

Briefs Bilawal pays tribute to Quaid

DNA



stan Peoples Party Bila-Bhutto wal Zardari has paid glowing tributes to

Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad 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 Mohammad 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-Awam 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 an stronger defence by launching nuclear programme.

Shaukat



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 mir adding Armenia would continue to hatsoever to have relations with Armenia nor there was any possibility establish-ment of any diplomatic ties between the two countries. The Pakistan government sources while reacting to a news item appeared in a section of the International press in which the President Armenia of had expressed his wish to have

The Armenian Prime Minister Pashinyan some time ago in his media interview had supported the Indian position on Kashsupport Indian on the Kashmir issue. In

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

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 Tehreeke-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, Khusro 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

Tarin sworn in as senator

DNA



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 Avub 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

Inside.

EFP decides to setup special help desk at FCCI – Page 02

ICCI organizes Christmas cake cutting ceremony – Page 03

Pak to fetch global funding by World Bank's assisted GBT – Page 04

Mohammad Ali Jinnah: an advocate of fundamental rights - Page 05

Bosnia's genocide denial law compatible with EU values – Page 06

Mehriban Aliyeva congratulates President Alivev on his birthday – Page 07

Global airlines scrap 2,000 flights as Omicron spreads - Page 08 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 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 of Pakistan confided to Affairs

this scribe? It may be mentioned here that Azerbaijan is member the OIC Contact Group Jammu on Kashmir. and There are 5

countries ir 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

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.

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 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

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.





02

NATIONAL



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 PTIled 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-



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 innovative 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-

British MP along with

lord Wajid visit Gujrat

ATTAULLAH CHEEMA

GUJRAT: Deputy Opposition leader, MP labour party,

England Anjela Raiser, 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 con-

served 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

ment in the company.

Islamabad **POST**

Saturday, December 25, 2021

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.

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 Perfor-

mance Management and

Performance

Reforms Unit.

Director.

Commissioner checks Over 5.36m people different health facilities vaccinated in Faisalabad

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHRAN: 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.

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 mem-

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

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

FAISALABAD: Over 5.36

million (5,363,184) people

have so far been vaccinat-

ed against COVID-19 in the

district.

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 Samana-Children Hospital, bad, sports Complex Samanabad Tehsil Head Quarters Hospital Jaranwala, Samundri, Tandlianwala, Chak Jhumra, Sports Complex Chak Jhumrah, Sports Complex Iaranwala, Government General Hospital Chak 224-RB, New Building RHC Khurrianwala, New Building THQ Sammundri, He further said that timing of these vaccination centers was 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. except SportsComplex Samanabad center which would remained 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** 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

bers, 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.

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

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 Raiser was an incredibly popular leader among the masses particularly, the Pakistanis, in England.

Awareness session on anti-harassment held in UoM

velop sense of mutual coexist-PESHAWAR: Department of Law University of Malakand ence and respect for making (UoM) in collaboration with working environment congen-Directorate of Students Sociial and constructive The event was also attended by Dean of eties here Friday organized Anti-Harassment awareness Arts and Humanities, Prof Dr session titled 'Gender Sensi-Atta ur Rehman, Dean Biotivity and Work Place Ethics'. logical Sciences, Prof Dr Mir 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."

Management and Reforms

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

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.

Azam Khan, Khurshid Alam, Doctor Maqsood ur Rehman Eshrat, Director Students Societies UoM, Jamil Anwar Abbasi, faculty members and students of Law Department. – APP Islamabad **POST** Available in following cities

> **ISLAMABAD** Qamar News Agency 03105460372

RAWALPINDI Asim News Agency 03435802610

> **KARACHI** Nazir Siyal 03337554016

PESHAWAR Zarbagh News Agency 03005412069

> FAISALABAD Ishfaq Mughal 03007689850

JEHLUM Iqrash News Agency 03005412069

KHARIAN Ijaz News Agency 03068863870

SARA-I-ALMAGIR 0300 5428178

He also urged people to de-**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

Engineer Manzoor Elahi, the body senior vice chairman and Ziaul Haq Sarhadi, vice chairman, members

on Friday.

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 officio 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**



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.....051-28261210334-5421812



Airlines Turkish Airlines......8494949



Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15 Bomb Disposal.....15 Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad......1122 & 16 Emergency Ambulance..1122 & Rescue Services.4451122 Motorway Police....9266044 Motorway Police..9270601-20 Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596 Rawalpindi......9270601-20





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,

around the world including promoting the business Pakistan were preparing to interests of traders and incelebrate the birthday of dustrialists of minority communities so that they could Iesus Christ who was a symplay a more effective role in bol of peace, brotherhood and respect for the entire the economic development humanity. He said that Jeof the country. sus Christ not only healed Muhammad Faheem Khan, the ailing humanity, he also

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 development of Pakistan. He which was the message of wished Christian communiconciliation, love and forgivety a Merry Christmas. ness. He lauded ICCI for or-Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi forganizing the Christmas cer-

mer 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,

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

National Commission for Hu-

man Rights, Shehbaz Chohan

and a large number of people

from the Christian communi-

Speaking at the occasion,

Muhammad Shakeel Munir,

President, Islamabad Cham-

ber of Commerce and Indus-

try said that the Christian

community was playing an

important role in the eco-

nomic development of Pa-

kistan, which was laudable.

ty attended the event.

Manzoor Masih Member He said that Christians continue to play a role for Price of potatoes, onions, other food items go down in prices included onions dal (8.34%), LPG (5.03%)

Edhi Ambulance115
PIAFlightInfo114
PIACargo9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5555489
CAA9281092



Hospitals

СМН5611111
MH561116
Cantt Hospital9270907-11
DHQ5556311-4
RGH9290301-7
Holy Family9290322-7
PIMS9261170-79
Polyclinic9218300-09
Shifa International.4603666



Departments



Complaints

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... Wapda Islamabad....9217579 Wapda Rawalpindi 111-309-309

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation......9209224 Potohar Town......9209224 RawalTown.....5773343

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....0331-5022125

DNA ISLAMABADL 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 toes (7.98%). 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

Fakhar pays rich

tributes to Quaid

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for National Food Securi-

ty and Research (NFS\$R), Syed Fakhar Imam here on Friday paid paying rich tributes to Quaid-e-Azam Muhamamd

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 that Muhammad Ali Jinnah was not only

He said that creation of Pakistan was the proof of his suc-

cess in political life despite the fact that the idea was not

only opposed by the British people but the Indian Con-

gress 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, Sim-

la. Karachi and Lahore, the minister added. - DNA

successful in political life but also in his personal life.

and georgette (1.00%) (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%), ggs (10.03%), chicken (9.74%) and pota-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-

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%), chilies 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.

preached the divine values

of tolerance, love and com-

passion, which were kept in

high esteem in Islam as well.

He assured that ICCI would

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 ap 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 Complains 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.

Jinnah's Pakistan

emony and added that such

events promoted inter-faith

harmony & unity in the

country. Sidra Anwar, As-

sistant Commissioner ICT,

said that some recent events

have damaged the image of

Pakistan and said that or-

ganizing such events would

promote a harmonious envi-

ronment in the country.

HOPE – COURAGE – CONFIDENCE



BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF QUAID-E-AZAM MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAH



We all belong to Jinnah's Pakistan. Pakistan which is the reward of millions of sacrifices and immense hard work. State Life Insurance pays great homage to the Father of the Nation and reiterates its commitment as the largest life and health insurer of Pakistan, to continue its journey of service towards the development and prosperity of our country while ensuring a secure future for the people of Pakistan with trust and confidence.



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04

TWIN CITIES

Islamabad POST Saturday, December 25, 2021

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 Quaidi-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", Ghaznafar 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 Wagar 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 evel in the Ihelum vater 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 out flow 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



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"

DNA

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 debrief on Exposure visit to Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Plantation (TBTTP) sites in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province organised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and facilitated by the TBTTP 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 TBTTP 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 PC-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 TBTTP would increase dividends of plantation to local com-

munities, he mentioned. "Prime Minister Imran Khan will announce the fruit trees plantation component of TBTTP project under the World Bank assisted Green Stimulus initiative," the SAPM informed.

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 Shinkiari, Seran Plantation Nursery, Daur watershed plantation Noushera Biodiversity Complex Abbottabad, Peshawar Forest Division's Olive Plantation in Noushera Amangarh 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. Masoon 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

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 Nazar and all the RCB officers appreciate performance of Christian staff members. The happiness of the Christian community was our happiness, he added. – APP

Graduation Ceremony for NSC 2022 conducted at NDU

Khayam Abbasi

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 cul-

mination 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 in-

terplay 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 intri-

cate 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
g earthquake.
Interest of Kuwait Invest-

ment in K Electric and de tailed 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** 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**

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

RC, transferred and over or-RCS Dever Division, with immediate effect and until further orders. – 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 u 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.

PIA ban

FTER 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.

Islamabad POST

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti Deputy Editor: Abid Raza

Member APNS / ABC CertifiedVol: 02 Issue: 195Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.comPhone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Increasing tax revenue

HILE 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 are 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

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 accept-

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.

Yunnan: China's emerging gateway and Pakistan

Li Ping



Pakistani students have studied in and continuing their education in institutions of higher and professional - 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 Southeast 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 in-

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

HROUGHOUT 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 deed 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 though 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 enHe 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...

HERE 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 façade 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. 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

HILE 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 provoke 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 vestment 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 Asianproducers 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 resultantly play a much needed role in further solidifying the evergreen partnership between our two countries. Policymakers and institutions, on their part, should facilitate stronger economic co-

operation 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.

06

WORLD / SPORTS

PM dissolves all of PTI's...

FROM PAGE 01

Chaudhry Muhammad Sar-

war, Saifullah Niazee, Amir

Kavani and Usman Bazdar

from Punjab. He said Mir

Jan Muhammad Jamali and

Qasim Suri would represent

Balochistan while Imran Is-

mail and Ali Zaidi from Sindh

and Asad Umar from the fed-

eral capital were part of the

committee. Fawad Hussain

said after the approval of the

committee comprising senior

members, new organizations

of the PTI would be constitut-

ed. The minister said the PTI

was the largest political par-

ty in Pakistan which had the

status of a national federal

party whereas Imran Khan

was the leader of the feder-

ation and his vote bank was

present everywhere from

Gwadar to Khyber and from

"No party other than PTI

is capable of fielding candi-

dates for 1100 to 1200 seats

of the national and provincial

assemblies in the general

elections," he said adding

that the PPP was now the

party of Sindh whereas the

PML-N was confined to Pun-

jab only. The minister in-

formed the media that Prime

Minister Imran Khan had ex-

pressed dissatisfaction over

the performance of PTI in the first phase of local body

During the meeting of the

party spokespersons, PM

Imran Khan expressed his

surprise over PML-N and

PPP celebrating after the

KP local government elec-

tions, sources said. "PTI's

voters and the masses are

still with us," the prime

minister had said, as the

JUI-F emerged victorious

in the first phase of the lo-

cal government elections

according to unofficial re-

sults. He said that he was

awaiting the Election Com-

mission of Pakistan's (ECP)

final results and that further

decisions would be taken

in light of the results. Talk-

ing about the Opposition

parties, he said there have

been rumours of ending for-

mer prime minister Nawaz

Sharif's sentence. "How can

the sentence of a convict-

elections in the KP.

Karachi to Lahore.

Briefs M dissolves all of PTI's... From Page 01 Briefs Bosnia's genocide denial law compatible with EU values

PM hails President Putin's remarks

Islamabad **POST**

Saturday, December 25, 2021

FROM PAGE 01 the Bosniak official noted that "If by the EU Council in 2009, which clearly states that EU values there is no problem with the content, RS parliamentarians should are incompatible with genocide, now vote in the BiH Parliament for crimes against humanity and a law with the same content, but other war crimes." "Finally, the they now reject that too." judgments of the European Court

Dzaferovic further said the law was a result of a "monstrous campaign of insulting victims, denying crimes and glorifying criminals," as the RepublikaSrpska entity "began using public money to fund the glorification of war criminals, which is hate speech."

"It should not be forgotten that the Hague Tribunal in its verdicts defined hate speech as one of the factors that led to the crimes.

of Human Rights have ruled that genocide denial cannot be defined as freedom of speech. So there is no instance that can or should challenge this law," he said. Furthermore, the Mothers of

Srebrenica and the Association of Witnesses and Survivors of Genocide in a joint statement said they have been following the appearance of genocide denial in the print and electronic media, and social networks from Sept. 1 to Nov. 31 2021. "The number of denials of genocide, holocaust and other crimes in the print media in the observed period decreased by almost 100%, in electronic media by about 80%, while on social networks it decreased by about 50%," a statement said.

his stance that "insulting our Holy Prophet (PBUH) is not freedom of expression". "I welcome President Putin's statement which reaffirms my message that insulting our Holy Prophet (PBUH) is not freedom of expression,' the premier wrote on his official Twitter handle. PM Imran also urged the leaders of the Muslim countries to spread this message to heads of non-Muslim nations to counter Islamophobia. Prime Minister Imran Khan has been urging the western world to respect sentiments of the Muslim communities while practicing 'freedom of expression' for the past many years. In a recent interview to Al Jazeera, the Pakistani premier had said the Muslim leaders never portrayed real Islam before the West, particularly after 9/11. This made the Muslims in western countries face Islamophobia despite the fact terrorism had no relation with Islam, he said further. He said "Imran Khan alone could not make any change", rather the whole Muslim world must take a joint stance at forums such as the United Nations to

Disrespecting Prophet (PBUĤ)...

make some difference.

FROM PAGE 01 freedom and the violation of the sacred feelings of people who profess Islam," he said while addressing his annual news conference on Thursday. Putin said these acts give rise to extremist reprisals, citing as an example the attack on the editorial office of Charlie Hebdo magazine in Paris after it published blasphemous sketches of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), Russia's TASS news agency reported. Putin also criticised posting photos of Nazis on websites such as the one titled the Immortal Regiment and dedicated to Russians who died in World War II.

While praising artistic freedom in general, Putin said it has its limits and it shouldn't infringe on other freedoms. Russia has evolved as a multi-ethnic and multi-confessional state, so Russians, he said, are used to respecting each other's traditions. "In some other countries, this respect comes in short supply," he remarked. Prime Minister Imran Khan has been urging the western world to respect sentiments of the Muslim communities while practicing 'freedom of expression' for the past many years. In a recent interview to Al Jazeera, the Pakistani premier had said the Muslim leaders never portrayed real Islam before the West, particularly after 9/11. This made the Muslims in western countries face Islamophobia despite the fact terrorism had no relation with Islam, he said further. He said "Imran Khan alone could not make any change", rather the whole Muslim world must take a joint stance at forums such as the United Nations to make some difference.

Bosnia-Herzegovina is currently embroiled in a political conflict between Bosniaks and Serbs living in the country. The dispute erupted after Inzko amended the criminal code in July to ban the denial of genocide and the glorification of war criminals

FOREIGN DESK

SARAJEVO: Sefik Dzaferovic, the Bosniak member of the tripartite presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH), has said that a recent law in the Balkan nation banning the denial of genocide and glorification of war criminals is "identical in its content to EU directives on the fight against hate speech." Speaking to Turkish news agency, Dzaferovic said Valentin Inzko, former high representative for Bosnia-Herzegovina, declared the law as "a reaction to a monstrous campaign of insulting victims, denving crimes and glorifying criminals." Bosnia-Herzegovina is currently embroiled in a political conflict between Bosniaks and

Serbs living in the country. The dispute erupted after Inzko amended the criminal code in July to ban the denial of genocide and the glorification of war criminals.

In response, Bosnian Serb lawmakers said that they would boycott the country's institutions. MiloradDodik, the Serb member of the presidential council, denounced the amendments and pushed for the controversial moves in the RepublikaSrpska (RS) parliament. RepublikaSrpska is one of the two entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the other being the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Noting that RS entity officials claim the way the law passed was the problem, Dzaferovic said: "Allegedly, it was supposed to be passed by the BiH state authorities, not

the High Representative.' "Anyone who is familiar with the situation in BiH knows that this is an insincere claim," he said while stressing that the Bosnian parliament has been trying to pass this law for more than 10 years, but was blocked by RS entity officials each time, "precisely because they are against the content of the law."



"Given the allegations from RS that they do not have a problem with the content of the law, the international community has launched an initiative to adopt this law in Parliament. (EU) High Representative Christian Schmidt personally called for that, saying that he would withdraw Inzko's law if the parliament adopts the same law," he added. Underscoring that the RepublikaSrpska officials "only want to repeal Inzko's law,"

That is why it is of the utmost importance for peacekeeping to prevent such incitement to hate speech," he added. Saying that denial of genocide law "is identical in its content to EU directives on the fight against hate speech," Dzaferovic said it is "in line with the Stockholm Program, adopted

of peace and sports that give courage to the world.' The United States, Britain, Australia and Canada this month announced diplomatic boycotts of the Games over what they consider to be widespread rights abuses by China, including against the Muslim Uyghur minority. Their boycott stops short of not sending athletes to the Winter Games, which start on February 4. But Beijing has warned the four nations will "pay the price" for the US-led campaign. Japan, which hosted the virus-postponed Tokyo Olympics this year, is in a tricky position as tensions simmer between the US and China - both key trade partners.

Matsuno said the decision had been made after "comprehensive" consideration, noting that Japan has held discussions with the Chinese side on human rights issues "at various levels". Tokyo 2020 chief Seiko Hashimoto and Japanese Olympic Committee head Yasuhiro Yamashita will attend the Winter Olympics in the Chinese capital, Matsuno said. Japan Paralympic Committee chief Kazuyuki Mori will attend the Winter Paralympics in March, he added. "Hashimoto will attend to express gratitude and respect to the athletes and others who supported the Tokyo Games.' Matsuno said. Washington has said its diplomatic boycott decision was prompted by rights abuses and notably what it has called the "genocide" of the Uyghur minority.- APP

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Aisam, Aqeel reaches Serena Hotels National Tennis Doubles Semifinals

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan tennis stars Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi and Aqeel Khan reached in the men's doubles semifinals along with UshnaSuhail and Sarah Mahboob will play the women's singles final in the ongoing Serena Hotels National Ranking Tennis Championship here at PTF Complex, Islamabad on Friday.

The No 1 duo of the coun-Aisam-ul-Haq and trv Aqeel Khan was up against Shahzad Khan and Usman Ejaz. The tennis stars were off to a good start to win the first set 6-0. Aisam/Aqeel played better tennis in the second to win the set 6-1 and booked berth in the men's doubles semifinals. In the Women's singles

ed person be overturned?" semifinals Sarah Mehboob The premier recalled that outclassed MeheqKhokhar the court had disqualified in first semi final by 6-2, Nawaz in the Panama Leaks while UshnaSuhail beat Noor Malik in easy encounter 6-1, 6-1 in the second semifinal match. Hussain Odhwani Senior Manager - Marketing & Communications Serena



Kumar bt Bilal Asim 6-3, 6-2; PTF Complex and witnessed some of the matches. He appreciated the organizers for conducting the event in a highly befitting manner. A total number of 11 matches were played on the fifth day and following are the results: nals): Sarah Mahbbobbt-

Hamid Israrbt M Talha Khan 6-0. 6-3; Abdullah Adnan bt Ahmed Nael Qureshi 6-1, 6-1; Sami ZebbtMahatir Muhammad 5-7, 6-1, 6-2. Ladies Singles (Semi-Fi-

haMahboobbt Mirza / OreenJasia 6-0, 6-0; UshnaSuhail / MeheqKhokharbt Natalia Zaman SheezaSajid 6-3, 6-1. Men's Doubles (Quarter-Fi-

nals): Ageel Khan / Aisamul-HaqbtShahzad Khan / Usman Meheq Khokhar 6-2, 6-0; Ejaz 6-0, 6-1; Yousaf Khalil /

Japan officials to miss Beijing Olympics TOKYO: Japan will not send government representatives to February's Beijing Olympics, Tokyo said Friday, as it called on China to respect human rights and the rule of law. Gov-

ernment spokesman HirokazuMatsuno did not describe the decision as a diplomatic boycott - already announced by the US and others - but said there were "no plans" for officials to attend the Games. "Japan believes it is important that common values shared by the international community such as freedom, human rights, and the rule of law are also respected in China," he said. "As Tokyo 2020 demonstrated to the world, the Olympics and the Paralympics are festivals

case, and to date, he was unable to provide a money trail for his assets. "How can a convicted person become the prime minister after having his sentence revoked?" he questioned, according to sources.

PPP, PML-N, ANP real...

FROM PAGE 01 Fawad Chaudhry derided opposition parties, saying that PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz was "celebrating her defeat" in the recently held first phase of local government elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). Speaking to media in Lahore alongside Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communication Dr Shahbaz Gill, Chaudhry said:

"Instead (of celebrating), they [PPP and PML-N] should have visited their party workers in KP to boost their morale. They should have done national politics," the information minister said. In the elections held in the 17 districts of KP on December 19, the PTI, which has been in power in the province since 2013, showed a dismal performance, conceding ground to the the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam Fazl (JUI-F).

Pakistan has no...

FROM PAGE 01

moral support to Azerbaijan in war against aggressor Armenia. That is why, Azerbaijani people love Pakistan and Pakistani people from core of their hearts.

During the victory celebrations rare scenes of love among three brothers Pakistan, Turkey and Azerbaijan were witnessed when Azerbaijani people had thronged to the streets carrying flags of Pakistan and Turkey with a view to expressing their gratitude and affection.

Pakistan topped the list of those countries that were invited to take part in the rebuilding and reconstruction of the newly liberated areas. Various Pakistani companies have been encouraged to explore opportunities. This engagement is going to further solidify relations between the two brotherly countries.

nals): Muhammad Shoaib btMudassirMurtaza 6-3, 6-4; MuzammilMurtazabtYousaf Khalil 6-3, 6-4; M. Abidbt-Barkatullah 6-4, 6-3; Aqeel Khan btHeeraAshiq 6-2, 7-6(6) Boy's 18&U Singles (Quarter-Finals): Hasheesh Hotels Islamabad visited

Guardiola repeats

call for five subs

LONDON: The Premier League's unique tradition of play-

ing on Boxing Day and New Year's Day should not change

but it must allow five substitutions to protect players

amid a gruelling schedule, Manchester City manager Pep

Guardiola said on Thursday. Top flight leagues in Europe

adopted the rule to increase the number of substitutions

per game to five to ease the workload on players amid

the Covid-19 pandemic but Premier League clubs voted

against the motion. While most leagues head for a winter

break, English teams have been scheduled to play three

times from Dec 26-Jan 2. But with more games postponed

due to Covid-19 outbreaks, Guardiola said it was time the

"The tradition from Boxing Day (Dec 26) is massively

important. It's a characteristic of this league. It won't

change... Boxing Day is so nice for families to all go to-

gether to the stadium," Guardiola said ahead of Leicester

City's visit to The Etihad on Sunday. "The problem is the

fixtures, the calendar, 365 days a year, the international

teams with huge competitions and a lot of games... The

players have two to three weeks holiday in the summer,

then the season (starts) again - it's too much. "Today man-

agers talked with the Premier League and broadcasters

and decided what is the best for everyone. The welfare of

players should be the most important... This is the only

"We want to protect the players, so bring five substi-

tutions. It's much better for the amount of games, but

the Premier League and clubs decided 'no'." Manches-

ter United boss Ralf Rangnick agreed with Guardiola on

switching to five substitutions, while also questioning

the practicality of having two domestic cup competitions

in England when other countries have one. - Agencies

country to not accept five substitutions, just three. Why?

league adapted to changing circumstances.

Men's Singles (Quarter-Fi-

Ushna Suhailbt Noor Malik 6-1, 6-1.

Ladies Doubles (Final): UshnaSuhail / MeheqKhokharbt Sarah Mahboob / Noor Malik 6-4, 6-2. Ladies Doubles (Semi-Finals): Noor Malik / Sar-

HeeraAshiqbt M. Shoaib Barkatullah 6-3, 4-6 (10-6); Ahmed Chaudhary / Waqas Malik bt Ahmed Kamil / Ibrahim Omer 7-5 6-0: Muzammil Murtaza / MudassirMurtazabtHasheesh Kumar / Mahatir Muhammad 6-1, 6-2. – APP

Mariam

Shahnawaz Dahani

honoured with gold medal

KARACHI: Shahnawaz Dahani, a player hailing from the Larkana streets to become a national superstar, has won a gold medal

for his remarkable rise to the top. In his debut season with Multan Sultans, Dahani was the leading wicket-taker in the sixth

edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL). The right-arm pacer took 20 wickets in 11 matches and in doing so also became

Multan's third-highest wicket-taker behind SohailTanvir (26) and Imran Tahir (37). His remarkable performances earned

him a call-up for Pakistan's T20 World Cup squad. Although he did not feature in any game. He would finally make his debut

against Bangladesh and also stood out in the recently T20I completed series against West Indies. His rise to the top has

earned Shahnawaz a gold medal, which was honoured by the Sindh sports journalists during its annual awards. - DNA

Velcome

Salman Butt slams Ramiz Raja

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain Salman Butt has slammed Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ramiz Raja for 'blatant lies' and 'media gimmicks' during his recent press conference.

While speaking on his You-Tube channel, Salman Butt claimed that PCB is currently being operated based on Ramiz Raja's obsessions and elaborated how 'blatant lies' were told in Ramiz Raja's presser. "Whenever you become a head of any department, does the organisation start catering to your obsessions and what you want, or should it be creating policies which remain intact and are applied irrespective of whether you are in power or not?" Salman pointed out.

Salman angrily reiterated his statement and said, "Why should anyone follow your obsessions? Where is the policy?" Butt harshly broke down Ramiz Raja's statement from the press conference regarding First-Class cricketers earning up to Rs. 60 lac on annual basis. "There were two main reasons for increasing the salaries of the domestic players. One was to provide them with a sustainable tier-2 career. – APP

'Man Utd close to full strength after Covid outbreak' Rangnick added that the vast majority of those to have Covid had little or no symptoms, which allowed

positive. As far as I could see in training they are all in good shape," he added

DNA

MANCHESTER: Manchester United manager Ralf Rangnick has almost a full squad to choose from for Monday's Premier League clash at Newcastle after a Covid-19 outbreak saw their last two matches postponed. Only the injured Paul Pogba is unavailable to the interim manager for the Red Devils first game in 16 days.

United's games against Brentford and Brighton were among the 12 Premier League games to be called off over the past two weeks due to a wave of coronavirus infections as Britain battles record case numbers. "The last training session we had eight outfield players and three

goalkeepers and then we closed down the training ground in order to break the chain," said Rangnick on Thursday. "Today was the third day of training this week and we had 25 outfield players. Paul Pogba is still the only one missing out, everyone (else) was on board.' Rangnick added that the vast majority of those to have Covid had little or no symptoms, which allowed them to remain in shape while training from home.

"The development of the last week was extremely positive. As far as I could see in training they are all in good shape," he added. "They did their homework. They all have their schedule to train at home. "They stick to that schedule and programme



and from what I saw in training most of them - if not all of them - might be available." The fixture congestion caused by a series of postponements has again raised concerns over player welfare. Rangnick backed the calls of Liver-

pool boss JurgenKlopp and Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola for the reintroduction of five substitutions to ease the burden. The Premier League was one of the few top European leagues to revert to three changes after five substitutes were allowed for the end of the 2019/20 season when play resumed after a three-month break caused by the pandemic. "I think it was the right decision

to have more options to change players to save energy for players, especially if they have just recovered from Covid," said Rangnick. "The same is true right now. We have a similar situation to one-anda-half years ago, so I see no reason why it shouldn't be the same now. "As far as I know in Europe, England is the only country that only allows three subs. In the other four big leagues in Europe you can substitute five players.

And he also suggested the League Cup could be scrapped to create extra space in the calendar. Klopp and Tottenham manager Antonio Conte have requested that their League Cup semi-finals against Arsenal and Chelsea respectively be changed from two-legged tie to one-off games. "England is the only top league that plays two cup competitions. In France they abolished the second one," said Rangnick. "We are the only country that plays two cup competitions, this is something we could speak about and discuss."

them to remain in shape while training from home."The development of the last week was extremely

BUSINESS / WORLD

Briefs

07

South Korea pardons ex-president

Mehriban Aliyeva congratulates President Aliyev on his birthday

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 prison

ers scheduled to be freed on New Year's Eve, Yonhap News Agency reported. Given her support base in Daegu and the North Gyeo-

ngsang 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 twoyear 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 COV-ID-19 pandemic by moving forward "from the unfortunate history of the past and achieving a grand unity among the people," the gov ernment 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 nearIn 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 na-tional 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,



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"

Israeli settler kills Palestinian woman

Islamabad **POST**

Saturday, December 25, 2021

WEB DESK

JERUSALEM: A Palestinian woman was run over and killed by an Israeli settler in

the occupied West Bank on

An unidentified settler

rammed a car into 60-year-

old Ghadeer Fuqaha, a resi-

dent of Sinjil, a town located

The attack took place on

a road between the settle-

ments of Ofra and Shilo in

The settler fled the scene

and is yet to be apprehend-

ed. 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

Settler violence against Pal-

estinians in the occupied

West Bank has soared in

any details of the attack.

the occupied West Bank.

north of Ramallah.

Friday.



lv 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 missiles were Emad, Ghadr, Sejiil, 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 archenemy Israel.

It said the missiles success fully 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

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 razing out from different sides. Instantly I jumped into the river with my wife. We both know how 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

AGENCIES

BEIJING: China on Friday lashed out at the US over a new law related to Uyghurs, saying it "should save 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 human 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 Merklev 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.

recent weeks, including attacks on people, agricultural lands, homes and other properties. Russia's tensions with Ukraine at 'dangerous'

FOREIGN DESK

level

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, Turkiye 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,' Turkiye's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Thursday at the closing ceremony of the virtual meeting of International Security Academy organised by the Council of International Relations.

Cavusoglu said Turkiye 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 neigh-

bor 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







Briefs **Extremism** material to be excluded from books

LAHORE: Special Representative of the Prime Minister for Religious Harmony Hafiz Muhammad Tahir

Mahmood Ashrafi said that important consultation has been completed with the Muttahida Ulema Board regarding textbooks. Addressing a press conference here on Friday he said that it was decided that curriculum will be reviewed and any irrelevant material related to extremism would be excluded.

He said that presently as many as 307 textbooks had been reviewed adding that the decision on rest of the books would be made during the next week.

Ashrafi said that on the instruction of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the Christmas greetings being extended with the Christian community. He said that the events are also being organized in the country in connection with the Christmas. Expressing sorrow and regret over the Sialkot tragedy, Ashrafi said that killing of Sri Lankan citizen Priyantha Kumara in Pakistan was a great misfortune which brought bad name. He said that Islam does not allow any such heinous act. – \ensuremath{APP}

Rain likely at various parts of country

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) has forecast rain with snow over the hills in upper/central Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Potohar region, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir during the next 24 hours.

Mainly cold/cloudy weather is expected in most parts of the country. Fog/smog is likely to reduce in few plain

Global airlines scrap 2,000 flights as Omicron spreads

In Europe, Italy has reintroduced mandatory masks outdoors, and Greece has ordered people to wear face masks both indoors and outdoors

News Desk

LONDON: Global airline carriers have cancelled more than 2,000 flights so far, according to the FlightAware website, as the spreading coronavirus Omicron variant affects holiday travel.

Meanwhile, South Africa eased a number of coronavirus curbs, despite being hit by a fourth wave of cases driven by the Omicron variant, with contact tracing for anyone who has come into close contact

with an infected person also lifted. Thailand reported its first Omicron cluster in the northeast province of Kalasin, saying 21 infections stemmed from a Belgium couple who travelled to the country earlier this

month. In Europe, Italy has reintroduced mandatory masks outdoors, and Greece has ordered people to wear face masks both indoors and outdoors. In South America, Ecuador made vaccines compulsory for nearly all to combat coronavirus infections surging globally just before the Christmas holidays. The Biden administration will lift travel restrictions to eight southern African countries on New Year's Eve, December 31, the White House announced. The restrictions, imposed when the Omicron outbreak was discovered last month, were meant to buy time for the US to prepare for its spread, President loe Biden had said.

The November 29 travel ban barred most non-US citizens who recently have been in South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Namib-

ia, Lesotho, Eswatini, Mozambique, and Malawi from entering the United States. At least three major airlines said they have cancelled dozens of flights because illnesses largely tied to the Omicron variant of COVID-19 have taken a toll on flight crew numbers during the busy holiday travel season. Germany-based Lufthansa said that it was cancelling a dozen longhaul transatlantic flights over the Christmas holiday period because of a "massive rise" in sick leave among pilots.

US-based Delta Air Lines and United Airlines said they had to cancel dozens of Christmas Eve flights because of staff shortages tied to Omicron. United cancelled 169 flights, and Delta called off 127, according to FlightAware.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, on the eve of Christmas, has urged people to get vaccinated against COVID-19 as a gift to their families and the nation, as a surge in cases driven by the highly transmissible Omicron variant casts a shadow over the festivities. "Though the time for buying presents is theoretically running out, there is still a wonderful thing you can give your family and the whole country and that is to get that jab, whether it is your first or your second or your booster," Johnson said in his annual seasonal message, posted as a video clip on Twitter. Calling vaccination "an invisible and invaluable present", he praised "immense spirit of neighbourliness" the of the millions of Britons who had already come forward for inoculation.

Putin hails launch test of hypersonic missile

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin said Friday the Russian military successfully fired a si-

multaneous salvo of its Zircon hypersonic missiles, calling it "a big

event" for the country. As world powers race to develop advanced weaponry, Russia has carried out a number of successful tests of its Zircon hypersonic cruise missile. This was however the first time that Russian authorities reported a successful simultaneous launch test of several Zircon missiles. Speaking at a government meeting on Friday, Putin said that the salvo launch of the missile had been conducted overnight.

"The tests were conducted successfully, immaculately," Putin said in televised remarks. "This is a big event in the life of the country and a considerable step in strengthening Russia's security and improving its defence capability," he added. A spokesman for the Russian defence ministry could not provide further details when reached by AFP.

Russia, the United States, France and China have all been experimenting with socalled hypersonic glide vehicles - defined as reaching speeds of at least Mach 5. Putin revealed the development of the new weapon in a state of the nation address in February 2019, saying it could hit targets at sea and on land. - Agencies

Two soldiers martyred in Kech, Balochistan

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Two soldiers were martyred when terrorists attacked a security forces' check post in



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Pir Nurul Haq Qadri presenting a bouquet to Bulat Sarsenbayev, Head of the Center for Religious and Cultural Harmony, Kazakhstan. Kazakh ambassador Yerzhan Kistafin is also present on the occasion. - DNA

Direct flights to Kazakhstan will be launched soon: Qadri Federal Minister Pir Nurul Haq Qadrı meets

with Bulat Sarsenbayev, Head of the Center for

Russia fines Google \$98m over banned content

MOSCOW: A Moscow court slapped Google an unpre hefty fine on Friday for repeatedly failing to remove illegal content as Russian authorities pile pressure on foreign tech giants.

JI calls for restoration of ruined Karachi'

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Pakistan AmeerSirajulHaq has called for restoration of Karachi -ruined by the interests based politics and flawed policies of the PPP, the MQM and the PTI. The JI leader was holding a press conference at the JI Karachi headquarters on Friday over the issues surrounding national politics and the domestic situations in Karachi. He said that people across the Sindh, including Karachi are hopeless of ruling regimes in the province and the center. The PPP, the MQM and the PTI have ruined Karachi as unfortunately the city has lost its leadership. Speaking on the occasion, he said that each and every individual in Karachi wants the city to be saved so the II Karachi launched Save Karachi Movement. He added that the PPP government in Sindh has ambushed the local government law but the JI campaign and agitation by masses will compel the ruling regime to withdraw the controversial bill. He added that masses would be demonstrating a strong protest against the controversial bill outside the Sindh Assembly building on December 31.

He further said that all the three; the PTI, the PPP and the MQM, enjoyed the politics of interests in the city. The PPP didn't deliver anywhere in the province, he said. The PTI also announced packages worth more than Rs1, 100 billion for Karachi but nothing was changed on the ground.

He further said that the outgoing year proved to be a year of inflation for the people of Karachi. He said that the MQM in 2013 gifted 15 local government departments to the pro-

areas of Punjab.

According to the synoptic situation, a westerly wave was likely to enter western/ upper parts of the country from Saturday (night) and likely to grip most parts of the country on Sunday. The system may persist in upper parts of the country till Tuesday (morning).

During the last 24 hours, cold and dry weather prevailed over most parts of the country, while very cold in hilly areas. However, rain recorded in Gilgit-Baltistan: Bagrote 04, Bunji, Skardu 01, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Kalam 03, Malam Jabba 02, Punjab: Murree 01 mm.

The snowfall (Inches) recorded during the last 24 hours was Malam Jabba 01 inch, Hunza, Skardu and Astore Trace.

The lowest minimum temperatures recorded during the last 24 hours were Gupis, Leh -08 C, Skardu Kalam -04, Astore, -05. Malamjabba -03, Kalat. Rawalakot -02, Zhob, Parachinar, Mirkhani, Dir, Drosh, Pulwama, Shupiyan and Baramulla -01 C.

giously, culturally and historically one. Direct flights to Kazakhstan will be launched soon on the instructions of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. This was stated by Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Pir Nurul Haq Qadri during a meeting with Bulat Sarsenbayev, Head of the Center for Religious and Cultural Harmony, Kazakhstan, who was accompanying the Ambassador of Kazakhstan. During the meeting with the delegation, Additional Secretary Religious Affairs Syed Anwarul Hassan Bukhari and Joint Secretary Religious Harmony Arshad Farid Khan were also present along with the Federal Minister.

STAFF REPORT

sonalities came from Central Asia; reli-

During the meeting, bilateral relations, promotion of religious, cultural and trade cooperation between the two countries were discussed in detail.

The Minister for Religious Affairs said that direct flights to Kazakhstan would be launched soon at the request of Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Most of the religious leaders who came to preach in the subcontinent were from Central Asia. Samarqand, Bukhara, Kh-

Religious and Cultural Harmony, Kazakhstan warazm, trans-canal areas have been centers of knowledge and skills. The Sufis reformed the people through their ISLAMABAD: Most of our religious per-

conduct and good morals. The only way to promote religious and professional harmony is through dialogue and coexistence.

Talking about the activities of his ministry, he said that there are many places of religious significance in Pakistan. There are people of Christian, Sikh, Hindu, Baha'i and Kailash religions in our country. The two brotherly countries can be effective partners in the construction and development of the region. Bulat Sarsenbayev, head of the Nazarbayev Harmony Center in Kazakhstan, said that the people of Kazakhstan are also of Turkish descent. The two countries want to promote relations between the younger generation.

The exchange of historical dramas and films can bring the younger generation closer together. Kazakhstan will soon host an interfaith harmony conference attended by 160 religious leaders from 70 countries. People attach great importance to the messages of religious leaders.

He also formally invited Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Pir Noor-ul-Haq Qadri to attend the conference.

The US firm was fined 7.2 billion rubles, (\$98 million, 86 million euros), the court's press service said on Telegram. Russia has recently heaped fines on the world's biggest tech companies, accusing them of not moderating their content properly and interfering in the country's affairs. However the fines that Meta (Facebook), Twit-

ter, Google and other foreign tech giants received stretched into the tens of millions of rubles, not billions. Interfax news agency reported that the fine was calculated as a percentage of Google's annual earnings. Meta, which has a hearing in court later today on the same

charges, has also been threatened with revenue-based fine.

vincial government of PPP while in 2021 the same party snatched 14 more departments of the local government. Further talking about the issues in Karachi he said that the citizens need their due rights, while the government was pleasing those who irked the citizens. He further said that license of the K-Electric should be revoked.

China: 4th Type 054 A/P Frigate launched

ISLAMABAD: The Launchweapon systems, Combat ing ceremony of 4th ship of Type-054 A/P Class Frigate Management System and Sensors. The induction of constructed for Pakistan these ships will enhance Pa-Navy was held at Hudong kistan Navy Fleet's war fight-Zhonghua (HZ) Shipyard, ing capabilities, contribute in Shanghai, China on Friday. maintaining peace, stability and power equilibrium in the Out of four state of the art Indian Ocean Region. frigates, the first Type-054 A/P ship namely PNS TUGH-While addressing at the Launching ceremony, Chief RIL has been commissioned Naval Overseer Commodore and reached Pakistan, said a Pakistan Navy media release Rashid Mehmood Sheikh lauded the support by PLA (Navy), China Shipbuilding here received

The Type-054 A/P Frigates would be one of the most Trading Company (CSTC) technologically advanced and HZ Shipyard for timely completion of this important surface platforms of Pakistan Navy Fleet, fitted with latest milestone project despite COVID-19 pandemic. - APP surface, subsurface, anti-air

Balochistan's Kech district, the military's media affairs wing said on Friday.

According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Lance Naik Manzar Abbas, resident of district Khushab, and Sepoy Abdul Fath, who hailed from Khuzdar, embraced martyrdom during the exchange of fire with the terrorists.

The ISPR said a follow-up operation was in progress in the area to search for the terrorists. "Security forces are determined to defeat such acts of inimical elements, aimed at disrupting peace, stability and progress of Balochistan," the statement said.

This is the second such incident in the province in the span of a month. On December 14, a member of the security forces was martyred when terrorists attacked a post close to the Pak-Iran border in Balochistan.

On November 13, two soldiers were martvred during an exchange of fire with terrorists in an intelligence-based operation in Balochistan's Hoshab area.

Outrage in India over anti-Muslim hate speech

Videos from a meeting of Hindu religious leaders showing provocative speeches went viral earlier this week, sparking outrage

News Desk

NEW DELHI: Police in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand have launched an investigation after Hindu leaders called for violence against Muslims.

Videos from a meeting of Hindu religious leaders showing provocative speeches went viral earlier this week, sparking outrage.

The event took place in the holy town of Haridwar between 17 and 19 December. Police said they had not opened a case until Thursday because there had been no official complaints before that.

There have been no arrests and the police case names only one man - Waseem Rizvi, a Muslim who says he has converted to Hinduism and is now known as Jitendra Narayan Tyagi.

Police said a case had been registered against Mr Tyagi and unnamed "others" under charges of "promoting hatred between religious groups". Social media users, however, have identified many of the speakers in the videos who are important religious leaders often seen in the company of ministers and members from Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Activists say the frequency of hate crimes against Muslims and other minorities has increased since 2014, when the BJP first came to power. Videos of hate speech or violence against Muslims regularly go viral in India.

Critics allege this is because of the support - both open and tacit - that the perpetrators receive from ruling party leaders.

One organiser of the Haridwar event, Prabodhanand Giri, has often been photographed with party leaders, reported NDTV. In one photo, Uttarakhand's Chief Minister Pushkar Dhami, a BJP politician, is seen touching his feet.

At the event, Mr Giri was seen asking India's army, politicians and Hindus to do what was done in Myanmar - referring to the deadly violence against Rohingya Muslims that led to their exodus.

He told NDTV he wasn't afraid of the police and stood by his statement. Another speaker, Yati Narsinghanand Saraswati, has made several anti-Muslim statements in the past.

At Haridwar, he, like many others, asked Hindus to pick up weapons to "protect" their religion from Muslims.

DECEMBER 2021

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