committee held talks with the protestors. The minister pointed out that the demands of the protestors were decades old.

When the protestors reached Islamabad, some people were already in the NPC, Murtaza Solangi added that protestors who came from Balochistan blocked the road near Chaungi No. 26 (Motorway Chowk). He said that the local administration offered the protestors space for protest in F-9 Park and H-9 ground but they refused to go there. Elaborating further, the minister said that late night these protestors were joined by some locals. "When the protestors in Islamabad started moving towards the red zone, the police tried to stop them," Murtaza Solangi said. He said some protestors were arrested who were involved in stone pelting on the law enforcement agencies. The minister said that arrested women were released two days ago whereas releasing 163 arrested men was in progress. When the protestors left Balochistan, they were not stopped anywhere, Murtaza Solangi added that no ill-treatment was done to the protestors.

Bilawal demands judicial investigation of cipher case

Mohsin Chandio

LARKANA: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman and former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has demanded judicial investigation of cipher case. Speaking to media in Larkana, 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".

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

Spokesman Report

ISLAMABAD: 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 celebrating the occasion with zeal, fervour and reverence. He said that they were blessed with a great leader who had led the Muslims of the sub-continent and at last achieved a separate homeland. Quaid-e-Azam had gathered the Muslims under one banner to wage a struggle for the realization of a separate new Muslim state on the global map. Prime Minister Kakar said that the personality of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was still a beacon of guidance owing to his unmatched character and extraordinary leadership qualities.

Pakistan condemns custodial killing of three Kashmiri civilians in IIOJK

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemns 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 chilli powder on

them is viral on social media. The incident, once again, exposes India's relentless state-terrorism in IIOJK. The perpetrators of these custodial killings must be held accountable. India's brutal occupation is the root cause of all major issues in IIOJK. The Kashmiri people must realize their inalienable right to self-determination, as enshrined in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

Omar Ayub lashes Punjab police for torturing Bilal Virk, abducting his brother

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Secretary General Omar Ayub Khan has categorically stated that fascism is touching a new high in the country to deter and petrify PTI's candidates but all such brutal tactics would not serve any purpose as PTI would trounce its political opponents conventionally in the next general elections. Strongly reacting to the torturing of PTI ex-MNA Bilal Virk and abducting his brother by Punjab police, PTI Secretary General said that PTI candidates were being brutally tortured, their homes

invaded, ransacked and being blatantly threatened that they should not contest. He said that Bilal Virk ex MNA PTI member was brutally tortured by Punjab Police when he went to file his nomination papers while his brother has been abducted. "Punjab Police is not registering any case and has openly told Bilal Virk that they are untouchable," Omar added. "Is this a 'Level Playing Field,' he asked. PTI Secretary General pointed out that PTI candidates were being brutally tortured, their homes invaded, ransacked and being blatantly threatened that they should not contest.

ECP unveils list of Pakistan's 175 registered political parties

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Sunday released an updated roster of 175 officially registered political parties representing a diverse spectrum within Pakistan's political arena on Sunday. The updated list no longer includes Imran Khan, the founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), as the head of the party, marking PTI as a leaderless political entity. Furthermore, the roster now incorporates the faction led by Pervez

Khattak, known as Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Parliamentarians. A noteworthy event occurred earlier as PTI lost its electoral symbol, the 'bat', following the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) announcement of the reserved verdict on the party's intra-party elections. After hearing arguments from all concerned parties, the ECP initially reserved its decision. Following this, Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja, leading a five-member bench of the Election Commis-

sion, declared PTI's intra-party elections null and void. Following the ECP's verdict, Gohar Ali Khan, who took over as PTI chairman after Imran Khan, will no longer serve as the party's leader. Significantly, the registered entities include the Iste-hkam-e-Pakistan Party (IPP), led by President Abdul Aleem Khan. The registration of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) is associated with its former Chairman, Pervez Khattak, while Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and Pakistan Muslim

League-Quaid (PML-Q) are registered under the names of Shehbaz Sharif and Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, respectively. The list includes several other notable party affiliations. The Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP), led by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, is registered as the Peoples Party Parliamentarians under Asif Ali Zardari's name. Furthermore, the Balochistan Awami Party is registered under the leadership of President Abdul Quddus Bizenjo, and the Awami Muslim League Pakistan (AML-P) is listed under the leadership of Presi-

dent Sheikh Rashid Ahmed. The roster also highlights other prominent political groups, including the Awami National Party (ANP) led by Asfandyar Wali Khan, the Balochistan National Party (BNP) led by Akhtar Mengal, and the Jamaat-e-Islami led by Sirajul Haq. Additionally, the Jamiat Ulema Islam, led by Maulana Fazlur Rehman, and the Mutta-hida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P), represented by Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, are listed.

Baloch marchers tabled unconstitutional demands: Jan Achakzai

Bureau Report

QUETTA: Caretaker Balochistan Information Minister Jan Achakzai Sunday termed the demands tabled by the Baloch marchers 'unconstitutional' and also rejected any kind of torture on women or use of water cannon in Islamabad. While addressing a press conference, Jan Achakzai

claimed that women were neither tortured in Islamabad nor anyone targeted with water cannon. He said that Baloch marchers tabled unconstitutional demands. He said that the state could not unarm its institutions to leave the terrorists freehanded. Achakzai claimed that some elements were attempting to create chaos ahead of the general elections.

Insightful Kashmir, Palestine projection by COAS in US visit laudable: Sardar Attique

Abdul Majeed Tahir

RAWALPINDI: Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan ex-Premier AJK, President Muslim Conference has highly lauded the insightful projection of the Kashmir dispute and Palestine cause by the COAS General Syed Asim Munir during his recent important visit to the United States. Jammu and Kashmir people express gratitude to the COAS Pakistan for his bold reiteration of Kashmir and Palestine causes at this critical phase of complex international history, he said in his congratulatory message to the Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir Sunday.



At this phase of time reiteration of principled stance on the Kashmir dispute and highlighting Palestine cause by the army chief of an atomic nation Pakistan is much weightier than several diplomatic overtures on the issues. Kashmiris have gained fresh courage and confidence by this multi-institutional projection of seriousness of Kashmir and Palestine struggles, Sardar Attique said in his message.

Be it recalled that both the Kashmir and the Palestine dispute listed by the United Nations Organization in 1948 relate to the restitution of right of self-determination by the Kashmiris and the Palestinians he added.

Christmas celebrations

MULTAN: Members of Cantt Board Rana Ashraf, Yaqoob Shera, Ghulam Jilani, Dr Ghazanfar Malik, Clube Abid Khan, Khalid Masih, Rana Ameer cutting the cake for Quaid-e-Azam Day and Christmas celebrations at Church of Pakistan



Photo: Spokesman

KP, merged districts LG reps demand to provide funds & give powers

Adma Khan Wazir

WANA: Local government representatives have said that redressing the previous deprivations of Ex FATA/ Merged Districts is the need of this time.

The provincial caretaker government should play a positive role in solving the unresolved problems of the merged districts.

Local government representatives demanded that the caretaker chief minister should take measures on an emergency basis for the problems of the members of the village neighborhood councils and the establishment of offices.

In this regard, Intizar Khalil, Alhaji Said Nawab Afridi said that the government should implement the promises made to local government representatives.

They said, even though it has been two years since the local government elections, the local government representatives are facing severe difficulties due to the paralysis of the local government system.

These views have been expressed by the members of the Provincial Action Council, local representa-



tives of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tehsil, Chairman Khyber Alhaj Said Nawab Afridi, Chairman and Member Capital Metropolitan City Government Peshawar Intizar Ali Khalil, Chairman Wana Malik Sahib Khan in their ongoing statement, that the caretaker Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had assured a positive approach to the unresolved issues of the provincial action council representatives of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa committee with the local government repre-

sentatives.

They Said, We hope that the caretaker Chief Minister and the Cabinet will use all resources to implement this.

Tehsil Chairman Khyber Alhaj Said Nawab Afridi further said that at this time the representatives of the local bodies of the entire Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are facing severe difficulties but the problems of local government representatives of tehsil and village neighborhood councils of former FATA are the most.

TDCP Punjab to provide free double-decker bus service on Christmas

PPA

LAHORE: To add more color to the joy of Christmas, the Punjab Tourism Development Corporation Punjab (TDCP) has provided a free double-decker bus service on the occasion of Christmas. The double-decker bus led by former Provincial Minister for Human Rights and Minority Affairs Ijaz Alam Augustine left from Cathedral Church, opposite Lahore High Court and reached Governor House via Mall Road. Archbishop Lahore Sebastian Francis Shaw, Reverend Dr. Majeed Abel, MD Tourism Humira Akram, Director TDCP Ashfaq Dogar, representative of YDF Shahid Rahmat, lawyers community, representatives of civil society and Christian community rides the bus. The Bus was decorated in elaborate style and various caral songs were sung by the Christian community.

Azad Kashmir PM, President eulogize Jinnah on his birth anniversary

Bureau Report

MUZAFFARABAD: President Azad Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhary and Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq, while paying eulogizing tributes to the father of the nation Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, have said that there was no better way to pay tribute to the founder than following his golden principles of unity, faith and discipline. In their separate messages issued on the eve of the birth anniversary of the great leader, they said that Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was the great leader who changed the course of history. The AJK President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry in his message said that Quaid-e-Azam led a relentless struggle that culminated successfully in the shape of Pakistan- a free homeland for Muslims where they live with peace, dignity and absolute freedom. He said that it was Quaid-e-Azam's dynamic leadership that turned Allama Iqbal's vision into a reality. Barrister Chaudhry said that Quaid-e-Azam was a great leader, a great jurist and a history maker. Mr. Jinnah, he said, enlightened the Muslims of the subcontinent with the two-nation theory. "A vigorous struggle spearheaded by him soon after the adoption of a historic Pakistan resolution in 1940 led to the creation of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent", he said. "Jinnah considered Kashmir as indispensable for the existence of Pakistan", he said. "That is why he declared Kashmir as the jugular vein of Pakistan", Barrister Chaudhry said, adding Mr. Jinnah openly supported the freedom movement of Kashmiris and made great efforts to solve the Kashmir problem. In his message, the AJK premier Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq said that Quaid e Azam not only changed the history but also the geography of the subcontinent.

JUI formed committee of 9 members for digital media cell in tribal districts.

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam formally announced the digital media cell in the merged tribal districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Khalid Jan Dawar has been nominated as the coordinator of tribal districts, while 9-member supervisory committee was also announced for the formation of a digital media cell at the district level in the tribal districts.

The committee will be headed by the coordinator, while Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam has formed a 9-member committee for tribal districts consisting of Asam Uddin Wazir, Said Ullah, Hanzala Mehsud, Shahid Ullah Subhan, Dr. Ehsan Ullah, Rashid Ahmed, Muhammad Anwar and Abdul Qahar were included.

According to the details, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam has formally announced the establishment of a digital media cell across the country to highlight the demands of the modern era and the party's ideas at the public level and to fully complete with the media campaign of the opposing political parties.

The members of Digital Media Cell say that they will defend their party at all levels, and will respond in a positive manner to the unnecessary criticism of the leader Maulana Fazl Ur Rehman on behalf of the opposing political parties.

He further said that God willingly, in the upcoming elections, the party manifesto will be delivered door to door through social media and finally, the Coordinator of Tribal Districts, Khalid Jan Dawar said that I hope all the members in the committee will work according to the party manifesto and will light up the party like the moon.

DPO pledges to bring justice terrorists involved in the killing of labourers

Adam Khan Wazir

WANA: District Police Officer South Waziristan Lower Farman Ullah has said in a statement on Sunday regarding the recent incident of terrorists in Wana area Daza Ghundai.

He said, on 22nd, unknown terrorists attacked at night and martyred 5 out of 6 laborers working in the under-construction police post at Daza Ghundai, while one labour was injured and managed to save his life.

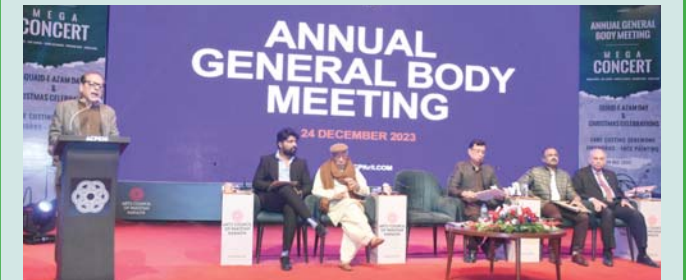
The DPO said that as soon as the attack was reported, a heavy police force rushed to the spot, after reaching the scene, all the martyrs and one injured laborer were shifted to the District Headquarters hospital Wana.

DPO Farman Ullah said on this occasion the police cordoned off the area and started a search operation, but taking advantage of the darkness of the night and the thick gardens nearby, the Dashtgards managed to escape.

DPO termed this incident as a link of recent terrorist activities in the country, that terrorists cannot demoralize us by targeting such innocent people.



Annual general body meeting held at Arts Council of Pakistan Karachi



PNP

KARACHI: Mohammad Ahmed Shah, the Provincial Minister for Information, Minority Affairs, Social Welfare, and President of Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi, stated that this year, the Arts Council organized conferences not only within the city but also extended its reach to the United States. He expressed these thoughts while addressing the General Body meeting at the Arts Council of Pakistan on Sunday night. He mentioned that this year, Literature Festivals were organized in other cities of Pakistan as well, aiming to bring together all languages and communities of the country. According to him, these initiatives were relatively successful. Shah noted that the all Arts Councils of Sindh came together for the first time, and with the collaboration of members from all over Sindh, he was selected as the President of the Arts Council of Pakistan. He emphasized that they are serving artists nationwide, and the credit for the social revolution goes to the members of the Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi, who trusted him. Commissioner Karachi and Chairman Arts Council, Saleem Rajput, praised President Ahmed Shah's efforts, saying that the people of Pakistan appreciate his endeavors. Saleem Rajput said that he himself is a member and came from Gilgit to cast his vote. He suggested organizing a program in Gilgit and Skardu through the Arts Council. He mentioned that the Sindh government is working on various aspects for the convenience of city dwellers, including transportation, price control, and other areas.

Green Crescent Trust's Annual Fun Gala Brightens the Lives of 2,000 Orphaned Students

PNP

KARACHI: Around 2,000 orphaned students belonging to underserved families spent a fun-filled day at a renowned amusement park in Karachi along with the concerned donors who are firm supporters of the drive to enrol out-of-school children in Sindh.

The orphaned students are enrolled in the charitable schools of the non-profit Green Crescent Trust (GCT) built in the disadvantaged parts of Sindh. GCT organizes the day-long Fun Gala under its Orphan Support Programme annually. Several patrons and donors of the GCT attended the event along with their families.

Speaking as the chief guest, noted industrialist and GCT Patron-in-Chief, Mr. Sardar Yasin Malik, urged the parentless children to stay fully focused



on their studies and work diligently to excel in their future practical life.

Mr. Malik said that he belonged to a very humble background as during childhood he used to study beneath the glow of a streetlight.

Mr. Malik told the audience that owing to his sheer dedication and commitment to studies, he excelled in his later life and attained the coveted status of being the highest taxpaying businessman in Pakistan.

Also addressing the gathering, GCT CEO, Mr. Zahid Saeed, said the Fun Gala was a regular feature of the special assistance drive of the non-profit that is conducted throughout the year to benefit orphans and their families.

Mr. Saeed also thanked celebrities including Shahid Afridi and Anwar Maqsood for endorsing GCT's campaign to build educational facilities for children in need.

He announced upcoming fundraisers in major cities to garner philanthropic support from business communities for enrolling out-of-school children.

GCT's Trustees and management committee members Mr. Saad Zia, Mr. Faizan Jawed, Mr. Jawed Iqbal, Mr. Shabbir Latif and Mr. Habib Navaid were among the honoured guests in the occasion.

Quaid-e-Azam Day - December 25, 2023

Tooba Khan

Quaid-e-Azam Day in Pakistan is celebrated every year on December 25. It is a celebration of Muhammad Ali Jinnah's birthday across Pakistan. He is believed to be the founder of the country and was known as 'Quaid-e-Azam', which means 'Great Leader'. It's a major national holiday with a lot of events throughout the country. Jinnah was made the governor-general of Pakistan on August 14, 1947. He worked hard

to set up a government and organize a country torn by communal violence. He died one year after he was appointed the governor-general of Pakistan in his home in Karachi. His efforts for the country have enshrined him as one of the greatest leaders of Pakistan.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah is honored in Pakistan as the first governor-general and the father of the nation.

Quaid-e-Azam Jinnah, as he was popularly known, had a lot of work ahead of him.

He was responsible for looking after thousands of Indian immigrants and setting up a government. Muham-

mad Ali Jinnah took over a new, shook country to rule. At the time, he was also suffering from tuberculosis. He worked hard to ensure that Pakistan had a form of governance before he died just a year after being in charge as governor-gen-

eral, on September 11, 1948.

Before he was the governor-general, Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a trained barrister with his legal practice. He was an active member of the Indian National Congress and a significant figure in the subcontinent's struggle for freedom from colonial rule.

By 1940, Jinnah decided that a separate Muslim State was necessary

to ensure that Muslims would not become an ignored minority in the newly formed state of India. He fought long and hard to ensure the creation of Pakistan, and his victory is a pivotal point of celebration for the people of the country.

He was such a beloved leader that his birthday, December 25, was declared Quaid-e-Azam Day. This day is observed in Pakistan in various ways. The national flag is specially hoisted at governmental and non-governmental buildings, plus formal events are also part of the public holiday.

The Quaid's guidelines for public servants

Muhammad Zahid Rifat

WITHIN 8 months of creation of an independent and sovereign state of Pakistan, its founder and first Governor General Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah had announced the guidelines for the civil servants of the country.

In his message to the civil servants of Pakistan on April 14, 1948, the Quaid-i-Azam said inter alia: "Whatever community, caste or creed you belong to you are now the servants of Pakistan."

"You have to do your duty as servants, you are not concerned with this or that political party, that is not your business."

It is a business of politicians to fight out their case under the present constitution or the future constitution that may be ultimately framed. You, therefore, have nothing to do with this party or that party.

"You are civil servants. Whichever gets the majority will form the Government and your duty is to serve the Government for the time being as servants not as politicians."

How will you do that? The Government in power for the time being must also realize and understand their responsibilities that you are not to be used for this party or that.

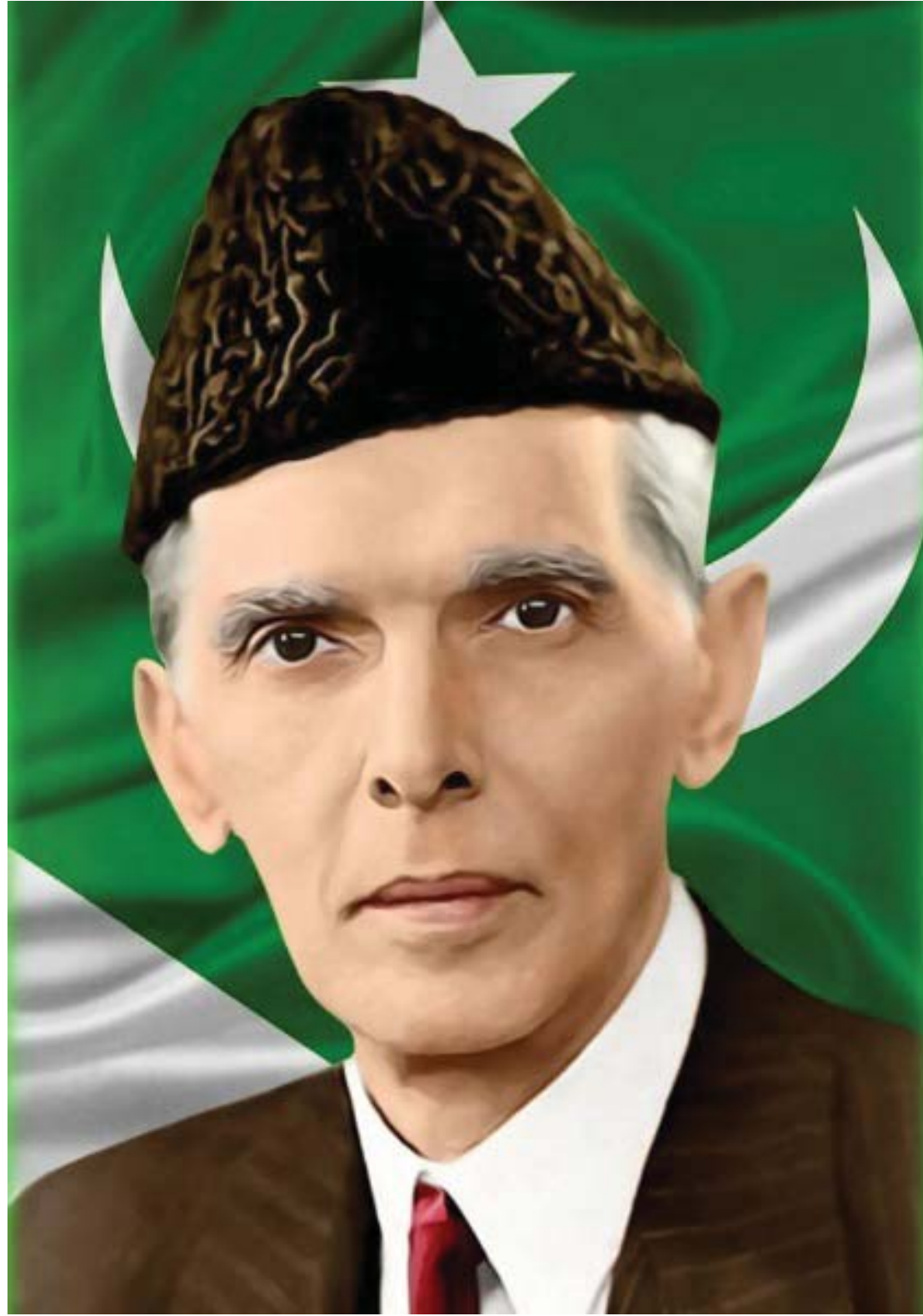
"I know we are saddled with old legacy, old mentality, old psychology and it haunts our footsteps, but it is up to you now to act as true servants of the people even at the risk of any Minister or Ministry trying to interfere with you in the discharge of your duties as civil servants."

"I hope it will not be so but even if some of you have to suffer as a victim. I hope it will not happen."

I expect you to do so readily. We shall, of course, see that there is security for you and safeguards to you. If we had that it is anyway prejudicial to your interest, we shall find ways and means of giving you that security. Of course, you must be loyal to the Government that is in power".

On October 14, 1947, the Quaid-i-Azam had reminded the public servants of rendering selfless service and performing their duties as being the most essential, eliminate the dangerous epidemics of irregularity and indiscipline at the earliest work untedly and selflessly and never forget this principle of Unity, Discipline and Faith.

In a broadcast statement from Radio Pakistan on October 30, 1947, the Father of the Nation had asked everyone



to work continuously day and night hard,...it now depends on you to work, work and work and our success is sure.

Above last two quotes have been taken briefly from Urdu version but these still convey the sense of what the Quaid-i-Azam desired every Pakistani to be doing for their newly

created motherland. Public servants or in other words bureaucracy is an important pillar of the government, be it as the national or provincial level.

The government formulates policies, plans and programmes, take appropriate decisions and these are to

be implemented and executed by the bureaucracy down the line from the level of the Secretary to a junior officer in the Ministry or Division of the federal government or of the administrative departments of the provincial departments in letter and spirit to the maximum extent selflessly, devotedly and dedicatedly for achieving the desired cherished objectives underlying the decisions of the federal or provincial government concerned.

And extracts from address of the Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah to the public servants are also on display in the Committee Room of Lahore Radio Station though the occasion and date are not mentioned.

However, these extracts are still relevant and worth mentioning here for the guidance of all concerned.

"You should not be influenced by any political pressure by any political party or individual politician, if you want to raise the prestige and goodness of Pakistan, you must not fall victim to any pressure but do your duty as servants to the people and the state, fearlessly and honestly. "Service is the backbone of the state."

Governments are formed, governments are defeated, Prime Ministers come and go, Ministers come and go, but you stay on, and therefore, there is very good responsibility placed on your shoulders.

"Make the feel that you are their servants and friends, maintain the highest standard of honour, integrity, justice and fair play."

Work honestly and sincerely". These some of the guidelines of the Father of the Nation for the public servants have been reproduced here as a reminder to all employees of the federal and provincial governments and ministries/divisions and attached departments down the line at the national and provincial and district levels with the request to them to read these guidelines and try their utmost to adhere to them to the maximum extent possible.

It is a matter of bitter record that the majority of the public servants from top to bottom are directly and indirectly politically influenced and as such they are more interested and concerned to serve their political gurus' directions rather than the federal and provincial government concerned.

Undue and unwarranted political influence and interest exercised by the majority of public servants has reduced the official work and business at all levels to the barest minimum which is quite regrettable and deplorable.

Federal and provincial ministers as well the parliamentarians should also stop exerting their undue pressure for posting of their favoured government functionaries particularly police officials in their constituencies illegally and unconstitutionally and not following prescribed rules of business.

This hopefully will improve working in all government offices and the problems and concerns of the people will be addressed more importantly rather than their individual political interests, please.

The writer is Lahore-based Freelance Journalist, Columnist and retired Deputy Controller (News), Radio Pakistan, Islamabad.

A Day of Double Delights: Celebrates Quaid-e-Azam's Legacy and Lights of Christmas

Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Ashfaq

December 25th, a day offers a unique blend of cultural, religious, and historical significance, making it a day of double delights for the people. The birth anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah holds great importance in Pakistan. Known as the father of the nation, Jinnah played a pivotal role in the creation of Pakistan as an independent state for Muslims. His vision and unwavering determination laid the foundation of a country where people could practice their religion freely and live in harmony. Quaid-e-Azam's Birthday is not only a day of remembrance but also an opportunity to reflect upon his invaluable contributions to the nation. Muhammad Ali Jinnah was born on December 25th, 1876, in Karachi, which was then a part of the British Indian Empire. On this day, Pakistanis pay tribute to their national hero by organizing various events, including seminars, conferences, and exhibitions that highlight

Jinnah's political journey and achievements. The Pakistani flag hoisted, and people visit his tomb in Karachi to offer prayers and lay wreaths.

Quaid-e-Azam, meaning "Great Leader," is the honorific title bestowed upon Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founding father of Pakistan. His birthday, on December 25th, coincides with the widely celebrated Christian festival of Christmas. By fusing these two special occasions, Pakistan can take a monumental step towards promoting interfaith harmony and national unity. Pakistan, a country with a rich cultural heritage and religious diversity, can lead the way in fostering understanding and harmony among its citizens by merging celebrations of various occasions.

Christmas Day will give Pakistani Christians a stronger sense of belonging and acceptance within their homeland. Christians have been an integral part of the Pakistani society, contributing significantly to its development, progress, and cultural fabric. By merging these celebrations, Pakistan acknowledges the importance of these citizens and their religious observances.

Moreover, merging the celebrations will also foster a sense of unity among Pakistanis, transcending religious boundaries. Quaid-e-Azam's Birthday represents a day of pride for all Pakistanis. It celebrates the birth of a visionary leader who envisioned a nation where people of different religions could live together with harmony. On the other hand, Christmas is a festival that symbolizes love, joy, and the spirit of giving. Merging the day, Pakistan can reinforce the ideals that its founding stood for while promoting the values of compassion understanding, and tolerance.

Pakistan is country with diverse religious communities, each with unique ways of celebrating festivals. Furthermore, merging Quaid-e-Azam's Birthday Christmas Day will provide opportunity for people of different faiths to come together and learn from each other's customs traditions. By merging these celebrations, people of Pakistan will display its multiculturalism and religious diversity, making it a destination that values and respects pluralism.

Individuals but will also contribute to the social cohesion and unity among citizens. These two occasions will provide an excellent opportunity for people of different faiths to engage with one another and broaden their horizons.

By participating in each other's celebrations, individuals can gain a deeper understanding of another religion's customs, traditions, and practices. This exposure and engagement can break down barriers and foster respect and acceptance, promoting harmony and unity in multicultural societies like Pakistan. When people of diverse backgrounds come together, they bring with them a rich tapestry of customs and traditions. These celebrations allows individuals to appreciate and engage with a wide range of cultural practices. In the same vein, celebration of Quaid-e-Azam's can introduce non-Muslims to the values and principles that guided the formation of Pakistan such as equality, justice, and religious.

In addition, these celebrations can enhance tourism and promote interfaith tourism within the country. Pakistan offers a treasure tour of historical and religious sites, which can attract tourists from all over the world, regardless of their religious affiliations. By celebrating Quaid-e-Azam's Birthday and Christmas Day together, Pakistan will display its multiculturalism and religious diversity, making it a destination that values and respects pluralism.

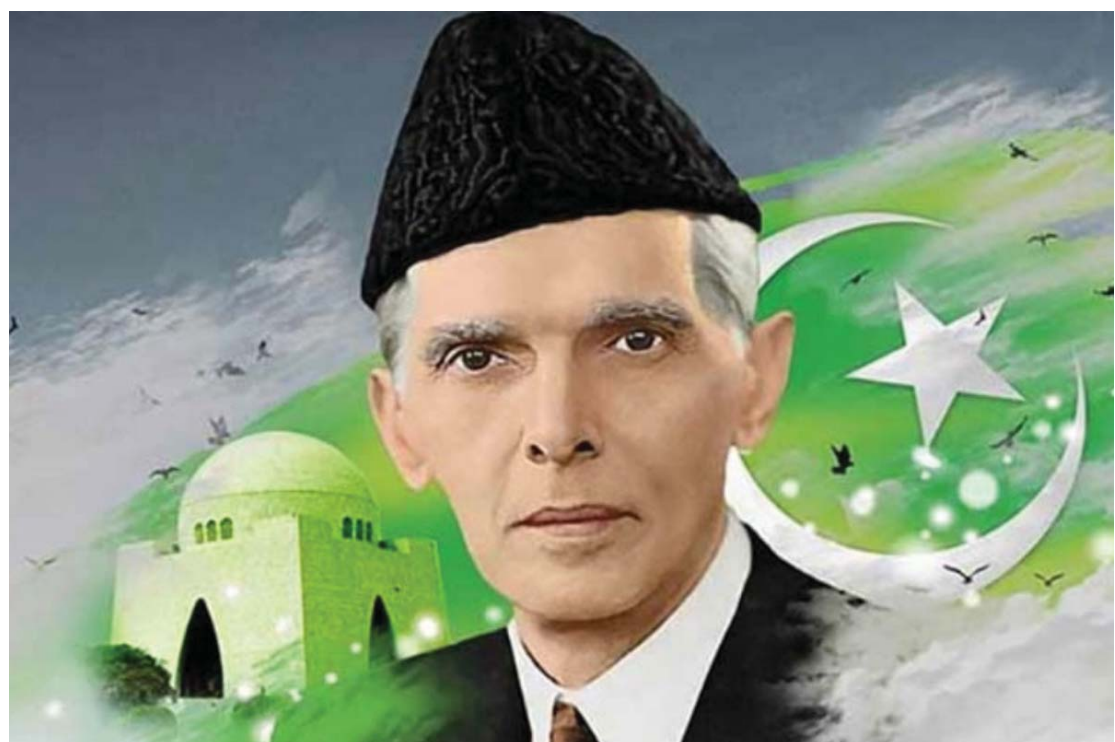
Quaid-e-Azam strongly believed in social welfare and the idea of a welfare state. His vision was rooted in addressing the disparities within society ensuring well-being of all citizens, regardless of their background. Christmas, on the other hand encourages the spirit of generosity endlessness through acts of charity and spreading kindness. However, it is essential to ensure that the merge of these celebrations will done with utmost respect and reverence for both events. It is crucial to involve representatives of all religious communities in the planning and execution of these celebrations. By collaborating and respecting each other's sentiments, a celebration displays the shared values and aspirations upheld by both Quaid-e-Azam's Birthday and Christ-

Paying tribute to MAJ Jinnah Sonnet

*Just as one is for justice and human rights
In society freedom movement's well-grid
Negate colonial shackles to disown frights
Norms mattered not only emotions did
As the Lincoln barrister led all 'n sundry
Harnessing their wishes emotions and dreams
Over long struggle for emancipation surely
United in discipline with faith no rims
Raison d'tre Mandela's race equality
Quietly but greatly exhorting youth to rise
Unto rights he champions 'UN' with equity
Amidst ways for people to coveted prize
Indeed those iconic figures 'n maxims in history
Doubtless stay immortal for eternity!*

— **Salahuddin Choudhry,**
Human rights activist and
Ex-diplomat admirer,

[In Memoriam an Ode to MA Jinnah, known to be the most powerful voice in the cause of Human Rights & Freedom of the Indo-Pak Sub-continent. He became Pakistan's First Governor General. ...Let's all pay homage to 'Jinnah Our Quaid' to commemorate his 147th Birth Anniversary]



mas Day. The Christian community in Pakistan, along with people from other religious backgrounds, gather to celebrate Christmas Day.

Churches are beautifully decorated with lights, and midnight crowd of people are join the event, filling the air with melodious carols and hymns. Families come together to exchange gifts and share traditional meals, spreading love and happiness throughout the day. The streets embellished with twinkling lights, and houses are decorated with Christmas trees, symbolizing the arrival of joy and hope. The infectious spirit of Christmas permeates the atmosphere, transcending religious boundaries and fostering a sense of unity and togetherness among all Pakistanis. Interestingly, the convergence of these two celebrations brings about a remarkable display of unity in

diversity.

Pakistan, being an Islamic nation, has sizeable Christian and other religious minority communities who actively participate in the festivities, blending their cultural and religious traditions with those of their Muslim brethren. Moreover, Quaid-e-Azam's Birthday is an occasion for self-reflection and introspection. It is a time for Pakistanis to evaluate the progress made in realizing Jinnah's vision of a democratic, tolerant, and prosperous nation. It serves as a reminder of the challenges that lie ahead and the collective responsibility to transform Pakistan into a thriving society that embodies the principles set forth by the country's founding father.

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Perception of US versus China-I

During my tenure as Press Secretary to the President, I met with the newly appointed head of public affairs at the US Embassy who called on me in my office in mid 2022. During the ensuing discussion his primary concern was how to improve US perception which has historically been tainted and uneasy. In reply to one of his queries about improving US perception, I reframed the dialogue. Yes, we were historical allies, bound by pacts like SEATO and CENTO, and US contributions to Pakistan's military and development are documented. Yet, the common man on the street barely feels their touch. This disconnect is crucial. While grateful for aid, its conditional nature often overshadows its benefits, breeding a sense of strings-attached partnership rather than genuine collaboration. The challenge, I emphasized, lies not in revisiting the past, but in forging a future where the impact of US engagement reverberates directly on the lives of ordinary Pakistanis, transforming their perception from tainted legacy to tangible partnership.

The relationship between Pakistan and the US has been marred by suspensions, distrusts and disappointments. From coercing Pakistan into conflicts during the Cold War era to meddling in its political processes, supporting dictatorial regimes, and then swiftly disengaging once objectives were met, the US left a trail of shattered trust and unhealed wounds. The perception among common Pakistanis, politicians, and the bureaucracy remains that the US is often to blame for the nation's troubles, whether or not it's the actual cause. Despite substantial financial aid from the US, which in total might exceed Chinese assistance, the prevalent sentiment in Pakistan portrays the US as manipulative, self-serving, domineering, and unforgiving, perpetuating a negative perception that hasn't improved over time.

The incident involving the US Navy SEALs violated Pakistan's airspace to execute the operation that led to the killing of Osama Bin Laden stands as a stark example of deep-rooted distrust. Instead of collaborating with Pakistan's armed forces, the US, driven by its sheer might, breached the sovereignty of an independent nation. This event, among many others, including the indiscriminate drone strikes causing civilian casualties labeled as "collateral damage," illustrates the severe humiliation and disregard faced by Pakistan. These actions highlight a pattern of disrespect for international law and human rights, with instances of abductions, extrajudicial detentions, and circumvention of legal processes, such as detaining Pakistani citizens in Guantanamo Bay prisons. Furthermore, the US stance during India's airspace violation lacked condemnation, signaling a bias that overshadowed adherence to international norms, further straining relations and reinforcing a sense of betrayal among Pakistanis.

In stark contrast to the US, China has stood as a steadfast friend to Pakistan since its inception. China's support has been unwavering, extending aid and assistance during Pakistan's most challenging economic, financial, and security crises. Unlike the US, China refrained from meddling in Pakistan's internal affairs or using coercion to achieve its goals. Notably, during critical moments, China didn't abandon Pakistan and

didn't impose ultimatums, as seen with the US post-9/11, where Pakistan was given a stark choice: "with us or against us." China's approach has fostered a sense of reliability and trust, forging a long-standing bond between the two nations based on mutual respect and non-interference.

Unlike the intangible aid from the US and the West, Chinese investment in Pakistan has been palpable and transformative, leaving a visible imprint on the nation's development. China's support extended beyond mere assistance, fostering tangible improvements across various sectors without imposing conditions or demanding allegiance. Notably, China aided Pakistan's defense industry without seeking alliance commitments or dragging the nation into its conflicts. It refrained from interfering in Pakistan's politics, maintaining a hands-off approach to internal and external affairs, unlike the US or the West. The impact of Chinese investment reverberates in numerous projects, ranging from alleviating power shortages, enhancing transportation networks with roads, highways, and ports, to boosting connectivity, energy alternatives, infrastructure, and even grassroots initiatives like distributing solar systems in Balochistan. These initiatives directly and positively impacted the lives of ordinary Pakistanis, creating a profound sense of appreciation, gratitude, and respect toward China, fostering a deep bond that Pakistanis hold in high regard.

The apprehension and opposition from the US and Europe toward the China-Pakistan fraternal and all-weather friendship is a sentiment of reluctance

and apprehensions. They don't have the appetite to assist Pakistan towards development and progress nor want others to do so. As Director Media to the former President Zardari and deeply attached with the PML(N) leadership during Nawaz's period, I first hand witnessed Mr. Asif Ali Zardari and Nawaz Sharif made frantic outreach to the US and the West to help Pakistan out of its financial and economic woes but both declined involvement. Their refusal prompted Pakistan to turn to Chinese investment, a move born out of necessity to expedite progress and uplift millions out of poverty. The CPEC emerged as a crucial pathway for Pakistan's advancement when other avenues for support were unavailing.

The criticism aimed at Chinese investment often includes allegations of creating a debt trap for Pakistan, yet Pakistan's experience tells a different story. Contrary to the accusations, Pakistan finds comfort in its debt owed to China, which stands out among its various creditors. According to Dr. Shamsad, Pakistan's Caretaker Finance Minister, the Chinese debt is the most forgiving and accommodating. Chinese creditors demonstrate a remarkable flexibility by extending payment deadlines upon Pakistan's request, showing understanding and support. Notably, Chinese debt boasts the lowest interest rates, further distinguishing it from other financial obligations. Additionally, China remains willing to bolster Pakistan's foreign reserves whenever the need arises, showcasing a level of generosity and support that Pakistan values. This stands in stark contrast to the portrayal of a debt trap and exemplifies the favorable terms and understanding within the Pakistan-China financial relationship.

To be continued



Analysis

Qamar Bashir

General elections: Deadline for submitting nomination papers ends

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)'s deadline for submission of nomination papers to contest the general elections 2024 for the National and Provincial Assembly has ended today (Sunday) at 04:30 PM, ARY News reported.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) had acceded to the appeals of various political parties, deciding to extend the deadline for filing nomination papers for the upcoming general elections until Sunday (today).

As per details, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PMLN) submitted the nomination papers of the party's supreme leader Nawaz Sharif for NA-130 of Lahore.

Chairman People's Party Bilawal Bhutto also submitted his nomination papers for NA-196. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari also filed his nomination papers for NA-128, Lahore.

The PPP Co-Chairman and former president Asif Ali Zardari's nomination papers have been submitted from NA-207, Nawabshah.

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

Appeals against the acceptance or rejection of nomination papers can be submitted until the 3rd of January, with decisions expected by the 10th of January.

The Election Commission is set to release the updated list of candidates on the 11th of January, and candidates have until the 12th of January to withdraw their papers.

The allocation of electoral symbols will take place on the 13th of January, and the general elections are scheduled for the 8th of February.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has given more time to foreign observers who want to monitor the general elections.

Now, they can submit their applications from December 31 to January 20. An official from the ECP informed the state news agency that, up to this point, they have received responses from 103 representatives of foreign media living in Pakistan.

The ECP has printed over 200,000 accreditation cards and appointed District Monitoring Officers and teams to oversee compliance with the code of conduct.



Level Playing Field for Rioters? - I

A few days ago, I engaged in a profound discussion with my close family members. They expressed the view that Imran Khan and the entire PTI should be granted a fair chance, questioning why there is apprehension about them. They suggested letting them emerge from legal proceedings and imprisonment, asserting that they could return to power with a two-thirds majority, as they believe the majority of the people support them. Furthermore, they pointed to the recent Virtual Jalsa of PTI as evidence of significant public backing. While I lack the authority to determine right from wrong, I acknowledge that it is the judicial and legal system that will ultimately make such decisions.

Nevertheless, I find the act of targeting military installations, including the GHQ, and the properties of civilians within our own borders to be an unforgivable offense. Such actions are typically expected from rival countries, not from within. I don't align myself with any political party and recognize that not everyone in PTI is anti-state. However, allowing individuals associated with unlawful activities to openly participate in elections without due process could set a dangerous precedent. Terrorist groups, like the TTP, might demand similar treatment based on claims of having popular support.

In my perspective, those who attack our Army installations, the very entities ensuring my secure living and working environment, as well as civilian proper-

ties, must face punishment. This is essential to set an example for the future and discourage such actions. The issue, as I see it, is profoundly serious and warrants thorough discussion.

Understanding the concept of anti-state elements is crucial. Internal stability and the preservation of state sovereignty are fundamental to a nation's well-being. Anti-state elements, driven by extremist ideologies, separatist sentiments, or other motivations, can pose a significant threat to a country's fabric. They often target the unity and integrity of a nation. Responding resolutely is necessary to

preserve national identity and cohesion, thwarting attempts to sow discord.

While democracies thrive on peaceful dissent, concerted efforts to undermine democratic institutions require strict measures to protect the values that form a nation's foundation. Internal anti-state elements may resort to terrorism, endangering innocent lives. A robust response is essential not only to neutralize immediate threats but also to deter potential perpetrators and ensure the safety of the population.

Dealing strictly with such elements is vital for maintaining law and order within a country. A strong legal framework, coupled with law enforcement, prevents the breakdown of societal norms. Internal anti-state elements directly threaten national security and may be influenced by external actors seeking to exploit divisions. A strict approach helps mitigate external interference and strengthens a nation's ability to determine its own destiny.

Strict measures underscore the importance of upholding the rule of law. By adhering to legal procedures, respecting human rights, and ensuring due process, a nation demonstrates its dedication to justice while countering internal threats. A stable internal environment fosters economic development, encouraging investment, growth, and prosperity.

Dealing with internal anti-state elements is not just about maintaining law and order; it is imperative for preserving a nation's essence—its sovereignty, unity, and citizens' well-being. Governments must adopt a robust approach while ensuring measures align with the principles of justice, human rights, and the rule of law. This balanced approach effectively counters internal threats, creating an environment conducive to sustained growth, stability, and the realization of national aspirations.

Now, let's delve into the discussion regarding a fair playing field for anti-state elements. In the intricate fabric of democracy, the principle of a level playing field holds paramount importance. However, when it comes to individuals or groups identified as anti-state elements in politics, a nuanced approach becomes necessary to safeguard the very foundations of democratic governance. The foremost concern in denying a fair playing field to anti-state elements is the imperative to preserve national security. Individuals or groups advocating for the overthrow of the government, supporting violent extremism, or engaging in activities that undermine the state pose a direct threat to the safety and well-being of the nation. Allowing them an unpunished role in politics risks compromising the very security that democracy seeks to protect.

To be continued

Road Accidents and Safety

Usman Wasim Abbasi

Road accidents are a significant public health and life safety concern in Pakistan, causing numerous fatalities and injuries daily. Understanding the causes, consequences, and possible solutions is essential to this problem. This piece of writing will provide an easy-to-understand overview of road accidents and safety in Pakistan, along with survey reports that shed light on the situation. Statistics:

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Pakistan has one of the highest road traffic mortality rates globally, with over 25,000 deaths annually. The country experiences a high number of road accidents, injuries, and fatalities. Contributing Factors: Several factors contribute to the high rate of road accidents in Pakistan, including inadequate road infrastructure, reckless driving, non-compliance with traffic rules, and the prevalence of overloaded and poorly maintained vehicles.

Speeding: One of the primary causes of accidents is over-speeding, which leads to reduced reaction times and more severe crashes. Many drivers in Pakistan disregard speed limits. Reckless Overtaking: Risky overtaking on narrow roads contribute to head-on collisions and side-swipe accidents. Survey reports indicate that overtaking without visibility is a significant issue. Distracted Driving: The use of mobile phones while driving is widespread in Pakistan. This distraction diverts a driver's attention and increases the risk of accident. Poorly Maintained Vehicles: Inadequate vehicle maintenance can result in brake failures, tire blowouts, and other mechanical issues that lead to accidents. Lack of Traffic Education: A lack of awareness and education about traffic rules and safety measures is a significant problem in Pakistan. Loss of Lives: Road accidents lead to a significant loss of lives each year. These tragedies badly affect families and communities across the country. Injuries: Survivors of road accidents often suffer from severe injuries, including fractures, head injuries, and spinal cord injuries, leading to long-term physical and emotional consequences.

Traffic Law Enforcement: Stricter law enforcement and heavy fines/penalties for traffic violations can act as a deterrent to reckless driving. Traffic police play a vital role in maintaining road discipline. Road Infrastructure Improvement: Investing in better road infrastructure, including wider roads, clear road markings, and safer intersections, can reduce accidents. Public Awareness Campaigns: Government and non-government organizations conduct public awareness campaigns to educate the public about

safe driving practices and the importance of following traffic rules.

Survey Reports on Road Safety Driver Behavior: Surveys have highlighted that a significant number of drivers in Pakistan admit to speeding, using mobile phones while driving, and not wearing seat belts, indicating a need for behavior change.

Poorly Maintained Vehicles: Inadequate vehicle maintenance can result in brake failures, tire blowouts, and other mechanical issues that lead to accidents. Lack of Traffic Education: A lack of awareness and education about traffic rules and safety measures is a significant problem in Pakistan. Loss of Lives: Road accidents lead to a significant loss of lives each year. These tragedies badly affect families and communities across the country. Injuries: Survivors of road accidents often suffer from severe injuries, including fractures, head injuries, and spinal cord injuries, leading to long-term physical and emotional consequences. Traffic Law Enforcement: Stricter law enforcement and heavy fines/penalties for traffic violations can act as a deterrent to reckless driving. Traffic police play a vital role in maintaining road discipline. Road Infrastructure Improvement: Investing in better road infrastructure, including wider roads, clear road markings, and safer intersections, can reduce accidents. Public Awareness Campaigns: Government and non-government organizations conduct public awareness campaigns to educate the public about safe driving practices and the importance of following traffic rules.

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Road Condition: Reports show that many roads in Pakistan are poorly maintained, increasing the risk of accidents. Missing road signs, and lack of proper lighting are common issues. Vehicle Maintenance: Surveys reveal that a substantial percentage of vehicles on the road have maintenance issues, emphasizing the need for regular vehicle check-ups and maintenance. Road accidents in Pakistan are a critical issue that affects the lives of thousands of people each year. Understanding the causes and consequences of these accidents is crucial to finding effective solutions. Through stricter law enforcement, better road infrastructure, and public awareness campaigns, Pakistan can work towards reducing road accidents and ensuring safer journeys for its citizens. It is essential for both the government and the public to actively participate in addressing this issue for a safer and more secure road environment.

The Writer Usman Waseem is a student of BS Mass Com last Semester at NUML

Ethiopian Tourism Pavilion at Karachi Feast Gets Overwhelming Response

PNP

KARACHI: The Ethiopian Tourism Pavilion at the Karachi Feast received an overwhelming response, attracting an impressive influx of more than 25,000 visitors over the three-day extravaganza which concluded on Sunday.

H. E. Junaid Shah, Minister for Youth Affairs, Sports, Culture and Tourism, graced the concluding ceremony and lauded the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for introducing tourism and culture of Ethiopia in Pakistan.

H. E. Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori, the Governor of Sindh, and H. E. Jemal Beker Abdula, the Ambassador of Ethiopia to Pakistan, opened the Ethiopian Tourism cubicle on Friday in the presence of a diverse audience, including Honorary Consul H. E. Ibrahim Tawab, members of the diplomatic corps, government officials, business community, media, and representatives from civil society.

On Saturday, 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.

An industrious endeavor by the



Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in Pakistan emerged as a beacon of cultural richness and tourism allure during the Karachi Feast.

The Ethiopian Tourism Pavilion gave a captivating display of Ethiopia's multifaceted culture, rich heritage, and

unparalleled tourism offerings. The Ethiopian Coffee remained the center of attraction, drawing enthusiastic Karachiites to savor the distinctive flavors of Ethiopia.

The cultural performances by the Ethiopian Embassy elicited immense applause, further enhancing the immer-

sive experience for the Karachi audience.

Expressing his delight over the three-day spectacle, Ethiopian Ambassador Jemal Beker Abdula extended heartfelt gratitude to the Bukhari Group, organizers of the Karachi Feast, for their unwavering cooperation and support in promoting Ethiopia's culture and



tourism.

He also expressed his gratitude for the people of Karachi who had shown immense love and strong attachment to Ethiopia which was a land of Bilal Habeshi and King Nejaishi. This experience would serve as a bridge to connect them with their ancestral land,

he added.

Describing Ethiopia as a land of breathtaking beauty, abundant natural resources, picturesque landscapes, lakes, mountains, and over 16 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, he urged the people of Pakistan to visit Ethiopia which was a land of origins.

PRCS Celebrates 76th Foundation Day with Zeal and Zest

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) marked its 76th Foundation Day with a vibrant and joyful celebration held at the National Headquarters. The highlight of the event was a colorful cake cutting ceremony, graced by the esteemed presence of Chairman PRCS, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari.

Distinguished guests included members of PRCS Managing Body, representatives from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee Red Cross (ICRC) and Partner National Societies. The gathering also included PRCS staff, along with a significant number of volunteers and students from various educational institutions in Islamabad.

Chairman PRCS, Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari, expressed heartfelt grat-



itude for the unwavering commitment and dedication of PRCS since its establishment in 1947. He emphasized PRCS's ongoing mission to aid communities and

alleviate the plight of the vulnerable in Pakistan. During his address, Chairman Laghari highlighted PRCS's commitment to being the first to reach and the

last to leave during tragedies, whether man-made or natural disasters.

"PRCS acts on the principle of providing immediate assistance, whether it's first aid, psychiatric relief, reunification efforts, emergency support, or reconstruction," said Chairman Laghari. He commended the resilience and effectiveness of PRCS volunteers, who have gained strong acceptance within communities. These volunteers serve as agents of behavior change, consistently playing a vital role in influencing public perceptions during awareness campaigns.

As PRCS celebrates its 76th Foundation Day, the organization remains steadfast in its commitment to humanitarian values and the well-being of the people of Pakistan. The event serves as a testament to the enduring spirit and dedication of PRCS and its partners in working towards a safer, healthier, and more united nation.

Raja Hafeez met with Ambassador of Switzerland in Pakistan

PPA

ISLAMABAD: Raja Hafeez met the Ambassador of Switzerland during his visit in Pakistan. During his meeting with the Ambassador he said the importance of Switzerland's commitment to humanitarian work worldwide. We believe that meeting with (George Steiner) was an amazing experience. It would not only provide us an opportunity to showcase our work

but also foster a strong partnership between our organization and the Embassy of Switzerland.

He said that "we are confident that this meeting and insights and guidance would be invaluable to our ongoing efforts in Pakistan and Switzerland, believe this meeting will result in strong efforts between Switzerland and Pakistan ongoing efforts and our project's implementation of supporting disability communities all over Pakistan to provide education, health care and equal rights opportunity".



Interfaith harmony is need of the hour, VCAIOU

PNP

ISLAMABAD: A Christmas celebration function was organized in Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) for Christian workers. Addressing the ceremony, Vice Chancellor AIOU, Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood said that all the prophets have taught love, tolerance, forgiveness and justice, while today in our society, instead of brotherhood and love, we are living with hatred and disgust with each other. Dr. Nasir said, let's make a pledge that we will not do what our conscience forbids us to do. He said that each of us have to change ourselves for the establishment of a beautiful society.

The Chief Guest of the event was Father, Aamir Yaqoob of Khatun Fatima Church, Islamabad. Registrar AIOU, Raja Umar Yunis, Additional Registrar Bibi Yasmin, Director Coordination and Follow-up, Dr. Syed Aamir Shah, representatives of Employees Welfare Association and around 120 Christian employees of AIOU participated. Christmas cake was cut in the ceremony, all prayed for the development and prosperity of the country and good wishes were expressed for the Christian community on this occasion. Pastor Shiraz read selected verses from the Bible and highlighted the importance of interfaith harmony, national security and welfare of the human society. The event was jointly organized by Employees Welfare Association and Director Works.

Dr. Nasir Mahmood further said that all employees in the institution have equal rights irrespective of their gender and religion. Interfaith harmony is need of the hour.

Jinnah, a leader of great eminence, Saqib Rafiq

PPA

RAWALPINDI: Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah was a leader of great eminence and the dream of a separate homeland for the Muslims of the subcontinent was impossible without him. Jinnah changed the direction of history of the Subcontinent by transforming the Muslims of South Asia from a minority community to a nation.

RCCI President and Chairman RWMC Saqib Rafiq in his message on the eve of birth anniversary of Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah said that Quaid's personality was a beacon for us and we could put our country on the way to success and prosperity by following his teachings. The objective of inheriting a prosperous Pakistan to the next generation was only possible by complying with Quaid's motto of Unity, Faith and Discipline.

Our ancestors gave many sacrifices for the country and it was our duty to strive for a stable, peaceful and developed Pakistan. We pledged to follow his ideals to make Pakistan a strong and prosperous country, he added.

Saqib Rafiq emphasized upon the business community, youth and members of the RCCI to adopt Quaid's attributes of honesty, hard work, perseverance and dedication.

He informed that RCCI will celebrate the birth anniversary at chamber house and a special documentary will be presented on the life of Quaid-e-Azam.



Pic story of inheritor of Huizhou woodcarving in E China

Xinhua

Tang Shuhui is a municipal-level inheritor of Huizhou woodcarving in Shexian County of Huangshan. Featuring vivid carving images and delicate carving techniques, his woodcarving artworks have reaped many awards. To promote his woodcarving artworks in the market, Tang has set up a team to develop cultural and creative products, as well as promoting his products via livestreaming, thus making it known to the young generation. "I hope through my continuous learning and creating, I could make a step forward in my design and craftsmanship," said Tang. (Xinhua/Zhou Mu)

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Tang Shuhui promotes woodcarving artworks via livestreaming at his studio in Shexian County of Huangshan, east China's Anhui Province, Dec. 14, 2023.

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Tang Shuhui makes a woodcarving artwork in Shexian County of Huangshan, east China's Anhui Province, Dec. 18, 2023.

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Third Pakistan International Property Show ends at President's House

A conference for investment in Pakistan will be held in Jeddah: Khurshid Barlas



PPA

ISLAMABAD: The closing ceremony of "Third Pakistan International Property Housing and Construction Exhibition" organized by Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry was held yesterday at the President's House. President Dr. Arif Alvi was the chief guest in his speech. While doing so, the President urged businessmen and property developers to initiate joint ventures with foreign companies to attract foreign investment to pave the way for economic development in the country. The President said that the whole world And especially in the fields of business and construction, great progress is being made, in this regard, Pakistani busi-

nessmen should take advantage of the opportunities available abroad. He said that Pakistani businessmen have a lot of potential, but in order to move forward, there is a need for reform, unity and better utilization of intellectual and human resources in the society. Business organizations should adopt the values of social responsibility. And while making a profit, we must conduct our business operations in a manner that is beneficial to the environment. Property developers should follow the construction norms and government regulations and deliver the projects as promised to the customers as this will increase their credibility and trust. He urged the property developers to focus on vertical construction as it would ensure better



utilization of land and would also not adversely affect the agriculture sector. He also emphasized on the need for one window operations to improve the business environment in the country and ease of doing business and further promote business activities. Talking about the tax culture in the country, the President said that the rich class should pay their share in paying taxes so that the government can spend

funds on poverty alleviation projects and ensure the education of out-of-school children. He said holding such exhibitions provides an opportunity for local companies to attract foreign investment, develop business and organizational skills, improve the quality of their products and meet potential investors face-to-face. He added that there is also a need to introduce environmentally sustaina-

ble construction materials that can also help reduce the cost of construction for the public. Organizers of the event including Khurshid Barlas highlighted the various aspects of the property expo and the keen interest of people in purchasing residential and commercial units. Chairman Khurshid Barlas said that a conference is being held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on February 24, 2024 to support the Pakistani econo-

my in which Companies from tourism, medical tourism, minerals, aviation industry, dairy and agriculture, information communication technology, education, real estate industry and other sectors will participate. The purpose of the conference is to encourage Saudi Arabia to invest in Pakistan. To play an important role in increasing investment from

PIAF stresses need for solid steps to boost remittances

PPA



LAHORE: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Association Front (PIAF) on Sunday 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.

Expensive gas and power hitting industry as exports keep declining: BMP

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The high gas and power prices have made the local as well as the export industry uncompetitive on the world market resulting in an 8 per cent monthly and 7 percent annual decline to \$1.3 billion in November.

The BMP Chairman and FPCCI former president Mian Anjum Nisar observed that the government would have to sustain its top focus on enhancing the share of renewable energy and hydropower projects to lower energy costs through an improved energy mix, although financing for such projects remained a key challenge. He said that enhancing the share of renewable energy (RE) and hydropower in the energy mix was the government's priority and needed to be sustained over a longer horizon as it was the only way to provide affordable energy to the people.

Inflation keeps rising amidst record food and energy prices: APBF

PPA

ISLAMABAD: The All Pakistan Business Forum (APBF) has observed that the inflation measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) continued to rise in the wake of higher prices of food and energy despite recent cut in the prices of petroleum products, as essential commodities have still not seen a decline in prices, leaving trade and industry frustrated.

APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood, quoting the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), observed that the index spiked 38.28 percent when compared with the corresponding week of last year, as out of the 51 essential commodities covered by SPI, prices of 17 (33.33 percent) items increased, rates of another 17 decreased and prices of the remaining 17 items remained unchanged compared to the previous week.

Chinese Consulate honors LCCI President Kashif Anwar with Friendship Award

PPA

LAHORE: Mr. Kashif Anwar became the first President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce who was honored by the Chinese Consulate with a special Award given at a prestigious ceremony chaired by the Chinese Consul General Zhao Shireen in Lahore.

This recognition was granted in acknowledgment of LCCI President's invaluable contributions to the advancement of trade and industry, as well as his dedicated efforts to strengthen diplomatic ties with the Chinese Consulate. The Chinese Consul General in Lahore bestowed the prestigious Chinese Consul General Friendship Award upon the President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry Kashif Anwar.

During the award ceremony, Zhao Shireen, the Chinese Consul General, expressed pride in the collective progress and achievements made in building a shared future between China and Pakistan.

Zhao Shireen underscored the Chinese Consulate's commitment to supporting



diverse sectors, ranging from education and healthcare to entrepreneurship, thereby contributing to the overall development and prosperity of the region.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar expressed his deep gratitude for being selected to

receive the Consulate General Friendship Award. He regarded the award as a great honor and privilege, emphasizing that China has consistently been Pakistan's steadfast friend, demonstrating unwavering support under all circumstances.

Economic Watch: Made-in-China stuffed bears spread joy of Christmas overseas

Xinhua

XIAN: During the Christmas season, Care Bears dressed in Santa Claus hats and other decorations, an adorable plush toy favored by kids, can be easily found on the shelves of shopping malls in the United States.

Care Bears are multi-colored bears that were used on greeting cards and later turned into plush bears.

Before these stuffed animals reached their destination, they had been produced in the hinterland of the Qinling Mountains in China and journeyed for almost a month across the ocean.

In the birthplace of toys, Ankang Heng'an Toy Ltd., in the city of Ankang in northwest China's Shaanxi Province, Huang Longhua threaded a needle deftly and sewed the back of a stuffed bear in just one minute.

"I have been working here for four years. Every day I can sew more than 400 toys and earn 150 yuan (about 21 U. S. dollars)," said the 43-year-old worker, who used to be a stay-at-home mom.

Company manager Min Hua said the production of a Care Bear involves nearly 20 workers covering eight procedures. After applying textile printing on piece goods, workers would add embroidery. Then, they use machines to cut patterns, stitch them by following the given sketch, and stuff them.

"In particular, we stuff toys with polypropylene cotton, a kind of fluffy and springy material that is made from recycled materials," added Min. After that, workers sew every edge close before the inspection and packaging processes.

Founded in 2018, the company continues to expand its export business of soft toys in North Amer-

ica and Europe. It produces over 10 million Care Bears each year. Last year, its exports reached 180 million yuan.

"Orders once dropped during the pandemic, but market demand quickly recovered and we began to prepare for the Christmas season six months ago," said Min.

She also noted the toy factory is highly labor-hungry, and that was why the company chose to settle down in Ankang, where labor and land costs were relatively low.

To ensure quick delivery, in 2020, the local government and Shanghai International Port (Group) Co., Ltd. (SIPG) co-founded a logistics company named Ankang SIPG, ensuring multimodal transport at a lower cost.

"Some of the bears can take trains to central China's Wuhan, and then reach Shanghai by waterway before heading to the U. S. by sea. Those with tighter schedules can ride on trucks to Shanghai and then to the U. S. by ship, a whole trip of less than a month. To reach the European market, China-Europe freight train services are a good choice," said Li Wanhua, deputy director of the office of Ankang's plush toy industry leading group.

The toy companies are the epitome of the flourishing plush toy industry in Ankang, which boasts 788 enterprises in this industry, creating more than 19,000 jobs, with an annual output totaling over 5.8 billion yuan by November 2023.

It is estimated that Ankang's exports of soft toys will reach 600 million yuan this year. "Plush toys are regarded as bearers of happiness. We want to bring more joy to kids across the globe," said Li.

Christmas Day

ISLAMABAD: Visitors look Christmas tree during decorated in a shopping mall ahead of Christmas ceremony celebration on 25th December in Federal Capital.



Photo: Online

Iftikhar Ali praises FTO for outstanding services

Bureau Report

ISLAMABAD: Former President of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Iftikhar Ali Malik on Sunday praised the commendable services provided by Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah.

He said Dr. Asif has efficiently addressed genuine tax-related grievances of taxpayers, notably the business community nationwide, accomplishing this within a record-short time of 34 days, said a news

release here.

Talking to delegation of industrialists led by Muslim Khan Buner, he said since he assumed the responsibility on 29th September 2021, an extensive public awareness campaign reached every corner of the country.

As a result first time in the history, thousands of aggrieved tax payers approached the regional offices nationwide through email, FTO portal, WhatsApp, Mobile App, Fax and written complaints. Remarkably, these issues were resolved within a record time of 34 days from the

date of complaint, he said

Malik said Dr. Jah's commitment to resolving issues in such a timely manner reflects a proactive approach that fosters a business-friendly environment.

He appreciated the principled bold stance of Federal Tax Ombudsman's advocacy for timely payment of taxes and the expansion of the tax base.

Recognizing the urgency of these measures, Dr. Jah's stance aligns with the broader goal of strengthening the national economy.



Pakistan navy clinches champion's title of 7th chief of the naval staff open shooting championship



Spokesman Report

KARACHI: Closing ceremony of 7th Chief of the Naval Staff Open Shooting Championship was held at Pakistan Navy Shooting Range, PNS BAHADUR at Karachi. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf was the Chief Guest on occasion.

with 35 Gold, 17 Silver and 13 Bronze medals whereas Sindh team secured the Runners up position. Almost 400 shooters from all over Pakistan participated in the week long Championship. Chief of the Naval Staff awarded medals and trophies to the winners of the championship and appreciated the efforts of organizers and support of sponsors and sports shooters from all over Pakistan to make the championship a success.



During the championship, a total of 27 events including 11 men, 5 women and 4 in youth categories were contested. In order to promote the game of shooting among youth and for interest of local sports shooting lovers, 7 events of Big Bore Pistol & Big Bore Rifle categories were also held which were non-scoring towards overall points of the championship. Around 400 shooters from Pakistan

Army, Pakistan Navy, Pakistan Air Force, ASF, Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, FRA, HEC, Sindh Police and SSU Sindh Police teams and different shooting clubs from Karachi participated in the championship and displayed their skills in the sport of shooting. All matches were contested under the umbrella of National Rifle Association of Pakistan (NRAP) as per International Sports Shooting Federation latest rules and regulations.

PM Talent Hunt Youth Sports League: Handball trials begins in Abbottabad



Sports Desk

PESHAWAR: In connection with the Prime Minister's Talent Hunt Youth Sports League, Men Handball Trials have started at Kings Football Stadium, Abbottabad with the fourteen best players and three reserves being selected in the trials.

On this occasion, Regional Sports Officer Abbottabad Ahmed Zaman was the chief guest along with DSO Mansehra Aqib, international player of Pakistan Handball and brand ambassador of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Handball League, Hazrat Hussain, Additional Registrar Peshawar University Dr Noorzada and other important personalities were present.

Trials were held under the auspices of the Directorate of Sports Peshawar University, The Director of Sports and Organizer and Coordinator of Peshawar University Bahre Karam, President of the Provincial Handball Association, is supervising the trials.

The selection committee comprises international players including Naveedur Rahman and additional registrar Dr Noorzada were also present. A large number of players participated in the trials. The trials would also be continued after which the selected players will be announced.

Atletico Madrid beat Sevilla 1-0 to displace Barcelona at third position



A Sports

MADRID: Marcos Llorente's goal helped Atletico Madrid edge Sevilla 1-0 to displace defending champions Barcelona in third position during their La Liga 2023-24 clash at Civitas Metropolitan Stadium on Saturday.

Atletico Madrid's last La Liga match ended in a 3-3 stalemate against Getafe after being reduced to ten men, while Sevilla registered their third victory this season over Granada 3-0.

Both teams started the game on high, making two attempts each in the first ten minutes to end this year with a victory. Antoine Griezmann was at his best, making several attempts to earn the lead for Atletico however, Sevilla's goalkeeper did not let him get through. Both sides fought hard in the first half, which ended without a goal from either team.

The home side made two substitutions for the second half as Marcos Llorente replaced Nahuel Molina, while Angel Correa replaced Rodrigo Riquelme.

Marcos Llorente came off the bench and scored the match-winner in his first minute as he hit a right-footed shot from a difficult angle on the right to the bottom left corner.

This was Llorente's third goal during the ongoing season of La Liga.

Llorente came close to adding a second with a header that hit the top of the net and a shot saved by Sevilla keeper Marko Dmitrovic.

Sevilla made several vain efforts to equalise but could not get through as the home side's lead remained intact until the final whistle.

Kieron Pollard named in England's coaching setup for T20 World Cup 2024

A Sports

LAHORE: England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has included former West Indies captain Kieron Pollard in their coaching staff for the upcoming ICC Men's T20I World Cup 2024, which is scheduled to be played in West Indies and United States of America (USA).

England roped in Pollard to help them with local knowledge of the conditions in the Caribbean during their defence of the T20 World Cup title which they won in 2022 under Jos Buttler.

"Pollard will join the England Men's team specifically for the T20 World Cup as an assistant coach and to



provide expertise of local conditions," said ECB in a press release.

Notably, England won their first ICC trophy in the West Indies by defeating arch-rivals Australia in the final of the ICC T20 World Cup in 2010 under Paul

Collingwood. Meanwhile, West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard is a veteran in T20 cricket, having played 637 matches and amassing over 12000 runs at an impressive strike rate of 150.58.

Pollard has also picked over 300 wickets in T20 cricket at an average of 25.19. He is the only player to play more than 600 T20 games and the third-highest run-scorer in T20 cricket.

Pollard was also part of the West Indies squad during their victorious ICC T20 World Cup 2012 campaign in Sri Lanka.

He has also served as the batting coach of the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Mumbai Indians since 2022, after winning five IPL titles with them as a player.

Meanwhile, England have recently concluded their tour of the Caribbean, where they lost the ODI series 2-1 and the T20I series 3-2 against the West Indies.

Burnley boss Kompany hails 'big moment' after referee Welch makes history

Sports Desk

LAHORE: Burnley manager Vincent Kompany congratulated official Rebecca Welch after she became the first female referee to officiate a Premier League match when she oversaw his team's 2-0 win at Fulham on Saturday.

Second-half goals from Wilson Odobert and Sander Berge earned Burnley their third victory of the Premier League season and helped Kompany's side move off the bottom of the table.

The Belgian manager spoke with Welch after the match, and when asked about what he had said, Kompany told reporters: "I wanted to congratulate her because it's a big moment."

"After the game it's fair to say that it's a milestone moment and may there be more, and the best thing will always be when someone is judged on merit.

"But you have to have a first and this is it, so well done (to her) and I'm happy to be part of this moment."

Welch has been a trailblazer for female referees and last month was the fourth official for Fulham v Manchester United in the Premier League, the first female to fulfil that role. The 40-year-old, a regular in the Women's Super League, has previously officiated in the Football League and the FA Cup and was on duty at the women's World Cup this year.

India women register first-ever Test victory over Australia

Sports Desk

LAHORE: India's women's cricket team cruised to their first-ever win against Australia in Test cricket on Sunday, beating the visitors by eight wickets in a one-off match in Mumbai.

India dominated play in the four-day match at the Wankhede Stadium, smashing 406 runs in the first innings to take a 187-run lead.

On the final day, Australia knocked out 261, with India's bowlers earning five wickets for just 28 runs, including right arm off-break Sneh Rana — later awarded player of the match — taking two wickets in two balls.



Set a target of 75, India's skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's team chased down the runs in dramatic play in just under 19 overs for two wickets.

For India's women, it was their first Test victory against Australia after 11 attempts

since 1977. It follows India's victory against England last week, also in Mumbai.

Jay Shah, the Board of Control for Cricket in India secretary, celebrated the back-to-back Test wins. "They conquered it with

brilliance," Shah posted on social media, praising skipper Harmanpreet Kaur. "History made today!"

India on December 16 thrashed England by 347 runs in another one-off women's Test, their first-ever win at home against the rivals.

India's victory margin against England was the largest by runs in women's Test cricket and also their first Test win against England at home.

"Everything went very well for us," Kaur told reporters on Sunday.

"Hopefully after these two tests we will get many more Test games in upcoming games."

New PHF President says collective efforts vital for revival of hockey



Sports Desk

LAHORE: Newly-appointed President of Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) Tariq Hussain Messori Bugti said that all possible measures will be taken for the development and revival of hockey. It is right time for all stakeholders to make collective efforts for the promotion of national game hockey.

He expressed these views during his meeting with Director General Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail at National Hockey Stadium on Saturday evening. PHF Secretary Rana Mujahid, Olympians Shahnaz Sheikh, Asif Bajwa, Khawaja Junaid and Atif Bashir were also present on this occasion.

DG Sports Punjab Dr Asif Tufail congratulated Tariq Bugti on assuming the post of President Hockey Federation. He said that several effective measures are being taken for the development of hockey.

Mitchell Starc surprised over the lack of pace by Pakistan bowlers

A Sports

MELBOURNE: Australian pace-bowler Mitchell Starc expressed shock over the lack of pace from Pakistan's pace bowlers during the first Test in Perth, which Australia won by a mammoth 360-run margin.

While speaking to the media at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) ahead of the Boxing Day Test, Starc stated that Pakistan's bowlers are known for hitting speeds around 150 kph, however, they struggled to hit those speeds, which was surprising.

"I think everyone was slightly surprised at the lower pace of the Pakistan bowlers, when you're generally used to some guys getting in the 150s [kph]," said Starc. "I don't think that pace is the be all and end all but it certainly plays a part and can help."

Starc further stated that extra pace might not be crucial in the second Test at MCG, however, bowlers can trouble batters with their accuracy. "Case in point, you look at Scotty Boland who can bowl good wheels, but he's not at your top end of pace bowlers.

But he generates a lot of sideways movement here in Melbourne, obviously being his home ground," added the left-arm pacer.

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"He's done it for a long time and we saw that obviously against England, where every ball he bowled could have been a wicket." "So I don't think that pace is the be all and end all. Certainly, for our attack we all complement each other really well by doing things very differently," Starc concluded.

Notably, the Paki-

stan cricket team struggled during the first Test as their pace bowlers hardly managed to hit speeds around 140 kph, whereas the Australian pace trio of Josh Hazlewood, Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc regularly hit the mid-140s.

Pakistan's batting lineup unfolded at a mere 89 in the fourth innings while chasing a mammoth total of 450, thus losing by a margin of 360 runs.

The second Test between both teams will kick off on 26 December at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

یوم قائد
25
دسمبر
1876 - 1948

قائد اعظم کا یوم
نسائی ریاست کا قیام
پاکستان زرعی تحقیقاتی کونسل

کسان خوشحال پاکستان خوشحال

زرعی تحقیقاتی کونسل جدید تحقیق سے ملک میں غذائی تحفظ کو یقینی بنانے کے لیے کوشاں

جدید زرعی تحقیقاتی کونسل پاکستان کی سربراہی میں قائم ہوئی اور غذائی تحفظ کو یقینی بنانے کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔ پاکستان زرعی تحقیقاتی کونسل نے زرعی شعبے میں جدت اور ترقی کو آگے بڑھانے میں عزم کیا اور ادارہ کا نیا دور زرعی شعبے میں خوشحالی کے لیے برداشت کوشاں ہے۔

دھان کی پیداوار میں اضافہ

پاکستان زرعی تحقیقاتی کونسل نے دھان کی پیداوار میں اضافہ کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔ دھان کی پیداوار میں اضافہ کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔ دھان کی پیداوار میں اضافہ کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔

پاکستان زرعی تحقیقاتی کونسل نے دھان کی پیداوار میں اضافہ کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔ دھان کی پیداوار میں اضافہ کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔ دھان کی پیداوار میں اضافہ کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔

دالوں کی پیداوار میں خود کفالت

پاکستان زرعی تحقیقاتی کونسل نے دالوں کی پیداوار میں اضافہ کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔ دالوں کی پیداوار میں اضافہ کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔ دالوں کی پیداوار میں اضافہ کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔

کندھم کی نشی اور بہتر اقسام کی تیاری

پاکستان زرعی تحقیقاتی کونسل نے کندھم کی نشی اور بہتر اقسام کی تیاری کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔ کندھم کی نشی اور بہتر اقسام کی تیاری کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔ کندھم کی نشی اور بہتر اقسام کی تیاری کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔

لائسنس ہولڈر کی استعداد میں بہتری

پاکستان زرعی تحقیقاتی کونسل نے لائسنس ہولڈر کی استعداد میں بہتری کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔ لائسنس ہولڈر کی استعداد میں بہتری کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔ لائسنس ہولڈر کی استعداد میں بہتری کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔

جدید آبپاشی کے طریقے اور شمسی توانائی کا استعمال

پاکستان زرعی تحقیقاتی کونسل نے جدید آبپاشی کے طریقے اور شمسی توانائی کا استعمال کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔ جدید آبپاشی کے طریقے اور شمسی توانائی کا استعمال کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔ جدید آبپاشی کے طریقے اور شمسی توانائی کا استعمال کے لیے کوشاں ہے۔

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Aggression

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



Photo: Yousef Abo Said, via Eye on Palestine

Israeli attacks kill 166 in 24 hours as fighting rages in northern Gaza

News Desk

GAZA: The Israeli attacks have killed over 166 in last 24 hours in Gaza as the fighting raged in northern part of the besieged enclave.

The Health Ministry in Gaza says at least 20,424 people have been killed and over 54,036 injured by Israeli attacks in the besieged enclave since October 7.

The Palestinian Red Crescent said on X it had evacuated several dead and wounded after a house was shelled in Deir al-Balah.

In southern Gaza, Palestinian mourners attended the burial of a family of four killed in an Israeli airstrike on Khan

Younis.

"International law has collapsed... If Israel were in the Palestinians' position, the world would not stand still and would act," said Ramzy Aidi, a Gaza resident with a doctorate in law.

A Palestinian man inspects the damage at the site of Israeli strikes on houses, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, in Khan Younis

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said earlier that the war in Gaza was exacting a "very heavy price" as the toll of Israeli soldiers killed in fighting with Hamas mounted.

"This is a difficult morn-

ing, after a very difficult day of fighting in Gaza... The war is exacting a very heavy price... but we have no choice but to keep fighting," he said in a statement, after the army announced that 14 soldiers had been killed in the Palestinian territory since Friday.

The Israeli army has indicated its forces were close to having operational control in north Gaza, after weeks of intense fighting.

Now, "we focus our efforts against Hamas in southern Gaza," military spokesman Jonathan Conricus said.

Troops were notably looking to Khan Yunis — the birthplace and powerbase of Yahya Sinwar, Hamas' leader in Gaza

and the man Israel holds most responsible for the attack that sparked the war.

US officials have said they want and expect Israel soon to shift its military operations in Gaza to a lower-intensity phase during which there will be more targeted operations focused on the Hamas leadership and its infrastructure.

After days of wrangling to avert a threatened US veto, the UN Security Council on Friday passed a resolution urging steps to allow "safe, unhindered, and expanded humanitarian access" to Gaza and "conditions for a sustainable cessation" of fighting.

The resolution was toned down from earlier drafts that

called for an immediate end to 11 weeks of war and diluting Israeli control over aid deliveries, clearing the way for the vote in which the United States abstained.

The United States and Israel oppose a ceasefire, contending it would allow the Islamist militant group to regroup and reararm.

It is pertinent to mention here that Israel declared war on Hamas after the group's October 7 attacks that killed 1,200 people, according to Israeli authorities, and saw around 240 hostages taken.

Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas and free 138 hostages still held after scores were freed during a short-lived truce.

General elections: Prominent politicians submit nomination papers

Naveed Ahmad Khan

ISLAMABAD: Prominent politicians including Nawaz Sharif, Maryam Nawaz, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Jahangir Tareen and others have submitted their nomination papers for the general elections 2024.

The deadline for the nomination paper submission has concluded at 4:30 pm today. The Election Commission of Pakistan will issue the initial candidate list today.

Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) supreme Nawaz Sharif submitted nominations from NA-130 Lahore. He had also submitted his nominations from two more constituencies yesterday.

PML-N leader Bilal Yaseen said that Sharif will contest general elections from Mansehra and Lahore.



Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari submitted his nomination papers from NA-194 Larkana, NA-196 Shahdadkot and NA-127 Lahore.

Maryam Nawaz submitted her nomination papers from PP-80 Sargodha.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi, his son Zain Qureshi and daughter Meher Bano Qureshi submitted their nominations from

Multan's NA-150, NA-151 and PP-218, whereas, Zain will also contest polls from PP-219.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Vice President Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi submitted nominations from Gujrat's NA-61 and PP-32. His son Moonis Elahi submitted his nominations from NA-64, PP-32 and PP-34. Sumera Elahi submitted nominations from PP-34 and PP-32. Qaisara Elahi submitted nominations from NA-64 and PP-32.

Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party

(IPP) Patron In-Chief Jahangir Tareen will contest polls from three constituencies including NA-155 Lodhran, PP-227 and NA-149 Multan.

Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) convener Dr Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui submitted nominations from NA-249 Karachi.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Latif Khosa will contest polls from NA-122. PML-N Secretary General Ahsan Iqbal submitted nominations from Narowal's NA-76 and PP-54.

Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Ameer Sirajul Haq submitted nominations from NA-6 Dir.

PPP leader Aijaz Hussain Jakhri submitted nominations from PS-3 Jacobabad, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) leader Shafiq Ahmed Khosa from PS-2.

IPP leader Dr Amjad submitted nominations from

NA-47 and Sardar Muhammad Tazeem Khan as an independent candidate from NA-47.

Pakistan Muslim League Quaid (PML-Q) leader Chaudhry Shafay Hussain submitted nominations from PP-31 and PP-32.

The others prominent leaders include Shehbaz Sharif, Hamza Shehbaz, Rana Sanaullah, Raja Riaz, Bashir Memon, Khawaja Asif, Yousuf Raza Gillani, Qamar Zaman Kaira, Khurshid Shah, Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan and others.

It is to be mentioned here that PPP Co-Chairman and former president Asif Ali Zardari's nomination papers have been submitted from NA-207, Nawabshah.

Another PML-N leader Khurram Dastagir has submitted his nomination papers from NA-78, Gujranwala.

Punjab issued over 10mln driving licences in 2023

Bureau Report

LAHORE: Punjab has accomplished a record of issuing over 10mln driving licences in 2023, announced Punjab caretaker chief minister Mohsin Naqvi.

Naqvi in his post on X, formerly known as Twitter said: "Alhamdulillah! Punjab surpasses 1 crore driving licenses in 2023! Appreciation for Punjab Police and PITB for their efforts in achieving this significant milestone in such a short time."

On December 5, the Punjab government raised the driving licence fee from Rs60 to Rs1,000.

The increase was approved during the 33rd meeting of the provincial cabinet with caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi in the chair.

Talking to X, Lahore Traffic Police further announced that people can still apply on the old fee until December 31.

Anti-polio drive targeting over 40m children to begin on Jan 8

City Desk

ISLAMABAD: Countrywide anti-polio vaccination campaign to immunise more than 40 million children under the age of five will kick off on January 8 in three phases.

According to details, the five-day vaccination campaign is being held in three phases to save children from the crippling disease of polio.

The first phase of the anti-polio drive will begin from January 8, 2024 to 14 January, sources said and added second phase will be held from 15 January to 19 in North Waziristan, Bannu.

The third phase will be held in South Waziristan. During the drive over 40 million children will be vaccinated against poliovirus, while over 300,000 health workers will be deployed to complete the drive.

The Ministry of Health confirmed poliovirus in environmental samples of Quetta district.



According to the Ministry of Health spokesperson, the poliovirus was found in two samples of sewage water from Quetta.

He said that the surveillance system of the polio program is very strong.

The spokesperson said that the government is ensuring effective measures to eradicate polio. He said an integrated strategy has been formulated in high-risk areas of polio.

President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan Message on the occasion of Christmas

City Desk

I extend my warmest and heartfelt greetings to the Christian community on the joyous occasion of Christmas.

Christmas is a time of joy, reflection, and celebration, holding a special place in the hearts of our Christian brethren. It commemorates the birth of Hazrat Issa (A. S.), whose teachings of love, compassion, and peace continue to inspire and guide us.

The diversity of religions and cultures is a source of strength for Pakistan, and our Christian community has significantly contributed to the social and economic development of the country. We acknowledge the commendable services rendered by the Christian community for the promotion of peace, tolerance and harmony in the country.

On this festive occasion, let us celebrate the spirit of Christmas, fostering unity, understanding, and goodwill among all communities. May the message of Christmas, with its themes of love, forgiveness, and hope, resonate in our hearts, guiding us towards a future filled with peace, happiness, harmony and prosperity.

I proudly say that minorities in Pakistan enjoy all political, economic, and social rights guaranteed by the Constitution of Pakistan. Our religion, Islam fully recognizes and protects the rights of minorities. The Government of Pakistan provides



equal opportunities to all citizens irrespective of their colour, class and creed. Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of the nation, in his historic speech of August 11, 1947, stated that everyone, irrespective of color, creed, and religion, would have equal rights, privileges, and obligations, along with complete religious freedom in the new State of Pakistan.

As we gather with family and friends to celebrate the festive occasion, let us also remember the values that bind us together as a nation—respect for diversity, protection of minority rights, and a commitment to building a tolerant and inclusive society.

I assure you that the government is committed to ensuring the protection of the rights of all religious minorities in Pakistan. I feel pride to say that all organs of the state fully protect the rights of minorities. Together, we can work towards a brighter and more harmonious future for our great nation.

Once again, Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones.

PTI Founder Chairman uncle (mamu) passed away

PPA

LAHORE: Founder Chairman Imran Khan's uncle (mamu) Javed Zaman Khan passed away this afternoon at his home in Zaman Park. He was Imran Khan's cricketing mentor and beloved uncle. He was also a well-respected institutional figure of Lahore who was loved by all who knew him. Inna lillah hi wa inna illahi Rajoon. May his soul rest in peace.



Punjab 'faces' gas shortage

Commerce Desk

LAHORE: Most Punjab areas including Lahore are facing gas shortage after a drop in mercury.

Sources within Sui Northern Gas Company (SNGC), residents in the majority of Punjab areas including Lahore are facing gas shortage at the three fixed times (breakfast, lunch and dinner) due to an increased gap in demand and supply after an increase in coldness.

The demand for gas is 2100 million cubic feet, while the supply is about 1200 million cubic feet.

Earlier this week, Sui Northern Gas Company (SNGC) added fix charges to the November bills of the consumers after approval from



the caretaker government.

According to officials, protected consumers using 0.9 hectometer gas will pay Rs400 as fixed monthly charges, while non-protected users consuming up to 1.5 hecta meters will be charged an additional Rs1,000 in their bills.

Officials say consumers whose usage of gas is ZERO will also pay Rs400/monthly fixed charges.

Over 446,000 illegal Afghans returned to their homeland

City Desk

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

As per details, 1,159 illegal Afghan nationals returned to their country during past 24 hours, taking the total number of returned immigrants to the 446,097.

54 vehicles were used to transport 287 men, 260 women and 612 children to Afghanistan.

The apex committee of the National Action Plan (NAP) in a meeting on October 3, chaired by Caretaker PM Anwaarul Haq Kakar gave a deadline to all foreign nationals living illegally in the country until October 31 to leave voluntarily or face deportation.

The government of Pakistan is facilitating the illegal Afghans in the repatriation process at the Torkham

and Chaman borders.

Earlier, Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti rejected any 'manhandling' of illegal immigrants in Pakistan's repatriation process.

"Prime Minister [Anwaarul Haq Kakar] has given very clear instructions that there should be no manhandling of illegal immigrants during the repatriation process," the

interior minister said while speaking on the Senate floor.

Sarfraz Bugti also assured the House that any mismanagement on the borders would be checked and suggestions from the political leadership in this regard would be welcomed. "No Afghan refugee having legal documents has been even touched," he added.

