

Islamabad POST

Saturday, December 25, 2021

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Multiple world leaders felicitate Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev

Detailed News On Page-07

Ex-President gets pardoned in South Korea

Detailed News On Page-07



Direct Kazakh flights to be launched soon

Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

Bilawal pays tribute to Quaid

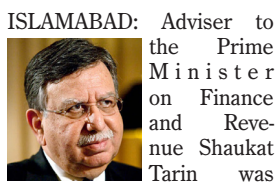
DNA



KARACHI: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has paid glowing tributes to Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on his 146th birthday being celebrated today across the country. In his message on the occasion, the PPP Chairman said that attempts were made by the dictatorial forces and their cronies to dent the ideology of the Founder of the Nation and drift the country from his vision but the democratic forces led by PPP have always foiled their designs through monumental struggles. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was the tallest personality among his contemporaries and he dreamt an egalitarian country for the Muslims in the sub-continent to live in peaceful cohesion. He said that it was only Quaid-e-Azam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who accomplished the dream of Quaid-e-Azam by gifting the first-ever unanimous 1973 Constitution to the nation, founded strong economic base in the country and a stronger defence by launching nuclear programme.

Shaukat Tarin sworn in as senator

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Adviser to the Prime Minister on Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin was sworn in as a senator after he won the by-election for a general seat in the Senate from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Friday. Tarin bagged 87 votes, while according to KP Health Minister Taimur Khan Jhagra, four votes were rejected and five lawmakers did not partake in the elections. The seat fell vacant last month after PTI's Ayub Afridi had resigned from the Senate to make way for Tarin. As per the rules, when a seat falls vacant, the Election Commission of Pakistan is bound to hold elections on it within 30 days.

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. - Editor

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ISLAMABAD: Secretary General of SAARC, Esala Ruwan Weerakoon calls on PM Imran Khan. - DNA

Pakistan has no plans to have ties with Armenia

Pakistan considers Armenia as an aggressor who illegally occupied Azerbaijani territories for decades

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has no plans whatsoever to have relations with Armenia nor there was any possibility of establishment of any diplomatic ties between the two countries. The Pakistan government while reacting to a news item appeared in a section of the International press in which the President of Armenia had expressed his wish to have relations with Pakistan, categorically stated there was no such proposal under consideration. "Pakistan considers Armenia as an aggressor who illegally occupied Azerbaijani territories for decades. It was after 44 days Patriotic War that Azerbaijan liberated most of its territories under the Armenian occupation", the officials added.

The Armenian Prime Minister Pashinyan some time ago in his media interview had supported the Indian position on Kashmir adding Armenia would continue to support India on the Kashmir issue. In the light of this statement how can Pakistan have relations with a country that supports its arch enemy India, the sources in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan confided to this scribe?

It may be mentioned here that Azerbaijan is the member of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir. There are 5 countries in this Contact Group - Azerbaijan, Turkey, Pakistan, Niger and Saudi Arabia. Relations between Pakistan and Azerbaijan have grown even stronger especially during the Patriotic War days when Pakistan extended its full diplomatic and

Continued on Page 06

PM assures SAARC of cooperation

The Prime Minister expressed condolences on the death of Priyantha Kumara

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has emphasized on strengthening cooperation among the member states of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation on issues of common interest, including climate change, education, poverty alleviation, energy integration and health challenges. He was talking to SAARC Secretary General Esala Ruwan Weerakoon, who paid a courtesy call on him. Reiterating Pakistan's commitment to the mutually beneficial goals and objectives embodied in the SAARC Charter, the Prime Minister underlined that SAARC can provide a conducive and beneficial atmosphere to build economic synergies, which can transform the quality of life of the people of South Asia. Strongly condemning the Sialkot incident, the Prime Minister expressed condolences on the death of Priyantha Kumara and stated that there is no justification whatsoever for such acts. He said all necessary steps have been taken in order to speedily bring the perpetrators to justice. The Prime Minister appreciated SAARC Secretary-General's efforts to further improve and promote SAARC processes.

PM dissolves party's all organizations

Meeting discusses KP polls result; PM expressed surprise over PML-N and PPP celebrating

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Friday said Prime Minister Imran Khan had dissolved Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)'s all organizations from centre to tehsil level across the country after consultation with the senior leadership of the party. Talking to media after the meeting of senior leadership of the PTI chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan, he said all the office bearers of the PTI's organizational set up had been removed from their posts. The meeting discussed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP)'s elections and the general situation of the country. He said that a 21-member constitutional committee comprising the national PTI leadership had been formed which was working on the new constitution of the party. The committee, he said comprised Pervez Khattak, Mahmood Khan, Murad Saeed, Asad Qaiser, Ali Amin Gandapur from KP, Fawad Chaudhry, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Hamad Azhar, Khuro Bakhtiar,

PPP, PML-N, ANP real losers in KP: Asad

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar on Friday criticized Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and Pakistan Muslim League - Nawaz (PML-N) following defeat in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Local Government polls. In a tweet, the PTI's senior representative mentioned that as per the results announced by ECP, PTI won seats in 13 tehsils while PPP, PML-N and ANP won just 9 tehsils seats altogether. He further added that it is being portrayed that PTI lost firm grounds while the real situation is very different from the one which is being portrayed. Earlier on Thursday, Federal Information and Broadcasting Minister

Continued on Page 06

PM hails President Putin's remarks

Khan urges the leaders of the Muslim countries to spread this message



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has appreciated Russian President Vladimir Putin's remarks against Islamophobia, saying that the latter's statement reaffirmed

Disrespecting Prophet (PBUH) not freedom of expression: Putin

WEB DESK

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that disrespecting Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) did not count as the "expression of artistic freedom". Blasphemy of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is a "violation of religious

Continued on Page 06

COAS lauds Amb. Shaw's services

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Dr Geoffrey Shaw, Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan paid a farewell call to General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, on Friday. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security situation and bilateral cooperation were discussed. COAS stressed upon the need for sincere efforts to avert a looming humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. He underscored the importance of peace and reconciliation initiatives in Afghanistan. COAS thanked visiting dignitary for his services in Pakistan and acknowledged his contributions for fostering strong ties between the two countries. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role in Afghan situation.

Pak grieved over ferry accident

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: The Government and people of Pakistan are deeply saddened by the loss of precious lives in a ferry accident in Jhalakathi district in Bangladesh. Our deepest condolences to the bereaved families and the Government of Bangladesh. At this moment of grief, our thoughts and prayers are with the brotherly people of Bangladesh.

25th December
QUAID'S DAY

اگر ہم مملکت خداداد پاکستان کو خوشحالی کا گوارہ بنانا چاہتے ہیں تو ہمیں پورے دل و جان سے اپنی تمام تر توانائیاں اپنے عوام بالخصوص بےسارندہ طبقے کی فلاح و بہبود پر مرکوز کرنا ہوگی

قائد اعظم محمد علی جناح کا قانون ساز آئینی سے خطاب
11 اگست، 1947

قائد اعظم کا پیغام فلاحی ریاست کا قیام

146 ویں یوم قائد کے پُرسرت موقع پر حکومت پاکستان تمام اہل وطن کو مبارکباد پیش کرتے ہوئے اس عزم کا اعادہ کرتی ہے کہ ہائی پاکستان کے ویش کی روشنی میں وطن عزیز کو ایک فلاحی مملکت بنانے کیلئے کوشاں رہے گی

حکومت پاکستان

نیا پاکستان سب کیلئے



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam addressing during Kashmir Conference at Kashmir House. – APP

OPC Punjab delegation calls on CM Buzdar

The CM said that the OPC helped retrieve properties of expatriates worth Rs. 44 billion in the province and the possession of 176 houses and plots in a private housing scheme with a market value of Rs. 600 million was also given to the expats, he noted

LAHORE: A delegation, led by Vice Chairperson Overseas Pakistanis Commission (OPC) Punjab Syed Tariq Mahmood-ul-Hassan, called on Punjab Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar at his office. Speaking on the occasion, the CM announced holding monthly meetings with expatriates for consultations as overseas Pakistanis are a valuable asset to the country. He said the PTI-led government has given the right of vote to the overseas Pakistanis, which is their democratic right. He said the OPC counters had been set up in federal and provincial government departments to assist the overseas Pakistanis, adding a facilitation desk is also working at the LDA. A Nadra counter is functioning at OPC Punjab while tourism and passport office counters would also be estab-



lished soon, he said. The CM said that the OPC helped retrieve properties of expatriates worth Rs. 44 billion in the province and the possession of 176 houses and plots in a private housing scheme with a market value of Rs. 600 million was also given to the expats, he noted. Alongside, the OPC's web portal has

been linked with Lahore High Court (LHC) to dispose of their cases while the expats could also lodge their complaints online, he said and added that a 24/7 helpline was also set up to help solve the problems of overseas Pakistanis. The government has also set up district overseas Pakistanis committees across Punjab which helped resolved more than 11,000 complaints in three years, he said and added that an investor facilitation cell has been established at the CM Office. The delegation commended the government reforms and thanked the CM for his keen interest in solving their problems. The CM also distributed medals and shields among expats, district overseas committees' chairmen and the OPC staff. – APP

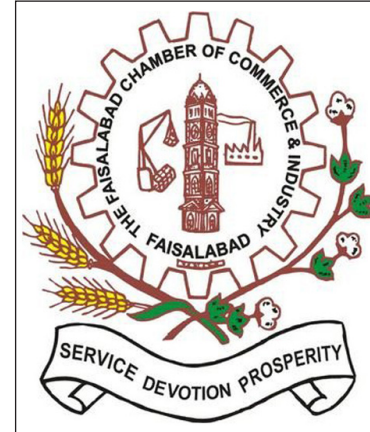
EFP decides to setup special help desk at FCCI

Government was trying to introduce new legislation in labor laws; however, uniformity in social security and EOBI laws is imperative at the national level

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) will set up a special help desk in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) to remain in touch and harness the leadership qualities of the local entrepreneurs, said Mr. Fasihul Karim Siddiqi special advisor to the EFP. Addressing an awareness session in FCCI, he said that maximum employers should get the membership of EFP so that their problems could be resolved at the national level. Appreciating the entrepreneurial skills of "Seths" he said that they have explicitly displayed their inherent qualities by raising business empires but they must focus on innovation to remain market leader in the coming decades. Quoting an example, he said that a few decades ago, out of ten top companies, eight were from America but Japan broke its industrial dominance. "In this connection Japan fully exploited the productivity of their industrial units by introducing a formula of Kaizen", he said and added that in the current phase, China out-classed the all-previous industrial giants and now all leading companies across the globe have shifted their manufacturing towards China. He negated the myth of cheap Chinese labor and said that it was not true. "The reason for enhanced productivity is the result of multipurpose skills of the Chinese labor coupled with their innova-

tive capabilities. Commenting, Mr. Fasihul Karim Siddiqi said that in Pakistan there was no standardized evaluation of workers but EFP in collaboration with TEVTA and other concerned organizations evaluated and classified the labor skills into 1-6 levels. He said that it would help employers to know that his labor was falling in which level and now he would have to make arrangements to upgrade it to the next



level by providing them appropriate training which would also enhance the quality and productivity of his unit. Responding to a question, he said that employers' contribution helps his workers get maximum facilities which would also enhance their level of satisfaction and incentivize him to work hard in order to bring a qualitative as well as quantitative improve-

ment in the company. He said that the Government was trying to introduce new legislation in labor laws; however, uniformity in social security and EOBI laws is imperative at the national level. He said that legally employers are bound to pay the EOBI and Social Security contribution at the minimum wage of 8,000 but EFP has accepted it at Rs. 13,000 just to facilitate their workers. Earlier Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh, President FCCI said that our businessmen are blessed with leadership qualities and we must further harness their skills so that they could compete at the global level. He said that it is only human resources which could determine the strength or weakness of any industry. He paid best gratitude to the Punjab Government that is upgrading labor laws in conformity with the ground realities after 41 years. He also appreciated the efforts of Dr. Khurram Tariq and Shahid Ahmad Sheikh for giving positive and productive input for the new proposed legislation. Mr. Tariq Mahmood of Sitara Group represented Mian Muhammad Adrees and shared his experience regarding workers problems and welfare. Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh President FCCI presented a flower bouquet to Mr. Fasihul Karim Siddiqi who in return presented him a shield of the EFP. Later Vice President Rana Fayyaz Ahmad also offered vote of thanks and presented FCCI shield to Mr. Fasihul Karim Siddiqi special advisor to EFP.

Over 5.36m people vaccinated in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: Over 5.36 million (5,363,184) people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the district. District Health Officer Dr Ataul Mun'im said on Friday 3,377,201 citizens were injected first dose while 1,918,316 were administered the second dose of vaccine. He further said that 38,447 health workers were also given first dose while 29,220 received the second dose of vaccine. He said that sufficient stock of coronavirus vaccine was available in the district. As of now 256,806 first doses and 171,204 second doses were in the stock in Faisalabad. He said that 37 vaccination centers and 20 mobile vaccination camps were operational in Faisalabad where registered people were being vaccinated. In order to facilitate the people these centers had been established in various areas of the city including Allied Hospital, District Head Quarters Hospital, Government General Hospital G.M Abad, Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology, Government General Hospital Samanabad, Children Hospital, sports Complex Samanabad, Tehsil Head Quarters Hospital Jaranwala, Samundri, Tandlianwala, Chak Jhumra, Sports Complex Chak Jhumrah, Sports Complex Jaranwala, Government General Hospital Chak 224-RB, New Building RHC Khurriwala, New Building THQ Samundri. He further said that timing of these vaccination centers was 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. except Sports Complex Samanabad center which would remain open round the clock. – APP

30 'criminals' arrested, contraband seized

FAISALABAD: Police Friday arrested 30 alleged criminals and recovered drugs and illegal weapons from them. According to police, raiding teams nabbed six proclaimed offenders and eight drug-pushers and recovered 0.7-kg hashish and 39 litres of liquor from them. The police also held four gamblers and recovered Rs 6,500 stake money from them. In a crackdown on illegal weapons, police arrested 10 persons and recovered six pistols, three rifles, one gun and a number of bullets from them. – APP

Commissioner checks different health facilities

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHAN: Commissioner Multan Division Dr. Irshad Ahmad did a surprise visit of Basic Health Unit Chak Hamta Tehsil Lodhran along with Deputy Commissioner Captain (R) Shoaib Ali, ADC Revenue Azoba Azeem and other officials. Commissioner said that provision of basic medical facilities is the basic public right, he added that helping humanity is also a religious obligation, when a patient come from far flung areas for medical treatment then their treatment becomes duty of doctors. He said that for provision of necessary and basic facilities to hospital all available resources should be utilized, he directed to ensure the provision of medicine and

attendance of staff while doctors, nursing staff and other staff should behave nicely with the patients. Commissioner checked available medical facilities at Basic Health Unit, cleanliness, attendance of doctors and other staff members, availability of medicine and other arrangements. Commissioner met with the patients and inquired them about the provision of facilities and behavior of doctors and patients with them. Commissioner questioned the present patients that whether they are facing any problems in the treatment on which patients expressed satisfaction over the available facilities. Commissioner praised the arrangements in hospital and ordered to maintain the quality of facilities.



Traders call for mechanism to remove hurdles in Pak-Afghan trade

Manzoor Elahi said that the SCCI is making vigorous efforts to enhance bilateral trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan and onward trade with regional countries

PESHAWAR: Traders have demanded devising a joint mechanism to remove hurdles in Pak-Afghan bilateral trade and transit trade as well as onward to Central Asian Republics. Rationalized tariffs/levies, improvement in border management system, simplifying procedures/rules and policies in order to boost up mutual trade between the two neighbouring countries as well as enhance regional trade, the speakers stressed during a meeting of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Standing Committee on Afghanistan and Central Asian Republic (CARs) Trade Promotion, held under chairmanship of Director Area Study Centre, Peshawar University here at ASC on Friday. Engineer Manzoor Elahi, the body senior vice chairman and Ziaul Haq Sarhadi, vice chairman, members

and representatives of stakeholders were present in the meeting, which aimed to compile recommendations for the government regarding promotion of Pak-Afghan trade and enhancement of exports to regional countries. Participants of the meeting emphasized that the business community on both sides of the border should be consented before finalization and signing of a new Afghan Transit Trade Agreement (ATTA). The meeting identified the bottleneck and hiccups, hampering the mutual trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan, and proposed a number of ideas/recommendations to address them by adopting joint policy. It asserted that a joint roadmap/combined policy should be adopted to resolve issues of Pak-Afghan traders. Speaking on the occasion, Manzoor

Elahi said that the SCCI is making vigorous efforts to enhance bilateral trade between Pakistan and Afghanistan and onward trade with regional countries. In this regard, he said the chamber had already proposed a number of recommendations. He added the present government has taken steps in the light of SCCI's proposals to improve Pak-Afghan mutual trade as well as exports to CARs. However, Mr Elahi informed that KP traders are mostly doing business with Afghanistan, who faced with numerous difficulties that must be removed by joint efforts of both countries. The ex-senior office of the SCCI suggested rationalizing tariffs/levies, relaxation in rules/policies and improvement in the border management system. Ziaul Haq Sarhadi, who is also vice

president Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber emphasized that Pak-Afghan traders should be consulted before finalizing and signing new ATTA. He said KP has disadvantaged due to long distance from Karachi port, because of which, the business community faced many challenges/problems, which should be addressed by taking serious steps. Mr Sarhadi demanded serious steps should be taken for making fully operational of Azakhel Dryport, Nowshera. He also called for restoration of cargo service through Pakistan Railways along with provision of other facilities to the trading community. Director ASC, Dr Shabir Ahmad fully agreed with recommendations of participants of the meeting, which would be forwarded to relevant government departments/authorities for their early execution. – APP

2 more die of Covid-19 in KP

PESHAWAR: Two more deaths and 46 new cases of the Coronavirus have been reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the last 24 hours, said Corona updates shared by the Health Department here on Friday. With two more deaths, the toll from the disease has climbed to 5921 in the province while overall number Corona cases reached to 181167 while active cases have declined to 611. During the same period 22 patients have also been recovered from the disease reaching the total number of the recovered persons to 174,635. As many as 11261 tests were conducted during the period out of which 46 have proved positive. – APP

British MP along with lord Wajid visit Gujrat

ATTAULLAH CHEEMA

GUJRAT: Deputy Opposition leader, MP labour party, England Anjela Kaiser, accompanied by lord Wajid Khan paid a visit to suburban village Noor-Jamal here the other day. During her visit to the local Govt elementary Girls school where a grand reception was arranged, she conserved that education particularly female education was inevitable for the progress and prosperity of the nation and admired the keen interest amongst masses here in Pakistan to educate their women file which was a good omen she observed. She was also thankful for overseas Pakistanis hailing from this area, living in her electoral constituency, supporting cast and playing a pivotal in her success and highly appreciated their gestures. She was also grateful for the rousing reception given in their honour by the local people. While Lord Wajid Khan in his address contended that MP Anjela Kaiser was an incredibly popular leader among the masses particularly, the Pakistanis, in England.

Awareness session on anti-harassment held in UoM

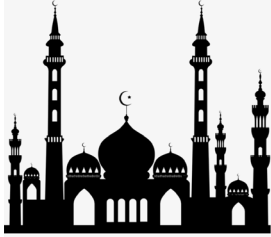
PESHAWAR: Department of Law University of Malakand (UoM) in collaboration with Directorate of Students Societies here Friday organized Anti-Harassment awareness session titled 'Gender Sensitivity and Work Place Ethics'. The session was held in Education Department of the varsity and addressed by Barrister Rubab Mehdi, Regional Commissioner FOSPAH Peshawar. He said "FOSPAH is committed to create safe working environment that is free from harassment, abuse, intimidation and discrimination enabling workers to perform their duties with dignity and respectfully." He also urged people to de-

velop sense of mutual coexistence and respect for making working environment congenial and constructive. The event was also attended by Dean of Arts and Humanities, Prof Dr Atta ur Rehman, Dean Biological Sciences, Prof Dr Mir Azam Khan, Khurshid Alam, Doctor Maqsood ur Rehman Eshrat, Director Students Societies UoM, Jamil Anwar Abbasi, faculty members and students of Law Department. – APP

KP CS for further improvement in PMRU's performance

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Chief Secretary Dr Shehzad Khan Bangash visited the Performance Management and Reform Unit (PMRU) here on Friday. He was accompanied by Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors of Performance Management and Reforms Unit. Director, Performance Management and Reforms Unit Captain (Rtd) Abdur Rehman briefed the Chief Secretary KP on the complete and pending policies, procedures, guidelines and e-governance and all the performance management systems including anti-encroachment, revenue case disposal system and administrative inspections. Dr Shehzad Khan Bangash expressed interest in the performance management systems and e-governance proceedings of the Performance Management and Reforms Unit and directed to further improve these systems. He appreciated the state-of-the-art technology used in the Performance Management and Reforms Unit and said that the activities undertaken with these modern applications reflect the vision of the provincial government. – APP

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	05:41 am
Zohr.....	12:07 pm
Asr.....	03:27 pm
Maghrib.....	05:05 pm
Isha.....	06:34 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....	111 133 133
Marriott.....	051-2826121
Monal.....	0334-5421812



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Emergency

Rescue (Police).....	15
Bomb Disposal.....	15
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Water Tanker Service	
E-7, F-10 & F-11.....	9204654
G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8.....	9203883
G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8.....	9266316
Wapda Islamabad.....	9217579
Wapda Rawalpindi	111-309-309

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....	9209224
Potohar Town.....	9209224
Rawal Town.....	5773343

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
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ISLAMABAD: MNA and Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Planning Kanwal Shauzad, Deputy Speaker National Assembly Qasim Suri, MNA Zain Qureshi, MAN Tashfeen Safdar, Romaina Khurshid and others cutting cake to celebrate in the Young Parliamentarians. Kanwal Shauzad has been elected as the Secretary General. – DNA

ICCI organizes Christmas cake cutting ceremony

Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, ICCI said that the Christian community was playing an important role in the economic development of Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a Cake Cutting ceremony to celebrate the Merry Christmas with the Christian community. Pastor Babar Waris, Ms. Sidra Anwar Assistant Commissioner ICT, Ch. Ashraf Farzand Chairman Pakistan Minority Forum, Manzoor Masih Member

National Commission for Human Rights, Shehbaz Chohan and a large number of people from the Christian community attended the event. Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the Christian community was playing an important role in the economic development of Pakistan, which was laudable. He said that Christians

around the world including Pakistan were preparing to celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ who was a symbol of peace, brotherhood and respect for the entire humanity. He said that Jesus Christ not only healed the ailing humanity, he also preached the divine values of tolerance, love and compassion, which were kept in high esteem in Islam as well. He assured that ICCI would continue to play a role for

promoting the business interests of traders and industrialists of minority communities so that they could play a more effective role in the economic development of the country. Muhammad Faheem Khan, Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that all minorities including Christians enjoyed equal rights in Pakistan and all should work hard for the better de-

velopment of Pakistan. He wished Christian community a Merry Christmas. Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi former President, Muhammad Naveed Malik former Senior Vice President ICCI and others also lauded the positive role of Christian community in the development of Pakistan and stressed for inter-faith harmony to take the country forward. Pastor Babar Waris read the message of Jesus Christ,

which was the message of conciliation, love and forgiveness. He lauded ICCI for organizing the Christmas ceremony and added that such events promoted inter-faith harmony & unity in the country. Sidra Anwar, Assistant Commissioner ICT, said that some recent events have damaged the image of Pakistan and said that organizing such events would promote a harmonious environment in the country.

Price of potatoes, onions, other food items go down

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The prices of various food items went down during the week ending on December 23 as compared to the previous week, according to the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) data released by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) here on Friday. According to the data, the food commodities that witnessed decrease in prices on Week-on-Week (WoW) basis included potatoes and chillies, the prices of which declined by 5.26 percent and 4.16 percent respectively. The other food products that witnessed decrease

in prices included onions (2.80%), gur (0.76%) and wheat flour (0.12%) On Year-on-Year (YoY) basis, the commodities that witnessed decrease in prices during the week compared to corresponding week of last year included onions (25.15%), pulse Moong (24.56%), tomatoes (16.48%), eggs (10.03%), chicken (9.74%) and potatoes (7.98%). On the other hand, the items that witnessed increase in prices on WoW basis included pulse tomatoes (7.28%), eggs (2.95%), pulse Masoor (1.72%), sugar (1.46%), gents sponge chappal (20.08%), ladies sandal (16.69%), gents san-

dal (8.34%), LPG (5.03%) and georgette (1.00%) On YoY basis, the commodities that witnessed increase in prices included electricity for Q1 (83.95%), LPG (71.18%), cooking oil 5 litre (59.93%), vegetable ghee 1 Kg (56.77%), vegetable ghee 2.5 Kg (54.70%), mustard Oil (53.75%), gents sponge chappal (50.25%), gents sandal (44.49%), washing soap (44.39%), petrol (35.42%), pulse Masoor (34.35%), chillies Powdered (26.75%) and diesel (26.72%). During the week, out of 51 items, prices of 23 (45.09%) items increased, 05 (9.80%) items decreased and 23 (45.09%) items remained stable.

Fakhar pays rich tributes to Quaid

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research (NFS&R), Syed Fakhar Imam here on Friday paid paying rich tributes to Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and said that the Father of Nation succeeded in his endeavors due to hard work and continuous struggle. Addressing a conference organized to commemorate the great leader on his 146th birth anniversary, the federal minister said that Muhammad Ali Jinnah was not only successful in political life but also in his personal life. He said that creation of Pakistan was the proof of his success in political life despite the fact that the idea was not only opposed by the British people but the Indian Congress was also against it. On the other hand, when we look into his personal life, he had earned good fortune for himself due to hard work and untiring efforts. His hard work enabled him to make assets in Mumbai, Delhi, Simla, Karachi and Lahore, the minister added. – DNA

ITP presents gifts to Christian employees

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic police (ITP) Friday joined in the joyful celebration of Christmas and distributed gifts among the Christian employees. Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Rai Mazhar Iqbal joined a ceremony, organized by ITP Headquarters for Christian employees of the force. The event was attended by Christian employees and other senior police officers and officials of ITP. – APP

IGP holds 'open kutchery' on a daily Basis

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Ahsan Younus continuing hold 'open kutchery' on a daily basis in which a large number of police personnel and citizens participated. IGP Islamabad listened to the problems of citizens and for their immediate solution, he issued orders to the concerned officers on the spot, while issuing orders to submit the report by taking legal action in the given time frame on marked up. The IGP said that it is our prime responsibility to use all

available resources to provide protection to the lives and property of the citizens and to resolve their problems on priority basis. He said that citizens at 'Open Kutchery' should be treated in a respectful manner and their trust on police department to be won through resolving their issues. Holding the open court will also ensure self-accountability. Immediate solution of the public Complaints is our first priority, solve every citizen's problem as if it is your own problem, IGP addressed the police officers and said solve every citizen's problem as if it is your own problem, every citizen has equal rights, all applications will be decided on merit.



AIOU organizes Christmas event

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has organized a jubilant ceremony of Christmas celebrations at the main campus, Islamabad. Prof Dr Zia Ul-Qayyum, VC, AIOU has graced the occasion as chief guest. Principal Officers of various academic and administrative departments of the university, Registrar, AIOU, Raja Umar Younis and Christian staff and workers participated in the ceremony. Christmas cake was cut and supplications were made for the progress and development of the country. Senior priest, Amir Sohail recited a few verses from the Holy Bible and highlighted the significant value of inter religions dialogue in promoting peace, harmony and prosperity in the country as well as general welfare of the humanity.

CDA all set to install 12 filtration plants

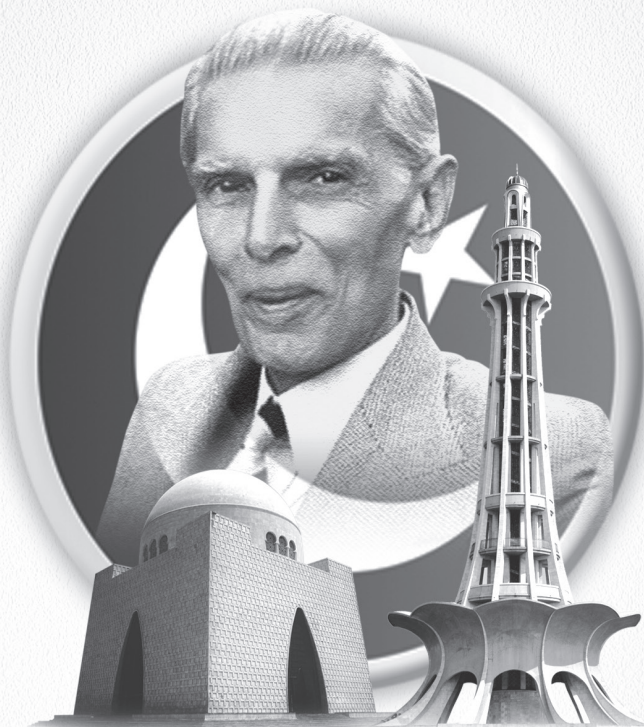
ISLAMABAD: In the light of instructions of the management of the Capital Development Authority, Water Supply wing is taking special measures to provide clean drinking water in Islamabad. In this regard, 12 new filtration plants are being set up in different parts of city. The installation of these filtration plants will be completed with cost Rs. 27 million for which tenders have been published in newspapers. According to the details, out of these filtration plants, 3 filtration plants will be installed in Sector F-6 at a cost of Rs. 67 lacs. 3 more Plants will be installed in sector G-8 and G-9 at a cost of Rs 67 lacs. – APP

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Briefs

PAC holds seminar on Quaid-e-Azam

RAWALPINDI: Chairman, Organization of History and Archeology Pakistan, Dr Ghazanfar Mehdi Friday said there would be no corruption in the society if we follow the teachings of Quaid-e-Azam. Addressing a seminar in connection with the birthday of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, he said that Quaid-e-Azam had given equal rights to minorities while the role of Quaid-e-Azam was a beacon light for political and religious leaders. "He did not build mansions, bungalows and properties, and if their role were followed, there would be no need for institutions like NAB", Ghazanfar added. While speaking on occasion, President Human Welfare Trust M. Iqbal Kokab Advocate said that Muhammad Ali Jinnah was one of the foremost human rights activists. Dr Murtaza Mughal, President of Bazm Urooj Adab Naeem Akram Qureshi, Dr Farhat Mehmood, distinguished scholar Allama Dr Hussain Ahmed, Prof. Rana Arshad Qazi, Director Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi Waqar Ahmed and others also spoke on the occasion. In the end, a resolution was passed condemning the Sialkot tragedy and calling for a judicial inquiry into the tragedy. - APP

IRSA releases 52068 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Friday released 52068 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 52068 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1428.09 feet, which was 36.09 feet higher than its dead level 1392 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 18600 and 25000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1118.75 feet, which was 68.75 feet higher than its dead level of 1050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 7716 and 18000 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 45906, 37963 and cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 3500 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 37963 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. - APP

Christmas cake-cutting ceremony held at RCB

RAWALPINDI: A Christmas cake cutting ceremony was held here on Friday at Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) in connection with Christmas celebrations. Speaking on the occasion, Cantonment Executive Officer Naveed Nawaz congratulated Christian community and felt pleasure in sharing their joy and cheerfulness. Vice President, RCB, Malik Munir, Additional Executive Officer, Mujahid Shah, minority member, Khurram Gul, Secretary Cantonment Board, Qaiser Mehmood, heads of all the branches and sanitation staff attended the ceremony. Congratulating the Christian staff members of RCB, Malik Munir appreciated their performance and said that the Christian staff members were very hard working and committed workers. He said Islam taught the lesson of peace, friendship and the promotion of inter-faith harmony which was the dire need of the hour. He said the Christian community was an important part of the society and the Christians were extending significant services in the sectors of education, health and other fields of life. Naveed Nawaz said, Station Commander Rawalpindi, Brig. Salman Nazir and all the RCB officers appreciate performance of Christian staff members. The happiness of the Christian community was our happiness, he added. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of European Union Androulla Kaminara posing for a picture with the staff of EU Delegation on the occasion of Christmas. - DNA

Pak to fetch global funding by World Bank's assisted GBT

"It has become a symbol of Pakistan's identity and repute as champion country in nature conservation. Therefore, we sent a team of independent beat reporters in the field so that they could report on the ground situation and outcomes of the project"

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam on Friday said the country would get global funding in lieu of billions of trees planted across the country through World Bank assisted Green Bond. Addressing a media brief on Exposure visit to Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Plantation (TBTP) sites in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province organised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and facilitated by the TBTP project ground teams, he said the billions of rupees invested on tree plantation would be received by the country as a token of thanks by the nature. Amin said the TBTP was Prime Minister

Imran Khan's vision and the government wanted to ensure complete transparency in the project to maintain its credibility. He told that third party evaluation and monitoring of the project through IUCN, WWF-Pakistan and FAO was underway making it one of the most transparent project of this government. "It has become a symbol of Pakistan's identity and repute as champion country in nature conservation. Therefore, we sent a team of independent beat reporters in the field so that they could report on the ground situation and outcomes of the project," the SAPM noted. He added that the media men have raised the issue of local Neghabans and forest guards' low wages and untimely disbursements of salaries which would be resolved on priority basis.

The SAPM said that a proposal was sent to the KP government in this regard whereas a PCI-I was prepared that aimed to elevate the job ranks and wages of these Neghabans. Moreover, they have also indicated that fruit trees in man-made forests like Gari Chandan Peshawar under TBTP would increase dividends of plantation to local communities, he mentioned. "Prime Minister Imran Khan will announce the fruit trees plantation component of TBTP project under the World Bank assisted Green Stimulus initiative," the SAPM informed. Amin also added that a 50-kilometer ridge of the neglected Munroe Hiking Track in Balakot was revived with massive plantation through the assisted natural regeneration (ANR) process which would be inaugurated by the Prime Minister in March next year.

It had two rest houses, and three glamping sites making it a hiking track of three day travel providing a two-night camping stay in the natural forest, he added. "This track was established by famous British Forester Munroe some 100 years back which got submerged under the dust of time and forestry books. We have revived it to provide a lovely eco-tourism site," he noted. The media delegation visited Miyawaki plantation along Motorways near Abbottabad that also includes Badland and close plantation sites, ANR sites of Mansehra Forest Division's areas of Kehina Forest in Shinkhari, Seran Plantation Nursery, Daur watershed plantation Noushera Biodiversity Complex Abbottabad, Peshawar Forest Division's Olive Plantation in Noushera Amargarh area and Gari Chandan Forest.

Suri, Rector IIUI discuss promotion of education

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Masoom Yasinzai, Rector International Islamic University, Islamabad called on Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Qasim Khan Suri on Friday to discuss promotion of education and recent hall marks of IIUI. Both the speaker and IIU Rector discussed the matters of education particularly to share expertise to up-lift standard of education in Baluchistan. Mr. Qasim Khan Suri lauded IIU's role for producing skilled and harmonious graduates, he also assured his support and cooperation for the university. Dr. Masoom Yasinzai apprised him of the university's services for the society and also briefed him on university's vision. He told about the recent improvement of IIUI in international rankings and also informed about the outcomes of the Paigham-e-Pakistan initiative of the university. He said that country is facing youth bulge, these are high times to guide youth to be involved in entrepreneurial projects so that they may become job providers instead of being job seekers and IIUI is pursuing this vision to produce the professionals blended with Islamic values and compatible to the needs of market. - APP

ITP's awareness campaign in full swing

ISLAMABAD: The campaign of Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) to check lane violation is in full swing and road users are being educated to follow traffic rules and minimize the accident ratio. The main objective of this road safety campaign is to ensure safety to people and road users are being educated for lane discipline during drive, said a news release. Following directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Ahsan Younis, Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Rai Mazhar Iqbal has constituted special squads to control lane violation on various roads and ensure smooth flow of traffic in the city. ITP's squads remain present on all important roads including Islamabad Expressway, Srinagar (Kashmir) highway to educate road users about traffic rules. Pamphlets and leaflets are being distributed to create awareness among citizens. While teams of education wing headed by SP (Traffic) Rai Mazhar Iqbal are creating awareness about traffic rules. ITP's FM Radio 92.4 is also disseminating the messages about road safety and to educate audience about traffic rules. Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) has appealed the citizens to cooperate with the force by following traffic laws. He said that action would be taken against those not following lanes during drive as the sole purpose is to ensure safe road environment in the city. He hoped that citizens will follow traffic rules and help ITP through their cooperation in ensuring secure traffic system in the city. Those violating traffic rules will be fined and safer road environment would be ensured through constant monitoring, he maintained. - APP

Graduation Ceremony for NSC 2022 conducted at NDU

ISLAMABAD: Graduation Ceremony for National Security Course 2022 was conducted at National Defence University, Islamabad on 24 December 2021. President Arif Alvi was the Chief Guest at the ceremony. Federal Ministers, Senators, Senior serving and retired Military Officers were also present on the occasion. The Graduation Ceremony, marked the culmination of 'National Security Course' which had commenced on 16 August 2021 and was attended by participants from Civil Services of Pakistan, along with members from the Armed Forces. The main focus of this course was to enable the course members to comprehend the interplay of all elements of national power in the construct of 'Comprehensive National Security'. The Chief Guest, while addressing the graduates, congratulated them on their achievements. Having been equipped with requisite skills to handle intricate and complex professional matters concerning national security, he stressed that the graduates to do all what it takes to conceptualise the national response against the threats and challenges faced by the Nation. The Chief Guest appreciated the contributions of National Defence University in refining and defining skills of the participants on national security concepts and enabling national policy makers to acquire a better understanding of issues concerning national security of Pakistan.



Chairman TJP calls on Kuwaiti Ambassador

RAWALPINDI: Chairman Tehreek-e-Jawanan Pakistan (TJP) Mohammad Abdullah Hamid Gul called on Ambassador of Kuwait Nassar Abdul Rehman. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on employment and visa facilitation for Pakistanis in Kuwait. He said that for a long time the Kuwaiti government had banned Pakistani manpower and now the government has lifted it which is a good step for Pakistan. He said that Kuwait and Pakistan have fraternal relations for decades. They Supported Pakistan in every difficult time be it flood or earthquake. Interest of Kuwait Investment in K Electric and detailed discussion on Afghan situation and welfare issues were considered. - DNA

Minorities played vital role during independence

RAWALPINDI: Managing Director Rawalpindi Waste Management Company Owais Manzoor Tarar has said the role of the minority community during the independence movement and development of Pakistan was memorable. He expressed these views while addressing a Christmas cake cutting ceremony honouring the sanitary workers and their families here on Friday. In his message on Christmas and Quaid-e-Azam Day, he congratulated the Christian sanitary workers on Christmas and said that RWMC served the citizens by following the message of the founder of Pakistan, "Work, work and work only". Awais said that RWMC had cleaned the places of Father of the Nation's birthday celebrations and other celebrations for Christmas. The MD said that sanitary workers had to compromise their vacations whole the year and performed their duties with dedication and hard work. Awais said that minorities in Pakistan have equal rights and religious freedom. He said the Christian community was an essential part of our society and extended significant services in education, health and other fields of life. In addition, the Christian community was the backbone of RWMC. He said that he felt pleasure in sharing their joy and cheerfulness. Former MPA Arif Abbasi, President Municipal Labor Union Raja Haroon, General Secretary Pastor Shahid, Senior Manager Operations Muhammad Hasnain and other officers were also present. - APP

PRCS marks 74th Foundation Day celebrations

Qasim Suri says disaster response, provision of health care, first aid and blood donation are the hallmark of Red Crescent; Abrar ul Haq says PRCS has always led from the front by rendering its services to communities

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: On the 74th anniversary of the founding of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, a colorful ceremony was held at PRCS National Headquarters here on Friday. Deputy Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Qasim Suri, Chairman PRCS Abrar ul Haq, members PRCS Managing Body, Secretary General Dr. Adeel Nawaz, representatives and families of PRCS, ICRC, IFRC, Partner National Societies and volunteers, were among the participants of the ceremony. The ceremony started with the recitation of the Holy Quran. Video documentaries based on the history and activities of the Red Crescent were also presented. On the occasion, the trained Red Crescent First Aiders gave a practical demonstration of providing first aid during emergencies followed by music performance by local band, which was appreciated by the participants with a round of applause.



Speaking on the occasion, Chairman PRCS Abrar-ul-Haq said that from its inception on December 20,1947 till today, the Red Crescent has been serving humanity by adhering to the seven basic principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality. He said during tragedies, disasters whether man-made or natural, PRCS acts on the principle of first to reach and last to leave, be it first aid, psychiatric relief or reunification efforts, help in emergencies or role in reconstruction. Abrar ul Haq said during the pandemic, the Red Crescent has been instrumental in providing, hospital care, COVID vaccination,

blood donations, cash assistance, rations, personal protection kits, hygiene kits, handwashing stations and sanitizer machines. "Red Crescent made a name for itself on the 'front line' during the Corona pandemic and it is no less an honor that its methods of services in Pakistan, were highly appreciated by the United States", he added. Abrar ul Haq said PRCS volunteers have strong acceptance in the communities, they are Agents of Behavior Change and they have always played an effective and efficient role in changing the minds of people during awareness campaigns, thereby promoting a culture of peace, tolerance and non-violence through community watch. He said PRCS under its Red Crescent Corp initiative will train students of educational institutions to render First Aid services to vulnerable communities. Abrar-ul-Haq thanked ICRC, IFRC, Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Partners and all the other organizations for supporting PRCS in its humanitarian endeavors.

Govt notifies transfer, posting of officers

ISLAMABAD: The Federal government on Friday notified the transfers and postings of high ranking officers. According to a notification issued by the Establishment Division, Samiullah Khan, a BS-20 officer of Postal Group, presently posted as Joint Secretary, Gilgit Baltistan Council Secretariat under Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Division, on promotion to BS-21, is transferred and posted as Senior Joint Secretary, Azad Jammu and Kashmir Council Secretariat, with immediate effect and until further orders. While, Ms. Huda Shah (OMG/BS-18), OSD in Establishment Division is transferred and posted as Section Officer, Power Division, with immediate effect and until further orders. - APP

PIA ban

AFTER more than a year, the ban imposed by the EU on Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight operations is expected to be lifted soon, as the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) validation committee has cleared a safety audit report. Following this, the Significant Safety Concerns (SSC) will be removed and the EU Aviation Safety Agency will lift the ban. This is encouraging news but there is still time before flights resume because the CAA first has to receive the approval. It is important to remember that this ban was placed in July 2020 due to security concerns against the backdrop of the May 22 Karachi plane crash and the subsequent exaggerated statement of Aviation Minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan that 40 percent of Pakistani pilots possessed dubious licenses. Given how things have panned out since then, it would be fair to say that the minister should have exercised better judgement. While the minister was pointing fingers towards the oversight role of the CAA when it comes to testing and silencing, it is the PIA that has borne the brunt of the ban as it was the only Pakistani airline at that time operating flights to EU states and the United Kingdom. According to reports, the suspension of flights has been causing a monthly loss of Rs2.20 billion to the national flag carrier. Beyond this issue however, there are other serious concerns regarding the health and the future of the national carrier. The problems plaguing PIA have been common knowledge for a long time but the progress has been glacial when it comes to addressing them. Reports suggest that there are plans to increase the number of routes and to acquire modern simulators for training, in addition to finding ways to reduce operational costs. However, it remains to be seen if these measures will be sufficient for the revival of the airlines. Given how PIA has suffered for years due to mismanagement, the government must now come clean regarding whether it is up to the task. If not, the often-abandoned option of privatisation must be seriously considered.

U.S.
Foreign
Policy



Increasing tax revenue

WHILE the government stresses the importance of increasing the tax net and sets ambitious targets of tax collection, reports have uncovered that many functionaries of the government are themselves not paying income tax or are not registered with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). As many as 161 Members of Parliament have not paid tax on their income nor have filed any tax returns. Official records show that some are not even registered with the tax authorities. It is not as if these Members of Parliament fall below the tax bracket. Almost all political representatives are either directly or indirectly coming from the economic elite. Out of the tax evaders, four Members of Parliament have purchased properties collectively worth millions of dollars in Dubai, Norway and London in the last decade. The 161 named collective owns assets worth Rs35 billion. This is absolutely unacceptable and is a blatant violation of the law. Not only is this illegal and shameful, but it is also extremely damaging to the government's credibility, its impact and the writ of law. Tax evaders residing abroad and, in the country, will not pay heed to the government's consistent plea to get registered into the tax record if the government's own members are shown to be openly flouting the law and getting away with it. To offset the damage done, those in the highest government positions must make an example out of the parliamentarians evading tax. This menace plagues all political parties; as many as 76 of these 103 MPs are representatives of major political parties; two are ministers in Prime Minister Imran Khan's cabinet. The Income Tax Ordinance mentions the punishment of MPs who are not registered with FBR. The FBR must take strict action against the unregistered government members. Political party heads must also look into their government representatives to ensure they are registered income-tax payers.

Mohammad Ali Jinnah: an advocate of fundamental rights

Zafarullah Khan



The cry of liberty, fraternity and equality which was raised during your [French] Great Revolution and officially adopted by your great Republic [France] had its repercussions throughout the world as is known to every student of history. These ideals and these principles are still buoying up the hopes of many downtrodden nations

— Quaid-i-Azam's remarks at a ceremony when the first Ambassador of France to Pakistan presented his credentials on 2nd January, 1948

THROUGHOUT his political and parliamentary career, the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah remained an able, articulate and firm advocate of fundamental human rights. He remained consistent and persistent in his de-

mands to humanize the colonial constitution schema by incorporating some semblance of justice and due process.

While spearheading the democratic struggle of the South Asian Muslims for their right to 'self-determination' Mohammad Ali Jinnah authored his famous 14-Points in 1929. The 7th articulation of this historic document called for; 'full religious liberty, i.e. liberty of belief, worship and observance, propaganda, association and education, shall be guaranteed to all communities.'

Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah first entered the Imperial Legislative Council in 1909 and remained its Member till 28th March 1919-the day he resigned as a mark of protest against the passage of the Criminal Law Emergency Power Act (the Rowlatt Act). Mohammad Ali Jinnah vehemently opposed the Bill on 6th February 1919 saying, 'It is against the fundamental principles of law and justice, namely that no man should lose his liberty or be deprived of his liberty without a judicial trial in accordance with the accepted rule of evidence and procedure.'

Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah resumed his parliamentary career when he was elected to the Central Legislative Assembly in 1923 and later to the Indian Legislative Council in 1926. His speeches and stands in these institutions bear historic testimony that he always stood for freedom and liberty, especially the freedom of speech. There are many instances when he described restrictive colonial laws as a blot on the Statute Book. For example, he criticized the Press Act-1910 for its arbitrary provisions that gave the executive powers to punish erring newspapers sans any judicial check.

There are many speeches by Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah that highlighted the issue of habeas corpus in the colonial India. He strongly opposed the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Supplementary Bill by making a distinction between emergency and normal time in his speech on 23rd March, 1925.

On 22nd January, 1935 he opposed the detention of Sarat Chandra Bose for three years saying, 'Here is a member who through arrested in February 1932 has been kept under detention and when challenged to put him to trial or release him, the government takes neither step. How does the government justify the detention of Mr. Sarat Bose for one single day? Even if there is no question of privilege, is not the Assembly en-

titled to censure the Government for detaining without trial any person, in this case a Member of this House.'

On 3rd May, 1944, Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah denounced the repressive and oppressive measures which trample the constitutional liberty of the people during critical times. He aptly and openly demanded; 'Is the present constitution under which we are working to function fully and freely and the constitutional liberty should not be interfered with or curtailed?'

The present Legislature is now seven years old. We have repeatedly urged that fresh elections should be held, but the government has turned a deaf ear so far. Are we not entitled to make every legitimate effort to put our house? Either we should be allowed full freedom to work or we must be definitely told to close down our shutters. But it will be a great blunder to interfere with constitutional liberties under the pretext that they might interfere with the war efforts.'

Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah observed many legal squabbles and learnt about the legislative intricacies during his student life in London when he used to witness the proceedings of the Westminster from its gallery.

He developed his constitutionalist parliamentary acumen after meeting many liberal leaning leaders in the Britain. Even upon creation of Pakistan he advised the Pakistani youth to read John Morley's long essay, 'On Compromise' that emphasized the civilizational learning of accommodation and flexibility.

In his many speeches and numerous statements, Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah explicitly expressed his views on liberty, equality, justice, fraternity, protection of property of the minorities and other rights. Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah's thoughts were well articulated in his famous 11th August 1947 speech. Besides being the elected president of the First Constituent Assembly of Pakistan, he chaired the first parliamentary committee created on 12th August 1947 that was the Committee on Fundamental Rights of Citizens and Minorities of Pakistan. Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah led us by demonstrating his unwavering commitment for the fundamental rights. Therefore, we must not ignore our foundational gene to create a rights based society in Pakistan.

— Zafarullah Khan is Member-Islamabad at National Commission for Human Rights

US policy dilemma in Afghanistan

Syeda Hudaisa Kazmi

The pull of economic opportunity and the push of conflict, economic stagnation, unemployment, and other drivers will continue to shape migration in the region in 2022. Specific drivers to watch include events in Afghanistan, other conflict zones, Lebanon, and Turkey, as well the impacts...

THERE is only one decisive victory: the last." These are the words of famous military strategist Clausewitz. The United States spent \$1 trillion, almost two decades, and claimed to have achieved the primary purpose in Afghanistan that was defeating Al-Qaeda yet the end for Americans cannot be regarded as a "decisive victory". It is true that the initial goal of the United States was to defeat Al-Qaeda but it soon realized that the problem is not Al-Qaeda alone. When the Taliban refused to hand over Osama Bin Laden to Americans, the Taliban had already shown which side they have chosen. Now the Taliban were a problem too. Taliban were also apparently defeated after the toppling of their government in the aftermath of 9/11 but now stability in Afghanistan became a challenge for the world. The power vacuum that was created in Afghanistan could have provided space for terrorist groups to rise and threaten the US again. The US being the custodian of moral

principles, democracy, and good governance took up the role of a responsible hegemon. The goal shifted from defeating Al-Qaeda to defeating the Taliban to state-building and nation-building in Afghanistan. The end goal was noble, the means were not. State-building and nation-building are not possible through external factors. It does not necessarily require huge resources and boots on the ground. The political change must come from within. The problem lied in internal weaknesses. The US injected an abundance of resources in the hope of establishing democracy, forming a stable government, ensuring fair elections, framing a strong constitution, and promoting peace and security. However, it failed to understand that money cannot ensure these factors. The abundance of foreign resources resulted in a corrupt government and the democratization of a tribal nation became a problem. For Afghans, tribal identities mattered more than the national identity under a democratic system. The resources were not reaching the common people. There was a weak judiciary. Violence could not be contained. The government lost its legitimacy in the eyes of the public. All these factors made many people feel wistful about Taliban rule.

Another pertinent factor that was at play was the game of narratives. The failure of the US in Afghanistan was not an abrupt event. It has started long ago and ironically the United States was aware of it but never acknowledged it. For the American people and the entire world, they projected the narrative of inching closer to success day by day but the reality was far from it. In the guise of this constructed narrative, the US kept on making miscalculations one after the other. The first miscalculation was to invest so carelessly in Afghanistan without any check on where the money was going. The second miscalculation was to withdraw from Afghanistan in haste. The US withdrawal was not due to military limitations, the purpose of peace in Afghanistan, or the people of Afghanistan. It was because of domestic issues of the US. The failure of the US in Afghanistan can be attributed to its "imperial

overstretch". The biggest challenge that the US faced in Afghanistan impacted its domestic situation as well as maintaining a balance between its resources and national security commitments. When the idea of withdrawal was floated by President Donald Trump, he did not care about the aftermaths on regional security and the people of Afghanistan. President Joe Biden despite being an advocate of retaining a limited presence in Afghanistan, followed the footprints of his predecessor. The Taliban did not win because they defeated the Americans. Taliban won because Americans withdrew from Afghanistan.

It is true that the US managed to attain its initial goals but what about the goal that it created itself over the period of time? What about the reconstruction and state-building in Afghanistan? Is the world ready to work for the goodwill of Afghan people and peace in the country? For once will anyone think sincerely about peace in Afghanistan? Whether it was corrupt government or narrative building, the Taliban are a reality now. The international community needs to find a way to deal with them. The facade of establishing peace in Afghanistan for the past twenty years has taught one very important lesson that violence does not end violence. There should be a political solution to bring peace and stability in Afghanistan. The actors who have stakes in Afghanistan should forget about pursuing their national interest and focus on rebuilding peace in the region. It looks convenient to contest your enemy in a foreign land but people of that country are suffering. The flagbearers of protection of human rights should now play their role carefully. Although the world is not ready to fund the Taliban government until they qualify on certain merits, yet controlled financial aid can be poured into the country through different organizations to primarily assist the Afghan people. The major powers should truly take calculated and responsible steps in order to bring peace to Afghanistan.

— The author is an Islamabad-based writer who focuses on South Asian Politics and Afghanistan.

Yunnan: China's emerging gateway and Pakistan

Li Ping



Pakistani students have studied in and continuing their education in institutions of higher and professional learning in Yunnan. A direct flight between Kunming and Islamabad ensued in December 2019 that would be resumed once COVID-19 related restrictions are removed, soonest we hope

WHILE the growth and progress of entire China continues to amaze the world in so many ways, some of the regions and parts of the People's Republic are increasingly noticeable in this regard. South-western province of Yunnan is one such stand-out example of recent years. That the world community chose Kunming, the capital of Yunnan, as the venue for 2021 World Biodiversity Conference is a testimony that the province is being appreciated globally for its efforts to preserve its rich natural wealth as well as promotion of eco-friendly development. It, however, is just one example to cite.

Looking from Pakistan, it is important to understand some basic facts about the province. Located at the juncture of South and Southeast Asia, the province is half the size of Pakistan in terms of landmass and almost one-fourth when it comes to population. It borders Vietnam, Laos and Myanmar and is in close proximity to Cambodia, Thailand, Bangladesh, India and, we can say, Nepal. Flight time between the capitals of all these countries from Yunnan's capital Kunming is between hardly 1 to just over 3 hours. Direct flight from Islamabad to Kunming is also of around 4 hours' duration.

It would be interesting for people Pakistani audience to note that the province has a GDP, in nominal terms, of around \$350 billion which is now actually more than GDP of Pakistan. International trade of the province is around \$ 30 billion. In the first half of 2021 alone, international trade of the province has grown around 60%. Good for the province that it enjoys a surplus, exports exceeding the imports. Thanks to continuous attention and robust policies of China's central and Yunnan's provincial authorities, the province is witnessing one of the highest rates of GDP growth among Chinese provinces and regions, in recent years. International trade and commercial cooperation is also increasing fast, further, in size and scope. It would not be wrong to say that Yunnan is now serving as an important gateway between China and South and Southeast Asia. Chinese and international investors are increasingly turning to Yunnan, to invest there and start their businesses

— reaping the benefits of the province's ideal location in the south-eastern part of Asia; and getting the dividends of favorable central and provincial policies and approaches. The latest among these approaches is Pilot Free Trade Zone — one of the six such zones initiated by China's State Council now being actively built. It is recorded that activities linked with Yunnan's Pilot Free Trade Zone are proving to promising for the province's and as a whole China's, commerce with South and South-east Asia.

As a whole, the province offers immense investment, business and trade opportunities for international potential partners and Pakistani investors, businesspersons — due to extraordinarily positive relations between the two nations — stand to gain a lot if they wish to benefit from these opportunities. When we talk about up and coming investment opportunities of investing in this beautiful province of China, some of the prefectures, cities and areas as well as their projects that are being developed for the purpose assume a renewed significance for international investors. Wenshan, Honghe, Dehong, Lijiang, Xishuangbanna, Yuxi, Lincang, Qujing, Dali and Pu' Er are such parts of the province being specifically focused for investment.

Yunnan is also home to the best varieties of green and herbal tea as well as black tea and coffee; major producer of tobacco and its products; a huge power in terms for hydropower generation; a leading global producer and exporter of cut-flowers. The province, due to its mesmerizing landscape, historical heritage, ethnic diversity and natural wealth is a magnet for tourists from China and abroad. The floral wealth of the province is a global attraction, exported widely.

Like other parts of China, Yunnan is already engaged in various forms of commercial cooperation with Pakistan — particularly involvement in CPEC projects and slowly but gradually increasing trade. Every year, province's capital Kunming hosts a major trade expo of South and Southeast Asian producers and manufactures, which would no onwards be running on permanent basis, and Pakistani businesses' have been an important feature of this activity. Doing business in and with Yunnan means not only exploring the commercial potential, but visiting Yunnan and spending time there also means enjoys one of the most pleasant environments on the face of the earth.

Pakistani students have studied in and continuing their education in institutions of higher and professional learning in Yunnan. A direct flight between Kunming and Islamabad ensued in December 2019 that would be resumed once COVID-19 related restrictions are removed, soonest we hope. However, we are nowhere near realizing the potential that exists — on both sides — for closer economic cooperation. A lot remains to be done. Pakistan and China are commemorating 2021 as the 70th anniversary of founding of bilateral relations between the two countries. It is high time that investors, producers and traders come forward; take advantage of the opportunities that Yunnan offers and resultant play a much needed role in further solidifying the evergreen partnership between our two countries. Policy-makers and institutions, on their part, should facilitate stronger economic cooperation and people-to-people linkages for win-win cooperation and moving towards shared future.

— The writer is Director of the Overseas Representative Office (ORO) of Yunnan Commerce in Pakistan. This Op-ED piece is a contribution of the ORO towards celebration of 70th anniversary of Pak-China Relations.

Briefs

South Korea pardons ex-president

NEWS DESK

SEOUL: South Korea on Friday pardoned former President Park Geun-hye, who was serving a 22-year jail term for corruption. The government said the move to release Park, who was impeached in 2017 and convicted of abuse of power, coercion and bribery a year later, will "help bolster national unity" ahead of next March's presidential election. Park became South Korea's first woman president in 2013 and the country's first democratically elected leader to be removed from office. She is among 3,094 prisoners scheduled to be freed on New Year's Eve, Yonhap News Agency reported. Given her support base in Daegu and the North Gyeongsang province, a stronghold of the main opposition People Power Party, her release is likely to have a "significant impact" on the presidential election, the report said. President Moon Jae-in's government has also announced it will exonerate Han Myeong-sook, South Korea's first woman prime minister who served a two-year prison term from 2015 to 2017 for bribery. The decisions have been taken as part of efforts to overcome the nationwide crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic by moving forward "from the unfortunate history of the past and achieving a grand unity among the people," the government said.

US to lift travel ban on 8 African countries

WASHINGTON: The U.S. will lift travel restrictions to eight southern African countries on New Year's Eve, the White House announced Friday. The restrictions, imposed last month, were meant to blunt the spread of the COVID omicron variant. The Nov. 29 ban barred nearly all non-U.S. citizens who had recently been in South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique and Malawi. White House spokesman Kevin Munoz said on Twitter that the decision was recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Munoz said the temporary travel bans bought scientists necessary time to study the new virus variant and conclude that the current vaccinations are effective in blunting its impact. Omicron is now spreading rapidly throughout the U.S., including among the vaccinated, but a huge majority of those being hospitalized are unvaccinated. "The restrictions gave us time to understand Omicron and we know our existing vaccines work against Omicron, esp boosted," Munoz wrote on Twitter. — Agencies

Iran says it fired 16 ballistic missiles

TEHRAN: Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard fired more than a dozen surface-to-surface ballistic missiles, the official IRNA news agency reported on Friday. The report said the Guard fired 16 missiles during an ongoing major military exercise across the country's south. It said the name of the missiles were Emad, Ghadr, Sejjil, Zalzal, Dezful and Zolfaghar and that their range is from 350 to 2000 kilometers (220 to 1250 miles). The short-range and medium-range missiles, Iran has said, can reach U.S. bases in the region as well as arch-enemy Israel. It said the missiles successfully hit one target at the same time as 10 drones simultaneously hit their targets. State TV showed missiles launching in the desert. Iran had displayed and test fired the missiles in the past. Major General Mohammad Hossein Bagheri, the chief of staff of Iran's Armed Forces, said the planned drill was an answer to Israel's recent "massive but pointless threats" to Iran. Bagheri said, "This was a tiny part of hundreds of missiles that can hit any hostile target simultaneously." — Web Desk

Mehriban Aliyeva congratulates President Aliyev on his birthday

In a post on her official Instagram page, Mehriban Aliyeva said:

"Dear Mr. President! Today, like millions of Azerbaijani citizens, I want to express my deep gratitude to you. We are grateful that we, the people of Azerbaijan, feel a sense of national pride and unity. We are thankful to you for having fulfilled the aspirations and desire of every Azerbaijani, living in our hearts for many years. The Azerbaijani people are a victorious people! Great things don't happen all at once. Any historical achievement is a long, difficult and arduous road. Your historical service is that you embarked on this path and passed it with dignity. Your unparalleled service is that you have ensured the victory of the Azerbaijani people with the decisions you made by leading the country all these years. Your power is that on this path you managed to earn the confidence of the people and, counting on the people's trust and love, you were able to justify this priceless trust. Your historical service is that all these years, despite all the difficulties, pressures, sometimes groundless and unfair opinions, you have not for a moment lost your faith, hope and will. The fulfillment of a great mission to ensure the territorial integrity of our country was also possible thanks to your unbreakable will. I know that you have always believed in your people and this is this faith, along with all your personal qualities, that is the source and guarantee of all the victories you have achieved and the victories that lie ahead. My most sincere thanks to you! On the day of your birth anniversary, allow me to wish you and the entire Azerbaijani people long life, the best of health and fulfillment of all your desires. Your path to success is continuing and much remains to be done for the sake of our Motherland. May God give you strength and patience! May the Almighty God protect you and the people of Azerbaijan on this sacred path! We are proud of you and love you very much!

Mehriban Aliyeva."



Bangladesh ferry fire kills at least 37

DHAKA: At least 37 people have died and 74 others rescued after a fire broke out early Friday on a passenger ferry on the Sugandha River in Bangladesh, according to official sources. "Until now, we have recovered 37 charred bodies and 74 passengers with burns. Fire doused fully hours ago. But still now our patrolling teams and divers are searching for missing ones in the river," Brig. Gen. Sajjad Hossain, the director-general of the country's Fire Service and Civil Defense, told Anadolu Agency over the phone. He added that some of the injured were rescued by local people while many others jumped into the river before the rescue teams reached the spot. "So, it is not possible to ascertain the exact figure of how many people have been killed or injured as still there are some missing," Hossain said. Speaking to Anadolu Agency, one of the passengers of the ferry who somehow managed to reach land with his wife said over the phone that the fire spread very quickly and many inside the vessel died due to suffocation. "As the ferry was fully packed with passengers and of them, there were many women, children, and aged commuters and most of them could not come out of the deck," Hossain Muhammad Al-Muzahid, the administrative head of southern Patharghata coastal area, said. "I was standing at the side of the launch with my wife and suddenly I saw fire raging out from different sides. Instantly I jumped into the river with my wife. We both know how to swim and somehow managed to reach the land. It was such a terrible incident in my life that I had never seen before," Muzahid added. Local sources said the number of dead and injured may rise as many passengers jumped into the river after the fire spread throughout the Ovijan-10 commuter ferry, which is locally called a launch. Khalilur Rahman, the officer in charge at the Jhalakathi police station, told reporters that there were more than 500 passengers inside the ferry headed to the southern district of Barguna and the ferry started its journey from the capital Dhaka's Sadarghat Launch Terminal Thursday evening. — Foreign Desk

Save forced labor: China rebukes US on Uyghur law

"This is the most important and impactful action taken thus far by the United States to hold the Chinese Communist Party accountable for their use of slave labor"

AGENCIES

BEIJING: China on Friday lashed out at the US over a new law related to Uyghurs, saying it "should wash the labels of 'forced labor' and 'genocide' for itself." The US legislation "maliciously denigrates the human rights situation in ... Xinjiang in disregard of facts and truth," read a Chinese Foreign Ministry statement, referring to the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act signed into law by US President Joe Biden on Thursday. "It seriously violates international law and basic norms governing international relations and grossly interferes in China's internal affairs. China deplores and firmly rejects this," the statement said. It accused the US of "using Xinjiang-related issues to create rumors and make trouble" and "engaging in political manipulation and economic coercion." The US law bans imports from the Uyghur-majority Xinjiang autonomous region in northwestern China and imposes sanctions on foreign individuals responsible for alleged forced labor in the region. "It is preposterous for the US, a country with a deplorable track record of hu-

man rights issues, to accuse and smear China," the statement said. "The US has serious problems of human trafficking and forced labor. Up to 100,000 people were trafficked into the US for forced labor annually over the past five years. Crimes against humanity against Native Americans in the past constitute de facto genocide. The US should save the labels of 'forced labor' and 'genocide' for itself." The ministry stressed that "Xinjiang-related issues are not human rights issues at all, but in essence about countering violent terrorism and separatism." "The so-called allegations of 'forced labor' and 'genocide' in Xinjiang are nothing but vicious lies concocted by anti-China forces," the ministry asserted, adding that Washington is "seeking to undermine Xinjiang's prosperity and stability and contain China's development under the pretext of human rights." "The US acts totally violate market principles and commercial ethics. Such moves will only undermine the stability of global industrial and supply chains, disrupt international trade order and hurt the US' own interests and credibility," read the statement. "The rock they are lifting will end up dropping on their own feet."

It called on the US "to correct the mistake immediately, and stop using Xinjiang-related issues to spread lies, interfere in China's internal affairs and contain China's development." "China will make further response in light of the development of the situation," the statement added. The US bill was introduced by Senators Marco Rubio and Jeff Merkley last year and cleared the House and Senate in recent weeks. "This is the most important and impactful action taken thus far by the United States to hold the Chinese Communist Party accountable for their use of slave labor," Rubio said after the signing. Over the years, several countries have accused China of ethnic cleansing of Uyghurs in Xinjiang. According to UN data, at least 1 million Uyghurs are kept against their will in places Beijing calls "vocational training centers" and the international community defines as "re-education camps." While the UN and other international organizations have repeatedly called for the camps to be opened for inspection, China has allowed a few of its designated centers to be partially viewed by a small number of foreign diplomats and journalists.

Israeli settler kills Palestinian woman

WEB DESK

JERUSALEM: A Palestinian woman was run over and killed by an Israeli settler in the occupied West Bank on Friday. An unidentified settler rammed a car into 60-year-old Ghadeer Fuqaha, a resident of Sinjil, a town located north of Ramallah. The attack took place on a road between the settlements of Ofra and Shilo in the occupied West Bank. The settler fled the scene and is yet to be apprehended. Fuqaha was critically wounded and succumbed to her injuries soon after the attack. The Israeli Army Radio also confirmed her death but did not disclose any details of the attack. Settler violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank has soared in recent weeks, including attacks on people, agricultural lands, homes and other properties.

Russia's tensions with Ukraine at 'dangerous' level

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: The ongoing border crisis between Russia and Ukraine as well as Moscow's tensions with the NATO military bloc has reached a "dangerous" level, Turkey has said, adding Ankara is conducting a "realistic" foreign policy. "We will not ignore our principles and close relations with Ukraine just because we have extensive relations with Russia," Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Thursday at the closing ceremony of the virtual meeting of International Security Academy organized by the Council of International Relations. Cavusoglu said Turkey pursues diplomacy according to circumstances and whatever the country's national security requires. "It's hard work, but that's what diplomacy is for," Cavusoglu said the Turkish government is building a foreign policy that has three pillars, describing them as "national values and interests," "realities on the ground," and the country's "possibilities and capabilities."

Proactive approach vital to achieve peace

"Afghanistan is our closest neighbor and both the countries share around 2600 kilometers land border. We only support them for political engagements with international community"

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Mansoor Ahmad Khan on Friday urged international community, especially neighboring countries to adopt a proactive approach to achieve lasting peace in Afghanistan which is currently on the brink of humanitarian catastrophe. At a session on "Pak Afghan Storytelling Series" organized here by Pak-Afghan Youth Forum, he appealed to the world to come forward and provide timely assistance to 40 million people of Afghanistan as the country is heavily dependent on foreign aid. "Pakistan has played a vital role and made earnest efforts across the region for sustainable peace in Afghanistan," he said. Ambassador Mansoor said Pakistan is a member of all regional forums and Troika plus, comprising China, Russia, and the United States and taking inclusive steps to form an inclusive and representative government in Afghanistan. Shedding light on post-August 15 situations in Kabul, he said foreign missions, diplomats, and international organizations were praising Pakistan embassy's constructive role in Kabul evacuations following the US withdrawal. "When Afghanistan and its population were in distress it was Paki-



stan embassy in Kabul that did not close its operations and facilitated international community for their re-location in Pakistan and carry out humanitarian activities," he said. During evacuation process, the government of Pakistan took supportive measures at borders to manage huge influx of Afghan people coming to Pakistan, he said, adding that Indian wheat is also being transported through Pakistan to Afghanistan for humanitarian assistance.

To a query, he said situation in Kabul is totally changed as Taliban are now fully engaged with the international community through dialogue and seeking lifting of economic restrictions. He clarified that it was policy of Pakistan not to intervene in internal affairs of Afghanistan as it was right of the Afghan people and responsibility of their leaders whatever system they want for themselves. "Afghanistan is our closest neighbor and both the countries share around 2600 kilometers land border. We only support them for political engagements with international community," he noted. He said the Taliban needs to evolve an indigenous system that was acceptable to all groups locally and internationally. Pakistan's main interest is to bring political and economic stability in war-torn country after 50 years of political turmoil. During past years, he said Afghan

regimes never had an entire control of country's territories that provided space to various terrorist groups. At present the Taliban government has full control over the country, he said adding if the present government addresses humanitarian, educational, and economic issues as well as continue to extend cooperation with international community in counter-terrorism, that eventually end an era of war in Afghanistan and move the country towards stability prosperity. He emphasized the need for creating an environment to expand bilateral ties between both the countries with cooperation in various fields including health, education, commerce, agriculture, industry etc. Responding to a query about women education in Afghanistan, he said after August 15, the new Taliban regime had started higher education for girls across 12 provinces in the country, hoping that girls schools would be reopened in rest of the provinces soon. There was a need to provide such kind of environment where cultural barriers may be addressed by establishing separate schools for girls and arrangements of segregated classes, he maintained. — APP

