



Islamabad POST

Saturday, January 15, 2022

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Prince Andrew gives up military titles, patronages

Detailed News On Page-08

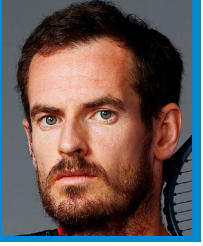
China touts support from Gulf states

Detailed News On Page-07



Murray battles into first ATP final since 2019

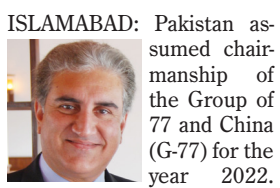
Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Pakistan assumes Chair of Group of 77 and China

SHUJAAT HAMZA



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan assumed chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China (G-77) for the year 2022. Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi presided over the proceedings of the opening segment of the handover ceremony held in a virtual format, which was also attended by the outgoing Chair (Foreign Minister of the Republic of Guinea), UN Secretary-General, and President of the UN General Assembly. Speaking on the occasion, the Foreign Minister lauded the significant contributions made by G-77 towards advancing the economic and social objectives of developing countries in international development negotiations at the United Nations and beyond. He stressed the need to retain cohesion and unity in G-77's collective endeavours to promote prosperity in conditions of equity and equality.

Security Policy launched PM stresses economic diplomacy

Says the biggest security is when people stand behind state for its protection

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday said that an inclusive development was inevitable for national security. "Inclusive growth means not only to uplift the poor people but also the neglected areas. The biggest security is when people stand behind the state for its protection," the prime minister said addressing the launching ceremony of the public version of the otherwise secret document. The prime minister expressed these views on the occasion of launching the country's first-ever citizen-centric National Security Policy 2022-2026. Top military leadership also attended the event. The prime minister, who earlier signed the historic document, appreciated the National Security Division for formulating a policy based on the consensus of the whole state and defining national and equality.

COAS: NSP a 'great step'

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Friday appreciated the launch of the National Security Policy and called it a "great step". The statement came during an informal conversation with the media. While talking to the media, Gen Bajwa appreciated the steps taken by the state to ensure the national security of the country and called the policy a "great step", sources said. Talking about the policy, he further said that military security is one aspect of the National Security Policy. The COAS also said that the document will help ensure the national security of the country.

Continued on Page 06 (NSA News on page 4)

Nuclear deal with Iran 'possible'

DNA



BREST: EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said Friday that a renewed deal with Iran on curtailing its nuclear programme remained "possible" as talks in Vienna advance in a "better atmosphere". "We're arriving at the end of a long process... there's a better atmosphere since Christmas - before Christmas I was very pessimistic. Today I believe reaching an accord is possible," he said after an informal meeting of EU foreign ministers. He said a final deal could be concluded "in the coming weeks". "I still maintain the hope that it would be possible to remake this agreement and have it function as it did before the American withdrawal," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of European Union Androulla Kaminara being presented a souvenir during her visit to Foreign Service Academy of Pakistan. - DNA

Jan 13 darkest day: Khaqan

Abbasi says no rules and constitutional guidelines were followed during the voting

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: PML-N senior leaders Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Ahsan Iqbal on Friday berated the PTI-led government for approving the supplementary bills, termed by the Opposition as 'mini-budget', and said that January 13 was the "darkest day in the history of

Medical board to examine Nawaz' health reports

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: In line with the federal cabinet's decision, the Punjab government on Friday has formed a medical board to examine PML-N

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

Evacuation from Afghanistan thru foreign missions continues

Over 900 reached during current month

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Whatever might be claimed on the part of high ups of Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan (Taliban regime) the fact is that due to serious socio-economic and political crises, almost all Afghans are making their best to flee the country and get refuge in any foreign country. Around one thousand who were evacuated by foreign missions are included amongst around 40,000 people who left Afghanistan and entered Pakistan during the last 13 days of January. Though almost foreign missions are included, the United States is making its best to help its employees and aides along with families in their

evacuation from war and economic constraints hit Afghanistan. However, the process of evacuation is now intensified and since January 4th, 2022 four foreign countries including the US through its diplomatic mission evacuated 960 people from Afghanistan to Pakistan via Torkham. Majority of these evacuated people 813 have been helped by Germany where as Belgium is on second row with 69 persons, United States with 68 and Italy helped 10 individuals. The evacuated individuals included 352 students, 186 women and 233 children. Besides these evacuated people are included people from different professions who have served these four foreign missions in various capacities like security guards, translators,

kitchen workers, sanitary workers and others from November 2001 till August 15th 2021. However, one amongst these people is a journalist by profession. Likewise a teacher along with his spouse was also helped in shifting from Afghanistan to Pakistan. Through some evacuated Afghans, this scribe came to know that Pakistan is not the last or final destination for them but they were assured of airlifting to various Western and Eastern countries. However, it will take some time in connection with passports, visa and other travelling documents. At the moment, these Afghan nationals are accommodated in various hotels and apartments in Islamabad.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Political and Military leadership attends launching ceremony of National Security Policy. (Inset) Prime Minister Imran Khan signing the Policy document. - DNA

Soldier martyred in terrorist attack

In another IBO, a terrorist was killed and two apprehended

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: A soldier of Pakistan Army embraced martyrdom during an exchange of fire with the terrorists in Jani Khel area of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district on Friday, the military said. According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), terrorists fired on the military post in Jani Khel area on the night of January 13/14 (Thursday night). "Army troops initiated a prompt response and effectively engaged the terrorists' location," read the statement. "During intense exchange of fire, a soldier, Sepoy Sarfaraz Ali, age 26 years, a resident of Vehari embraced shahadat



Positivity rate jumps over 7%

SHAHEEN HANIF

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's coronavirus positivity ratio jumped over 7% as the country reported 3,567 new cases - the highest since September 10, 2021 - in the last 24 hours, the National Command and Operation Centre's (NCOC) data showed Friday morning. The NCOC said 48,449 tests were conducted across the country, and 3,567 infections emerged, taking the positivity ratio to 7.36%. The country last reported an infection rate of 6.64% on August 31, 2021. With the new infections, the overall tally has risen to 1.315 million, while seven more deaths have taken the death toll to 28,999. Amid rising coronavirus cases in the country after the emergence of the Omicron variant, a meeting of the education ministers' was called Thursday to decide the fate of schools, but was later postponed to next week.

UKRAINE ISSUE Russia eyes US, NATO response

Lavrov argued that the deployment of NATO forces and weapons near Russia's borders poses a security challenge

NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Russia on Friday strongly reaffirmed its demand that NATO doesn't expand eastward despite the rejection of that by the military alliance amid a Russian troop buildup near Ukraine. Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov warned that Moscow wouldn't wait indefinitely for the Western response, saying he expects the U.S. and NATO to provide a written answer next week. Lavrov described Moscow's demands for binding guarantees that NATO will not embrace Ukraine or any other ex-Soviet nations, or station its forces and weapons there as essential for the progress of diplomatic efforts to defuse soaring

Ukraine proposes 3-way summit with Biden, Putin

WASHINGTON: Ukraine has proposed three-way talks with US President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin amid fears of invasion, an aide to Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky said Friday. "President Zelensky proposed to President Biden and we think it can be worked (out) to organize a trilateral meeting, maybe by videoconference, between President Biden, President Zelensky and President Putin," said the head of the Ukrainian president's office, Andriy Yermak. - APP

freeline MOVERS PACKING, SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING

Our Services: Packing, Shipping, Freight Forwarding, Land, Sea & Air Freight, Custom Clearance, Relocations, Office Removals, Fine Art Handling, Project Management, Pet Relocation, Warehousing, Storage

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.

Inside...: Ehsaas bazaar set up for deserving people in Faisalabad - Page 02, PPP leader urges conducive environment for business - Page 03, NSP's public version to clarify national security direction - Page 04, The meaning of good governance in the Arab world - Page 05, Australia cancels Novak Djokovic's visa again - Page 06, China touts support from Gulf States for Uyghur treatment - Page 07, Border fencing: New Afghan set up to be taken on board - Page 08

Briefs

UAF to plant
40,000
saplings

FAISALABAD: The University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) planted 35,000 saplings under the Prime Minister Clean and Green Pakistan program last year, while the target to plant more than 40,000 saplings has been set for the current year. This was stated by UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan here on Friday.

He was presiding over the inaugural session of one-day capacity building workshop for Gardening Wing that was arranged by Department of Estate Management. Principal Officer Estate Management Prof Dr Qamar Bilal and Dr. Adnan Younis also spoke on the occasion.

Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan said that the Clean and Green Pakistan program is a landmark step amid the situation when the world was coping with climate changes. Lauding the efforts of Estate Management staff, he said that due to their untiring efforts, the UAF had emerged as one of the best green universities in the world. He said that people, who work with dedication and hardworking, are decorated with success. He assured that all possible steps would be taken to address the problems of the Gardening Wing staff. Dr. Qamar Bilal said that various reforms were being implemented to further enhance the aesthetic and green beauty of UAF which is honored of being century-old and ever-first agricultural institution of the subcontinent. He said that on the directives of the Vice Chancellor, a training workshop for security staff would be organized to improve their performance and equip them with latest techniques in their field. Dr. Adnan Younis said all tangible steps were being taken to further improve greenery and beautification of the university. — APP

Haleem
demands
Rangers
operation

KARACHI: Leader of the Opposition in Sindh Assembly, Haleem Adil Sheikh, said that a considerable number of death of innocent people due to poor law and order in Sindh was PPP government's New Year present to people of the province who were not feeling secure even in their homes.

A well coordinated operation by Pakistan Rangers across the province particularly in Karachi was the only option to improve deteriorated law and order situation in Sindh and curtail increasing cases of murder, robbery and snatching, Haleem Adil Sheikh said while talking to APP and Pakistan Television here on Friday.

He said that a deep sense of insecurity had developed among citizens of Karachi and they were not safe even at their doorstep as five citizens had lost their lives in the last few days in Karachi while offering resistance to robbers and more than 40 people got injured by robbers.

Sindh police was heavily politicized after promulgation of Police Order 2019 and indulged in criminal activities while outlaws were at large and fearlessly operating across the province, he alleged adding that it seemed that criminals in year 2022 were issued license to kill and rob the citizens as instances of dacoit, car theft, motorcycle snatching and other crimes has increased manifold. — APP

Sindh police was heavily politicized after promulgation of Police Order 2019 and indulged in criminal activities while outlaws were at large and fearlessly operating across the province, he alleged adding that it seemed that criminals in year 2022 were issued license to kill and rob the citizens as instances of dacoit, car theft, motorcycle snatching and other crimes has increased manifold. — APP

Announcement

My car (faw carrier) number RIS 810 Model No. 2018, Engine No 760104312 And Chassis No Ah-fmps118cc 004106 original papers have been lost somewhere. If found please send at this address.
Habibur Rehman S/o Khadim Hussain House No BX-11-3-R-42 Street No 3 Shimali Mohalla Jhelum city

Ehsaas bazaar set up for
deserving people in Faisalabad

The Ehsaas Bazaar has been provided full support by charitable industrial groups in the distribution of garments and other items and separate stalls have been set up for the supply of goods to men, women and children

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Under the Ehsaas program of Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan, a big Ehsaas Bazaar has become established in Tehsil City under the arrangements of District Administration. The free of cost cloths, quilts, stockings, shoes, children's clothes, jackets and other items are given to deserving men, women and children.

The Ehsaas Bazaar has been provided full support by charitable industrial groups in the distribution of garments and other items and separate stalls have been set up for the supply of goods to men, women and children. After the registration with token, the garments, shoes and other items are providing and being sent back by external gate.

Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad, Members Punjab Assembly Shakeel Shahid and Firdous Rai inaugurated Ehsaas Bazaar and distributed clothes, shoes, quilts and other items among the deserving people present on the occasion. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Fazal Rabi Cheema, Assistant Commissioner City Sahibzada Muhammad Yusuf, CEO Health Dr Bilal Ahmed, Chief Corporation Officer Metropolitan Corporation Zubair



FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad along with MPA Firdous Rai & MPA Shakeel Shahid cutting the ribbon to inaugurate Ehsaas Bazaar. — APP

Hussain Nat, Director Arts Council Zahid Iqbal, Assistant Commissioner Under Training Anam Babar, In-charge Control Room Muhammad Sadiq and other officers besides PTI leader Mian Nabil Arshad, Director Apparel Sadaqat Limited Hamza Mukhtar, MTM representatives

Nasir Ali Zia, CEO The Legacy Chaudhry Yasin and other industrialists were also present. The Deputy Commissioner, Members of Assembly and industrialists observed the overall arrangements of Ehsaas Bazaar and expressed satisfaction over the quality of fabrics

and other warm clothing items and urged to maintain a clean environment at all times. The Deputy Commissioner briefed the media on the modalities of distribution of warm clothes to the beneficiaries and while talking to the reporters said that under the

government's Ehsaas program, the beneficiaries would provided warm clothes, jackets, shawls, stockings, etc in cold weather. Ehsaas Bazaar has been set up for the supply of quilts and other items which will remain functional for a week.

The Deputy Commissioner said that in the Ehsaas Bazaar, staff of all concerned departments are present whose attendance will be closely monitored. He said that the industrialists of Faisalabad has always been at the forefront of their work.

He said that the bazaar would be made more convenient and the needs of the needy would be taken care of. He said that a medical camp has also been set up in the bazaar where free medicines are being provided to the poor patients. He said that at least one Ehsaas Bazaar is being set up in the tehsils of the district and Ehsaas Bazaar is already established in Samundari tehsil.

The members of the assembly termed Ehsaas Bazaar as a commendable initiative of the present government. Deserving people termed the establishment of bazaar as a revolutionary initiative and thanked the Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad and his team for their systematic arrangements and realization of the poor.

880 bags of
urea seized

FAISALABAD: The Agriculture Department teams have seized 880 bags of urea fertilizer from two warehouses in tehsil Tandlianwala. The teams, supervised by Deputy Director Agriculture (Extension) Khalid Mahmood, raided a godown of a private dealer Ali Shah and Company in Garrh Fateh Shah Tandlianwala on Friday and seized 550 bags of urea. In the second raid, 330 bags of urea were taken into custody, which had been stored illegally for black marketing.

The teams sold out all 880 bags at the rate of Rs 1,768 per bag to farmers in its supervision.

27 beggars caught

The social welfare department (SWD) caught 27 beggars during the last three days. SWD Focal Person Muhammad Tahir on Friday said teams handed over beggars to the police which registered cases against them. The beggars were caught from Raza Abad, Saddar Bazar, Jhang Road, D-ground, Satianna Road, Tariqabad, D-ground, Clock Tower Chowk, Kutchehry Road, GTS Chowk, Station Chowk. — APP

Omicron
cases
increase to
64 in KP

PESHAWAR: The Omicron variant is spreading fast in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as it has infected around 64 people across the province. According to the health department's spokesperson, 12 more omicron variant cases were detected in the province including six from Peshawar. Similarly, two cases were reported from Mardan and one case each from Khyber, Malakand, Nowshera and Haripur districts. He said that 12 omicron variant-infected people include seven women and five men.

He said elaborate arrangements had been made to stop the spread of corona cases and contact tracing was continuing in an effective manner.

It says that the authorities concerned were fully geared up and surveillance teams were operating in affected areas. People have also been advised to strictly follow SOPs issued by the provincial government to contain the spread of the pandemic. — APP

Dawah
Academy
to organize
seminar today

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A seminar will be held today under the auspices of Faculty of Usul-ud-Din, Department of Hadith, Dawah Academy. In the seminar, Shuja-ud-Din Sheikh, a renowned scholar of Pakistan, Ameer Tanzeem-e-Islami, will give a lecture on the topic of "The Rise and Fall of Nations according to the Qur'an". The seminar will start at 05:45 pm at Iqbal Auditorium, Dawah Academy, Faisal Masjid Islamabad.

FESCO issues 25,000
new electricity meters

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has issued over 25,000 electricity meters for installation of new connections and replacement of defective meters while 80,000 more meters would be available till end of this month.

Similarly, sufficient capacity of the distribution transformers for industrial as well as commercial connections is also provided in FESCO stores. This was told by Chief Executive Officer (CEO) FESCO Engr. Bashir Ahmed while addressing an online open court at FESCO Headquarters, here Friday.

He said that provision of state of the art facilities to consumers is top priority of FESCO.

He said that FESCO is striving hard to provide uninterrupted power supply to its consumers round the clock in all over



the FESCO region including Faisalabad, Jhang, Toba Tek Singh, Bhakkar, Mianwali, Chiniot, Khushab and Sargodha. He said that smooth and continuous power supply to consumers is priority of FESCO. In this connection FESCO officers and officials are performing their duty with full dedication. He lauded the performance of special teams of field

staff, monitoring cell, 118 and toll free number 080066554 and said that they are ensuring to solve the consumers problems immediately. Meanwhile, over 48 consumers informed the CEO about their electricity related problems. On this, he issued orders to solve the consumers' complaints.

Documentary
on East Pakistan
separation launched

JHAUR is a multi-part documentary series based on the 1971 India-Pakistan war through exclusive interviews

DNA

KARACHI: The fact that we lost the East wing of Pakistan fifty years ago still haunts us today. However, despite the passage of five decades, we still share few clues about what precisely occurred in East Pakistan (today's Bangladesh). The three nations involved in the tragedy—India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh—cling to their own clichéd versions of what remains one of the most defining events in the history of South Asia. "JHAUR | WAR OF 1971" recognizes the need to examine these myths and reveal the truth about the events surrounding the war of 1971. The documentary attempts to reestablish memories with facts and objective analysis, as well as expose previously unknown information, to give us all a better historical and accurate narrative. It lays bare some of the overtly false notions that have over the years become gospel through repetition and purposeful agendas.

The documentary also unravels the international political

manipulations played on the soil of Pakistan, while portraying an impartial analysis of an unfortunate string of events well before the war that eventually led to the separation of East Pakistan.

There is no disputing that one of Pakistan's darkest chapters is kept alive and rekindled every year to perpetuate hostility between the people of Pakistan and Bangladesh. The documentary is a well-thought-out attempt to embrace certain facts and recognize the reality and might for once give the people of both nations a way to move forward. The documentary, the trailer of which is due on Jan 21, will be released online in February 2022.

JHAUR is a multi-part documentary series based on the 1971 India-Pakistan war. Through exclusive interviews of eyewitnesses, authors, politicians, war veterans and rare archival footage, the documentary series traces in-depth the first account narratives outlining the reasons as well as events leading up to the Indian sponsored rebellion in East Pakistan, with the eventual creation of an independent state of Bangladesh. This is the first documentary produced by RAVA Documentary Films under the parent banner of RAVA Studios.

Shehbaz, Hamza money laundering
case transferred to FIA court

DNA

LAHORE: The Banking Crime Court in Lahore hearing the money laundering and corporate fraud case against Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz has accepted FIA's plea to transfer the case to another court.

During the proceedings on Friday, the court also returned the case's challan to the Federal Investigation

Agency (FIA), directing the Agency to submit it in the relevant court.

The court also approved the protective bail of PML-N President and Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif and Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly Hamza Shehbaz for seven days, directing both of them to now get bail from the relevant court within seven days.

The FIA had filed an appli-

cation to transfer the case to the central judge Special FIA Court. Earlier, the Banking Court reserved its verdict on the jurisdiction of the court to hear the money laundering case. The court also accepted Shehbaz's request for exemption from appearance on Friday. Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly and PML-N leader Hamza Shehbaz said on Friday everybody on Thursday witnessed how the government managed

to get the Supplementary Finance Bill (mini budget) passed by the parliament. Speaking to the media outside an accountability court (AC), he said, "This was not a mini budget, but a death warrant for the masses." "Now even the parties, part of the coalition government at Center, have fear in their minds that they will not be able to meet their constituents if they remained allies of the PTI government," he said.

KP CM Mahmood Khan inaugurates
various uplift projects in Swat

Chief Minister inaugurated newly established Cath lab and Regional Blood Centre at Saidu Teaching Hospital which have been completed at cumulative cost of Rs. 410mn

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan on Friday paid a day long visit to District Swat where he inaugurated different development projects including Hostel, Lecture Theatres, laboratories, Auditorium and other facilities in Saidu Medical College which have been completed at a cost of Rs. 1.1 billion.

He also inaugurated newly established Cath lab and Regional Blood Centre at Saidu Teaching Hospital which have been completed at cumulative cost of Rs. 410 million. The chief minister, on the occasion performed ground breaking of hospital block, college block and boundary wall of Saidu College of Dentistry which would be completed at an estimated cost of Rs. 710 million.

Addressing the ceremony held at Saidu Medical College to this connection, the chief minister said that establishment of Dental College in Swat was undoubtedly a historic step as it was the long standing demand of the people of Malakand which has been fulfilled today.

He said that the people of whole Malakand division would benefit from this college. He said that incumbent government had increased seats in medical colleges from 1300 to 1750.



While terming extension of Sehat Card Plus to cent percent population of the province as a flagship project of PTI government, Mahmood Khan said Sehat Card Plus scheme was being made more comprehensive as free treatment of kidney diseases had been included in the scheme whereas liver transplantation, treatment of cancer and free OPD services would also be included soon.

Highlighting the development strategy of his government, the chief minister said that previous chief ministers concentrated only on their respective districts whereas his government was working for the

uniform development of whole province including Newly Merged Tribal areas.

The chief minister said that Medical Colleges would also be established in Charsadda, Buner, Kurram, Dir, Mansehra and other districts of the province in order to provide opportunities of Medical Education to people in their own districts. He said that commitments made to the people were being fulfilled one by one adding that tourist activities were in full swing in the province due to policies of incumbent government for promoting tourism industry in the province. He said around 2.7 million domestic and

foreign tourists turned to the tourist sites of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in the last season which has exhibited the successful policies of provincial government to this effect adding that the provincial government has earned Rs. 66 billion in the season.

The chief minister said that work was in progress under long term strategy to resolve the issues of militancy-hit district Swat which on completion would provide all time solution to the issues being faced by the people of Swat. He said that ground breaking of Swat Motorway Phase-II would also be performed next month adding that a project has been approved to resolve the long standing issue of clean drinking water for Mingora city. He further stated that loans upto 0.5 million were being provided to youth for self-employment.

Similarly, he added that payment of monthly stipend to Aaima Karam has been started.

Provincial Minister Mohibullah Khan, Members Provincial Assembly Fazal Haikim Khan, Azizullah Garan, Mian Sharafat and others were also present on the occasion. Earlier addressing the ceremony Chief Executive Saidu Group of Hospital Dr. Israr ul Haq and Project Director Saidu Dental College Dr. Muhammad Tariq highlighted the performance and future course of action of the institution.

Islamabad POST

Available in
following citiesISLAMABAD
Qamar News Agency
03105460372RAWALPINDI
Asim News Agency
03435802610KARACHI
Nazir Siyal
03337554016PESHAWAR
Zarbagh News Agency
03005412069FAISALABAD
Ishfaq Mughal
03007689850JEHLUM
Iqrash News Agency
03005412069KHARIAN
Ijaz News Agency
03068863870SARA-I-ALMAGIR
0300 5428178

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	05:45 am
Zohr.....	12:13 pm
Asr.....	03:43 pm
Maghrib.....	05:21 pm
Isha.....	06:49 pm



Hotels & Restaurants

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



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



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....	115
PIA Flight Info.....	114
PIA Cargo.....	9280979
Railway Inquiry.....	117
Railway Exchange.....	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....	5555489
CAA.....	9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....	5611111
MH.....	5611116
Cantt Hospital.....	9270907-11
DHQ.....	5556311-4
RGH.....	9290301-7
Holy Family.....	9290322-7
PIMS.....	9261170-79
Polyclinic.....	9218300-09
Shifa International.....	4603666



Departments

CDA.....	9221334-43
CDA.....	9208301-04
Met Office.....	9250360-6
RDA.....	5555864
TMA.....	5770886
Cantonment Board.....	9270151-3



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.....	9266316
Wapda Islamabad.....	9217579
Wapda Rawalpindi	111-309-309

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Wasa Water Tank

Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125
-----------------	--------------

PPP leader urges conducive environment for business

Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, ICCI thanked Senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar for visiting ICCI to express condolences with him

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and expressed condolences with Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President for the death of his father Haji Muhammad Munir (Late). He offered Dua that may Allah the Almighty keep the departed soul in eternal peace and give courage to the bereaved family members to bear this loss with patience. Senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar appreciated the role of ICCI for highlighting the issues of the business community at relevant forums for redress and facilitating its members in busi-



ness development. He said that the business community was rendering great service to the country by promoting busi-

ness activities, improving exports, enhancing tax revenue and creating jobs and urged that it was the responsibility of the gov-

ernment to create a more conducive environment for the promotion of business and economic activities. He assured that he would

play a role to bring the highlighted issues of the business community into the knowledge of relevant standing committees of

the Senate for their redress. Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry thanked Senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar for visiting ICCI to express condolences with him. He apprised him of the key issues being faced by the business community and requested him to take up them with the relevant government representatives for their resolution. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Dil-dar Abbasi, Raja Abdul Majeed, Khalid Chaudhry and others were also present at the occasion.

IHC seeks names of forensic agencies in audiotape case

USMAN CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court has offered to conduct forensic audit of Saqib Nisar's alleged audio. Attorney General, Pakistan Bar Council suggest the names of internationally authorized forensic agencies. The Islamabad High Court (IHC) heard a petition seeking setting up of a commission to probe the alleged audio clip of Saqib Nisar. Chief Justice Athar Minallah asked, "Do you know where the original audio clip is?" On which the President of Sindh High Court Bar Salahuddin said that we do not even know where the original audio clip is, we request to form an independent commission for inquiry. The Chief Justice remarked that all these things are related to the pending appeal, who has appeals, he did not demand an inquiry? Whatever order the court issues will have an effect on the pending appeals. Chief Justice Islamabad High Court inquired whether the High Court could issue an order in the writ petition which would affect the pending appeal. There is an allegation in your petition that the benches of this court were formed under some pressure. On which the counsel for the petitioner said that this allegation is not in my petition, this allegation was made in the affidavit of Rana Shamim. The Chief Justice inquired whether the court was compromised and was formed under bench pressure. Is there any small proof of this? When you say there should be an inquiry, it will be for the judges in the bench. Should you start an inquiry with the judges on someone's wish or statement? Lawyer Salahuddin said that the main request in my petition is to inquire into the audio clip of Saqib Nisar. In this audio clip it is not stated that on the other hand he is talking to a judge. Yes, this is not the time for us to declare someone guilty or innocent, it will be premature, these things will be seen during the inquiry, according to the forensic report of the audio clip it has not been edited. The Chief Justice asked where did you get this report from? To which Salahuddin Advocate said that he got this report from internet. The Chief Justice remarked that there are so many things on the internet, there is no reference to it. The court directed the petitioner to provide audio clip and adjourned the hearing till January 28.

NADRA centres to accept payments through JazzCash, EasyPaisa

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) in collaboration with JazzCash and EasyPaisa on Friday introduced the facility of accepting digital payments for its services at all NRCs. The citizens can now digitally pay the fee for ID card processing or other identity documents through their JazzCash, EasyPaisa app in real-time. NADRA embarks on adopting digital payments in partnership with JazzCash and EasyPaisa. This service complements the recently launched

Credit or Debit card payments at NRCs adding to public convenience by providing alternative digital payment methods along with the existing cash payment option. The service will be available to over 23 million mobile wallet customers. The inauguration ceremony, in this regard, took place at NADRA headquarters. Chairman NADRA Tariq Malik, CEO JazzCash Murtaza Ali and CEO Telenor Microfinance Bank and EasyPaisa, Mohammad Mudassar Aqil were present on the occasion. NADRA's collaboration with Mobile wallets for contact-

less payments is a major step towards a digital and documented economy, in line with the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the State Bank. Speaking on the launch of digital payment gateways for the citizens, Chairman NADRA Tariq Malik said that he envisioned NADRA to be a trailblazer in the field of identity management thereby vying for global standard, set forth. "While we tread aggressively on the path to achieve goals of smart governance and improved service delivery, providing convenience to the common man and society at large has been the

singular motive behind NADRA's digital intervention under my leadership," he said. Tariq Malik said that the digital payment platform provides easy payment options to a huge number of potential customers already registered with both JazzCash and EasyPaisa. NADRA Centers across the country have around 100,000 customers visiting NADRA centers every day. Digitalizing payment systems aims at bringing a huge customer base on digital net by offering them an easy and secure mode of payment while pivoting towards a Digital Pakistan, he added.

Senate body to convene meeting on South Asian Games

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Friday decided to convene a special meeting on the upcoming South Asian Games 2023 to be hosted by Pakistan. The committee which met here under the chairmanship of Senator Mian Raza

Rabbani said as far as South Asian Federation (SAF) Games 2023 were concerned some issues needed to be addressed regarding the holding of Games and its administrative and logistical planning and carrying out whether it was to be done by IPC Ministry, Pakistan Sports Board or Pakistan Olympics Association (POA). The Secretariat of the Committee would carry out a

research as to what was the practice in other countries where such international events were held. Whether they were under the auspices of the Olympics Association or any other Sports Body functioning within that country. At the outset, the Chairman Committee informed that the POA President Lt Gen (R) Arif Hasan was tested positive for COVID-19 and was admitted

to hospital, while the IPC Minister Dr Fehmida Mirza for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) was out of the country hence both were not present in the meeting. The Committee was perturbed that its directions given in the last meeting regarding appointment of a Grade-12 official on the post of Director, Pakistan Sports Board, Karachi, has still not been carried out.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi addressing the closing ceremony of Huawei ICT Competition 2021, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

Man stabs sister to death over property dispute

Amjad repeatedly attacked his sister with a knife, resulting in serious injuries to her

ATTOCK: A man killed his sister in Jand Tehsil of Attock by repeatedly attacking her with a knife over a property dispute. Later, the police arrested the man who was furious as to why his sister had not named her ancestral property in his name. According to the FIR registered at Basal police station, Syed Taqi Shah, the complainant, resident of Pind Sultani area of Jand, said that his sister was a teacher at a government school while his brother namely Syed Amjad Ali Shah worked at a private mill. "Today early in the morning, Amjad repeatedly attacked his sister with a knife, resulting in serious injuries to her. She was shifted to hospital, but died on the way. My brother, on the other hand, managed to flee from the scene," reads the FIR. It is further stated in the FIR that Amjad, on several occasions in the past, had demanded his sister to transfer her property in his name, but she always refused. "Irrked by her constant refusal, he killed her today to cool down his ire," says the complainant. - DNA

African delegation visits Pak to open Kenyan Market

The visit of Kenyan delegation was highly successful and the Kenyan experts expressed their satisfaction on the high standard of kinnow processing plants and strict compliance on implementation of quarantine procedures: Waheed Ahmed Shared

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The joint extensive efforts by All Pakistan fruit & vegetable Exporters Association (PFVA), Department of Plant Production (DPP) serving under the Federal Ministry of National Food Security & Research and Ministry of Commerce, paid rich dividends leading to the opening of an important international market in Africa. The quarantine experts from an African country, Kenya visited Pakistan during the current month to evaluate import of Pakistani

kinnow & mango to Kenya and expressed satisfaction on the standards of quarantine facilities. According to Waheed Ahmed, the Patron-in-Chief of All Pakistan Fruits and Vegetable Exporters Association, during Pakistan-Africa trade conference in January 2020, a delegation of PFVA had meetings with Kenyan importers and officials of the quarantine department and mutually agreed to explore the opportunities of export of Pakistani Kinnow to Kenya and agreed to finalize the quarantine protocols between the two countries.

Transforming this mutual understanding into a trade opportunity, Pakistani Embassy in Kenya and department of Plant Protection, played a vital role and accordingly a four-members' quarantine experts from Kenya visited Pakistan from 02-08 Jan. 2022 to inspect and accredit Hot water/Vapour heat treatment plants and cold sterilization facilities. The Kenyan delegation consisted of Prof. Theophilus Mutui Managing Director KEPHIS (Head of Delegation), Dr. Isaac Macharia General Manager Phyto-sanitary Services, Mr. George Momanyi

Chief Inspector and PRA Expert & Ms. Asenath Koech and visited kinnow orchards and inspected 33 plants and pack houses in Karachi, Multan and Bhalwal. The visit of Kenyan delegation was highly successful and the Kenyan experts expressed their satisfaction on the high standard of kinnow processing plants and strict compliance on implementation of quarantine procedures - Waheed Ahmed Shared. The vital role played by Sohail Shehzad (Director Technical-DPP) leading to this successful visit will have a far reaching posi-

tive impact on Pakistani exports. The PFVA has absorbed the complete expenses of this visit in a desperate desire to further enhance exports. According to Waheed Ahmed, after the successful visit of the quarantine delegation, it is strongly anticipated that export of Pakistani kinnow would commence to Kenya during the current season. He further hoped that Kenya would become a gateway for Pakistani exports in Eastern Africa and simultaneously with export of kinnow, the Kenyan market would prove to be a good market for Pakistani mango as well.

NA passes NMIP Bill pending since 1997

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Metrology Institute of Pakistan (NMIP) Bill, pending since 1997 has been passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan under the leadership of Minister for Science and Technology, Senator Shibli Faraz. According to the series of tweets from the Ministry of Science and Technology, the NMIP Bill has been passed in-line with requirements of UNIDO and National Quality Policy and International Standards. "The team at the Ministry of Science and Technology under the leadership of Senator Shibli Faraz is proud to announce that the Bill on NMIP has been passed by the National Assembly of Pakistan after 24 years!" "Quality culture hinges on parameters of Metrology, Standards, Testing and Accreditation in every country," it said. In Pakistan, there is a need to protect consumer's rights, quality of products and services and meet the World Trade Organization (WTO) regulatory needs of trading partners to safeguard our nation's interests," the tweets said. Meanwhile in his tweet, Senator Shibli Faraz said how unfortunate that the Bill on the National Metrology Institute of Pakistan was pending since 1997. "It is successfully passed after almost 24 years! Extremely grateful to every-one who supported this".

RCB RO receives 10 nomination papers

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The Returning Officer (RO) of Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) Ward 2 by-elections has received total 10 nomination papers. The nomination papers of Zain ul Abidin son of Muhammad Ijaz, Rashid Mehmood s/o Muhammad Sharif, Shoukat Ayub s/o Muhammad Ayub Khan, Syed Imran Ali Kazmi s/o Syed Qurban Hussain Kazmi, Muhammad Qasim s/o Ali Muhammad, Tahir Ayub s/o Abdul Qayyum Malik, Muhammad Aamir s/o Wali Muhammad, Asghar Khan s/o Jan Muhammad, Shoukat Ali Butt s/o Muhammad Rafique Butt and Aamir Rauf s/o Abdul Rauf were submitted for the by-elections which will be held on February 9. The local government elections were postponed in RCB Ward 2 due to death of a female candidate. The nomination papers were issued from January 3 and collected between January 10 to 13 in accordance with the schedule issued by Election Commission of Pakistan for the by-elections. The final list of the candidate will be released on January 27. The code of conduct already issued for the candidates will be in force for the by-elections.

PAEC's 19th Cancer Hospital inaugurated

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) formally inaugurated its 19th Atomic Energy Cancer Hospital (AECHE) named Gilgit Institute of Nuclear Medicine, Oncology and Radiotherapy (GINOR) here on Friday. Addressing the inaugural ceremony as chief guest via video link, Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Asad Umar said, "Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission has been assigned the vital role of flag-bearer in Atoms for Peace program envisioned by International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). He said that the Commission has been rendering commendable national service for decades through application of nuclear technology in the fields of nuclear power, agriculture and biotechnology, and industrial usage. However, the most appreciable role played by PAEC has been witnessed in health sector especially for diagnosis and treatment of Cancer through its AECHEs." - APP

Briefs

Women Bill 2022 passed by Senate

ISLAMABAD: The protection against Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Amendment) Bill, 2022, amended by the Senate has been passed by the National Assembly.

The Bill was drafted by the Ministry of Human Rights to increase participation of women in the workforce and to remove the lacunas present in the protection against harassment law in Pakistan, said in a press release issued here on Friday. The Bill increases the ambit and scope of the law to include certain professions and employment models that the current legislation does not expressly mention and provides protection from harassment to people engaged in all types of work. The Amendment Bill will also provide clarity with respect to different kinds of harassment that take place at the workplace.

The Bill aims to amend the definitions provided in the Act, particularly those of "complainant", "employee", "employer", "harassment" & "workplace" to remove ambiguities that litigants have faced & to increase the scope of workplace to include all forms & categories of work. The Bill also aims to set time-lines for appeals against orders of the Ombudsman under the Act. — APP

Ayub for better services at airports

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (HRD), Muhammad Ayub Afridi Friday directed all agencies/departments to provide better services to the passengers especially overseas Pakistanis along with improvement of infrastructure at all airports.

He along with Managing Director, Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) paid a surprise visit to the Islamabad International Airport (IIAP) to check facilitation and services being extended by airport management and various agencies including overseas Pakistanis, said a news release.

Advisor to the Prime Minister on Overseas Pakistanis and HRD visited international departure lounge coinciding with the departure of two flights for Abu Dhabi and Muscat.

In the international departure lounge before proceeding to the check-in counters, passenger handling at physical search, baggage check and narcotic control counters were visited to witness the operating procedure and equipment being used for physical search, baggage clearance and narcotics check of passengers by respective focal agencies. — APP

11,000 traditional brick kilns

ISLAMABAD: All 11,000 traditional brick kilns, running on smog-causing fossil fuels, in the entire Punjab province, had been converted 100 percent on the new environment friendly zig-zag technology in a period of six months. The new technology would help reduce breath-choking carbon emissions by 60 percent and help save energy by 30 percent, said spokesperson Ministry of Climate Change, Muhammad Saleem Shaikh here on Friday.

Talking to APP, he said the zig-zag kiln technology had been established to embellish fuel efficiency, energy savings, and lessening in emissions by 60 percent as compared to traditional brick kilns. The owners of remaining brick kiln owners, who had not yet installed the pollution control technology, had now submitted affidavits with Pak-EPA Islamabad to convert their kilns to environment-friendly zig-zag technology. "Conversion of the all traditional brick kilns to new Zig-zag technology in Punjab province has helped reduce air pollution by about 15 percent", he commented. The spokesperson said converting the traditional brick kiln system to modern technology was a difficult task which required investment and training. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Lis Rosenholm Ambassador of Denmark to Pakistan interacts with members of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus – a cross party forum for women legislators. — DNA

NSP's public version to clarify national security direction

"It has been very important for the country other than many others to have its policy formed and made public before the world and its citizens"

RANA FARRUKH/DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Security Adviser, Dr Moeed Yusuf on Friday said the country's first-ever National Security Policy's public version released here would help clarify the country's direction and intent to ensure national defense envisioned in the policy. Addressing the launching ceremony of the public version of National Security Policy (NSP) of 50 pages, the National Security Adviser (NSA) shed light on the key features of the 110-page Policy approved for five years (2022-26).

Dr Moeed said Pakistan is a country where a huge debate was made over national security since its creation and the world also discussed it. "We have observed the national security policies all over the world and there are very few countries that are so confident to codify the major aspects of this policy and make public most of its part for the masses and the world.

So that they could see what is the direction, intent and where the nation is heading in terms of national security. "It has been very important for the country other than many others to have its policy formed and made public before the world and its citizens," the NSA said. Economic Security, he said at the core was not only words as this conversation became vogue since this government came into power. "This (economic security) has been discussed earlier but it has been clearly mentioned in this policy." This policy document, after collaboration with relevant ministries had defined the term of national security and explained why economic security would be placed at its core," he underlined. After that, we will achieve our prime goal of a citizen's physical and economic security as the responsibility of the state and its number priority," Dr Moeed said. However, governance, transparency and accountability were not



considered under national security, he said, "NSP has clarified that unless governance is not considered in the ambit of national security then no national cohesion or unity could be perceived. The protection envisioned under the NSP could not be possible sans good governance, accountability, and transparency. Commenting on the key elements of NSP, the NSA said that education had a direct connection with the national security. It was needed to be reviewed whether either the education being imparted to the youth was

uniting the nation or creating more division. And also that the education is either creating the trained and skilled human resource ensuring economic security of the country. Without quality education, no economic security could be achieved. "He noted that geoeconomics has been repeatedly flagged for the past one and half years by the national leadership including the prime minister. "I want to clarify that geoeconomics is not a separate thing from geo-strategy as our focus on the latter will remain because we have no option to deviate from it given the region we are living in.

"But we will further emphasise on geoeconomics in the future, meaning that our location is being used as corridor and development partnerships where we will invite the world to invest and benefit from Pakistan's economy." In the end, he said human security was discussed in the NSP that ensured individual security and included population, the youth, climate,

food, and health security. "These elements are discussed in NSP as without these sectors national security definition is meaningless." The NSA desired that after completion of this process the common citizen of the country should own this policy and question its implementation and also raise queries in case of non-implementation. "This is the only policy that has its implementation mechanism prepared prior to its launch." The National Security Committee chaired by the Prime Minister has the civil and military leadership of the country on board that gave the approval of the maiden NSP of the country. "Prime Minister Imran Khan gave me two directions after the approval of NSP that first, NSD will be bound to update the NSP after every month on implementation of NSP. Second, the NSP should be completely made public and transparent so that the nation and the world should see what direction is set by the country.



ISLAMABAD: Farrukh Habib, minister of state for information and broadcasting reciting Fatiha for the deceased soul of the brother of Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani. — DNA

Admin accelerates registration of Ehsaas ration drive

RAWALPINDI: The district administration has accelerated the registration of grocery stores and families under the ongoing Ehsaas Ration Registration drive. According to a district administration spokesman, the administration on the directives of Commissioner Rawalpindi Gulzar Husain Shah had expedited the registration process. The commissioner had

also directed the administration to review the registration process of grocery stores for Ehsaas Ration program, he added. According to Additional Deputy Commissioner, at present the whole world was suffering from severe wave of inflation and in these circumstances the federal government had launched Ehsaas Ration Program under which 20

million families across the country would get relief and a huge amount of Rs 120 billion had been allocated for the program. He said that under this program the process of registration of grocery stores had been reviewed where subsidy would be provided to the needy families. He said that for this purpose grocery stores were being registered with National

Bank of Pakistan and subsidy amount would be provided in their bank accounts. A monthly subsidy of Rs 1,000 would be granted to every eligible family on the purchase of flour, cooking oil or ghee and pulses. A subsidy of Rs 22 per kg would be given on the flour, Rs55 per kg on pulses and Rs105 per liter/kg on cooking oil or ghee at the designated Kiriyana shops. — APP

Minister asks lawmakers to ensure Parliament's sanctity

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan on Friday said it was the prime responsibility of the elected representatives to strengthen the democratic norms and ensure the sanctity of the Parliament. Speaking on floor of the National Assembly, he criticized opposition parties' attitude exhibited in the House the other day and said chair of the NA Speaker must be given the due respect. "Protest is the right of opposition parties but it should be in a respectable way." He said hurling papers on the chair of Speaker National Assembly was regrettable, as the government was ready to listen to the protest of the opposition parties with open heart. Responding to a question of Shazia Marri, the minister said the honorarium announced by the finance minister would be ensured to the employees who performed duties during the budget session. The minister said he had discussed with the finance minister to include the staffers of Press Information Department (PID) and Radio Pakistan in the honorarium list. Khawaja Muhammad Asif of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) said that it was up to the members of the House to ensure the respect of the chair. He was of the view that the treasury bench's attitude was inappropriate when they get passed bills from the House the other day. — APP

AIOU opens first phase of admissions

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has opened first phase of admissions for Semester Spring, 2022. The University has offered admissions in Matric, FA, I.Com, BS, M.Sc, MS/M.Phil and Ph.D. programs of various academic disciplines. According to Director Admissions, admission forms and prospectuses for all the programs have been provided on the University website. It is pertinent to mention here that admission forms and prospectuses for Matric and FA programs can also be obtained from the University's main campus, regional campuses / liaison offices and prospectus sale points established across the country. However, this facility is available only for Matric and FA programs. Admission forms of the other programs including BS, M.Sc, MS/M.Phil and Ph.D can only be submitted online. Under the university's new policy and digitalization of its academic and evaluation processes, overseas Pakistani as well as international students from around the world can now enroll in Matric, FA and Icom programs. Admissions, workshops, teaching and examination of the international students will be conducted online. — DNA

COMSTECH, IsDB join hand to enhance cooperation

Coordinator General, COMSTECH and the officials of IsDB agreed to enhance cooperation between COMSTECH and Islamic Development Bank for the socio-economic development and prosperity of Ummah

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary, met with Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) officials in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. During the meeting Prof. Choudhary discussed COMSTECH Africa programme and recently held Eye camps and neuro critical workshops in Niger and The Gambia. He explored COMSTECH - IsDB partnership avenues and informed the officials on the status of COMSTECH projects submitted to IsDB. Prof. Choudhary briefed on the implementation status of the OIC STI Agenda 2026 and pondered upon prospective COMSTECH-IsDB joint initiatives that should



jointly be taken for the prosperity of the OIC member states. Coordinator General, COMSTECH and the officials of IsDB agreed to enhance cooperation between COMSTECH and the Islamic Development Bank for the socio-economic development and prosperity of the Ummah. The IsDB officials include Acting Director-General, Global Practice & Partnerships, Mr. Amer Bukvic, STI Strategy Division Manager & STI Department Focal Point, Mr. Mohamed Shaker Hebara, Acting Director, Regional Cooperation and Integration Department, Mr. Riad Ragheb Ahmed, Senior Technical Cooperation Coordinator, Mr. Sameh Hussein, Initiatives officer, Ahmad Shawesh, and Technical Assistant, Bandr Al Harbi, STI Department.

Govt. brings much-needed reforms: Hammad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar Friday said the government had brought the much-needed reforms to streamline the matters related to pricing of the imported gas for the domestic sector, new electricity generation contracts through a competitive and transparent process.

Elaborating the two key energy reforms, the minister tweeted that the law allowing "the government to price in imported gas for domestic supplies has been passed by the National Assembly and now it will be sent to the Senate."

Describing the law as 'historic and much-needed reform,' he said it would help ensure the energy security of the country. Besides, the minister said a few months ago the government passed the IGCEP (Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion Plan) framework from the Council of Common Interests. The framework, he said "ensures that the government will only sign new contracts for electricity when required and only through a competitive and transparent process. This too is a key reform away from the previous practice of controversial procurements."

Small town in Pakistan thrives

ISLAMABAD: The robust growth in business and commercial activities being witnessed in Qalandarabad, a small town in Mansehra district of Pakistan's KP province, is an example of how China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is transforming economic landscapes of the areas it passes through.

According to a Gwadar Pro's report, in Qalandarabad, a town between Abbottabad and Mansehra, the M-15 (Hazara Motorway of CPEC) connects with the historic N35 (Karakoram Highway or China-Pakistan Friendship Highway).

This junction has become a new centre of economic activities as people from the surrounding hilly areas as well as Kohistan district of KP have started settling here in search of better livelihood. "The town has grown enough during the past few years after the inauguration of CPEC M-15 so that people now don't need to travel to Mansehra or Abbottabad for shopping," a trader told Gwadar Pro. Safdar Hussain, a local resident, said that a few years back, this small town was famous for its German-run charity hospital, Bach Christian Hospital, but now for its growing commercial activities. — APP

SMEDA to organize 3-day workshop

ISLAMABAD: The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA) will organize a three-day workshop on "Import Export Documentation Procedures" for profitable business growth from 28 to 30 January.

The session will be organized by SMEDA under National Business Development Program (NBDDP) for SMEs, to extend non-financial advisory services to small and medium businesses, according to sources in the authority informed on Monday.

The training program will provide information about international trade, its importance, benefits, risk and barriers, understanding of end to end process of international trade, understanding of HS code, effective documentation for import, export, understanding of customs clearance process, international modes of payments, understanding of ICC's incoterms, customs and ports procedures.

The workshop will also provide information Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) rules and regulations, calculations of cost, marine insurance, custom duties/taxes, landed cost, rebates, understanding of PSW, REX, trade map, market assess map and other allied application.

The session would be attended by training services, consultancy services, business support services, SMEs owners and their relevant staff. — APP

Karachi's waste management

AN important development with regards to waste management has taken place in Karachi since Wednesday. The Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) has started door-to-door garbage collection in District West and District Keamari. This programme is in connection to the induction last week of a fleet of 140 mini tippers in those districts. Of the 140 tippers, 40 are electronic tippers indicating that the SSWMB took in consideration international standards for garbage management and to eliminate illegal garbage dumps from across Karachi. Karachi has a waste and garbage problem. The city that was once known as the Paris of Asia has had several major garbage outbreaks—overpopulation, mismanagement of sanitation systems and rising crime has seen many of the city's areas, streets and roads choked by overflowing gutters and tall garbage dumps. This has not always been the case though—Karachi's history, both under the British and in Pakistan till the 1970s, has seen the city with a well-built sanitation mechanism, with Karachi's road being washed with water regularly. Unfortunately, the reality today is far from it. Our current system is extremely ill-equipped to handle the mega city's waste. However, recent years have seen efforts from both the provincial and central government to invest more into this important issue, yet despite such efforts, including taking help from Chinese companies to process waste in the city, garbage and waste still remain a problem, indicating that this is not just a government issue. Door-to-door garbage collection and public-private partnerships are examples of these initiatives. While door-to-door garbage collection is a service government's solely provide in many countries of the world, our current system has no designated areas and private contractors collecting trash and disposing of it in whatever way is most convenient. Keeping Karachi clean will mean encouraging private involvement in this initiative as well.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 213

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Upcoming census

THE Federal Government plans to seek the approval of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) for recommendations regarding 7th Population and Housing Census 2022. According to reports, the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives has already finalised the questionnaire of the census and a summary of the work plan has been sent to the CCI.

The upcoming census has been garnering more attention than usual because this will be the first-ever digital census of the country. The issue has also been overly politicised and while there were legitimate concerns regarding the implementation of technology without building in the requisite mechanisms and capacity, it is now time to put the debate to bed and proceed with the exercise. In line with international standards, the government does plan on using the GIS monitoring system which is encouraging. The introduction of technology will improve the quality and processing of data for planning purposes, however its implementation on such a mass scale will be a challenge given how the exercise has been planned and scheduled in a somewhat hasty manner. Also, considering how in 2017 there were issues with both under and double counting which aggrieved several provinces, the hope is that this time around issues relating to enumeration will be remedied and that there will be greater transparency of data which will help build trust among the center and provinces. One can hope that going forward, this exercise will not be the subject of political controversies and that the authorities now have a better understanding regarding why the census is carried out in the first place. One positive this time around is that fact that the CNIC requirement has been waived as it excludes marginalised communities. Additionally, disabled and trans people will also be factored into the enumeration process. This is an exercise for the people, and it must be as inclusive as possible.

The meaning of good governance in the Arab world

Mohamed ElBaradei

Ask people anywhere about their fears and aspirations, and their answer will be identical except for a few minor differences

MY work as a diplomat and an international civil servant necessitated spending many years away from home. I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to travel around the world and become familiar with many cultures and peoples. Perhaps one of the most important lessons I learned that shaped my vision and my thinking is that – contrary to conventional wisdom – we are one human family. Our hopes and apprehensions are the same. Our joy and grief are also the same. Our basic values of justice, equality, and solidarity do not differ, regardless of creed, ethnicity, language or colour.

Ask people anywhere about their fears and aspirations, and their answer will be identical except for a few minor differences. If this simple yet profound truth were genuinely accepted, we would not be witnessing such violence, persecution, misery and endless tragedies. In other words, if we understood that equality, justice and solidarity are the way to our salvation, the world would be a different place, whether it is in the relations between states or among peoples everywhere or within each state. When I look at the impact of the absence of equality, justice and solidarity on our Arab causes, including the injustice suffered by the Palestinian people and the threat posed by the Israeli nuclear weapons programme, I often wonder whether the world's attitude regarding our regional issues would have been different if our concept of national security was informed by the public good and not subject to personal whims.

I also ask myself whether the international community would have reacted differently to our legitimate concerns, had our relations with each other been constant and not subject to seasonal changes – if what we said in public was the same as what we did behind closed doors, if our peoples were considered a source of strength, not a liability we must contain, and if we grasped that most disagreements end in reconciliation which means that no matter how bitter the enmity we should not burn our bridges. I also wonder whether things would have changed if our decisions were based on an accurate assessment of our common interest and a national security policy that takes into account our soft and hard power capabilities and the importance of timing in our strategic decision making. If we want the world to care about us, we must care about the world. On many of the global issues including the nuclear arms race, climate change, the technology revolution, and women's rights, we are not active participants in the ongoing debate, unless we believe that it impacts us directly. And even when we do participate, it is often from a narrow regional perspective and in a language that the rest of the world does not understand. If we examine all the Arab uprisings during the last decade, we will find that the quest for equality and justice has been the driver of all those revolts where the system did not tolerate any other means to bring about change. Despite relentless efforts in the region to portray the Arab Spring as a conspiracy and a harbinger of chaos, I have no doubt it will make a comeback in one form or another, as long as its root causes have not been addressed. Tunisia and Sudan are current cases in point. The meaning of equality expressed by the Arab uprisings in different ways can be summed up as follows: We are all equal in our "belonging to the homeland" which entitles us to be partners in its governance; the principle of justice must be upheld and the rights of every human being respected without discrimination. Participation in governance means a system of good governance that guarantees equality, pluralism, transparency, accountability, rotation of power,

an independent judiciary, robust civil society and free media. Democracy is not a perfect system, but it is the best that our contemporary world has come up with to attain human dignity. A democratic system is by no means limited to the ballot box; it is a comprehensive paradigm based on institutions, not individuals. It requires a civil society to raise awareness of the culture of democracy and consolidate its practices. However, it primarily requires a genuine consensus on a social contract, which guarantees freedom, equality and dignity for all. These are some of the basic concepts that are in decline in large parts of our Arab world despite being key to our "renaissance". The nexus between good governance and progress is unmistakable. There are some core truths that we ought to embrace if we want to better our lives: nobody possesses the ultimate truth; the sanctity of life is absolute; all human beings have equal rights; human rights are inalienable; science is key to progress; poverty is a form of violence; compassion and tolerance are the essence of humanity; and in the end there is no alternative to living together. These values and core truths should be our compass at home as well as in our interactions with the rest of the world. This means coming together to address the global challenges we face, including climate change, weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, pandemics, organised crime and cyber security. Cooperation in a globalised world is a practical necessity as much as an ethical imperative since no country, no matter how powerful, can cope with these dangers on its own. It is unfortunate that often our words do not match our actions. For example, everyone is aware of the climate crisis, but only very few are willing to do what it takes to confront it. Everyone warns of the danger of the pandemic, but at the same time we see toxic nationalism and blatant discrimination in the production and distribution of the vaccine. Unless we reset our collective mindset and make radical adjustments in the international system to be more just and equitable, I fear we will continue on a path that may lead to our self-destruction.

– Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Fairness cast aside in French election race

Zaid M. Belbagi



This year's election candidates will continue to cater to right-wing voters, who see the last bastions of a great French legacy being under threat, whether from immigrants, COVID-19 or the EU

THE victory of a young Emmanuel Macron over the far-right Marine Le Pen in 2017's French presidential election runoff was seen as a sensational vindication of centrist and globalization. Having since seemingly molded into the gilded Elysee Palace he occupies, the once fresh face of French politics now disapprovingly addresses the nation behind the unmistakable dark blue tie of the establishment. The man who sought to get France moving in a spirit of progressiveness has given way to the widening fissures that weaken the country. Faced with an emboldened Le Pen and the rabid xenophobia of populist Eric Zemmour, Macron has chosen to outdo their divisive rhetoric. Last week he vowed to hassle the unvaccinated, conforming to an authoritarian and confrontational stance that has come to characterize his term in office. France on Tuesday recorded 368,149 new COVID-19 cases – a record high. Amid this disaster, the French president, who had long derided outbreaks in other nations, was left isolated and entirely to blame in some quarters. His government has introduced a draft bill that aims to mandate all people aged over 12 to prove their vaccination status in order to access leisure activities, restaurants and bars, fairs, and public transport. A negative test will no longer be sufficient, according to Macron, who vowed to ruin the lives of the unvaccinated "until the bitter end." Debate on the bill was delayed by this threat, but it passed through parliament with 214 votes in favor, 93 against and significant abstentions. It will now proceed to the Senate and is expected to come into force in the second half of the month. In a republic whose first central tenet is "liberty," the bill is controversial, as it further empowers the long arm of the state. There have also been criticisms of the confrontational spirit in which it has been pursued. In marginalizing as many as 5 million citizens, the bill has been panned on both sides of the political spectrum. The socialist Jean-Luc Melenchon, who has long sparred with the president over the more intrusive elements of his policies, said Macron had no right to "use such appalling language." Christian Jacob, president of the Republicans party, was unyielding in his criticism of the bill, which "was presented with the sole objective to piss off the French. Is this your intention?" The controversy is all the more dramatic as the country

gears up for an election in just three months' time – and Macron has yet to throw his hat in the ring.

In April last year, 20 retired generals, as well as several serving soldiers, signed an open letter warning that failure to act against the "suburban hordes" – a reference to the predominantly immigrant populations of the housing estates surrounding French cities – could lead to a coup d'etat. The letter, published on the 60th anniversary of a failed coup by generals opposed to France granting independence to Algeria, was strongly condemned. It became a turning point, as it was welcomed by Le Pen and led to Zemmour's entrance into the electoral fray. With Macron reeling from his divisive comments about Islam and after months of violent and disruptive "yellow vest" protests caused by his economic policies, the incident typified the scale of disappointment in certain circles over the apparently waning French state.

The pandemic has provided another forum for the front runners to show their leadership credentials. However, it has also shown that divisiveness has come to dominate contemporary French political polemics at a time when the country must unite. While Macron has borne the brunt of the French public's disappointment with economic stagnation and unpopular reforms, Zemmour has offered an image of a France that is determined and independent through his Reconquest party. Though Macron has sought to show strength by forcing through the vaccination agenda, in his haste to do so he has failed to account for the importance of freedom and independence in French political culture, which is a refuge of both the left and the right.

The squabble over the importance of a strong French state that the COVID-19 bill represents has similarly informed debates about French history. Both Zemmour and Macron have sought to embrace Bonapartism in an effort to inherit the "grandeur" of imperial France that they believe voters crave. On last year's 200th anniversary of Napoleon's death, Macron risked the "woke" generation's outrage by unequivocally stating: "We love Napoleon because his life gives us a taste of what is possible... he understood the greatness of the country." Simultaneously, Zemmour has understood that the French public like their presidents to be exceptional and he has lost no time in fighting over Napoleon's legacy. The one-time presenter on the xenophobic CNews television channel now refers to himself as a Gaullo-Bonapartist, emphasizing the importance of "great men" in the fate of a country.

This year's election candidates will continue to cater to right-wing voters, who see the last bastions of a great French legacy being under threat, whether from immigrants, COVID-19 or the EU. This is where the election will be won or lost. It is unfortunate that the candidates will, therefore, seek to continue to appeal to such voters with ever more extreme policies, rather than employ the stability and rationale of the enlightenment that the republic represents and so desperately needs today. Former President Francois Mitterrand famously said that "the French will elect the person who tells them the story they want to hear at a given moment, provided they seem legitimate and fair." It would seem that this year, however, the most unfair may rise to the top.

– Courtesy: Arab News

The misrepresentation of Rumi

Muhammad Mujtaba Iqbal



The popularization of Rumi in the West is owed mainly to Coleman Barks, the man behind the most popular translations of Rumi's poetry

A poet, faqih, scholar, theologian, and mystic, Muhammad Jalal al-Din Balkhi – known popularly as Rumi – is arguably the most popular poet in the modern world. Born in 13th century Khurasan, Rumi's path to enlightenment has remained an inspiration to his followers for centuries, offering wisdom to all its seekers. Transcending national borders and ethnic divisions, his name and the translations of his verses remain on the tongue of all modern spiritualists – Muslim devotees and general enthusiasts alike.

The popularization of Rumi in the West is owed mainly to Coleman Barks, the man behind the most popular translations of Rumi's poetry (written originally in Persian). In a world where most poetry is seen as esoteric, Barks' hundreds of thousands of copies sold signify a seemingly commendable feat. However, Barks himself is more an interpreter than a translator: he speaks no Persian and does not consult the Persian source text in authoring his "translations." Instead, Barks has relied entirely on other English translations of Rumi. In his own words, Barks says, "Of course, as I work on these poems, I don't have the Persian to consult. I literally have nothing to be faithful to, except what the scholars give." In doing so, Barks presents a view of Rumi that fails to show the full picture behind Rumi's verses. The problem transcends beyond just the West, with non-Persian speakers worldwide – including the Muslim world – grasping on to the image of Rumi presented by Barks, reading a body of work entirely different from that intended by the author. To compare, let us shift our focus towards a sample verse. Coleman Barks' translation says: Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I'll meet you there. In stark contrast, a translation by Persian Poetics (via @PersianPoetics on Twitter) says: Beyond kufr and Islam there is a desert plain, in that middle space our passions reign. When the gnostic arrives there he'll prostrate himself, not kufr not Islam nor is there any space in that domain. In preparing a more

presentable version of Rumi, Barks strips away the cultural, religious, and spiritual essence which defines much of Rumi's work. The stylistic difference is also clear: while Rumi's original poetry was metered and rhymed, Barks switches to free verse. The problem stretches beyond just Barks' translation – a whole host of writers such as Shihram Shiva, John Moyné, Andrew Harvey, and Deepak Chopra all face similar accusations of misrepresenting the essence of Rumi's message. A translation from an unknown source reads: Come, come, whoever you are. Wanderer, worshiper, lover of leaving. It doesn't matter. Ours is a caravan of despair. Come, even if you have broken your vows a thousand times come, yet again, come, come. A more accurate translation by Persian Poetics (via @PersianPoetics on Twitter) reads: Come again come again whatever you are come again. If you're a kafir or idol-worshiper come again. With the mass adoption of social media, inaccurate translations only spread further. When false quotes spread like wildfire, the importance of recognizing and actively combating them only increases. The first step in this comes with recognizing writers who pay due respect to Rumi's message and not their own. Notable among them, Jawid Mo-jaddedi is in the midst of a project to translate the Masnavi. In remaining true to Rumi, his translations may require more effort to read and challenge preconceptions, but truly understanding the foreign is precisely that: retaining the text's original spirit instead of adapting it to your own beliefs.

Briefs

Jan 13
darkest...

FROM PAGE 01

Pakistan," media reported. Referring to Thursday when the National Assembly passed the State Bank of Pakistan (Amendment) Bill 2021 and the supplementary finance bills with a majority vote, Abbasi – who was holding a press conference in Islamabad along with other party leaders, said that "January 13 was the darkest day for the Parliament as the bills were approved without any discussion."

Former prime minister said that bills being passed in the Senate without discussion is unprecedented, adding that, "Bills from NA session were approved in a haste and even the government was unable to elaborate the situation." Abbasi further said that the incumbent government is handing over the country's economic keys to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and nothing is more dangerous than this, adding that, "the burden of more than Rs700 billion have been placed on the nation's shoulder." Abbasi went on to say that "no rules and constitutional guidelines were followed during the voting for the bills and it all happened in the prime minister's presence," he added. The PML-N leader said that such things happen when a "disgraced government comes to power and the prime minister resorts to telling lies."

On the occasion, former finance minister and PML-N leader Miftah Ismail said that the IMF is asking to reduce the budget deficit but instead of taking austerity measures, the government decided to impose further taxes. Ismail said that in the supplementary bills, the incumbent government has imposed a tax on chicken feed as this step will ultimately increase chicken prices in the country too.

Medical board...

FROM PAGE 01

supremo Nawaz Sharif's health reports submitted in Lahore High Court (LHC), media reported. A special medical board comprising nine senior doctors will submit their report to the provincial government in five days after evaluation of former premier Nawaz Sharif's medical report regarding his health condition.

PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif left for London in November 2019 following his illness as Prime Minister Imran Khan had granted him permission to go abroad for medical treatment.

In the light of the medical board's recommendations, the next course of action will be devised by the government to bring Nawaz Sharif back to the country and to initiate legal proceedings against Shahbaz Sharif as the guarantor of his brother.

Punjab government spokesperson Hassan Khawar confirmed that a notification has been issued in this regard, according to which the medical board comprise Dr Mohammad Arif Nadeem, Dr Ghias-un-Nabi Tayyab, Dr Saqib Saeed, Dr Shahid Hameed, Dr Bilal S Mohi-uddin, Dr Ambreen Hamid, Dr Shafiqur-Rehman, Dr Moona Aziz, and Dr Khadija Irfan. In the light of the federal cabinet's decision, the attorney-general for Pakistan (AGP) had written a letter to the Punjab government directing it to receive an opinion from relevant experts regarding the medical reports of former premier Nawaz Sharif submitted in LHC and assess whether his condition has improved.

Soldier martyred...

FROM PAGE 01

[martyrdom], it added. Separately, One terrorist was killed while two others were apprehended during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) by security forces in Miranshah, North Waziristan, the military's media affairs wing said in a statement on Friday.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), security forces conducted the IBO on the reported presence of terrorists. "Weapons and ammunition [were] also recovered from [the] terrorists. Area clearance operation in progress to hunt down any other terrorist in the area," the ISPR said.

Australia cancels Novak Djokovic's visa again

"Australians have made many sacrifices during this pandemic, and they rightly expect the result of those sacrifices to be protected"

SPORTS DESK

SYDNEY: Novak Djokovic is set to be detained on Saturday after Australia cancelled his visa for a second time, in a row over his right to remain in the country unvaccinated. The decision on "health and good order" grounds means he faces deportation and a three-year visa ban.

Djokovic's lawyers called the decision "patently irrational" and will appeal. The men's tennis number one is still scheduled to play in the Australian Open in Melbourne on Monday. "Today I exercised my power... to cancel the visa held by Mr Novak Djokovic on health and good order grounds, on the basis that it was in the public interest to do so," Immigration Minister Alex Hawke said in a statement.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said that the decision followed "careful consideration." Alluding to the heavy criticism his government has faced for allowing the unvaccinated player into Australia, Mr Morrison said: "Australians have made many sacrifices during this pandemic, and they rightly expect the result of those sacrifices to be protected." At an emergency late-night court hearing shortly after the decision was announced on Friday, Judge Anthony Kelly ruled that Djokovic cannot be deported while the appeal proceedings are happening. An appeal hearing is expected on Sunday.

The judge also said the government could detain Djokovic after he meets immigration officials in Melbourne on Saturday morning. However, he will be allowed to go to his lawyers' offices to prepare his case ahead of Sunday's hearing. Djokovic's legal team called the minister's decision to cancel the visa "patently irrational".



Citing a government document with more details on why it was revoked, Djokovic's lawyer, Nicholas Wood, said it was not because he is a danger to the public, but because "he will excite anti-vax sentiment". Although Djokovic is not vaccinated, he has not actively promoted anti-vax disinformation. However, Australian anti-vaxxers have been using the hashtag #IStandWithDjokovic on social media. Mr Wood added that the minister had chosen to "remove a man of good standing" from Australia and "impair" his future career over anti-vaccination comments Djokovic had made in 2020.

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. View original tweet on Twitter. The nine-time Australian Open winner was hoping to defend his title next week, which if he won, would make him the most successful male tennis player in history with a record 21 Grand Slam titles.

Visa saga 'not great for tennis, Novak'

SYDNEY: Former world number one Andy Murray said Friday the Novak Djokovic saga is not good for tennis or the Australian Open but refused to stick the boot into his rival "whilst he's down". The 20-time Grand Slam winner's visa has been cancelled for a second time in a new attempt to deport the unvaccinated Djokovic just days before the opening major of the year, where he would be defending his title. British veteran Murray, a five-time finalist at Melbourne Park, said the saga had dragged on too long. "I mean, it's not a good situation," said the three-time Grand Slam winner after reaching his first final since 2019 at the Sydney Classic. But he added: "I'm not going to sit here and start kicking Novak whilst he's down. "It just seems like it's dragged on for quite a long time now and not great for the tennis, not great for the Australian Open, not great for Novak." Murray said he wasn't clear on what would happen next or whether the top seed could play his first-round match of the Australian Open against fellow Serb Miomir Kecmanovic next week. "I don't know what route he goes down, if he can appeal that and how long that takes, and can he still be out practising whilst that process is going on or still competing in the tournament?" he said. "Yeah, just want it obviously to get resolved. – News Desk

S. Africa beat India to win series



SPORTS DESK

CAPE TOWN: South Africa secured a 2-1 series victory over India with a seven-wicket victory in the third Test in Cape Town. Keegan Petersen, who top-scored with 72 in the Proteas' first innings, hit 82 as they completed a chase of 212 on day four at Newlands.

The target had been set up by India's Rishabh Pant, whose entertaining 100 not out on Thursday underpinned India's second-innings 198. The teams will play a three-match one-day series starting on Wednesday. It is only the fourth time in history India have lost a series after winning the first Test. Petersen fell with 57 needed, but Rassie van der Dussen, who made an unbeaten 41, and Temba Bavuma, with 32 not out, guided South Africa home.

"I'm pretty elated," said South Africa captain Dean Elgar. "It will sink in in a day or two, maybe this evening. I couldn't be prouder of the group. "After the first loss [in Centurion], I had a lot of hope knowing we can still win this. I asked the players to respond in a better nature, better way and they responded brilliantly." Petersen's fluent innings spanned only 113 balls before he was bowled by Shardul Thakur. The 28-year-old right-hander also scored a half-century in the second Test victory in Johannesburg. "He's dominated domestic cricket, and it's awesome to see him have a great series," said Elgar.

IPC Minister, President POA summoned in Senate body

Secretary IPC informed the committee that federal govt sanction the amount of Rs 9 bn for organizing the SAF games and the international event will be held by govt in collaboration with POA

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: The Senate Standing Committee on Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) has decided to summon Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Fehmida Mirza and President of Pakistan Olympic Association (POA) on the issue of hosting upcoming South Asian Federations (SAF) Games to be held in Pakistan in March 2023.

The senate committee met here on Friday at Parliament House under the chairmanship of Senator Mian Raza Rabbani while in which Senator Irfan ul Haq Siddiqui, Senator Faisal Javed, Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmed, Senator Mush-taq Ahmed, Federal Secretary Inter-Provincial Coordination Mohsin Mushtaq Chandana and other officials were also attended the meeting.

"Senator Irfan ul Haq Siddiqui raised the important issue of hosting and organizing the upcoming edition of SAF Games in Pakistan next year and asked from ministry officials whether SAF Games will be organized by the Ministry of IPC or Pakistan Olympic Association?", adding that we don't want to be a spectacle of Pakistan in

the world as it is globally practice that only Olympic Associations are conducting the international games.

The other members of committee also shown their concerns on the important issue asked from ministry that who has the authority to host and conduct SAF Games in Pakistan either ministry having mandate to organize the games at international level?

Secretary IPC Mohsin Chandana informed the committee that federal government sanction the amount of Rs. 9 Billion for organizing the SAF games and the international event will be held by government in collaboration with Pakistan Olympic Association. He added that steering committee of SAF Games headed by federal minister Asad Umar could not be held due to unavailability of IPC Minister Fehmida Mirza and it will be held soon.

The house decided to convene a special meeting of the committee and summoning the Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination Fehmida Mirza and President of Pakistan Olympic Association to address the concerns of committee members on upcoming SAF games 2023 to be hosted by Pakistan as well as venue of the SAF Games has been decid-

ed so far or not. The committee secretariat will also carry out a research as to what is the practice in other countries where such international events are held whether they are under the auspices of the Olympics Association or any other Sports Body functioning within that country.

On the matter regarding working, function, funding received and its utilization to all Federal Sports Organizations the committee decided to reconstitute a Sub-Committee under the convener ship of Senator Irfan ul Haq Siddiqui with the same mandate to probe the affairs of the Sports Organizations on account of the fact that previously Pakistan Sports Board had failed to submit the timely responses of the Sports Organizations before the sub-committee. The committee was perturbed that its directions given in the last meeting regarding appointment of a grade 12 official on the post of Director, Pakistan Sports Board, Karachi, have still not been carried out. The committee directs the secretary IPC to appoint the equivalent grade officer within one week on acting basis either from the Ministry or from the Pakistan Sports Board.

Andy Murray battles into first ATP final since 2019

NEWS DESK

SYDNEY: Former world number one Andy Murray reached his first final since 2019 on Friday in a massive boost to his confidence ahead of the Australian Open. The 34-year-old three-time major winner, who underwent career-saving hip surgery, has now strung together four wins in a row for the first time since being crowned champion at Antwerp nearly three years ago.

He again was exceptional against towering Reilly Opelka at the Sydney Classic, battling through their semi-final 6-7 (6/8), 6-4, 6-4, successfully blunt-



ing the American's giant serve. Murray, who has been given a wildcard into next week's Australian Open, said he was encouraged by how he was playing heading into the opening Grand Slam of the year, a tournament where he is a five-time finalist.

"It would be amazing to start the year with a win, it's already been a great week for me," said the Scot, now ranked 135, who closed his eyes and let out a huge roar on winning the match. "It's big progress from anything I've done in the last year or so. To string four matches together like this, against a couple of top players," said Murray, setting his sights on a 47th career title.

Bilbao down Atletico to reach Spanish Cup final

RIYADH: Athletic Bilbao came back from a goal down to defeat La Liga champions Atletico Madrid 2-1 on Thursday and set up a Spanish Super Cup final against Real Madrid. The Basque outfit, who won the Super Cup in 2021, trailed just after the hour mark when a header from Joao Felix crashed off the post before being deflected into the goal via the back of keeper Unai Simon. However, the match swung Bilbao's way inside four minutes late in the second half with both their goals also coming from set-pieces.

A 77th-minute header from Yeray Alvarez levelled the scores before Nico Williams hit the winner nine minutes from time, finding the net from a corner by captain Iker Muniain.

The teenage Williams beat Renan Lodi and Atletico skipper Koke to the ball to head past Jan Oblak in goal. "I'm very emotional right now," said 19-year-old Nico Williams who lined up for the match alongside older brother Inaki. – APP

Evacuation from Afghanistan continues

FROM PAGE 01

Little before fall of Kabul to Taliban in mid August 2021, a large number of Afghans, especially associated with politics, parliament, media and international non government organs have either left the country for different foreign destinations or remained stranded. Later such people succeeded in arrival through Pakistan Interior Ministry special permits and almost of the already flown to Western and European countries. Apart from these lucky people, a large number of others who remain part of previous President Ghani-Karzai regime armed and police forces or other administrative organs also succeeded in arrival at Pakistan through one or the other ways. Almost of them have got Pakistani visa from its diplomatic missions at Kabul, Jalalabad, Mazar-i-Sharif and other cities but their journey from different parts of Afghanistan to Pakistan was remain an adventure. In particular crossing over the security and immigration procedure at Torkham was a tough time for them.

Saboor Shinwari is one amongst those reached in Peshawar after getting Visa from Pakistan Embassy at Kabul. In a telephonic conversation with Islamabad Post, Saboor said, "I was an officer in Afghanistan Armed forces, therefore, left with no option except abandoning home on mid night between August 15th and 16th when some armed Taliban have knocked at the door. For couple of months he disappeared first remain with some relatives and friends in Kabul later slipped into rural areas in eastern part of the country. Finally he succeeded in getting visa from Pakistan Embassy at Kabul and reached in Peshawar in first week of January. However, he had thanked Almighty Allah after entering Pakistan as he was forced to stop by Taliban for couple of times in Torkham.

Besides those who had served in previous government, some individuals who remain critical to Taliban are also included amongst those who left Afghanistan and reached in Peshawar. Amongst them Amir Hamza and his other close relatives are now living in a

rented room at Peshawar's Gulbahar area. Almost people are saying they have no any problem with Taliban or their system but they left the country due to increasing economic crises. Zameer said, "almost trade and business activities are either on halt or on decline. Industries and other manufacturing units closed. Due to non-recognition grounds of Taliban government, Afghanistan bilateral trade with all foreign countries especially with neighbouring countries suffered a lot." "On such grounds, now almost people wants to flee the country," Zameer remarked.

Abdul Halim a driver by profession from Darra Noor of Nangarhar province reached along with a son in Peshawar but other members of the family are still struck just family now struck across the border in Afghanistan. Halim's visa tenure for stay in Pakistan has already been expired but he is reluctant to go back due to lacking of resources to pay immigration fine at Torkham. Each and every one fleeing Afghanistan and entering Pakistan having words and tales of their miseries and hardships for stock of

stories and media reports.

The official date of NADRA at Torkham reveals that besides others around 1181 patients entered Torkham for getting medical treatment at Peshawar hospitals. Along with 1059 relatives allowed to enter Pakistan as attendants.

However, in some of cases immigration or border authorities are denying entry permission to close relatives of seriously ill patient. Sabawoon, a teen agar girl is under treatment in Peshawar's private teaching hospital Kabeer on Nasar Bagh Road from last several days but her mother lacking visa and money is crying just on entry gate at Torkham in Afghanistan territory. Pakistani authorities from last several months are making claims regarding extending of help and pledges t people from war affected Afghanistan. In particular Pakistan through various foreign forums asked the global community to realise its responsibilities at this crucial stage when over 60 per cent Afghans are ahead with acute food and shelter shortage amidst chilly cold and rough weather.

PM stresses economic...

FROM PAGE 01

security in a "right manner". First of its kind in Pakistan's history, the National Security policy articulates a citizen-centric framework, placing economic security at its core and seeking a secure and economically resilient Pakistan. The formulation process of the policy includes multiple consultations with official stakeholders including federal ministers, 120 experts, 300 students, and 600 people from all walks of life. The prime minister said the NSP would also help correct the dimension and help the whole government machinery to move in one direction for achieving national security and stability.

The prime minister emphasized that our armed forces were our pride and glued the nation together. Given the threats the country faced in the region, and the growing threat of hybrid warfare, they would continue to receive even greater support and importance, he added. The prime minister explained the significance of his government's successful initiative of producing the National Security Policy, calling it a major priority of his government. He also highlighted the importance of the policy's successful implementation and announced that the National Security Committee (NSC) would regularly review progress. He said the NSP centered on the government's vision which believed that the security of Pakistan rested in the security of its citizens.

Any national security approach must prioritize national cohesion and the prosperity of people, while guaranteeing fundamental rights and social justice without discrimination, he added. The prime minister said to achieve the vast potential of the citizens, it was necessary to promote delivery-based good governance. The Prime Minister explained that the foremost aim of the foreign policy and military capability would remain peace and stability in the region and beyond.

Our foreign policy would also focus much more on economic diplomacy going forward, he remarked. The prime minister said the national security was also compromised when the country had to approach the IMF to support its economy by accepting their conditions. In such a case, the common man had to face the burden, he added.

Reiterating his vision of replicating Madina State, the prime minister said by March every family in the PTI-led provinces would have health insurance of rupees one million a year which was even not available in developed countries. He also highlighted the government's initiatives like interest-free loans for business, ration subsidy schemes, and housing construction loans to the low-income group. He said for the first time, the government introduced a core national curriculum as in the past, the country had three parallel education systems of seminaries, English and Urdu medium schools.

Calling rule of law a big challenge for the country, he said Madina State was the first to end discriminatory laws for the rich and poor. He said due to lack of rule of law, the country could not tap its immense tourism potential in Northern Areas which were far bigger and more beautiful than Switzerland.

Russia eyes US, NATO...

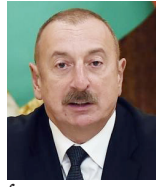
FROM PAGE 01

tensions over Ukraine. He argued that the deployment of NATO forces and weapons near Russia's borders poses a security challenge that must be addressed immediately. "We have run out of patience," Lavrov said at a news conference. "The West has been driven by hubris and has exacerbated tensions in violation of its obligations and common sense." This week's negotiations in Geneva and a related NATO-Russia meeting in Brussels were held amid a significant Russian troop buildup near Ukraine that the West fears might be a prelude to an invasion. Russia, which annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014, has denied having plans to attack its neighbor but warned the West that NATO's expansion to Ukraine and other ex-Soviet nations is a "red line" that mustn't be crossed.

Briefs

Armenia not yet recovered from war defeat

NEWS DESK



BAKU: "Revanchist tendencies in Armenia are displayed not only by former government officials, but also by current ones. Because first of all, as I said, we saw military provocations in the post-war period, and there were several such attempts - in November, prior to that, yesterday and it is possible that such attempts will be made in the future too," said President Ilham Aliyev responding to a question about revanchist tendencies in Armenia as he was interviewed by local TV channels. Emphasizing that the Armenian leadership and society as a whole had not yet recovered from the defeat in the war, the head of state said: "They have been hit so hard psychologically that all their ideological foundations have been shattered. In other words, all the myths they invented and believed in have been blown to smithereens. We showed it in a matter of 44 days. Therefore, such tendencies do exist in Armenian society. Any government must take into account public opinion. Therefore, such tendencies will be continued."

Train derail in West Bengal kills 5

NEW DELHI: At least five people died and more than 45 were injured when a train derailed Thursday in India's West Bengal state, officials said. Twelve coaches of the train went off the rails and three capsized. Images from the scene showed passengers stuck in twisted metal and debris as rescuers rushed to pull them out. The train was on its way to Gauhati in Assam state from Bikaner, a city in Rajasthan state, when the accident occurred in Jalpaiguri district. All of the injured were being treated in a hospital, senior police officer Debarshi Dutta said. Senior railway official Guneet Kaur said the cause of the accident was being investigated. She said the government would provide financial compensation to families of the deceased and all of the injured. Accidents are common on India's massive but aging railway network. Safety standards have been an ongoing concern on the state-run system, which operates 9,000 passenger trains and carries about 23 million passengers every day. In 2016, 127 people were killed when 14 coaches derailed in Uttar Pradesh state in one of India's worst train accidents. - APP

Turkish, Armenian envoys meet in Moscow

MOSCOW: Special envoys from Turkey and Armenia met in Moscow on Friday for a first round of meetings aimed at ending decades of bitterness between their countries and establishing diplomatic ties. Both countries said the meeting was conducted in a "positive and constructive atmosphere." Although Turkey was among the first countries to recognize Armenia's independence following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the two neighbors share a bitter relationship and have no diplomatic ties. Both countries hope that the talks will bolster peace efforts for the Caucasus region and lead to the reopening of their border to encourage trade and boost economic ties. Charter flights between Yerevan and Istanbul are expected to resume next month. The Turkish and Armenian foreign ministries said in separate statements that their special representatives "exchanged their preliminary views regarding the normalization process." They said the two sides would continue with their negotiations "without preconditions," adding that the date and venue of their second meeting would be decided later. Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency said the meeting between the envoys lasted for about 90 minutes. - APP

China touts support from Gulf States for Uyghur treatment

China and the US are increasingly jockeying for influence in the Middle East, where Chinese companies have found markets for goods and services ranging from highways to military drones

BEIJING: China said Friday it gained support on issues including the treatment of Uyghur Muslims from a number of Persian Gulf states following talks between their foreign ministers at which they agreed to upgrade relations. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said the ministers and Gulf Cooperation Council Secretary-General Nayef Falah Al-Hajraf expressed firm support for China's "legitimate positions on issues related to Taiwan, Xinjiang and human rights." He said they "expressed opposition to interference in China's internal affairs and politicization of human rights issues." They also rejected the "politicization of sports and reaffirmed their support" for China's hosting of the Beijing Winter Olympics that open on Feb. 4, he said. China is accused of detaining more

than a million Turkic Muslim Uyghurs in the Xinjiang region as part of a campaign to wipe out their traditional culture, language and beliefs. It claims Taiwan as a wayward province to be brought under its control by force if necessary. Countries like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates often issue statements against interference in their own affairs when faced with criticism of human rights abuses. Gulf Arab states also use broadly worded and vague counterterrorism laws to prosecute activists charged with undermining stability and national cohesion. Just this week, Human Rights Watch said Saudi authorities were apparently preparing to deport two Muslim Uyghurs to China, where they are at serious risk of arbitrary detention and torture. The two men have been imprisoned since late 2020 without



charge. The rights group quoted a Uyghur activist who said he had previously documented five cases in which Saudi Arabia forcibly deported fellow Uyghurs to China in 2017 and 2018. China and the GCC, meanwhile, agreed to establish a strategic partnership, complete negotiations on a free trade

agreement "as soon as possible," hold a China-GCC strategic dialogue and sign a 2022-2025 action plan to "elevate the bilateral relations to a new level," Wang said. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi expressed China's "firm support for the GCC countries to maintain their national independence, security and stability, and will continue to oppose foreign interference in the internal affairs of the GCC countries in the name of human rights," Wang said. China also pledged to support the GCC countries in setting up a multilateral dialogue to explore "the Middle East way to resolve conflicts and dispute in the region, and advocated that non-regional countries should play a constructive role to this end," he said. The visit came as world powers, including China, try to

revive the tattered 2015 Iran nuclear deal in Vienna. Other participants in the meetings included the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain. Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian was also due to be in China at the end of this week. It wasn't immediately clear if he joined the meetings with the others and Wang did not mention him in his comments. China and the U.S. are increasingly jockeying for influence in the Middle East, where Chinese companies have found markets for goods and services ranging from highways to military drones. China is heavily reliant on Middle Eastern oil and gas and Beijing has also maintained close ties with Iran amid its nuclear ambitions and disputes with other Gulf nations. - APP



KYIV: President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev arrived in Ukraine for a working visit. A guard of honor was arranged for the Azerbaijani President at the Boryspil International Airport in Kyiv. - DNA

Mask rules get tighter across Europe

NEWS DESK

ROME: To mask or not to mask is a question Italy settled early in the COVID-19 outbreak with a vigorous "yes." Now the onetime epicenter of the pandemic in Europe hopes even stricter mask rules will help it beat the latest infection surge. Other countries are taking similar action as the more transmissible - yet, apparently, less virulent - omicron variant spreads through the continent. With Italy's hospital ICUs rapidly filling with mostly unvaccinated COVID-19 patients, the government announced on Christmas Eve that FFP2 masks - which offer users more protection than cloth or surgical masks - must be worn on public transport, including planes, trains, ferries and subways. That's even though all passengers in Italy, as of this week, must be vaccinated or recently recovered from COVID-19. FFP2s also must now be worn at theaters, cinemas and sports events, indoors or out, and can't be removed even for their wearers to eat or drink. Italy re-introduced an outdoor mask mandate. It had never lifted its indoor mandate - even when infections sharply dropped in the summer. On a chilly morning in Rome this week, Lillo D'Amico, 84, sported a wool cap and white FFP2 as he bought a newspaper at his neighborhood newsstand. "Masks cost little money, they cost you a small sacrifice," he said. "When you do the math, it costs far less than hospitalization." When he sees someone from the unmasked minority walking by, he keeps a distance. "They see (masks) as an affront to their freedom," D'Amico said, shrugging. Spain reinstated its outdoor mask rule on Christmas Eve. After the 14-day contagion rate soared to 2,722 new infections per 100,000 people by the end of last week - from 40 per 100,000 in mid-October - Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez was asked whether the outdoor mask mandate was helping.

Israel launches aggression against Latakia Port

DNA

DAMASCUS: Israel had launched a criminal aggression on the commercial port of Latakia at 3:25 am. This aggression caused destruction of civilian equipment and facilities and demolition of more than 500 containers including oil and spare parts for cars and machinery, along with damaging "Al Mada" Hospital and some other adjacent buildings

and shops because of this cowardly Israeli aggression. On the seventh of the same month, December 2021, the Israeli occupation aircraft carried out a missile attack that also targeted the container yard of the commercial port of Latakia. This aggression comes within the framework of the Israeli government's continued support for armed terrorist groups, whether they are ISIS, "Jabhat al-Nusra" or other armed terrorist or-

ganizations, it also comes to divert the attention from the deep crisis that the "Israeli entity" is going through, to delay the progress of the political process to resolve the crisis in Syria. Israel is obliged to pay compensation to the owners of the destroyed properties during this treacherous aggression, which costs tens of millions of dollars. However, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council, which pre-

tend to be blind regarding the Israeli aggressions and other attacks that target the Syrian people, including the children, women, the elderly and other civilians, are asked to undertake their responsibility in maintaining the international peace and security and preserving human rights, because such attacks lead to an explosion of tensions in the region, and are a flagrant violation of human rights, especially the right to live.

Cyberattack in Ukraine targets government websites

KYIV: A huge cyber-attack left a number of Ukrainian government websites temporarily unavailable on Friday, officials said. While it wasn't immediately clear who was behind the cyber-attack, the disruption came amid heightened tensions with Russia and after talks between Moscow and the West failed

to yield any significant progress this week. Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleg Nikolenko told The Associated Press it was too soon to tell who could have been behind the attack. "But there is a long record of Russian cyber assaults against Ukraine in the past," he said. Moscow had previously denied involvement in cyber-

attacks against Ukraine. The websites of the country's Cabinet, seven ministries, the Treasury, the National Emergency Service and the state services website, where Ukrainians' electronic passports and vaccination certificates are stored, were temporarily unavailable Friday as a result of the hack. The websites contained a

message in Ukrainian, Russian and Polish, saying that Ukrainians' personal data has been leaked into the public domain. "Be afraid and expect the worst. This is for your past, present and future," the message read, in part. Ukraine's State Service of Communication and Information Protection said that no personal data has been leaked. - APP

Sweden's PM tests positive for Covid

STOCKHOLM: Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson has tested positive for Covid-19, her office said Friday, making her the third party leader to catch the disease following a meeting earlier this week. "The prime minister has tested positive for Covid-19 in a rapid test. She is following current recommendations and will conduct her work from home," press secretary Johan Ekstrom told AFP via text message. Ekstrom said Andersson was feeling well "under the circumstances". In addition to Andersson, Per Bolund - who leads the Green Party together with Marta Stenevi - and Centre Party leader Annie Lof have also contracted the illness following a party leaders' meeting on Wednesday. The Nordic country of 10.3 million is currently registering record numbers of infections, with a high of 25,567 cases on Thursday. - APP

UK govt apologises to Queen

LONDON: The UK government on Friday apologised to Queen Elizabeth II, after revelations that Prime Minister Boris Johnson's staff broke coronavirus restrictions by partying on the eve of Prince Philip's funeral. "It is deeply regrettable that this took place at a time of national mourning and Number 10 (Downing Street) has apologised to the palace," Johnson's official spokesman told reporters. The message to the 95-year-old head of state is understood to have been sent through official channels by telephone, and not personally sent by Johnson, who is under growing pressure to quit after a slew of similar allegations. Johnson has so far tried to weather the storm of public and political outrage, apologising in parliament this week for attending one of the events in May 2020. But the two parties on April 16, 2021 as the Queen prepared to bury her husband of 73 years - and revealed by the Daily Telegraph - takes the scandal to another level. - APP

Pak-China medical varsities sign MoU

BEIJING: A signing ceremony between Anhui Medical University (AHMU) and Islamabad Medical and Dental College (IMDC), along with the Unveiling Ceremony of "AHMU-IMDC China-Pakistan Cross-cultural Educational Exchange Center" was held in Anhui, as per Gwadar Pro's report. It's the first official cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani medical universities. Pakistan and China have a long history of cooperation in the medical field, especially medical education. Many Pakistani students have been coming to China for studies in medical related majors. China has become the most popular selection for foreign students because of its rapid development in the medical sector and cutting-edge technology equipped hospitals. - APP

Country's industry must grow on global trends

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Irfan Iqbal Sheikh on Friday said the country's industrial sector has to be brought in line with the global competitive trading trends to increase production and exports. "Our major export sector needs to increase production of commercial goods in line with global competitive markets, which is possible only through the latest technology, innovation and research and development," President FPCCI said this while talking to APP. The FPCCI President said that without reestablishing trade ties with emerging global and regional markets, including Russia, Central Asian Region (CARs), Africa, Turkey, South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and improv-

ing regional trade integration, the country's economy would not improve. He said that the acquisition of new potential markets for trade diversification, through modern tools, was essential to increase the country's exports. Irfan Iqbal said that by focusing sectors including textile value addition, export in IT, alternative energy, housing, Halal food market, tourism, agriculture, gems and jewelry and research and development, country's exports can go beyond their potential. He said that Pakistan had a lot of potential in the field of Information Technology and in this sector, "we can increase our annual exports up to US\$ 5 billion, while our current IT exports are hovering around US\$2.5 billion." President FPCCI said that India was exporting up to \$110 billion in the same sector and thus our exports should increase upto \$ 25 billion.

JANUARY 2022

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:
www.centrelines.com.pk
www.dnanews.com.pl
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@PostIslamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165



Briefs

India defence chief's pilot 'disoriented by weather'

MONITORING DESK
NEW DELHI: A pilot disoriented by a sudden change in weather conditions crashed the helicopter carrying India's defence chief General Bipin Rawat last month, killing all 14 people on board, an official inquiry found Friday. The 63-year-old Rawat was travelling with his wife and other senior officers in the Russian-made Mi-17 chopper, which crashed near its destination in southern Tamil Nadu state. "The court of inquiry has ruled out mechanical failure, sabotage or negligence as a cause of the accident," India's defence ministry said in a statement. The ministry said that the investigation team analysed the flight data recorder, cockpit voice recorder and questioned witnesses to come up with its preliminary report. The aircraft entered clouds due to an "unexpected change in weather conditions," it said. "This led to spatial disorientation of the pilot resulting in Controlled Flight into Terrain." Rawat was India's first chief of defence staff, a position that the government established in 2019, and was seen as close to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. His death was the subject of wall-to-wall coverage in Indian media, and his flag-wrapped coffin was towed through the streets of New Delhi on a gun carriage draped with flower garlands before he was cremated. He and his wife were cremated together on the same pyre, with a 17-gun salute fired as their daughters set it alight.

Two killed, 10 injured in Kuwait refinery fire

KUWAIT CITY: Two people were killed and 10 others injured after a fire broke out on Friday at a gas liquefaction unit in Kuwait's largest refinery, the plant's operator said. The blaze "erupted during maintenance work" on the unit at Mina al-Ahmadi refinery, 40 kilometres (25 miles) south of Kuwait City, state-owned Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) announced on Twitter. Having initially said that 10 people were injured, it later updated its casualty toll, saying two workers "of Asian nationality" had been found dead at the site. Seven of those injured were hospitalised, five of them in "critical condition", KNPC added. Firefighters were mobilised and had extinguished the blaze. Oil Minister Mohammed al-Fares later visited the site of the fire. KNPC said Kuwait's refining operations and exports were unaffected, as the unit had already been out of service. Mina al-Ahmadi, where another fire last October caused a number of light injuries, is the largest of Kuwait's three refineries and handles some 466,000 barrels of oil per day. A fourth is under construction with a daily capacity of 615,000 barrels. A key member within the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Kuwait is currently producing about 2.4 million barrels a day. - APP

Tunisians defy ban to protest against president

WEB DESK
TUNIS: Tunisian police used tear gas and water cannons on Friday against hundreds of demonstrators who defied a ban on gatherings to protest against President Kais Saïed's July power grab. As the country marks 11 years since the fall of late dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, hundreds of Saïed's opponents staged rallies against his July 2021 power grab. They had gathered despite restrictions imposed on Thursday, ostensibly to prevent the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. Around 300 protesters gathered on Mohamed V Avenue, where some broke through a police cordon before being forced back by police with batons. AFP reporters saw several being arrested. Security forces had deployed heavily to block them from reaching the central Habib Bourguiba Avenue and the Interior Ministry headquarters, where vast protests in early 2011 had forced Ben Ali to flee to Saudi Arabia. Some of the protesters on Friday chanted "down with the coup!", a reference to Saïed's July 25 moves in which he sacked the government, froze parliament and seized an assortment of powers. He has since virtually ruled by decree, to the outrage of his opponents, including the powerful Islamist-inspired Ennahdha party. Some Tunisians, tired of the inept and graft-ridden parliamentary system, welcomed his moves.

Border fencing: New Afghan set up to be taken on board

Interior Minister says no role of Sharif's family in future politics; Government not to create hurdle in opposition's long march

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad has said fencing along the border with Afghanistan will be completed whilst taking on board the new Afghan set up. Talking to the media persons in Islamabad on Friday, the Interior Minister said an area of twenty-six hundred kilometres has been fenced whilst the remaining twenty-one kilometres will also be completed. The Interior Minister said the present government inherited difficult economic situation and due to the loot and plunder of the past rulers, it had to approach the International Monetary Fund. He was confident that the rupee will appreciate against dollar in the days ahead. Sheikh Rashid said the government will not create any hurdle in the way of two separate marches being organized by the opposition parties. He, however, pointed out that local body elections are being held in the next four months whilst foreign dignitaries will also visit Pakistan in the month of March for the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers meeting. Talking about country's political situation, the Interior Minister said that



the PT-led government will complete its constitutional tenure and will also return again for the next tenure. About two separate marches announced by the opposition parties, Sheikh Rashid said the opposition has no vision to understand the prevailing situation of the country as they have selected the wrong time slot for holding protests. "They should come to Islamabad but keep in mind the sanctity of the date they have chosen for their protest," the interior minister said and added that a military parade will be held on Pakistan Day besides the arrival of the

representatives from OIC member states. The minister said that opposition parties were in a state of disappointment and stress as against their wishes, the present government was successfully running the state affairs. Sheikh Rashid Ahmad said that the Nawaz Sharif family has no role in the country's future politics, advising them to avoid the further wait for having any good opportunity. He said that no drastic change was happening in the country's politics without Nawaz Sharif and added that all 'four Sharifs' had no further role in the politics. He once again invited

Nawaz Sharif to return to Pakistan but added that he does not foresee the role of Nawaz Sharif in the country's politics in future.

"It is upto him [Nawaz Sharif] to return to Pakistan whenever he wanted however all four sharifs have no role to play in Pakistan politics," he said and added that the opposition wanted support from the same quarters who are supporting Imran Khan.

"The opposition has been saying since last year that PTI is going to lose power, but it should clear any misunderstanding about the government. Prime Minister Imran Khan is so lucky to have got such incompetent and ineffective opposition," he said.

He said the present opposition had no vision to understand the prevailing situation and they had selected the wrong time for holding the protest. "They already lost their time and now they will get nothing but to spoil time Sheikh Rashid said, "We will welcome them and not stop them or take any action against their protests." He admitted a spike in inflation and said that recently they have diverted the prime minister's attention towards actions needed to counter the hike in prices of flour.

Responsible reporting crucial for rule of law: Fawad



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain Friday underlined the need for responsible court reporting to ensure rule of law in the country. In a meeting with a delegation of the Press Association of the Supreme Court (PAS), he said irresponsible and wrong reporting not only deprived people of correct information but also affected supremacy and prestige of the law. He urged the court reporters to promote responsible journalism in the country to ensure the protection of the fundamental rights of the people and the dignity of the judiciary. He said court reporting was as important as cases pending before courts and in dozens of cases courts took suo moto notices over media reports. "Every one must respect the judiciary," he said adding that the courts should take suo moto notices on authentic news. The training of court reporters was imperative as legal journalism involves both journalism and law, he said. Fawad said the government would develop a strategy in collaboration with journalist unions to train the court reporters for demonstration of responsible reporting. He said the government was providing health cards to the journalists on a priority basis. He congratulated the newly elected body of the association and assured them of his full cooperation to address their grievances. The delegation was comprised of president PAS Raja Mohsin Ijaz, secretary-general Adeel Sarfaraz and other office-bearers.

Pakistan keen to strengthen ties with Africa

Foreign Minister said Pakistan acknowledges Congo's role in regional peace

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said Pakistan is pursuing Engage Africa policy of the National security policy of Pakistan to strengthen its ties with all the African countries. He was talking to the Commander in Chief of Armed Forces of Congo in Islamabad on Friday. The Foreign Minister said Pakistan acknowledges Congo's role in regional peace. The Commander of Congo commended the services of Pakistani troops deployed in the country. He did it under the auspices of the UN Peace Mission. They also discussed cooperation in the areas of defense and security.



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi welcomes Commander in Chief of Armed Forces of Congo at Foreign Office. - DNA

Russia adds two key Navalny aides to 'terrorists' list

MOSCOW: Russia has added two key allies of jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny to a list of "terrorists and extremists," days ahead of the first anniversary of the opposition leader's arrest. Leonid Volkov and Ivan Zhdanov, who left Russia as authorities were clamping down on the opposition and dissenting voices, were seen Friday in a database compiled by the Federal Service for Financial Monitoring (Rosfinmonitoring). In a post on Instagram, Zhdanov, 33, mocked the announcement in a public message to 41-year-old Volkov saying, "congratulations, bro." The past year has seen an unprecedented crack-down on dissent in Russia, including the jailing of Putin's top critic Navalny last January and the outlawing of his political organisations. Navalny's political organisations were branded "extremist", prompting his team to shut down the regional network that supported his political campaigns and corruption investigations. - APP

Biden concedes voting rights agenda may fail

"Like every other major civil rights bill that came along, if we miss the first time, we can come back and try it a second time"

WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden appeared to admit defeat Thursday in his bid to get major voting rights laws passed in Congress after he failed to persuade his own Democratic party to give full backing. In another blow to his presidency, the Supreme Court also ruled against his Covid-19 test-or-vaccine mandate on large businesses, a key component in the administration's bid to control the spread of the Omicron variant. Leaving a lunch with Democratic senators, Biden seemed to accept there was little chance of seeing the two voting protections laws through. "I hope we can get this done but I'm not sure," he said. "Like every other major civil rights bill that came along,

if we miss the first time, we can come back and try it a second time."

Biden was in Congress to try and wrangle Democrats into carrying out a tricky legislative maneuver that would change a Senate rule and let them get the bills passed, despite total Republican opposition. But before the president even arrived for his lunch with legislators, Democratic Senator Kyrsten Sinema gave a speech explaining that while she backed the voting rights bills, she would not agree to changing the rule, known as the filibuster. Sinema said that simply bypassing the filibuster, which requires a supermajority and therefore some Republican support for a Democratic bill, would deepen the country's biggest problem - "the disease of division." Biden argues that the national voting rights bills are vital to preserving US democracy against Republican attempts to exclude Black and other predominantly Democratic voters through a spate of recently enacted laws at the local level. - APP

EU to help Ukraine after cyber attack

BREXIT: The European Union is mobilising "all its resources" to aid Ukraine after a cyberattack on the country's government websites, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on Friday. Borrell said the EU's political and security committee would convene later on Friday for an urgent meeting on the attack, which he said "merits condemnation". The EU's rapid response cyber unit was also being activated, Borrell told reporters on the margins of an EU foreign ministers' meeting. "We are mobilising all our resources to help Ukraine deal with this type of cyberattack," he said. All EU governments were being asked to participate, "even though Ukraine is not a member" of the bloc. Borrell said it was too early "to point the finger at anybody. We don't have proof". But he added: "You can imagine who did this." Several key Ukrainian government websites were taken offline on Friday, authorities said. - APP

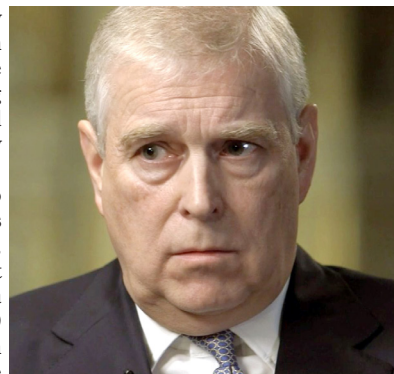
Prince Andrew gives up military titles

Giuffre, 38, accuses Andrew - often called the Queen's "favourite son" - of sexually assaulting her in 2001 when she was 17, claiming she was delivered to him by Jeffrey Epstein

NEWS DESK

LONDON: Queen Elizabeth II's second son, Prince Andrew, was on Thursday effectively stripped of his position in royal life, in a dramatic move as he faces a US civil case for sexual assault. British media quoted an unnamed royal source as saying he would no longer use the "His Royal Highness" (HRH) title, which designates senior members of the royal family, in any capacity. The move came after Buckingham Palace announced that he had given up his honorary military titles and charitable roles as the US case looms. "The Duke of York will continue not to undertake any public duties and is defending this case as a private citizen," a statement read. A New York judge on Wednesday dismissed an attempt by Andrew's lawyers to have the case brought by Virginia Giuffre thrown out. Giuffre, 38, accuses Andrew - often called the Queen's "favourite

son" - of sexually assaulting her in 2001 when she was 17, claiming she was delivered to him by Jeffrey Epstein. Andrew, who strenuously denies the allegation, was forced to quit public life after a calamitous 2019 interview in which he claimed to have no memory of meeting Giuffre and defended his friendship with convicted paedophile Epstein, who was found hanged in prison in 2019. Public outrage at the time saw several charities and associations distance themselves from him and he has rarely been seen in public since. On Thursday, he was seen being driven from his house near Windsor Castle, west of London, an AFP



photographer said. More than 150 Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and British Army veterans wrote to the Queen, calling on her to strip Andrew of his ranks and titles in the armed forces. The 95-year-old head of state is commander-in-chief of the army, navy and air force. "Were this any other senior military officer it is inconceivable that he would still be in post," they wrote in a joint letter made public by the anti-monarchy pressure group Republic. "Officers of the British armed forces must adhere to the very highest standards of probity, honesty and honourable conduct. "These are standards which Prince Andrew has fallen well short of," they said, adding

that he had "brought the services he is associated with into disrepute". Senior members of the British royal family have typically been appointed as honorary heads of military units, with the Queen's approval. Andrew was honorary colonel of the Grenadier Guards, whose soldiers guard Buckingham Palace in their distinctive bearskin hats and red tunics. Royal patronages are associations with charities and other organisations. For a monarchy beset by crises, 2022 was meant to celebrate Elizabeth II's 70 years on the throne, with parades, pageants and public holidays. But Andrew's legal woes threaten more pain for the ageing monarch, after her grandson Prince Harry and his wife Meghan's shock move to the United States, from where they criticised royal life, including accusing it of racism. Andrew will likely have to respond to Giuffre's accusations from Britain in a recorded deposition, unless he successfully appeals or reaches a settlement.

US Omicron cases receding in major cities

NEW YORK: The United States' Omicron wave is beginning to recede in New York and other major cities, official data showed this week, even as Covid-19 hospitalizations, a lagging indicator, reached new highs. The trend of explosive rises in Omicron cases followed by equally fast declines follows similar patterns seen in Britain and in South Africa, where the variant was first reported in late November. In New York city, the seven-day average of new daily cases has been falling since around January 2, when they peaked at 40,000 a day - an all-time record. The figure stood at around 28,500 on January 10, still higher than anything seen in previous waves caused by other strains, an official tracker showed Friday. Similar drops were visible in New York state, New Jersey and Chicago, the country's third-largest city, as well as in the capital Washington. But the nationwide average is still rising, with more than 750,000 cases per day, as infections continue to shoot up in most states. While milder for most people compared to past strains, the transmissibility of Omicron has meant the small fraction who become severely ill amount to a large number, overwhelming hospitals. - APP