



Islamabad POST

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Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

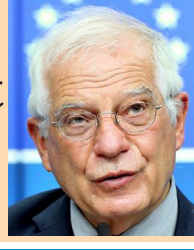
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No ceasefire, TTP to be nipped in the bud: DG ISPR

Detailed News On Page-01

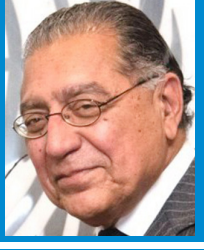
Borrel vows EU's full support for Ukraine

Detailed News On Page-07



Pakistan will always support Kashmiris

Detailed News On Page-07



CPEC projects continue unhindered TTP to be nipped in the bud: DG ISPR

DG ISPR Maj. Gen Babar Iftikhar says fencing on the Western border to continue; rules out presence of ISIS in Pakistan; dispels impression of any political deals

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

RAWALPINDI: Director General ISPR Major General Babar Iftikhar has said the work under the western border management regime will be completed in the stipulated period. He further said no talks were underway with the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) adding that the operation against TTP shall continue till the outfit is fully eliminated. Briefing the media persons in Rawalpindi he said 94 percent fencing work along Pak-Afghan border has been completed whilst on Pak-Iran border, 71 percent work has been achieved. The DG ISPR emphasized the importance of fencing on Pak-Afghan border saying it is important for the security of people on both sides of the border as well as to regulate trade activities. It is not aimed at dividing the people but securing them. Major General Babar Iftikhar said the border management system with Afghanistan will be made more effective

Turkish General meets CJCSC

The visiting dignitary remained appreciative of the sincere efforts of the Pakistan Armed Forces in bringing peace to the region

RAWALPINDI: General Selcuk BYRAKTAROGLU, Deputy Chief of Turkish General Staff called on General Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi today. Besides security and regional issues, particularly the latest development in Afghanistan, matter relating to enhance the level and scope of bilateral military engagements and cooperation were discussed. Both sides reaffirmed the commitment; that being 'all-weather' friends, Pakistan and Turkey would continue to forge deeper strategic ties. Chairman JCSC highlighted that visit of Deputy Chief of Turkish General Staff is a manifestation of the multifaceted long-term collaboration that exists between the two Armed Forces. The visiting dignitary remained appreciative of the sincere efforts of the Pakistan Armed Forces in bringing peace to the region especially the Afghan Peace Process. He also acknowledged the sacrifices made by Pakistan in the war against terrorism. — DNA

with the passage of time. He said the blood of our martyrs is included in the erection of this fence. He said this is a fence of peace and it will be completed and stay intact. The DG ISPR said sixty seven new wings of FC Balochistan and FC Khyberpakhunkhwa were established in the year 2021 to further strengthen the border security. He said the process has also been started to establish six more wings. Without taking names, the DG ISPR ruled out the possibility of any deal with Nawaz Sharif adding all those who are spreading such baseless and false rumors were not doing any service to the nation or country. He also called upon the media and general public not to pay any heed to such rumors. As regards the achievements made under Radd-ul-Fasaad Operation in the year 2021, the DG ISPR said that sixty thousand intelligence based operations were carried out which helped dismantle

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Hungary willing to support Pak in sports

Ambassador Bela Fazekas says Hungary has expertise in setting up sports academies and coaching, especially in the sports of football



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Hungary Bela Fazekas in a meeting with SAPM Usman Darm. — DNA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD Hungary is willing to support Pakistan in sports development said Bela Fazekas, Hungarian Ambassador in Pakistan who met with SAPM on youth affairs Usman Dar along with Mr. Tivadar Takacs. Welcoming the ambassador, Mr. Dar briefed the envoy regarding Kamyab Jawan Programme; envisioned for youth development in Pakistan. He said that Kamyab Jawan Programme is working in three areas including education, employment and engagement of youth through various initiatives. "We have disbursed more than Rs. 30 billion against the target of Rs. 100 billion among youth for business loans encouraging entrepreneurial culture and creating employment opportunities in the country. We have a Rs. 10 billion ongoing project for technical skills education, especially in hi-tech fields. We have recently rolled out Rs. 4 billion sports and youth engagements projects with the collaboration of Higher Education Commission of Pakistan", said Mr. Dar. Mr. Bela Fazekas congratulated SAPM and his team for the mega sports event recently held in Islamabad. "It was fascinating development for sports in Pakistan. We are willing to collaborate and cooperate for development of sports in Pakistan", said the ambassador. The Ambassador further said Hungary has expertise in setting up sports academies and coaching, especially in the sports of football. "The Hungarian Prime Minister is also a sportsman like Pakistani Prime Minister. A high level Hungarian visit is expected in the month of February", added the Ambassador. SAPM welcomed the offer for cooperation regarding sports by the Hungarian Ambassador. It was agreed to hold follow ups meetings of technical and working teams from both sides so that areas for bilateral cooperation are identified before the scheduled visit. The meeting was also attended by senior government officials.

Briefs

PM welcomes ECP report

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday welcomed a report by the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) scrutiny committee, which has reportedly revealed that the PTI allegedly failed to disclose millions of rupees to the ECP. "The more our accounts are scrutinised, the more factual clarity will emerge for the nation to see how PTI is the only political party with a proper donor base premised on proper political fundraising," the prime minister said. However, the prime minister also said he was looking forward to seeing similar ECP scrutiny reports on the funding of two other major political parties — PPP and PML-N.

Maryam condemns PM's stance

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Following Prime Minister Imran Khan's statement regarding the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) report, PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz lambasted the ruling party and warned the premier to be ready, as the "time for accountability has come." Replying to the premier's tweet, Maryam questioned why did he not let the case proceedings continue for the last seven years. "Why did you [Imran Khan] keep hiding for so many years and then kept begging that the report should not be released?" she questioned. She claimed that PM Khan thinks "the people of Pakistan are fools who will believe whatever he says."



ISLAMABAD: A group photo of the dignitaries at luncheon hosted by the Foreign Minister of Pakistan Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi in honor of Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Nayef bin Falah Al-Hajraf at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. — DNA

Pak keen to deepen ties with GCC states

FM Qureshi held talks with Dr. Nayef Falah M. Al-Hajraf, Secretary General of GCC and his delegation

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi received Dr. Nayef Falah M. Al-Hajraf, Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), and his delegation at the Foreign Office. Fondly recalling the meeting in December 2021, Foreign Minister Qureshi extended a warm welcome to Dr. Al-Hajraf. He reaffirmed Pakistan's abiding fraternal and historical ties with the GCC member states, rooted firmly in shared faith, values and culture. During delegation-level talks, the two sides reviewed Pakistan-GCC cooperation in diverse fields, and explored new avenues for an enhanced mutually-beneficial partnership. They also exchanged views on the regional developments, in particular the prevailing humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and the deteriorating human rights situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In line with the MoU on Strategic Dialogue between Pakistan and the GCC, the two sides finalized the Joint Action Plan for Strategic Dialogue (2022-2026), which provides an institutional approach to deepen cooperation in various fields, including Political; Security; Trade and Investment; Agricultural and food security; Transportation; Energy;

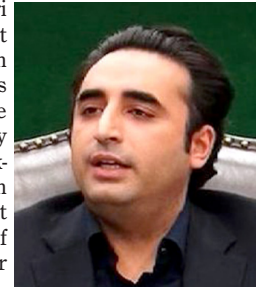
Environment; Health; Culture; and Education. Welcoming the finalization of the Joint Action Plan for Strategic Dialogue, Foreign Minister Qureshi and Secretary General Al-Hajraf underscored that the Action Plan would impart a strong impetus towards optimally realizing the tremendous potential for increased cooperation between Pakistan and the GCC states. Noting the progress on the ongoing efforts to conclude the Free Trade Agreement between Pakistan and the GCC, Foreign Minister Qureshi and Secretary General Al-Hajraf expressed determination to conclude the negotiations on priority. Foreign Minister Qureshi expressed gratitude to the GCC and its member states for strong expression of support for the people of Afghanistan in the 17th Extraordinary Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, held in Islamabad on 19 December 2021. The Foreign Minister urged the world community to upscale its efforts to reach out to the Afghan people on an urgent basis to help address the humanitarian crisis and stabilize the economic situation. This is the second visit of the GCC Secretary General to Pakistan in the last three weeks. He earlier visited Islamabad in December 2021 to attend the 17th Extraordinary Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (OIC-CFM).

Bilawal slams PTI govt over ECP report

Says that Khan was imposed on the nation by projecting him as an honest person

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Wednesday that the report of Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) scrutiny committee on the funds received by ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) from foreign sources had laid bare what he called the 'ugly face of corrupt' Prime Minister Imran Khan. In a statement issued in Lahore, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the 'selected' prime minister had concealed the bank accounts of his party from the ECP despite taking oath he had concealed none. The PPP chairman said it was unfortunate that the very man who lectured people on corruption and taunted his political opponents for being corrupt had himself devoured billions of rupees he received from foreign sources. "Truth of the matter is that he has looted the country by disguising himself as a crusader against corruption, the proof of which is poor economy of the country," he alleged.



EU, US re-open to Pakistani airlines

The USA had also downgraded Pakistan to category 2

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Pakistani airlines are likely to soon start operating flights to the US, UK and Europe after the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) cleared a safety audit conducted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), it emerged Wednesday. The ICAO, a United Nations aviation body, had advised Pakistan in September 2020 to carry out prompt corrective action and stop issuing any new pilot licences after it learnt that bogus licenses may have been issued to unscrupulous elements. The revelation had come following the crash of a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) aircraft in May last year, which resulted in the deaths of 97 passengers and crew. Pakistani pilots had faced sanc-

tions after the aviation minister said in the National Assembly that a third of them had dubious or fake licences. In the wake of the scandal, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) had taken serious notice and discontinued TCO (Third Country Operator) Authorisation for Pakistani carriers. The USA had also downgraded Pakistan to category 2, which means no Pakistan origin aircraft was allowed to enter US territory. In its January 4 letter to DG CAA Khaqan Murtaza, ICAO's Deputy Director Denis Guindon wrote that the committee conducted the audit in December 2021 and "determined that the actions taken by Pakistan had successfully resolved SSC (Significant Safety Concern)." "I wish to refer to the Significant

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Vaccination only way to fight Omicron

Asad Umar encourages people to complete vaccination course

ADIL SHAHEEN

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar has urged the people to fully vaccinate themselves against COVID-19 to reduce the risk of the spread of new variant Omicron. Briefing the media at National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) in Islamabad on Wednesday, he warned that the cases of Omicron has witnessed an increase in the country. He said the Covid cases increased to 1.8 percent yesterday after remaining 0.7 percent for several weeks. The Minister said the people should continue to observe SOPs and avoid visiting crowded places. In his remarks, Special Assistant

on National Health Services Dr. Faisal Sultan clarified that the current anti-Covid vaccines provide protection to the people against severe disease from the new variant. He stressed the vaccination is important to save our healthcare system from pressure. Dr Faisal Sultan warned people not take Omicron "lightly" as hospitalisation will increase in the next one to two weeks. The country's top health official advised the public to follow the COVID-19 SOPs and get vaccinated at the earliest. "It's still a bit early to draw conclusions since

Continued on Page 06



FAISALABAD: State Minister of Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib talking to media persons in a local hotel. – APP

Committee formed to address problems of FSIE

The eight members committee would visit the FSIE to review the on-ground situation and decide future line of action to facilitate the industrial units established in this estate

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Two separate committees have been constituted to redress the problems confronted by the Faisalabad Small Industrial Estate (FSIE) Nalka Kohala Faisalabad regarding WASA and other administrative and facilitative issues, said Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). Chairing a joint meeting of the stakeholders and concerned Government departments, he said that time framework has been given to each committee to take measures and resolve the same within the stipulated time period. Vice Chairman WASA Sheikh Shahid Javed and Amin-ul-Din Owaisi Regional Director Punjab Small Industrial Estates Corporation (PSIEC) also attended it. The meeting decided that WASA will submit details of physical work completed in addition to the

financial statement within a period of one week. The eight members committee would visit the FSIE to review the on-ground situation and decide future line of action to facilitate the industrial units established in this estate. Vice Chairman WASA said that he is also representative of the business community and would try his optimum best to resolve their WASA related issues as soon as possible. The meeting was told that the Punjab Government had released funds of Rs.279 million a few years back for the WASA related project in FSIE. Out of it, Rs. 230 million has been expended while Rs. 49 million is still pending unutilized with WASA authority. This amount could be utilized to complete the missing links in addition to removing the discrepancies so that the project could be formally handed over to the Punjab Small Industrial Corporation. The other committee also discussed the issue relating to the encroachments, viola-

tion of laws, transfer of plots, issuance of NOCs and security related issues. President FCCI said that he will request WASA to launch an exclusive drive for the desilting of drains in Faisalabad Small Industrial Estate. The silt, garbage and other waste dumped along the roads would also be removed to improve the cleanliness and hygienic conditions in this industrial estate. In this connection the services of the Solid Waste Management Department could also be solicited. He said that industrialists of this estate are ready to bear the expenditure incurred on the security of the industrial area. He suggested that funds could be raised on a self help basis to hire private security guards in addition to purchasing motorcycles for their regular patrolling in this area. He said that he will also talk to the City Police Officer (CPO) to arrange regular police patrolling by the concerned police station.

Kashmiris' deserve their right to self-determination

Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary, DG ISSI said that today is the special day in the annals of the Kashmir. There are number of dimensions of the Kashmir dispute that include legal, humanitarian and political- dimension

DNA

ISLAMABAD: To express Pakistan's firm support for the Kashmiri people, the India Study Centre (ISC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organized a Round Table titled "Commemorating Kashmiris' Right to Self-Determination Day" on January 05, 2022.

In his introductory remarks, Dr. Saifur Rehman Malik, Director ISC, said that ISC focuses on all events and commemorate the special days on Kashmir. On January 05, 1949, a promise of right to self-determination through a free and fair plebiscite was made to the Kashmiri people. That promise so far remains unfulfilled. The ISC at ISSI is commemorating the Right to Self-Determination Day with the aim of highlighting the Kashmir cause, he added. In his welcome remarks, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhary, DG ISSI said that today is the special day in the annals of the Kashmir. There are number of dimensions of the Kashmir dispute that include legal, humanitarian and political- dimension. He said that Kashmiris do not want to live with India and the day is reminder for us that Kashmiris must be granted their right to self-determination.

Mr. Nasir Qadri, Advocate, a Human Rights Lawyer from IIOJK who also heads the Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK) opined that Kashmir deserves the right to self-determination. He said that Kashmir is being seen through a small prism when it should be looked through the lens of armed conflict. We are losing the ground and losing the case and Pakistan has to recognize the Kashmir liberation movement, he added. Dr. Waleed Rasool Sheikh, Director General at Institute of Multi-Track Dialogue, Development and Diplomatic Studies maintained that the primary responsibility of presenting a solution for Kashmir issue rests on the shoulders of academicians and scholars

who are not consulted enough. He highlighted the fragility of the international system and criticized the fact that it is manipulated by countries for their own benefit. In this case, he mentioned the instance of India breaching the sovereignty of Pakistan in 1971 in Bengal, breaching Simla agreement and breaching international protocols again in 1984 by invading Siachen yet no legal action was taken against it by the international community. Dr. Sameera Imran, Assistant Professor (IR) Department at NDU analyzed the Kashmir issue in the philosophical context and said that the idea of freedom is only based on consent. Men are born free and the Kashmiris' right to self-determination is linked with idea of freedom. Pakistan has both historical and philosophical reasons to support the Kashmiris. Continuation of resistance of the Kashmiris shows that they have rejected the Indian occupation of the Kashmir. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has threatened the Indian democracy, she concluded. Barrister Needa Salam, a practicing lawyer in the Islamabad High Court condemned the grave human rights violations carried out by Indian Armed Forces in Kashmir calling them the

worst crimes against humanity in the modern time. She pointed to the violation of Article 1 of the United Nations Charter which provides every individual with the right to self determination. She further highlighted how India was responsible for breaching both the United Nations resolutions on Kashmir as well as the sanctity of the bilateral agreements with Pakistan. Paying tribute to the sacrifices of the Kashmiris, she called for the world to take immediate action against the fascist policies of the Modi government with regards to Kashmir and treatment of minorities. Ambassador Riffat Masood, a seasoned former diplomat, stated that India falsely tries to present Kashmir case as a bilateral affair when it is a global issue, very much in accordance with the United Nations charter and identical to the cases of previous national liberation movements. She emphasized on the need to viewing Kashmir from a humanitarian lens first and stated that Pakistan needs to build a strong economic foundation to be able to present Kashmir issue more effectively in the global arena. She emphasized that Pakistan must mobilize the Kashmiri youth and diaspora to expose the flaws of the so-called largest "democracy" of the world.



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Saifur Rehman Malik, Director ISC, said that ISC focuses on all events and commemorate the special days on Kashmir. – DNA

ZAB birthday celebrated in Jhelum

KAMRAN GUJJAR



JHELUM: Pakistan People's Party trade wing celebrated birthday of Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Dr. Kausar Anwar PPP Jhelum leader organized a function in this regard in which prominent persons participated. Ishitaq Pal District Secretary Informaiton PPP, and Rao Younis Presidnet PPP trade wing attended the event and paid tributes to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. They said ZAB made Pakistan an invincible place. It was him who introduced and strengthened the nuclear program of Pakistan. They said PPP would continue to serve masses even in the coming days. The called upon the people to support PPP in the coming elections so that their problems could be solved.

Over 5.8m people vaccinated in Faisalabad

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Over 5.8 million (5,855,103) people have so far been vaccinated against COVID-19 in the district.

District Health Officer Dr Ataul Mun'im said on Wednesday 3,670,368 citizens were injected first dose while 2,115,527 were administered the second dose of vaccine. He further said that 38,480 health workers were also given first dose while 30,728 received the second dose of vaccine. He said that sufficient stock of coronavirus vaccine was available in the district. As many as 183,475 first doses and 122,317 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, Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology, Government General Hospital Samanabad, Children Hospital, sports Complex Samanabad, Tehsil Head Quarters Hospital Jaranwala, Samundri, Tandlianwala, Chak Jhumra, Sports Complex Chak Jhumrah, Sports Complex Jaranwala, Government General Hospital Chak 224/RB, New Building RHC Khurianwala, he added.

KU celebrates golden jubilee of Sindhi dept

NEWS DESK

KARACHI: To strengthen Pakistan, it is necessary to make Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa more independent according to the Constitution of Pakistan and give rights to all the provinces.

These views were expressed by the provincial minister for universities and boards Muhammad Ismail Rahoo while addressing the inaugural session of the two-day golden jubilee celebration of the Department of Sindhi of the University of Karachi here on Wednesday.

The Department of Sindhi has organized the two-day literacy conference event at Arts Auditorium to mark the 50th year of the establishment of the Sindhi department.

The chief guest Ismail Rahoo observed that if the clauses of the 18th Amendment were part of the Constitution of Pakistan back in the '70s the then East Pakistan would never have become Bangladesh. On this occasion, the KU Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi said that without support and investment from the governments in teaching and research activities we should not expect that scholars would be able to do good work as it is not possible without investment and time

frame. He observed that investment in education has a positive and far-reaching impact on societies and changes the destiny of nations. The land of Sindh is the land of great mystics who have always taught peace and love.

The KU VC Professor Dr Khalid Iraqi mentioned that language has been made a compulsory subject but it has not created such a culture that would enable them to learn the Sindhi language.

Meanwhile, the Dean Arts and Social Sciences Professor DrNusratIrdress said that nations have always sought solutions to their problems through education. Pakistan needs to work in the fields of education, business, tourism, and sports.

Secretary Culture and Antiquities Rahim A. Soomro said that Sindhi literature is very important and there is a need to spread awareness in this regard. The words of teachers are useful at every stage of life.

Director Shah Abdul Latif Bhattai Chair, University of Karachi, Professor Saleem Memon gave a detailed overview of the Department of Sindhi since its inception. The Chairman Department of Sindhi Professor Dr Naheed Parveen gave a detailed account of the teaching and research activities taking place in the Department of Sindhi and spoke about the number of M.Phil and Ph.D. produced by the department.

Ex-wife turned out to be killer of husband

FAISALABAD :Madina Town police claimed on Wednesday to have resolved the mystery of a blind murder case by arresting three accused including a woman. Addressing a news conference, SP Madina Town Naem Aziz Sindhu said the police found bullet riddled body of a man wrapped in a quilt on December 26. The victim was identified as Qasim Ali s/o Muhammad Aslam resident of Street No. 2 Raza Abad. The police registered a murder case and started investigation on scientific lines. On suspicion, the police took Parveen Bibi, the ex-wife of victim Qasim Ali, into custody for interrogation who confessed her crime. She told the police that her two accomplices namely Muhammad Waqar, resident of Chak No.224-RB Fateh Din Wali and Owais, resident of Rex City/Fateh Abad Sharqi abtended her in the murder. – News Desk

Ombudsman Punjab orders to provide monetary relief

NEWS DESK

LAHORE: Ombudsman Punjab Maj (r) Azam Suleman Khan on Wednesday ordered to provide monetary relief of Rs 33.61 million to the plaintiffs of different districts in their cases of public importance. According to spokesperson for the Ombudsman Punjab, the ombudsman office helped a complainant Shaheena Khanum of Faisalabad to take out Rs 10.61 million, out of total dues of her late husband who was employed with the health department. Earlier, she was given Rs 1,286,760 as leave encashment and salary arrears of Rs 904,692 on the orders by the ombudsman office.

The spokesperson further said that 7.7 Kanal portion of public passage had also been restored by the administration on ombudsman's orders in Shakargarh tehsil after retrieval from illegal occupants. He said that on a separate application, the ombudsman office moderated to reimburse total dues worth Rs 4,289,944 to the widow of Dr Zafar Iqbal health department Jhang, adding that the primary and secondary healthcare department had settled pension dues after eight years of the death of its employee.

Alongside, the ombudsman office negotiated with Sunder Industrial Estate to return Rs 1.836 million to four complainants who approached the ombudsman office for the payment of pending dues of their services.

The spokesperson said that the office of ombudsman Punjab also facilitated Shamim Akhtar of Bhakar district to get family pension for her late husband who was employed with the school education department there. The secretary school education department was directed in the case to ensure payment of family pension and pending emoluments according to departmental rules to her by giving six months and four days relaxation in the service period of her SED employee husband. As a result, Shamim Akhtar succeeded in getting pension and arrears after a long period of 33 years as the matter was lying pending since 1988. After the involvement of the ombudsman office, the school education department paid Rs 909,732 to the complainant. In compliance with the instructions of ombudsman office given in a different issue, the labour department paid educational stipends valuing Rs 180,000 of 2015-17 to the daughter of applicant Muhammad Iqbal of Darya Khan area of Bhakar district.

Police personnel awarded merit certificates

Faisalabad SSP said that rewards are being bestowed to boost the morale of PHP force to display that good work has rewarded

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: In pursuance of directions of Addl IG PHP Shahid Hanif, reward distribution ceremony was held at PHP Regional office. SSP PHP Mirza Anjum Kamal distributed commendation certificate and cash reward among star performers of PHP. While talking to media, SSP said that rewards are being bestowed to boost the morale of PHP force to display that good work has rewarded. However talking about the performance of PHP, He said that PHP Post Ali Pur/Banglow apprehended 5 member Dacoit Gang and heavy weaponry form criminals in two different activities.



The Incharge post of Makoana and PHP Post 419 JB seized weapons and contraband narcotics. The apprehension of dacoit gang and seizer of heavy weaponry reflect the commitment and struggle of PHP to eradicate road crime. SSP also appreciated the effort of DSP PHP Faisalabad Malik Amin to put his efforts to bolster the performance of Patrolling posts. He appreciated the efforts of PRO Muhammad Rizwan Bhatti for effective coverage and efficient coordination with media personnel.

At the conclusion of ceremony, he applauded the efforts of whole patrolling teams and emphasized upon courteous behaviour during patrolling duties. Moreover, he elaborated about the helpline 1124 in the event of emergency and distress.

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Digital banking

THE transition from traditional to digital banking is finally on the cards for the country as the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) introduced a framework for granting licenses to set up fully-functioning digital banks. If this initiative is successful, not only will our commercial setup experience positive growth but convenience will also improve for the average customer. However, there are some hurdles that the government must overcome.

When it comes to cyber protection, Pakistan lags behind other countries that have iron-clad barriers installed to protect sensitive financial information about a bank's customers. Just recently, the National Bank of Pakistan was subjected to a cyberattack which not only disrupted the services offered but was also responsible for customers losing their confidence in the ability and resources of the bank. Such threats are very real for digital banks and if they are going to inspire any confidence in the public, the government must ensure that each bank has barriers that prevent hacking or phishing. Security is essential and the people must be reassured that the bank can keep their information safe.

Another aspect to consider is the lack of awareness and trust in the digital system. More often than not, people refrain from making any kind of online transactions or utilising online banking services because they doubt the reliability of the digital platform. This is not even an illegitimate fear, considering the regular crashes that online systems of existing commercial banks face almost monthly. The mobile applications of several banks including HBL and Meezan Bank were down just yesterday without explanation. This would not be acceptable anywhere else.

Before issuing digital banking licenses, the authorities must ensure that both banks and citizens increase digital capacities and must be reassured of the fact that each action is safe. In return, the banks must also ensure that it has an effective and diligent management team that can ensure smooth and consistent operations and enough technical knowhow to resolve problems before they materialise fully. The advantages of digitising the banking sector are numerous; convenience, accessibility, business activity and commerce will go up as most processes will become fairly simple. Only if we go about this development the right way will we be able to avail such benefits, however.

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SAARC Summit

THE 19th summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is to be held next week in Islamabad. The summit was not initially scheduled for January—it was supposed to be held in November of 2021, but was postponed due to India's refusal to attend in Islamabad.

This is now the second attempt of the member countries to hold SAARC—this time, with Pakistan reiterating its invitation and saying that New Delhi can join the moot virtually if it does not want to be present in person. This is a mature decision on part of the Pakistani government.

Considering that SAARC only consists of 8 member countries, the Summit would essentially be fruitless if any of its major and most populated members were not present. Moreover, this invitation has been extended to all countries. Moreover, the presence of all members is of particular significance this year due to the important agenda items of relevance.

This year, a number of geopolitical developments have occurred in the region that impact all surrounding countries. It would be in the interest of all countries in the region to engage in these issues and even if they disagree—negotiate and indulge in dialogue. There are existential threats facing the region—ISIS, for example, has reared its ugly head.

The brunt of climate change is estimated to be quite harsh on the South Asian region due to its coastal vulnerability. Perhaps, most notable of all, Afghanistan once again after twenty years sees the rule of the Taliban, and this enormous political development has serious consequences on the monetary, financial, political and security conditions of all member countries.

Pakistan has played an integral part before in SAARC—we view it as an important organisation for enhancing regional cooperation that should not be set aside for selfish deviant motives by countries. It is hoped that India will also pay heed to the greater good and security of the region and attend the conference.

Biden's foreign policy challenges mounting up

Maria Maalouf



All these foreign policy gambits will lead to important questions.

First, what kind of pressure will the Biden administration exert on Israel in case it opposes any political deal over Iran's nuclear program? Second, what tools will it use to stop a future war in Gaza between Israel and Hamas?

AS US President Joe Biden approaches the end of his first year in the White House, foreign policy challenges are mounting up. How will he act regarding the situation in Ukraine? Then there is the debate over the possible signing of a new nuclear deal with Iran. These foreign policy stakes should not hide the fact that, despite Biden's focus on China and Russia, his track record still sticks to US norms. He is very cautious when dealing with old and new foes alike. He is trying to restore the world's confidence in America. He is not yet relying on military force to achieve his

foreign policy goals. He is still adopting a wait-and-see approach to assess how other nations will shape their foreign policies in a post-COVID-19 world.

On the Middle East, it is obvious that Biden has given a big role to National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan. Sullivan is seen as the point man for the administration in reference to Iran. He provides the institutional memory for the ongoing negotiations in Vienna. This suggests that any possible new nuclear deal between the US and Iran will be in the mold of the 2015 agreement, but with more stringent conditions on Tehran's ability to enrich uranium. It is arguable that Biden has so far refused to accept Iran's demands to remove all the US sanctions on Tehran. This will likely continue under the mandate of a new nuclear agreement.

Meanwhile, the United States Institute of Peace last year published a study on the relations between the Biden administration and both the Israelis and the Palestinians. It said: "The Biden administration has not prioritized the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on its foreign policy agenda." However, there is no doubt that the conflict in Gaza in May 2021 changed that attitude. Right after a ceasefire was declared, there was talk of plans for the reconstruction of Gaza. And, while Biden is a supporter of the Abraham Accords, he has killed off the so-called deal of the century. Biden has also taken a different approach toward Jerusalem and the US now intends to reopen its consulate in East Jerusalem. This could be an important friendly gesture to the Palestinians. It would be a recognition of the rights of Muslims and Christians in the Holy City.

Further, it seems that the Biden administration was the catalyst for the delay in the convening of the Libyan elections. Its rationale rested on the need to avoid a stalemate following the results, which could have preempted a political deadlock.

All these foreign policy gambits will lead to important questions. First, what kind of pressure will the Biden administration exert

on Israel in case it opposes any political deal over Iran's nuclear program? Second, what tools will it use to stop a future war in Gaza between Israel and Hamas? On Egypt, the Biden administration seems to be almost silent. It has to endorse Cairo's mediation between the Israelis and the Palestinians. It has to engage more with the Egyptian leadership and must be more encouraging regarding a settlement of the dispute involving Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan over the construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam. The longer it waits on this issue, the more unresolvable the conflict will be.

Quoting the Institute of Peace again, it said that the Biden administration finds that both the Israelis and the Palestinians are deserving of "equal measures of security, freedom, opportunity and dignity." In terms of US domestic politics, this means that improving relations with the Palestinians would also reflect positively in the attitudes of the Arabs and Muslims inside America, a majority of whom voted for Biden in the 2020 election. He has to invest in this political stock. Otherwise, he will lose a crucial support base not only for himself, but for the Democratic Party generally.

This also means it is critical for Biden to explain to the American public why he wants to renew the US' rivalry with Russia. Moscow has, over the last two decades, enjoyed much success in the Middle East. If Biden is more hostile, Russia could be more of a handicap to a positive American role in Syria. It is time for Biden to consult more with the Kremlin over Syria. This can be done professionally and without any personal closeness with President Vladimir Putin. My crystal ball sees that the Biden administration will encourage more summits similar to the one between Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas that took place last week. It has to back up such diplomatic steps with a greater effort to collaborate with Russia and end the region's conflicts.

— Courtesy: Arab News

Covid unmasks the West's racism towards Africans

Ayo Olatunji



Vaccines, vaccine certificates and Covid test results from African countries such as Ghana have had their validity scrutinised as not being legitimate or forgery prone, despite using digital QR codes as the primary method of verifying vaccine status

CRACKDOWN on Mother Teresa charity: Is the Modi government afraid of NGOs?

Recent travel bans against South Africa are evidence that the West still attaches archaic stereotypes of incompetence and feeble-mindedness against Black people and Africans.

During the Covid-19 pandemic mainstream media outlets resorted to sensationalism, using racist language while reporting on the health situation the world over. This was demonstrated by the racist cartoon published by the Spanish newspaper La Tribuna, which depicted Black South Africans as the Omicron Covid variant. Their bodies were drawn in the shape of the virus, and they were shown on a boat labelled Omicron, flying the South African flag. This cartoon depicted Black people and Africans as both vectors and inherent harbourers of disease.

We have seen racist and reactionary government interventions from predominantly white Western countries like the UK in response to the discovery of the Omicron variant. They introduced rushed spontaneous travel restrictions with red lists almost exclusively made up of African countries, so much so that it had been labelled a 'Black list'. The US and Canada were among other Western countries to have a Black red list. However, if one looks at Nigeria, an African country on the list, it had recorded just three cases at the beginning of December.

By contrast, countries like the Netherlands and Portugal both had 19 cases recorded but had not featured on these red lists. How peculiar, one wonders. In addition, there has been an obsession since the pandemic began of how and why the epicentres of the virus have been Europe and North America and not continents like Africa. There has been constant probing into the validity of death rates produced by African countries, which has prompted heated discussions, debates and headlines about why death rates across the continent are so low. This suggests that there was an expectation for the continent to be ravaged by the virus, feeding into the narrative that Black people, particularly Africans, are harbourers of disease. Many of us living in the diaspora and on the continent can identify the forced as-

sociations with Black Africans and Covid-19, in a move to facilitate and establish the Africanisation of Covid. It must be stated that these harmful and damaging stereotypes are rooted in eugenics. A term coined in 1883 by Francis Galton, eugenics was the pseudoscientific discipline of racism, classism and ableism. The pseudoscience drew upon different disciplines to advocate for the breeding of desirable characteristics in humans; white, able-bodied and upper class. And the phasing out of undesirable humans; Black, disabled and lower class. This was to be done by influencing the media, government, medicine and public health - and they were successful. During the pandemic, the disciplines of genetics and public health have been crucial in paving the way forward. However, a missing historical link in that duo is the fact that eugenics and the foundations of modern genetics and public health are inextricably linked to this racist project.

Vaccines, vaccine certificates and Covid test results from African countries such as Ghana have had their validity scrutinised as not being legitimate or forgery prone, despite using digital QR codes as the primary method of verifying vaccine status.

Meanwhile, countries like the USA use pen and paper to print vaccine certificates, which could easily be forged. This invokes the stereotypes of the incompetence and feeble-mindedness of Black people and Africans, who are mistakenly deemed unable to organise themselves to carry out simple policy measures. Such stereotypes have a colonial and eugenic nostalgia about them.

Earlier on in the year, Bill Gates refused to share patents for the vaccine, meaning that vaccine production for the African continent has been hindered. The international Covid vaccine supply programme COVAX has seen African countries at the bottom of the priority list. As a result, only 8.6 percent of the continent is fully vaccinated, with that number dropping to 0.09 percent of the population in DR Congo. Black and African lives are seen as expendable and of a lower priority perhaps because disease is seen as ubiquitous there.

The USA, Germany, Brazil, Argentina, South Africa and Turkey all offered up citizens to have the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines tested. All of those countries and their corresponding continents have vaccinated populations that exceed the world average of 57 percent (with at least one dose) by quite a gap apart from African countries, which fall substantially below that average.

That is despite the fact that South Africa came forward to help with Covid vaccine testing as was done in European and South American countries. This echoes the historical reality of widespread medical experimentation on Black people at their expense for everyone else's benefit. It sends a message that South Africa and other Africans will be used to participate in clinical trials that benefit everyone apart from themselves.

Knowing our history is important as it allows us to visualise how history repeats itself, as it is currently doing. In order to stop this repetition, journalists, politicians, doctors and public health actors must all become aware of this history and individually and structurally commit to putting it to an end and righting these wrongs through their individual fields. If not, we will continue to be stuck in this vicious cycle with Black and African people.

— Courtesy: TRT World

Plastic shopping bags are a problem in our environment

Dr. M Akram Zaheer



The non-biodegradable substance and plastic pollution are also a threat to humans.

Environmental health is closely related to human health. The proliferation of micro plastics on our planet poses serious concerns for human safety

THE mega cities of Pakistan such as Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Multan, Faisalabad, and Quetta are facing the problems of pollution. The biggest source of this pol-

lution is traffic noise coming from buses, cars, trucks, rickshaws and water tankers. But plastic bags and non-biodegradable substance (bottles, glass, packaging material, electronic waste, metal waste, etc) are extremely harmful to all types of life on Earth. Every year thousands of animals lose their lives due to plastic pollution. Consumption of plastic or entanglement in plastic products is harming and damaging the life on the earth. Most of the plastic waste produced in the world ends up in the oceans, where it causes great damage to the marine ecosystem.

The non-biodegradable substance and plastic pollution are also a threat to humans. Environmental health is closely related to human health. The proliferation of micro plastics on our planet poses serious concerns for human safety. New research shows that people inhale micro plastics through the air, eat them through food and water, and even absorb them through the skin. Micro plastics have also been found in our lungs, liver, spleen and kidneys, and a recent study has discovered micro plastics in the umbilical cord of infants.

The effects of plastic pollution are not felt worldwide and particular in Pakistan. Wealthy countries produce more plastic waste, which flows to less developed countries where waste management is the least complicated. It can be observed in the urban area of Pakistan. Recycling can help to reduce the production of plastic and plastic

waste. A major problem, however, is the low plastic recycling rate in Pakistan which is currently less than 10%.

The most stressful thing is the rapid rise of plastic production that threatens the earth's natural systems, on which life depends. Till 2040, plastic waste is expected to pose an annual financial risk of 100 billion for businesses that would need to bear the expected volume of waste management costs. However, the damages by the plastic papers are not well reported, and the real costs of plastic pollution for human, environmental and social health are still being investigated.

I think there is no single solution of this crisis. It requires thinking, innovation and system which do not seem in Pakistan at any scale. People should understand and feel the threat that is growing rapidly. They must reduce the use of troublesome plastics and non-biodegradable substance, and stop their flow into our lakes, rivers, wetlands, beaches and oceans. The government should improve waste management systems and ensure a high proportion of reused or recycled. The government should engage consumers and address plastic pollution and inspire behavioral change by phasing out unnecessary use of plastic bags or avoiding problematic plastic items and replacing these with alternative materials, products and services. The government should improve and strengthen governance at all levels.

Briefs

Will COVID-19 stop the Bundesliga again?

WEB DESK

MUNICH: As Bundesliga players, coaches and staff have started to return to training after more than two weeks' winter break, so reports of coronavirus cases have started to mount up among the clubs.

League leaders and champions Bayern Munich are set to re-raise the curtain on Germany's top division against Borussia Mönchengladbach on Friday, but have reported that at least nine players have tested positive for COVID-19 this week alone, including Leroy Sane, Manuel Neuer, Dayot Upamecano, Alphonso Davies and Kingsley Coman. Accordingly, there are rumors that the game may not go ahead. Indeed, Gladbach sporting director Max Eberl said on Wednesday that "Bayern want to cancel the game, but ultimately the DFL (German Football League) will decide."

Stuttgart, Hertha Berlin, RB Leipzig, Gladbach and Borussia Dortmund are among a number of teams who also be missing key figures for the coming weekend as the increased case numbers (30,000 new COVID-19 cases, 1,091 new hospitalizations and 356 new associated deaths on January 4) and traveling start to bite. But while spectators, even those vaccinated and with negative tests, remain shut out, the show looks to be going on in the league that returned to action first in the initial wave of the pandemic. So far, only one game in Germany's top two divisions, both run by the DFL has been called off due to the coronavirus this season, St. Pauli vs. Sandhausen in the 2. Bundesliga in November. "The match is being postponed because SV Sandhausen does not have the minimum number of available players required by the DFL regulations," said the organization at the time.

Vaccination only way...

FROM PAGE 01

it takes 1-2 weeks for hospitalisations to go up. Also, let us see how the virus behaves regarding virulence", Dr Sultan said when asked as to why hospitalisations were not going up in Karachi despite an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases due to the spread of the Omicron variant. Hospitalisations remained negligible and there were hardly any patients under treatment at major public and private health facilities in Karachi despite the fact the COVID-19 positivity touched 8.91% in the city, where 339 more people were tested positive with over 50% people infected with the Omicron variant.

EU, US re-open...

FROM PAGE 01

Safety Concern (SSC/PEL-01/09-2020/PAK refers) that was issued to Pakistan on 18 September 2020 as well as the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) Continuous Monitoring Approach (CMA) audit that was conducted by an ICAO team in Pakistan from 29 November to 10 December 2021.

During the audit, the committee reviewed the corrective actions taken and related evidence presented by Pakistan to address the SSC regarding the licensing system of the State, specifically in relation to the examinations conducted by the CAA and by delegated or designated training organizations prior to the issuance of licences and ratings.

"In accordance with the USOAP SSC process, [...] the ICAO SSC Validation Committee reviewed the actions and relevant evidence validated in Pakistan. The Committee determined that the actions taken by Pakistan had successfully resolved SSC," the letter stated.

The ICAO official also thanked the aviation authority for assistance during the audit mission and reiterated appreciation for the active commitment of Pakistan towards achieving its safety objectives.

Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul Train arrives in Ankara

ITI Cargo train started its journey from Islamabad on 21st December 2021 and took 13 days to reach Ankara

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: A dignified ceremony was held today at Ankara Gar to mark the arrival of the first Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) train carrying goods from Pakistan to Turkey, via Iran after resumption of its operations.

ITI Cargo train started its journey from Islamabad on 21st December 2021 and took 13 days to reach Ankara. Turkish Minister for Transportation, H.E. Adil Karaisalıoglu and Member Pakistan National Assembly H.E. Makhdoom Zain Hussain Qureshi were the chief guests at the ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Member Pakistan National Assembly Makhdoom Zain Hussain Qureshi highlighted that ITI train would play an important role in enhancing regional connectivity and promotion of economic and commercial activities in the ECO Region. He added that the train would offer Pakistan an opportunity to further increase its exports and



strengthen its connectivity with international markets including in Europe. Mr. Qureshi expressed hope that regular operations would continue on this route and measures would be taken to further shorten the journey time.

The Resumption of ITI Cargo Train after over a decade is manifestation of Pakistan's policy of special emphasis on geo-economics and expanding regional connectivity to bring about economic prosperity and development in the region. The train will play a pivotal role in enhancing trade relations in the region and maximize the economic efficiency through regional connectivity.

Director General of TCDD Taşımacılık Hasan Pezuk, senior officials of the Turkish Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, Ministry of Trade, ECO Secretariat, representatives of the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey (TOBB), and officials of Embassies of Pakistan and Iran also participated in the ceremony.

Djokovic: AO vaccine exemption ignites backlash

SPORTS DESK

SYDNEY: Australians have reacted angrily to news that tennis player Novak Djokovic will play in the Australian Open, after being exempted from vaccination rules.

All players and staff at the tournament must be vaccinated or have an exemption granted by an expert independent panel. Djokovic has not spoken about his vaccination status, but last year said he was "opposed to vaccination". Prime Minister Scott Morrison said if the player's evidence was insufficient he would be on the "next plane home".

Organisers say the defending champion has not been given special treatment, but the decision has infuriated many Australians. The country is seeing tens of thousands of Covid-19 cases for the first time after enduring some of the world's strictest restrictions.

Over 90% of Australia's over-16 population is fully vaccinated, but some people still cannot travel interstate or globally because of current measures.



Amid the controversy, Mr Morrison said the Serbian player would be required to present evidence upon arrival that he has a genuine medical exemption from vaccination. The Australian Open begins on 17 January in Melbourne. "If that evi-

dence is insufficient, then he won't be treated any different to anyone else," the prime minister told reporters. "There should be no special rules for Novak Djokovic at all. None whatsoever." The comments seemed to represent a change in his position, after he said on Tuesday that the Victoria state government had provided the player with an exemption to enter the country and that officials would act "in accordance with that decision".

Many Australians had previously accused the government of allowing the rich and famous to do as they please while ordinary people remained separated from sick and dying loved ones.

"I think it's a disgrace," Melbourne resident Christine Wharton told ABC. "We've all done the right thing, we've all gone out and got our jobs and our boosters and we have someone that has come from overseas and all of a sudden he's been exempt and can play." A&E doctor Stephen Parnis tweeted: "I don't care how good a tennis player he is. If he's refusing to get vaccinated, he shouldn't be allowed in."

North Korea fires suspected ballistic missile into the sea

PYONGYANG: North Korea has fired a suspected ballistic missile into the sea off its east coast, in its first such launch since October. The missile landed in water between the Korean peninsula and Japan, bringing condemnation from Seoul and Tokyo. The UN prohibits North Korea from ballistic and nuclear weapons tests. Leader Kim Jong-un has vowed to bolster the North's defences. It tested a variety of missiles last year amid stalled talks with the South and US.

The latest launch - the first since a New Year speech in which Mr Kim set out policy priorities for 2022 - was first reported by the Japanese coast guard early on Wednesday, before being confirmed by defence authorities in Seoul.

"South Korean and US intelligence are closely analysing for further detail," South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said in a statement. Japan's Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi said the suspected ballistic missile had flown about 500 km, Reuters reported. According to one expert however, there was no way to confirm the full striking range of the missile.

"There's no way to assess whether this might have been a longer-range missile flown on a shortened trajectory," Ankit Panda of the Nuclear Policy Programme at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace told BBC News. In 2017, North Korea tested the Hwasong-15, a missile that peaked at an estimated altitude of 4,500km, putting US military bases on the Pacific island of Guam well within striking distance. The launch comes days after Mr Kim said that Pyongyang would continue to strengthen its defence capabilities due to an increasingly unstable military environment on the Korean peninsula - a stance Mr Panda warned could see 2022 "littered with similar North Korean missiles". - Web Desk

How China's 'zero COVID' pursuit is stoking anger

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: Over the past two weeks, Chinese authorities have reimposed strict pandemic control measures to curb a new wave of domestic coronavirus outbreaks. However, some of the extreme measures have triggered a public backlash, as Chinese people question the validity of these restrictions.

For the last 13 days, residents of Xi'an - an ancient capital with 13 million people - have been banned from leaving their homes, causing many of them to run short on food and other essential supplies like medicine.

So far, more than 1,600 confirmed COVID cases have been reported in the city since December 9.

On the Chinese social media platform Weibo, phrases such as "having difficulty to buy food" and "unstable supply of necessities" became hot topics.

One Xi'an resident said that since December 27, all people in the city have been banned from leaving their homes.

TTP to be nipped...

FROM PAGE 01

terrorist networks. He said on the basis of 890 threat alerts issued by the intelligence agencies during this period, about seventy per cent possible terror threats were averted.

The DG ISPR said Pakistan Army is providing security to CPEC and other development projects. Expressing satisfaction over the progress on the CPEC project, he said those trying to sabotage it will fail in their nefarious designs.

The DG ISPR said that no armed person or group can be allowed to take law into their own hands. Major General Babar Iftikhar regretted that an organized campaign had been started against different institutions of the country over a period of time. He said the aim of this campaign is to create a gulf between the government, the masses, the institutions and the armed forces. He said the armed forces draw strength from the people and all efforts to create wedge in this relationship will meet failure.

Answering a question, Major General Babar Iftikhar said there is no problem in the civil-military relations. He said armed forces are a subservient institution of the Government of Pakistan and it takes orders from the government. As regards the eastern border, the DG ISPR rejected the baseless Indian propaganda of infiltration against Pakistan saying it is aimed at diverting attention from blatant human rights violations in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

He said India has always tried to externalize the indigenous freedom movement of Kashmiris but now voices are rising across the world that India is targeting innocent civilians in the occupied valley.

The DG ISPR expressed concern over the defense procurements by India saying this will only trigger an arms race in the region and will have a negative impact on regional peace. Replying to a question, he said that armed forces have the capacity to deal with all external and internal threats, despite economic constraints. He said we are ready to render any kind of sacrifices to eliminate the menace of terrorism from Pakistan.

Regarding a question about Pakistan Day parade on 23rd March this year amid growing cases of Omicron, the DG ISPR said the parade will be held as per schedule but guidelines of National Command and Operation Center will be followed to avert any spread of the virus.

To a question he said Pakistan Army was fully aware of its defence needs and will do everything to acquire modern technology. While confirming that talks to get Chinese J-10 fighter planes were under way, the DG ISPR said negotiations with Turkey for purchase of helicopters were also in process.

Talking about Karachi Maj Gen Babar Iftikhar said in 2014 Karachi ranked 6th in the World Crime Index while in 2021 it ranked 12th, which was a clear manifestation of armed forces commitment to purge the country of miscreants.

Bangladesh beat New Zealand for first time in Test cricket

SPORTS DESK

TAURANGA: Bangladesh beat New Zealand for the first time in Test cricket with a sensational eight-wicket win in the first Test in Tauranga.

The Kiwis started day five on 147-5 but lost five wickets for just 22 runs, with opener Will Young making 69 and pace bowler Ebadat Hossain taking 6-56. That left Bangladesh needing just 40 to win, which they patiently knocked off inside 17 overs.

The second and final Test in the series starts on Saturday in Christchurch.

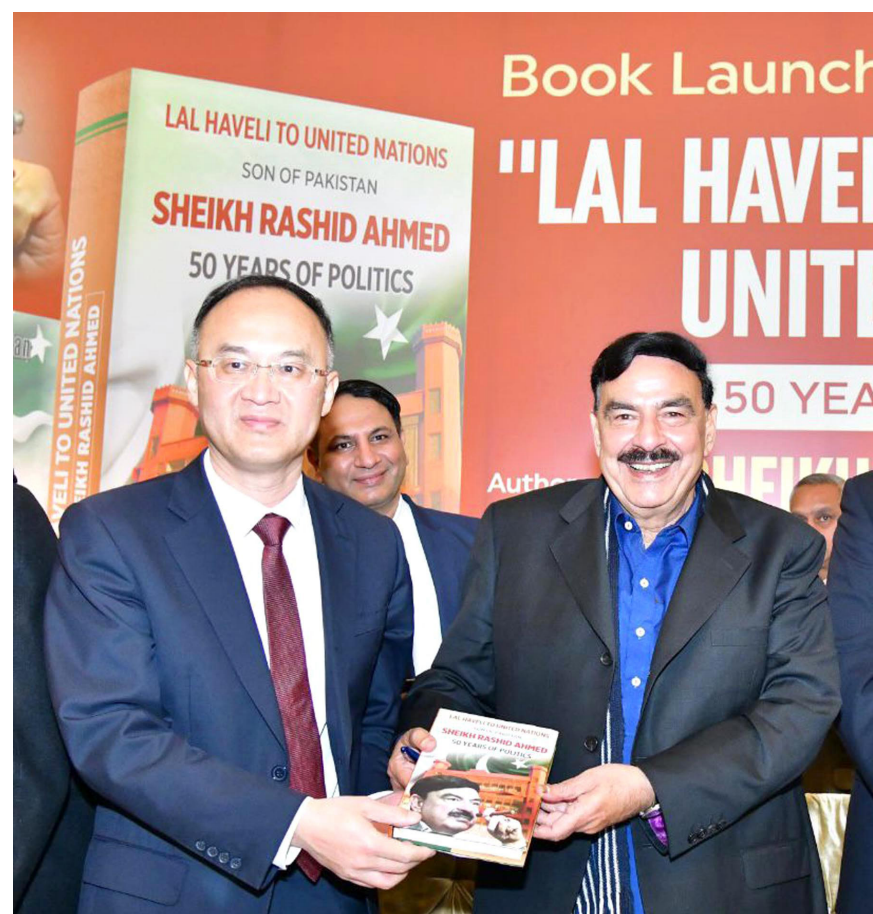
The victory is Bangladesh's first - other than against Zimbabwe, who they have beaten twice - since 2018, when they beat West Indies in Dhaka and Chattogram.

The Tigers had lost 12 and drawn three of their previous 15 Tests against New Zealand, and it is just their sixth win in 61 overseas Tests - with their previous wins against West Indies (two), Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe (two). "I can't describe it, it's unbelievable," said Bangladesh captain Mominul Haque. "I couldn't sleep yester-



day because of the pressure.

"It was very important to win this Test match. I said previously that we need to win these Test matches for our legacy." It is the first Test that New Zealand - who were crowned World Test champions when they beat India in Southampton last June - have lost at home since March 2017, when they lost to South Africa in Wellington. It is the first time they have to lose to a team from Asia since Pakistan beat them by nine wickets in Hamilton in January 2011.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed presenting his book "Lal Haveli to United States" to the Chinese Ambassador His Excellency Nong Rong at the book launch ceremony. - APP

Former CEO Wasim Khan had highest salary in PCB

The Standing Committee expressed grave concerns over nonattendance of the Chairman, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and directed that the Chairman PCB should attend the next meeting to brief the Committee on the matters of PCB

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) former chief Executive Officer (CEO) Wasim Khan was the highest person to get the highest salary amounting 2.6 million per month from cricket body officially disclosed by Pakistan Cricket Board in the National Assembly standing committee on Inter-Provincial Coordination here on Wednesday.

The meeting was chaired by Nawab Sher Waseer, Chairman of the Standing Committee at Parliament House could not discuss the affairs of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), Athletics Federation of Pakistan (AFP) and Pakistan Hockey federation (PHF) due to the absence of chairman and presidents of the respective federations.

The Standing Committee expressed grave concerns over nonattendance of the Chairman, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and

directed that the Chairman PCB should attend the next meeting to brief the Committee on the matters of PCB.

The Chief Financial Officer, PCB informed the Committee that Ramiz Raja is in Karachi due to meeting with Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah and the meeting regarding PSL preparations was important. Committee Chairman Nawab Sher Waseer said that Sindh Chief Minister is respected but Chairman PCB should have been present in the committee meeting.

During the meeting details of salaries of top officials of Pakistan Cricket Board also presented by the PCB officials showing that former CEO of Pakistan Cricket Board Wasim Khan was receiving a heights monthly salary of Rs 2.6 million from PCB.

Foreign physiotherapist Andrew Deacon's salary was Rs 2.1 million, Director High Performance Muhammad Nadeem Khan Rs 1.315 million, Director International Players Development Saqlain Mushtaq,



Chief Executive Officer Salman Naseer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Medical Officer getting 1.2 million each, Chairman Selection Committee Muhammad Waseem 1 million rupees, Director International Cricket Operations Zakir Khan 0.84 million, Director Security Asif Mehmood getting

0.65 million per month respectively.

Committee member Iqbal Muhammad Ali said that the issues regarding the audit of Pakistan Cricket Board could not be resolved. If the audit issues of PCB are not resolved then the case will be sent to FIA.

Iqbal Muhammad Ali said that the most expensive former CEO in the PCB was the one who destroyed the cricket structure in the country, why Wasim Khan resigned while Waqar Younis and Misbah-ul-Haq also left without fulfilling the contract, he said.

While briefing on "The Prevention of Offences in Sports Bill, 2020", moved by MNA Iqbal Muhammad Ali Khan, the Secretary IPC informed the Committee that initially the matter was taken up with the ministry of Law and Justice for legal opinion. The Law Division opined that post the 18th amendment, the Parliament is no longer competent to legislate on the subject of sports and also advised to take up the matter with the ministry of Interior.

