



Islamabad POST

Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

China's Xi rejects 'Cold War mentality', urges cooperation

Detailed News On Page-07

Germany warns Russia against invading Ukraine

Detailed News On Page-07

Liverpool will not give up Man city Chase

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

PM directs completion of welfare projects

DNA
PESHAWAR: Prime Minister Imran Khan Monday directed for completion of development projects in their stipulated period and other public welfare plans on priority basis. The prime minister held meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shah Farman and Chief Minister Mahmood Khan after his arrival here, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. During the meeting, they discussed the political situation, administrative affairs and law and order in the province.

Opp. hurdle in reform process

STAFF REPORT
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said on Monday that the government was sincere in holding dialogue with the opposition to reform electoral, judicial and accountability system of the country. The minister in a tweet said however, reforms were not possible without opposition's cooperation but corrupt leadership of PML-N and PPP did not want to discuss any issue other than relief in their court cases.

Rasheed Naz passes away

BUREAU REPORT
PESHAWAR: Legendary film and television actor Rasheed Naz passed away on Monday at the age of 73. Rasheed's son Hassan Noman has confirmed the demise and said his father was admitted to a local hospital in Islamabad. Madiha Rizvi, daughter-in-law of Rasheed Naz, also took to Instagram and confirmed the actor's death. Sharing a throwback photo of the father-in-law, Rizvi said, "Our dearest Baba Rashid Naz Has left this world peacefully this morning. Please recite Sureh Fateha for the departed soul."

Imran, Putin discuss peace, connectivity

The Prime Minister says that he looks forward to President Putin's visit to Pakistan



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan held a telephonic conversation with President of Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir Putin. The two leaders fondly recalled their conversations during last year and exchanged views on bilateral cooperation as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest. Prime Minister Imran Khan appreciated President's Putin statement that insulting Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) does not count as an expression of artistic freedom but is a "violation of religious freedom." The Prime Minister stated that he has been regularly highlighted the appalling rise in Islamophobia and associated hatred in his addresses to the UN General Assembly, pointing towards its serious ramifications. The Prime Minister underscored that Pakistan's bilateral relationship with Russia was on an upward trajectory, with an increased focus on trade and

Continued on Page 06

Russia denies plans to invade Ukraine

NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Russia's top diplomat angrily rejected the U.S. allegations that it was preparing a pretext to invade Ukraine as Russian troops that are amassed near the Ukraine border launched more drills Monday. The White House said Friday that U.S. intelligence officials had concluded that Russia had already deployed operatives to rebel-controlled eastern Ukraine to carry out acts of sabotage there and blame them on Ukraine in a "false-flag operation" to create a pretext for possible invasion. Speaking to reporters Monday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov dismissed the U.S. claim as "total disinformation." He reaffirmed that Russia expects a written response this week from the U.S. and its allies to Moscow's request for binding guarantees that NATO will not embrace Ukraine or any other ex-Soviet nations, or station its forces and weapons there.

Committee backs prisoners' swap treaty with UK

In case the treaty is signed, both the countries could repatriate their condemned criminals to each other

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: A special ministerial committee formed on the instruction of the federal Cabinet has decided that in the best public interest, a prisoners' exchange treaty will be signed with the United Kingdom. The special committee held its session at the Interior Ministry in Islamabad under the chair of Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad on Monday. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Human Rights Minister Dr Shireen Mazari, Interior Advisor Barrister

Continued on Page 06

'Govt handed over economy to foreign powers'

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD, Former prime minister and PML-N senior leader Khaqan Abbasi has demanded a debate on the recently passed State Bank of Pakistan Bill while hitting out at the government for entrusting country's

Continued on Page 06



RAWALPINDI: Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to Pakistan called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS). - DNA

Kazakh envoy calls on COAS

Ambassador Kistafin lauds Pak role for regional peace

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yerzhan Kistafin called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi on Monday. According to a statement released by the Inter-Service Public Relation (ISPR), during the meeting, regional security situation, matters of mutual interest, and cooperation in various fields came under discussion. While speaking to the foreign dignitary, the COAS stressed the need for sincere international efforts to avert a humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and hoped that the law and order situation in Kazakhstan will be restored soon. Pakistan remains committed to cooperating with its international partners for peace in the region, Bajwa added, per the statement. The ambassador of Kazakhstan appreciated Pakistan's role and efforts in ensuring regional stability and pledged to play a role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels, the statement said.

Bilawal forms committee on long march

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: In order to make its long march towards Islam-abad against inflation successful, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has constituted a six-member committee. Quoting its sources, a private channel reported that with former Prime Minister Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani as its head, the committee will hold meetings with important personalities as well as mobilize the PPP workers to muster support for

Continued on Page 06

Three dead in UAE suspected drone attack

Casualties include a Pakistani man; Yemeni rebels suspected to be behind attack

NEWS DESK

ABU DHABI: Three people were killed in a suspected drone attack that set off a blast and a fire in Abu Dhabi on Monday, officials said, as Yemen's rebels announced military operations in the United Arab Emirates. Two Indians and a Pakistani died as three petrol tanks exploded near the storage facility of oil giant ADNOC, while a fire ignited in a construction area at Abu Dhabi airport. Police said "small flying objects" were found at both places, suggesting the sort of deliberate attack that is unheard of in the wealthy UAE, a renowned safe haven in the volatile Middle East. "Preliminary investigations indicate the detection of small flying objects, possibly belonging to drones, that fell in the two areas and may have caused the explosion and fire," police said in a statement, adding that the incidents were under investigation. Yemen's Huthi rebels did not claim the

Continued on Page 06

Pak embassy in touch with authorities

ABU DHABI: A statement from the Pakistani embassy in UAE stated, "With regard to the fire involving three petroleum tankers in Musaf-fah, Abu Dhabi, today, we have learnt through UAE authorities that it sadly resulted in deaths and injuries. The Abu Dhabi Police has also informed our Embassy in Abu Dhabi about the demise of a Pakistani in the incident". It further added that the Embassy is in close contact with the UAE authorities for ascertaining more details in this regard. - DNA

attacks. But the Huthi military spokesman announced a "military operation" in

No decision on schools' closure yet

The meeting's participants discussed trends of Omicron variant

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Uncertainty prevailed for parents and students as the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) did not make a decision after its Monday meeting on whether schools across the country will be closed or not, saying it will first look at the data of positivity rates of various institutions. The NCOC had called a meeting of the provincial health and education ministers today to take decisions on coronavirus restrictions, including schools' closure, amid a rapid increase in COVID-19 infections. "Decision about education institutions will be taken on data of positive cases

of various institutions for which massive testing in education institutions is being carried out," the NCOC said in a brief statement issued after the meeting concluded. Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar and National Coordinator Maj General Muhammad Zafar Iqbal chaired the NCOC session, while Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan attended it virtually. Provincial health and education ministers also joined the meeting virtually and told NCOC about the steps being taken for the implementation of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs), and COVID-19 SOPs in wake of a spike in coronavirus cases.

Sharp decline in Pak-Afghan bilateral trade

Afghanistan government wants Pakistan to review its policies

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR- The Government of Pakistan has begun implementation of its new policy regarding bilateral trade with Afghanistan, whereas payment in US dollars was made mandatory for the Afghan importers exporters from January 13th. As a result traders and officials confirmed another blow to bilateral trade between the two neighboring countries in the wake financial and economic crises erupted in already war stricken Afghanistan after the empowering of Taliban on August 15. The Customs officials in Peshawar confirmed that according to the State Bank of Pakistan, the traders and Customs clearing Agents went on token strikes and agitation against the new policy. However, a high ranking Customs Department official said that grievances of traders have been conveyed to the federal government high ups in this respect. Whatever might be the claims and expectations of authorities concerned, implementation of new trade policy for Afghanistan has cast very bad impacts on bilateral trade between the two

neighboring countries. Joint Secretary of Pakistan Afghanistan Zia Ul Haq Sarhadi said that so far, they are engaged in clearing of all goods trucks earlier listed with trade and customs officials at the Torkham and other crossing points and no one from Afghanistan is willing to make more deals. He said that due to the international community including US sanctions almost all banks in Afghanistan are faced with crises. The official data at Torkham reveals that a total of 1284 trucks loaded with goods from Pakistan entered Afghanistan from January 9 to January 15. During this period the number of vehicles coming from Afghanistan registered as 1304. However, the officials confirmed that almost all trucks and trailers entering Pakistan from Afghanistan are empty back. Only during the session of fresh fruits and vegetables, imports are stated on rise from Afghanistan. According to statistics, 276 trucks and trailers arrived in Pakistan from Afghanistan on January 9, while 177 trucks and trailers left Pakistan for Afghanistan on the same day. As on January 15, the number of vehicles loaded with commercial goods coming from Afghanistan to Pakistan was 139 while the number of vehicles

loaded with commercial goods entering Afghanistan from Pakistan was 270. Customs clearing agents and traders in Torkham said that in the past, especially before the border restrictions imposed in 2016, the number of vehicles loaded with commercial goods passing through Torkham between Pakistan and Afghanistan was between 4,000 and 5,000. Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi, Joint Secretary, Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that the two countries' traders have started token strikes and protests against the SBP's policy at Torkham, Kharlachi, Ghulam Khan and Angor. He added that so far clearance of already goods trucks either still across the border in Afghanistan or in pipelines are returning whereas no one from Afghanistan traders is willing to go for further deals and booking. Sarhadi recalled that earlier the Afghan traders were allowed to either get US dollars in Peshawar and other currency markets or to arrange transactions from the UAE. But now they are bound to deposit US dollars in Pakistani banks. Pakistan has already opened branches of various banks including National Bank of Pakistan at Kabul. Likewise Bank of Khyber and National Bank of Pakistan

branches are in function around the clock at Torkham and other crossing points for the purpose. Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi said that after the Taliban came to power, foreign countries neither recognised nor started trade and business transactions with Afghanistan, as a result of which there are no dollars in Afghanistan and implementation of SBP's new policy is impossible. In this respect, he called on Prime Minister Imran Khan to direct the concerned authorities' for re-visiting trade policies with Afghanistan. Highlighting the bad impacts of bilateral trade Zia Sarhadi said that the daily export and import of one and a half thousand containers with Afghanistan is up to one hundred and fifty and demanded that the Pakistani government review the new policy of Afghan trade. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Collector Customs Ahmad Raza Khan told media persons that Pak-Afghan is committed to implement the SBP's new policy on trade with Afghanistan, which according to him would lead to generating of foreign exchange in return of exports. Pakistan is considered the most easy destination of exports for Afghanistan. Ahmad Raza Khan said that according

to the new policy, Afghan traders will get Form E by bringing dollars with them. And only traders who show dollars at border crossings will be able to export after getting E Forms. However, Ahmad Raza Khan said that the economic condition of the new government of Afghanistan is weak and the purchasing power of the Afghan people has waned. He also confirmed that Pakistan's exports have declined by 26% in the last four months. Replying to a question, Ahmad Raza Khan said that Pak-Afghan traders have been informed about the difficulties faced by the traders and traders' grievances in this respect conveyed to the federal government in Islamabad. So far there is no reaction or stance on the decline of bilateral trade or token protests of traders and customs agents on new trade policy from the federal and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa governments But two days ago Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif, Information Adviser to the Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He visited the North and South Waziristan border crossings and, reiterated the government's commitment to boost bilateral trade with Afghanistan.

Inside...

- Proposal finalized to improve Pakistan-Lanka trade ties - Page 02
- Pak leads declaration on social protection platforms - Page 03
- President calls for training in emerging technologies - Page 04
- Why does Africa matter today? - Page 05
- GSV launches football talent drive in Pakistan - Page 06
- China's Xi rejects 'Cold War mentality', pushes co-op - Page 07
- Qaiser reiterates pledge to facilitate Afghan people - Page 08

Briefs

Mass Transit Department extends deadline for old vehicles

PESHAWAR: The Directorate of Mass Transit Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has extended the deadline for plying old buses under the use of educational institutions for three months (Till April 15, 2020). In this connection a meeting was held here with Director Transport and Mass Transit, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Fahad Ikram Qazi in the chair here on Monday. Besides, Deputy Director (Technical), Tariq Usman and Deputy Director Private Schools Regulatory Authority (PSRA), the representatives of traffic police and Private Schools' Association also participated in the meeting.

It was decided in the meeting that the deadline for ban on the plying of buses under the use of educational institutions that were registered in the Year 2000 or earlier has been extended from January 15-01-2022 to 15-04-2022. According to the decision taken in the meeting all educational institutions will share their complete data regarding their transport with the Motor Vehicle Examiner. A special team headed by Divisional Motor Vehicle Examiner will check all vehicles of the educational institutions will declare them fit or unfit for use. The whole process will be completed in a period of three months. During the meeting a sub-committee was formed under the supervision of Deputy Director (Technical), Dr Tariq Usman that will monitor the overall process and present a comprehensive recommendation report to authorities concerned.

Director Transport, Fahad Ikram Qazi has said that after the expiry of the deadline none of the old vehicles declared unfit by the motor vehicle examiner would be allowed to ply on any route of the province. - APP

45 police officials suspended

DNA

FAISALABAD: City Police Officer (CPO) Ghulam Mubassar Mekan has suspended 45 police officials and officers on charge of patronizing the criminals. Police spokesman said on Sunday that among these policemen SHO Kur police station Inspector Muhammad Arshad, Incharge police post Madanpura Asad Jameel, Incharge police post 208 Chak Waseem Tariq, Muharrar Rail Bazaar police station Ata Ullah, Muharrar Sargodha Road police station Saeed Imran, Muharrars police posts 208 Chak, Chanan Kay, Gulistan Colony, Tariq Abad and Nisar Colony, Reader Circle People's Colony Tariq Rasheed, Naib Muharrar Khurarian-wala police station Faizan Majeed, ASI Atif Munir, ASI Liaqat Ali, one head constable, 3 drivers and 26 constables.

The CPO also ordered an inquiry against these police officials and officers and further action would be taken on inquiry report, he added.

COURT NOTICE

In the court of Madam Nasir Zadi Mehwish Sahiba Civil Judge Jhelum Title: Muhammad Arshad etc VS Muhammad Aslam etc Advertisement Name: Defendant No(25) zafar Ali s/o Muhammad Zamaan r/o Dehri har'doo Tehsil dina District Jhelum (92)Khadim Hussain s/o Fazal Hussain r/o Dehri Har'doo Claim: Suit for Claim interference by distribution As there is not possible to call the defendant through Summon in the instant case so through proclamation in Newspaper, you are directed to appear or legal advisor in the court on 18-01-2022 at 9:00AM, otherwise ex-parte proceedings will be initiated.



KHARIAN: MPA Ch. Muhammad Arshad and Deputy Commissioner Dr. Khurram Shahzad offering a garland after inaugurating the road which will connect four districts i.e Gujrat, Jhelum, Mandi Bahauddin and Mirpur. The road shall be completed with a cost of Rs. Six billion. MPA Ch Arshad while speaking on the occasion said that the Punjab govt was committed to providing basic facilities to people. - DNA

Proposal finalized to improve Pakistan-Lanka trade ties

4.35 million children will be immunized against polio in 25 districts of the province: Attaur Rehman

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Pak-Sri Lanka Business Council Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has finalized a comprehensive proposal to further improve bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The proposals would be sent to government and relevant departments/authorities, aimed at further enhancing bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. A statement issued here on Monday stated that a five member's delegation led by Pak-Sri Lanka Business Council provincial chairman Zulfikar Ali Khan held a meeting with Honorary Consul General of Sri Lanka, Mr Naseem Javed at his residence. The council members Riaz Arshad, Shafiq Afridi, Hammad Sethi, Abbas Mukhtiar, Salman Savul, Saima Aslam, Shaikat Bashir, Adeel Saeed and Amjad Ali Shah were present in the meeting. Both sides have discussed the modalities and irritants/impediments in the way of mutual trade between Pakistan and Sri Lanka. On the occasion, the meeting also thoroughly held discussion on proposals, prepared by Pak-Sri Lanka Business Council Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It was decided to invite the Sri Lankan Am-

bassador to Pakistan for special visit in Peshawar Honorary Consul General Naseem Javed gave full assurance to the visiting delegation regarding the invitation of the Sri Lankan diplomat in Peshawar. Zulfikar Ali Khan apprised the meeting in details about proposals, aimed at to further improve Pak-Sri Lanka trade ties. He said the incumbent government wants to boost up economic and trade relations with Sri Lanka. The council chairman said vast investment opportunities are available for foreign investors in Pakistan, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa which is a lucrative destination for Sri Lankan Investors to make investment in potential sectors in the province. Naseem Javed lauded the council proposals for strengthening bilateral trade and economic relations with Sri Lanka. He assured the Pak-Sri Lanka mutual trade volume will be implemented to further improve in light of these recommendations. The honorary CG on the occasion praised the council decision to invite the Ambassador of Sri Lanka in Pakistan.

4.35m kids to be vaccinated in province Secretary Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Attaur Rehman Monday kicked off 1st anti-polio drive of the year here at Police Services

Hospital wherein more than 4.35 million children will be immunized against polio in 25 districts of the province.

Talking to media on the occasion, Attaur Rehman said that the January anti-polio campaign was planned in two phases in the province and the first phase is carried out in Bannu and D.I. Khan Divisions wherein 1.07 children will be immunized against the crippling virus of polio.

He informed that a total of 5597 teams have been established to vaccinate the target children in Bannu and D.I.Khan divisions out of which 5037 are mobile teams, 284 fixed teams, 245 transit while 31 roaming teams. Likewise, Attaur Rehman said that 14887 total teams have been constituted for phase two of the January campaign that will be carried out in Peshawar, Mardan and Kohat Divisions, District Bajaur, Dir Lower and union councils with Afghan Refugees camps in Chitral lower, Malakand, Buner, Haripur and Mansehra. Total target of phase two of the campaign stands at 3.4 million.

He said that 4949 area in-charges and 1156 Union Council polio Eradication chairmen have been deployed to monitor quality of the campaign and rectify existing gaps at the grassroot level. Special Secretary Health KP said that it was

the first anti-polio campaign of the year and was of utmost importance as polio eradication remains the top priority of the government.

He said that augmented efforts were needed at all levels to sustain the current achievements in polio eradication and help the government reach the finish line. Attaur Rehman appreciated the hard work of the teams saying that the current achievements were possible because of said that no wild polio virus case been reported by the province in the last 18 months adding that polio teams are the frontline workers and backbone of the programme and it will not be fair if their efforts for polio eradication. He said that zero tolerance would be meted out to those found negligent as the programme can not afford any lapse or mistake in this stage of the programme. Attaur Rehman held an appeal to parents to ensure anti-polio drops in every campaign to their children under five as that was the only cure against the disease and repeated vaccination can stop virus circulation. Earlier, Special Secretary Health KP Attaur-Rehman administered anti-polio drops to children to formally kick off January round of anti-polio campaign in selected districts of the province.

DC reviews cleanliness situation in the city

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad went to various areas to check the cleanliness situation and inspected the cleaning operation on the roads, streets and parks in the morning. CEO Faisalabad Waste Management Company Bilal Feroz Joya, ADC HQ Kashif Raza Awan and other officers of the relevant departments

were also present. The Deputy Commissioner visited Nemat Colony, Susan road, Fezan e Madina and other areas and while inspecting the presence of waste workers said that the cleaning process should be completed in the city before the commencement of normal life. He said that more durable steps should be taken to raise the standard of cleanliness so that the city looks clean and beautiful in all respects as per the expectations of

the citizens. He directed to disposed off garbage in a save manner and said that the attendance of waste workers should be monitored regularly. He asked the residents of areas about the presence of Waste workers and performance of them and on some complaint he asked the CEO for early resolve. He went to parks of the area and checked the cleanliness situation. CEO FWMC briefed about cleanliness plan and implementation.



FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad checking cleanliness operation in different areas of city early in the morning. - DNA

Rise of inflation rate in Pak

The value of the oil will be decrease in future because of electric innovations, so Pakistan should cash out the oil from its land because if the value of oil decreases it will be no profit for Pakistan

ALI RAZA

IN the coming 18-24 months the inflation rate in Pakistan will increase more because in the Covid period America printed 40% of the dollars, due to which the dollar rate was equal to 150 and now a day's dollar rate is 170+. It will increase more and will touch 210+ in the coming 18-24 months.

We as a Pakistanis are also responsible to increase the inflation rate because the import rates are more than double higher than export rate. We import more than our exports and we pay in dollars, if we close our imports and manufacture everything in our country, that's not the solution because we can't ignore the oil products. Our imports are 50% oil products and we pay it in dollars, oil is our everyday

commodity that's why we are bound to import oil.

The alternative we need for oil is we should move towards electric innovations, Pakistan can produce electricity from dams there are a lot of resources in Pakistan to produce electricity, Pakistan produce 25% of oil within Pakistan, Government should increase that figure to 50% by bringing private companies to Pakistan. The value of the oil will be decrease in future because of electric innovations, so Pakistan should cash out the oil from its land because if the value of oil decreases it will be no profit for Pakistan.

To reduce our imports, we as a Pakistanis should go for alternatives we should produce those products which we import from other countries and pay them in dollars we should manufacture those products within our

country Pakistan. Which will help us to decrease the imports and we can be the exporters.

Unfortunately our 60% of the exports goes into buying raw material as an import; we should focus more on manufacturing raw material within Pakistan. Due to increase in imports the value of our Pakistani rupee is decreasing every year and due to this the inflation rate increases 4% every year. Pakistan only export is total 31 billion dollars per year which is very less against other small economies in the world. We have to increase our exports by making small manufacturing industries to produce raw material and products for our country to avoid imports. We have to develop skilled entrepreneurs and we have to take risks for the sake of our Pakistan.

(The writer is a student of SZABIST University, Islamabad)

FESCO issues 9600 meters for new connections

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has issued 9600 single phase meters for installation of new electricity connections in all five circles of the region. Faisalabad Electric Supply Company spokesman said on Monday that Director Material Management issued 2200 meters to each of First, Second and Sargodha circles while 1900 meters were issued to Jhang circle and 1100 meters to Mianwali circle. Meanwhile, the Material Management Directorate also issued 3350 meters to five circles for their replacement in the defective meters which were either burnt due to rain or damaged due to any reason.

In this connection, First and Second circles were issued 750 meters each while Jhang circle got 800 meters and 600 meters were issued to Sargodha circle and 450 to Mianwali circle, he added. - APP

200 bags of urea fertilizer seized from illegal hoard

FAISALABAD: Agriculture department has seized 200 bags of urea fertilizer from an illegal hoard in Jarawal on Monday. A spokesman of local administration said on Monday that a team of Agriculture department on a tip-off conducted raid on Tiger Line Godown in Jarawal and recovered 200 bags of urea fertilizers which were being sold at rate of Rs.2500 per bag. The team confiscated the fertilizer and sealed the godown premises. This fertilizer would be sold at government-fixed rate of Rs.1768 per bag, spokesman added. - APP

House luggage gutted

FAISALABAD: Luggage of a house was reduced to ashes in the area of Sadar police station. Police spokesman said on Sunday that fire erupted in a house situated at Milad Road due to short-circuiting. The fire engulfed the entire surroundings and burnt luggage of the house. Rescue-1122 fire fighters on receiving information rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control. However, no loss of life was reported in this incident.

Pak Post mulls to launch UMS Plus

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Pakistan Post has come out of the deficit and now a marked improvement is witnessed due to digitalization while new proposals are under consideration to launch UMS Plus, logistics and postal bank, said Mr. Khalid Javed Director General Pak Post.

Addressing a function in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry, he said that a pilot project of logistics has been launched and hopefully its system would become fully operational within the next couple of months. About E-commerce, he said that the World Bank has also identified it as a major sector in which Pakistan should focus on its future policies.

OPEN AUCTION NOTICE

FOR RIGHTS OF COLLECTION OF CAR PARKING FEE AT LAKE VIEW PARK (PHASE-1), ISLAMABAD

CDA intended to auction the following work for the period of 02 (two) Years through open auction.

S No	Name Of Work	TOR Price Nonrefundable	Registration Fee (Nonrefundable)	Security Deposit	Last Date Of Registration Of Firm	Date Time Of Auction
1.	Right of collection of Car parking Fee at Lake View Park (Lots "A" & "B") Islamabad (For 02 Two Years)	Rs.5000/- (Rupees five thousand only)	Rs.25000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand only)	Rs.10,000,000/- (Rupees ten million)	03-02-2022	04-02-2022 at 11:30 AM in conference Room of Parks Dte. F-9 Park Islamabad

- The set of detailed TOR (Term of Reference) can be obtained from the office of Drawing & Disbursing Officer Parks (Horticulture), CDA located at Mehran Gate No.1 Fatima Jinnah Park, Islamabad on cash payment @ Rs.5000/- (Rupees five thousand) per set (Non-Refundable) during working hours on any working day before date of auction against written request which should be on letter head pad have Name, Address Telephone (Land Line) Numbers and signature of the bidder along with attested copies of NTN Certificate, Sole proprietorship / partnership deed No TOR's will be sold on the date of auction.
- The auction will be held in Conference Room of Directorate of Parks located at MEhran Gate no.01, Fatima Jinnah F-9 Park, Islamabad on 04-02-2022 at 11:30 AM.
- Main Terms and Conditions for participating in bidding process are as under:-
 - Registration of individuals / firm / company will be made on submission of documents mentioned in TOR, and deposit on account of registration fee of Rs.25000/- (Rupees twenty five thousand) along with call deposit amounting to Rs.10,000,000 (Rupees ten million only) shape of pay order in favor of DDO Parks (Horticulture),CDA on account of security deposit.
 - The defaulters / absconder of previous auction are disqualified from its auction.
 - The deposit of call / earnest money should be generated only from firm's accounts.
 - The General / Special Power of attorney may be attested through respective court.
 - The attorney holder may not be the employee of any Government / Semi Government institute.
 - The bid security of all bidders would be deposited in the CDA Bank account and same may be returned after the acceptance of the contract with the successful bidder.
 - The eligibility criteria of the firms with the relevant experience i.e at least three numberofwork in last two financial years may be observed / fulfilled before issuance of TOR's.
 - The right of collection fee will be for duration of 02 (two) years, as per given below schedule:-

S.No	Description	Rate (in Rupees)
1	Motor Cycle	Rs.10/- (Ten)
2	Car / Taxi	Rs.20/- (Twenty)
3	Bus / Coaster / Van	Rs.30/- (Thirty)
4	VVIP &Govt : Number Plate Vehicle	Free

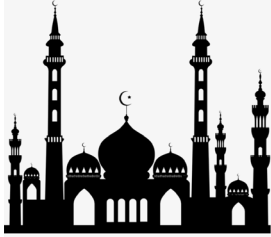
- The successful bidder shall deposit 35% of the highest bid amount in shape of pay Order in favor of DDO Parks (Horticulture), CDA within two days, otherwise call deposit shall stand forfeited.
- The successful bidder will furnish a bank guarantee equals to 65% of the bid amount before taking over possession of site or entire amount in advance.

7. CDA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason.

Deputy Director
Mega Parks (East), CDA

PID (I) No. 4843/21

SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr.....	05:46 am
Zohr.....	12:18 pm
Asr.....	03:46 pm
Maghrib.....	05:24 pm
Isha.....	06:51 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

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

Wasa Water Tank

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



ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador in Pakistan, Bernhard Schlagheck and others taking interest in a photo exhibition 'Images of Science' organized by German Embassy and Pakistan National Council of Arts. – Picture by Shahid Raju

Pak leads declaration on social protection platforms

This process started with the mission hosting an event on Social Protection during the United Nations High Level Political Forum in July 2021

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division in collaboration with Pakistan's Permanent Mission in New York organized three-themed daylong activities at the Dubai Expo 2020 in Pakistan Pavilion. Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar, SAPM on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation chaired these events. Pakistan's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York convened an information session with Member States to garner support for the Universal Declaration on Social Protection, which Pakistan is leading. This process started with the mission hosting an event on Social Protection during the

United Nations High Level Political Forum in July 2021. The event was co-hosted by Turkey, Nigeria and Costa Rica. A "Group of friends on social protection" was subsequently created in order to pursue a "Universal Declaration on Social Protection" which amongst other things, is intended to establish a knowledge platform for sharing best practices amongst member states. The platform will be hosted by the World Bank. 15 countries have already indicated interest in joining the platform and signing the Declaration. Dr. Sania keynoted the event. Participants included Ambassador Munir Akram, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to UN; Feridun Sinirlioglu, Permanent Representative of Turkey to UN; Tijani Muhammad-Bande-

Permanent Representative of Nigeria to UN; and Rodrigo Alberto Carazo Zeledón, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to UN. The Permanent Representatives of Argentina, Peru and China also spoke at the event and supported the idea of platform. Ehsaas also featured a high-level panel discussion on, "Global experiences in cash transfer programmes". Dr. Sania along with Pakistan's Ambassador to United Arab Emirates, Afzal Mehmood co-chaired the panel. Panel comprised of global experts, relevant ministers and academics including Ugo Gentilini, Global Lead for Social Assistance, the World Bank; Michal Rutowski, Global Director for Social Protection and Jobs, the World Bank; Cina Lawson, Minister of Digital Econ-

omy and Transformation Togo; Francesca Bastagali, Director Equity and Social Policy, Overseas Development Institute; Noor Rehman Khan, DG Ehsaas Unconditional Cash Transfers Ehsaas; and Naveed Akbar, DG Ehsaas Conditional Cash Transfers Ehsaas. Panelists shared their global learnings and experiences in administering and studying cash transfer programmes. Ehsaas' programmes were richly commended for casting wider cash transfers. On the day, Ehsaas team hosted a "meet and greet event" to inform visitors of Pakistan Pavilion about Ehsaas and its over 288 programmes, initiatives and policy actions. Visitors took keen interest in Ehsaas and richly appreciated its myriad pro-poor programmes.

IBA elections to be held on January 29

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Executive Committee of the Islamabad Bar Council (IBC) has unanimously decided to postpone the annual elections of the Islamabad District Bar Association (IBA) till January 29. The IBA polls of 2022-23 were cancelled earlier due to certain administrative irregularities and this happened for the first time in its 42-year long electoral history. On January 8, Chairman of the Election Board Naseem Abbasi cancelled the IBA's elections in the middle of the day when voters were busy casting their votes after witnessing massive violations of the electoral standard operating procedures and rules. The Chairman had set the next date of elections for January 11. However, the IBC intervened and postponed the elections citing the reason that "The President Islamabad Bar Association formed the Election Board in violation of the rules and regulations of Pakistan Legal Practitioners and Bar Council" which was declared null and void.

Coronavirus claims two more lives

RAWALPINDI: As many as 95 more people were tested positive of fatal coronavirus during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 40,375 in the district, while two lost their battle of life against the deadly virus. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Monday, the total infected cases included 37,312 from Rawalpindi and 3063 from other districts. – APP

Commander Royal Navy of Oman visits Naval Headquarters



ISLAMABAD: Commander Royal Navy of Oman Rear Admiral Saif Bin Nasser Bin Mohsin Al Rahbi called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at Naval Headquarters.

Islamabad. Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters, Commander Royal Navy of Oman was received by Naval Chief. A smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Navy presented Guard of Honour to the visiting dignitary and he was then introduced to Principal Staff Officers at Naval Headquarters. Commander Royal Navy of Oman called on Chief of the Naval Staff in his office. During the meeting matters of mutual interest, regional security situation and scope of military cooperation to include defence, training and security between the two countries were discussed. The Naval Chief highlighted Pakistan Navy initiatives for ensuring maritime security and peace in the region through Regional Maritime Security Patrols. – DNA



RAWALPINDI: President RCCI Ch. Nadeem A. Rauf along with Former President Mr. Asad Mashadi and Senior Vice President Asim Mahmood Malik paid a visit to Deputy Commissioner Office Rawalpindi and had a meeting with Mr. Mohammad Ali, Deputy Commissioner Rawalpindi. – DNA

Spirit of Riyasat-i-Madina: Transforming Pakistan



IMRAN KHAN

THE rise and fall of nations are different from the rise and fall of civilizations. Nations can be raided, redrawn or re-imagined exogenously but civilizations cannot be killed from the outside, they only commit suicide. The core of every civilization is its spiritual principles; when they die, the civilization dies. In Islamic civilization, the manifestation of our spiritual principles happened in the Prophet's (saw) Madina. Besides many other important principles, there were five very important guiding principles upon which the state of Madina was built. These principles are unity, justice & rule of law leading to meritocracy, strong moral and ethical foundation, inclusion of all humans in progress and prosperity, and finally, the quest for knowledge. To help revive the spirit of the covenant of Madina, National Rahmatul Lil 'Alamin Authority (NRA) has been formed. The first principle which laid the foundation for Riyasat-i-Madina was of unity. The idea of unity (Tawhid) comes from the Quran and in a sense, the entire religion is based on that. From unity of God to unity of mankind, it is the most fundamental principle of Islam. Remember that our Prophet, who was mercy for all mankind, unified people of diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds into a single community. Besides Muslims, there

were Christians, Jews, Sabaeans and other groups who were all woven into a unitary communal whole under the state of Madina. The second founding principle was Rule of Law which resulted in justice and meritocracy. The Prophet (saw) made it clear that no one was above the law. He said that nations perish when two sets of laws exist, one for the rich and another for the poor: "O people, those who came before you were destroyed because if a person of high status committed theft among them, they would spare him, but if a person of lower status committed theft, they would apply the punishment upon him. By Allah, if Fatima the daughter of Muhammad were to steal, I would have cut off her hand." [Sahih Muslim 1688]. If one looks at the world today, one can easily witness that most successful states also have the most robust application of the rule of law. Besides several Western nations, one witnesses those East Asian economies that have recently prospered, strictly practiced this principle. Japan, China, South Korea are good examples. Whereas in those nations where rule of law was subverted, seem to be sinking into poverty and chaos. In many countries of the Muslim world, despite the prevalence of tremendous resources, there is less progress, which is attributable to lack of rule of law. Another good example is South Asia. In today's India, the apartheid rule of law has immediately brought about poverty and countless insurgencies that threaten the union of their country. In Pakistan, not adhering to the rule of law has led to siphoning off of billions of US dollars which has imposed collective poverty on our public. The pattern of politics and development in many countries of Africa and Latin American suggest the same. The so-called banana republics are the way they are because of lack of rule of law. This cause and effect relationship between rule of law and socio-political harmony cannot be emphasized enough. The third founding principle of Riyas-

at-i-Madina was of an ethical and moral transformation of the people – the concept of Amr-bil-marfoof-wa-nahi-an-almunkar (doing good, forbidding evil). The Holy Quran declares it as the defining mission for the Ummah: You are the best community that has been raised for mankind. You enjoin good and forbid evil and you believe in Allah. [Aal-e-Imran, 3:110]. Enjoining what is good and forbidding what is evil is a collective duty that leads to moral transformation of a society. Nobody would dispute this principle, but there are elements in our society that are of the opinion that ethical development of people should be left to the people, the state should remain neutral about good and evil as conceived by religion. This approach is quite outmoded and problematic because it handcuffs the state from performing its ethical and moral duties and allows adversaries of the country to come in with handfuls of money and subvert our values using our own educational systems and channels of information. NRA will endeavor to engage inamr bil maaroofby teaching seerat-al-nabi (saw) to our youth in schools and universities in the hope to raise the level the ethics and morals in our society. The fourth founding principle was of inclusive development through creation of a welfare state where society takes care of its poor and vulnerable and everyone is a stakeholder in the development of society and state. State of madina was first recorded welfare state of mankind where the state took responsibility of its weak. Since we must emulate the example of our blessed Prophet (saw), our citizens should learn to be strict with themselves and generous with others. Keep in mind, however, that in recent times the idea of welfare state has been colored by the Western European experience. Indeed, the West created impressive welfare systems from 1950s to 2010s, of which the most impressive were the Scandinavian ones. However, most of the Western welfare states were

not sustainable environmentally because these were very high consumption societies that produced enormous waste. If the whole of non-West were to copy these welfare states, then our pattern of production, consumption and waste would resemble theirs, and by some estimates it would require six more planet earths to act as sinks that would absorb our waste. Such a welfare state is neither possible nor desirable. Since Islam is the middle path, only moderate prosperity and consumption would be ideal, just enough to fulfil our basic needs with dignity and honor, with universal health care and education. And finally, a knowledge-based society that doesn't confound literacy with knowledge. Literacy may lead to illuminative knowledge that may guide us to good behavior, but some of the highest crime zones of the world also have very high literacy rates. One must not lose sight of an important historical fact that nearly all scholars of early and medieval Islam had deep roots in spirituality. Hence literacy alone may not be sufficient for a happy society. Knowledge with spiritual transformation from cradle to grave is important. All sources that impact human behavior should disseminate knowledge which produces self-control, self-discipline, patience, forbearance, tolerance and a spirit of service and volunteerism. Lastly, in the light of our ideals, we have embarked on the road to the welfare state with some great initiatives. Despite tight financial means, we allocated unprecedented amount of money to our initiatives such as the Ehsaas Program which was launched back in 2019. Ehsaas Program is a social safety and poverty alleviation program necessary for the vulnerable groups in society. This was one of our key initiatives towards building a state that cares about the welfare of our citizens. By far, one of the greatest programs in history of Pakistan was the Sehat Sahulat Program which offers our citizens uni-

versal health coverage. This is not just to protect vulnerable households from sinking into poverty who often borrow money for medical treatment, but it also leads to a network of private sector hospitals all over the country, thus benefiting both the public as well as the private sectors in the field of health. Just Punjab government alone has allocated Rs. 400 billion rupees for this. The Sehat Sahulat Program is an important milestone towards our social welfare reforms. It makes sure that certain low-income groups in Pakistan may have access to their entitled medical health care quickly and honorably without accruing many financial obligations. In the wake of global economic hardship brought about in the post-COVID era, we have not neglected the fast transforming educational arena. Our Ehsaas scholarship program would ensure that talented students within the underprivileged and poor strata of society would get a chance to pursue decent education that would augment their chances of getting better livelihoods. This program combined with all our other scholarships amountsto six million scholarships worth Rs. 47 billion. This too is unprecedented in the educational history of Pakistan. In conclusion, I will reiterate that the most urgent of all challenges facing our country right now is the struggle to promulgate the rule of law. Over the last 75 years of Pakistan's history, our country has suffered from elite capture, where powerful and crooked politicians, cartels and mafias have become accustomed to being above the law in order to protect their privileges gained through a corrupt system. While protecting their privileges they have corrupted state institutions, especially those institutions of the state that are responsible for upholding the rule of law. Such individuals, cartels and mafias are parasites who are not loyal to our country and defeating them is absolutely necessary in order to unleash the real potential of Pakistan. – The writer is the Prime Minister of Pakistan

Briefs

**2,294
motorists
fined during
ongoing
month**

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) have challaned 2,294 motorists over various road violations during the ongoing month. The ITP has intensified crackdown against fancy and non-pattern number plates following directions of SSP traffic to ensure safe road environment in the city, said a news release on Monday. Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Mazhar Iqbal said that the efforts of the officers and Jawans have helped significantly reduce the number of fatal accidents.

He said further similar initiatives need to be taken to ensure safety of lives of the citizen and make Islamabad an accident-free city.

He further said that in future, the ITP aim to enforce a zero tolerance policy as it is moral responsibility to spread awareness regarding road safety while enforcing laws. Similarly, the behaviour of citizens on the road reflects the social norms of the society, he added.

He said ITP officers are well trained through seminars and have been instructed to treat citizens with love, sincerity and humility. He was of the view that violation of traffic rules leads to accidents. The SSP Traffic Islamabad appealed to the citizens to ensure smooth traffic, as their role was also very important. "Obeying traffic rules can save your life and the lives of others, never violate traffic laws and be responsible and patriot citizens," the SSP remarked. - APP

**IRSA releases
29,455
cusecs water**

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Monday released 29,455 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 49,465 cusecs. According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1443.34 feet, which was 51.34 feet higher than its dead level 1,392 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 13,300 and 5,000 cusecs respectively. The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1133.05 feet, which was 83.05 feet higher than its dead level of 1050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded as 11825 and 115 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 17,479, 24,337 and 16,116 cusecs respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 8,400 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 15,940 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. - APP

**Nine housing
schemes
set-up for
overseas
Pakistanis**

ISLAMABAD: Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development (OP&HR) have established nine housing schemes across the country for overseas Pakistanis. An official source told APP here on Monday that these schemes included Phase-I Lahore Overseas Pakistanis Foundation (OPF) Housing Scheme, Phase-I extension, and Phase-II OPF Farmhouses, Larkana, Dadu, Peshawar, Gujrat, Chitarpur/Mirpur AJK, Zone-V Islamabad, to provide them residential facilities.

He said that thousands of plots created in these schemes were allotted to overseas Pakistanis and located at the prime locations in the cities of Islamabad, Lahore, Gujrat, Peshawar, Dadu, Larkana, and Mirpur (AJK). OPF Housing Scheme Raiwind Road (Phase-I) Lahore spread over an area of 2316 Kanals was located about 3 KM from ShaikatKhanum Memorial Hospital which encompassed 1783 residential and 93 commercial plots. All the 1735 residential plots stand allotted to overseas Pakistanis, whereas the remaining 48 residential & 69 commercial plots will be allotted through auction. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi chairs a meeting with think-tanks (ISSI & IRS) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. - DNA

President calls for training in emerging technologies

The President expressed these views during a meeting with an international delegation of blockchain experts, led by the Founding President of BSV Blockchain Association, Mr James Nguyen, that called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called for developing and training the human resource of the country in the field of emerging technologies, such as Blockchain Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security and Big Data, to meet the requirements of the 4th Industrial Revolution. He underlined the need for creating awareness about the importance and utility of Blockchain technology so that the public and private sectors could benefit from it. The President expressed these views during a meeting



with an international delegation of blockchain experts, led by the Founding President of BSV Blockchain Association, Mr James Nguyen, that called on him, at Ai-

wan-e-Sadr, today. Talking to the delegation, the President said that Blockchain technology could become a powerful tool for tracking transactions, reducing corruption and in-

creasing transparency in public and private sectors. He further stated that a systemic and inclusive approach was needed to fully benefit from the transform-

ative potential of Blockchain technology as well as further its implementation in Pakistan. The President appreciated the services of Pakistan's technology tal-

Freedom is a fundamental right of the people of IIOJ&K

Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organization, Mashaal Malik, was the chief guest on the occasion. More than one hundred photographs have been put on display to highlight the human rights violations by Indian forces

RAWALPINDI: A photographic exhibition depicting Indian atrocities on innocent people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K) was held under the auspices of Rawalpindi Arts Council here on Wednesday in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day. Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organization, Mashaal Malik, was the chief guest on the occasion. More than one hundred photographs have been put on display to highlight the human rights violations by Indian forces. Wife of renowned Kashmiri leader Mohammad Yasin Malik, Mashaal said Kashmir was Pakistan's jugular vein, and freedom was the basic right of the people of occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and no one can deny this fact. Director of RAC Waqar Ahmed said Indian aggression could never suppress the freedom struggle of the people of occupied Kashmir, adding that the current wave of inhuman brutalities of Indian forces had exposed the ugly face of India before the international community. Meanwhile, former Speaker Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Shah Ghulam Qadir, said Jammu and Kashmir people living on both sides of Line of Control (LoC) were reminded the United Nations of implementing its resolutions on the dispute passed this day in 1949.

Talking to APP, he said it was on January 5, 1949, when the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan adopted a resolution that guaranteed the Kashmiris' right to self-determination through an impartial plebiscite. Shah said that International Human Rights bodies, particularly the United Nations, should notice Indian actions and atrocities in IIOJK and play their role to settle the lingering dispute in line with the UN resolutions, he added. - APP

ICCI delegation condoles with Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani



They showed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of the precious life of his younger brother and expressed sympathies with him

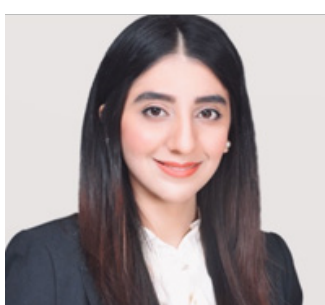
DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) led by Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President called on Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman Senate and expressed heartfelt condolences over the sad demise of his younger brother Salar Khan Sanjrani, who died

during a road accident while going from Karachi to Quetta. They showed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of his younger brother and expressed sympathies with him. They prayed that may Allah the Almighty keep the departed soul in eternal peace and give courage to the bereaved family members to bear this irrepara-

ble loss with patience. Jamsheid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Mi-anAkramFarid Chairman Founder, Sheikh Amir Waheed, Khalid Iqbal Malik, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi & Zafar Bakhawari for Presidents ICCI, Muhammad Naveed Malik former Senior Vice President ICCI and others were in the delegation.

Psychology of leadership in sustainable development



ZAHRA ALI KHAN

THE concept of leadership sounds very simple, but the real story about being an effective and true leader is enormously complex - and this complexity gives us a incredible array of people that we can call 'leaders'. Many leaders inadvertently attempt to learn human psychology to gain insights into how people think and respond to communication cues. Also, many techniques rest on psychological phenomena like the fear of missing out, social proof, reciprocity and more. In terms of Human Development,

UNDP stated that governance is a primary precondition for sustainable human development. In a developing country such as Pakistan, good governance is critical to infrastructure development. Governance has to depend on public participation to ensure that political, social and economic priorities are based on a broad societal consensus and that the poorest and most vulnerable members of the society can directly influence political decision-making, particularly with respect to the allocation of development resources. Mainly, governance in Pakistan can be more effective when it is equitable, and promotes the rule of law and the transparency of institutions, officials and transactions. World Bank Group (2011) stated that good governance is epitomized by predictable, open and enlightened policy making; a bureaucracy imbued with a professional ethos. The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) articulated eight major characteristics of good governance that is, it should be participatory, consensus-or-

ented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable, inclusive, and follows the rule of law. Participation can be achieved directly or through legitimate intermediate institutions or representatives. Governance in Pakistan requires fair legal frameworks that offer protection to all citizens, particularly the minorities and less-privileged in society. It also necessitates that institutions produce results that meet the needs of society which covers the sustainable use of natural resources and the development of infrastructures. Accountability should be an important component of governance which makes it mandatory for those in authorities to show transparency and accountability to those they govern. If anything that sets leaders apart is their effectiveness and authenticity. Acting superior or failing to treat followers respectfully or listen to them will undermine a leader's credibility and influence. Similar problems can emerge if a leader and followers are separated by a wide compensation gap. The process of influencing others

in a way that enhances their contribution to the realization of goals is psychology of Leadership. We demonstrate how social influence emerges from psychological in-group and out-group members, particularly highly in-group prototypical ones. Personality research reveals contextual changeability in correlations with leadership outcomes, suggesting that situational parameters put forth their own weight over the influence of would-be leaders. Approaching the analysis of leadership from a psychological perspective allows us to understand leadership literature as an integrated oeuvre that provides insight into leadership's foundation. Being prescriptive and suggesting that one-size-fits-all is inappropriate and any leader who is self-aware enough will recognise the need for continuous professional development to work with someone with the ability and enthusiasm to build. Here are a few things leaders can do:

• Social emotional learning - with emotional intelligence as a foundation, the aspects of social emotional learning can be applied in the workplace - how to be better leaders.

- Performance coaching - when you have explored your past and identified your thoughts and behaviors in the present day, it is time to plan for the future - how to achieve positive and empowering visions.
- Reflection - reflective thinking is often overlooked but is an essential part of leadership - take the time and space to look at how you have felt, thought and acted - and how this will inform your next move. In my opinion, a strong leader should be able to not only encourage the leaders of tomorrow but consistently build the capabilities of the leaders of today - and the people supporting them should be just as able. Today's leaders are expected to be agile, flexible, ROI-driven, socially-aware and relationship-oriented, open-minded and supportive, and actively seeking out different perspectives and breaking down non-functioning barriers in order to achieve exceptional results.

- The writer is a Human Rights Activist, a regular Contributor towards SDGs, & at present an M.phil Scholar.

Farrukh grieved over demise of Rashid Naz

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Monday expressed profound grief and sorrow over demise of Pakistan's veteran actor Rashid Naz. In his condolence message, the minister prayed to the Almighty Allah to rest the departed soul in the highest ranks of Jannah and for granting courage to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude. Farrukh said services of late Rashid Naz would never be forgotten as he always tried to reform the society through his acting in dramas.

'Hunarmand Pakistan' phase III registration begins

ISLAMABAD: The registration process for third phase of "Skills for All" (Hunarmand Pakistan) scholarships programme has started on Monday to register 60,000 youth for various courses in traditional and high-tech trades. More than 100,000 youth had already completed their courses in multiple trades under the two phases of Hunarmand Pakistan programme launched a couple of years ago under the banner of KamyabJawanProgramme (KJP), said a news release. Under the third phase, the technical and vocational training would be provided to the youth in 250 courses in more than one thousand institutions across the country. The youth can register themselves for free of cost technical training on KamyabJawanProgramme and National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) websites for admission in the institute and course of their choice. Through the KJP's skills training, the unemployed youth could fulfill their dream of personal business or employment. - APP

NPO to organize workshop from Jan 24

ISLAMABAD: The National Productivity Organization (NPO) is going to organize a webinar on "Certified Professional Development Programmes, Distance Learning" to facilitate public and private sector organization to impart knowledge on productivity. The session would remain continue for 3 months starting from January 24 to April 24, said NPO official document.

The programmes have been designed for project managers, HR managers, quality managers/engineer, supply chain managers, Maintenance managers/plant maintenance managers, procurement and store managers, construction managers, food safety professional and fire safety officers. The programme would also helpful for health and safety managers, production/ operation managers, environmental managers, energy managers, disaster managers, kaizen professional, finance and accounts managers and energy auditors, the document added. - APP

AIU offers 30 academic programs for int'l students

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University is offering admissions in 30 academic programs for Overseas Pakistanis as well as other international students. The University has advertised admission in Matric, FA and I.Com programs for Spring, 2022 semester for international students while admissions in other educational programs will be offered from March 1. It is pertinent to mention here that as a result of digitalization, the University is now capable to teach international students online. Students from across the world can take admission in these programs online. The University has arranged for online teaching to these students. Moreover, their examinations will also be conducted through online system.

PTI's counter rally

THE domestic political arena continues to heat up as it was announced that in order to counter the PPP's plan to march from Karachi to Islamabad against the federal government on February 27, the PTI has announced to start its own long march from Ghotki to Karachi against the Sindh government on the same date. The premise of planning this march is apparently the Sindh Local Government law that has proven to be contentious, in addition to what the government claims is a dismal showing by the PPP in Sindh when it comes to providing basic facilities such as health and education.

This is an interesting decision by the ruling government and it remains to be seen how it will be perceived if it actually goes ahead with the March. Of course, political parties are on the lookout for any opportunities that come their way to unsettle their political adversaries. A potential show of street power in PPP's stronghold will perhaps add some pressure on the provincial government, but it must also be kept in mind that the PTI is not in opposition anymore. The government is already under a lot of pressure due to the ongoing economic crisis, so it must be wary of the optics around hosting a rally when it has a lot of other priorities to look after.

Meanwhile, the other opposition parties are still strategising on what their next move should be. While the PDM has announced a long march on Pakistan day, March 23, a lot can happen between now and then. There has been talk about a vote of no-confidence being tabled against the PTI, as the JUI-F has said that the option will be considered under the right circumstances as the opposition lacks the numbers at the moment. Both the PPP and ANP seem to be going about their separate ways at the moment and it remains to be seen if they will eventually join forces with the PML-N and JUI-F down the line.

Reports also suggest that a no-confidence motion would have been more feasible had the government's allies parted ways with the ruling party over the approval of the mini-budget. That did not materialise however, and it remains to be seen what the opposition parties will do next. For the PTI however, the sole focus must be on providing economic relief wherever possible in order to cushion the blow of the IMF measures.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

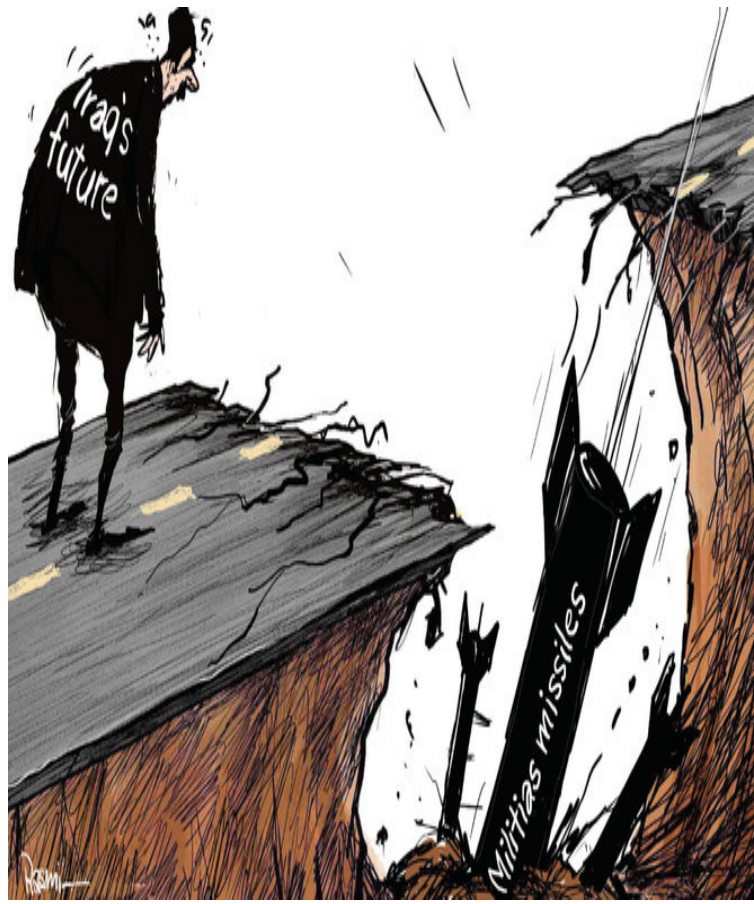
Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 215

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



Preserving ecological sites

PAKISTAN has a number of ecological sites that have a rich history. Ecological sites in Islamabad and Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KPK) have sites that potentially date back to thousands of years and if preserved well, could lead to international archeological interest. Unfortunately our sites have not been preserved well. Due to increased interest, these sites have become vulnerable to tourist activity, which leads to environmental damage to the site that could be long-lasting. Taking a major initiative for the conservation of wildlife and its habitats in diverse ecological zones, the provincial government of KPK has notified 11 sites as "protected areas" including three national parks.

This is a good start. Tourism has been highly beneficial for the area, leading to a rise in livelihood for the community. However the rise in tourism this year has been troubling for the environment and has been a burden on the region's resources. We have seen the dark side of tourism in the last few months, with the blocked roads in Murree. There have also been reports of damage to the terrain.

A good balance must be created between development and conservation and at the rate with which the environment is deteriorating, more areas in other provinces must also be given attention. Another aspect to consider is an effective management team for maintaining a conducive environment in these areas as well as carrying out surveillance. The government promised significant progress in this department and we must hold them to it.

The coverage of the province's protected area is estimated to 17 per cent in the next few months. Other provinces must also be given attention. Margalla Hills in Islamabad for example has also seen a lot of ecological damage to it in the last few years, despite archeological reports that there are significant sites of interest in it. The government needs to pay attention to the natural gifts given to the country.

Why does Africa matter today?

Fatchima Elise H. Paraiso



Then Africa declined a lot, until it became a kind of backyard of Europe, having been almost completely colonized. Only Ethiopia was able to defend itself against the division of Africa by the European powers

AFRICA is an old continent, which has been much talked about in the early days of history, with the Egypt of the pyramids then with Carthage, the rival of Rome, then with the Roman provinces of Africa, from which emerged, in the third century, one of the most famous emperors, Septimius Severus, originally from Tripolitania. Then Africa declined a lot, until it became a kind of backyard of Europe, having been almost completely colonized. Only Ethiopia was able to defend itself against the division of Africa by the European powers. Africa did not regain its independence until the 60s, after hard struggles. But his departure into

the concert of nations is difficult; for a long time, Africa has been synonymous with poverty and underdevelopment.

Today, on the contrary, it is emerging as "the continent of the future". Why? I will respond by explaining here what Africa is today and why it is called so.

Let us first recall some essential data on Africa: it is

- A continent of 30 million square kilometres, surrounded by: the Atlantic Ocean to the West, the Mediterranean to the North, the Red Sea to the Northeast, the Indian/Arabian Ocean to the East.

- The continent is populated by 1.3 billion inhabitants, or 17% of the world's population.

- This population is spread over 54 sovereign countries.

Remember these simple figures: 30 million Kms², 1.3 billion inhabitants, 54 countries. Africa's assets are:

- First of all, the abundance of natural resources, most of which are of recent exploitation. Some ancient kingdoms, such as the Mali Empire, had long operated salt and iron mines, but for most resources, industrial-scale mining began in the twentieth century, for example, oil in Nigeria, diamonds in Botswana, uranium in Niger. So most mines have been producing recently and are still far from exhaustion. Africa has 50% of the world's gold reserves, 90% of platinum, 90% of cobalt, 64% of manganese; Congo DRC alone has 70% of the coltan so essential for electronic components.

- Secondly, because the population is young and growing rapidly. Women continue to have more than four children on average, while infant mortality is disappearing, thanks to the progress of medicine. Thus, average life expectancy is increasing rapidly, for example by one year a year in my country Niger. In most of Africa's 54 countries, the average age is less than thirty years. This youth means energy, strength

and innovation.

- Third: with this population growth and innovative youth, comes economic growth: at more than 5% per year, it is now much higher in Africa than the world average, and some countries hold growth records above 8% such as Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Rwanda.

- Fourthly, the assets I have just outlined mean that Africa, a continent long forgotten except for some of the former colonial powers, is now attracting the attention of all world and regional powers, as well as emerging powers on other continents.

We thus see the development of an African policy of China, Turkey, Pakistan, India and Russia. More diplomatic activities is also a sign of more economic investment. Africa is becoming a big market, and a stage of the new trade routes: it is the new horizon.

However, there are many obstacles before achieving Africa's potential: I will come back to this in my next article in my column on "Islamabad Post". But what is important to emphasize today is that we must not miss the historic turning point that puts Africa at the forefront of the international scene.

By launching its "Engage Africa" policy in November 2019, Pakistan has shown that it has not missed Africa's historic turning point. However, this subject remains little known in public opinion. The Pakistani media must contribute to raising awareness of the importance of Africa, including the dimension of "people to people" relations, as Minister Qureshi said during the "Engage Africa" conference.

I produced a more detailed version of this presentation on my YouTube channel "Engage Africa"
<https://youtube.com/channel/UCd-ehSM-0d154avy8uCcMKKA>

—Fatchima Elise H. Paraiso is the CEO/Engage Africa Organization
engageafrica@gmail.com

Good governance the key to Arab progress

Hafed Al-Ghwel



This was despite an overwhelming pro-democracy surge in 2011, followed by prolonged internal conflicts, pandemic-induced crises, and endless political malaise

A confluence of unprecedented challenges has added renewed urgency to finding answers for a question that has long confounded politics in the Arab world. Competing theories of power, fledgling hegemonies, and strange new diplomatic arrangements are poised to deliver some kind of "new" Middle East in the coming years.

However, no amount of change has managed to substantially transform governance in Middle East and North African countries. This lack of progress, or even substantive discussion of such an important issue, is likely to imperil the fresh surge of optimism in a region quickly embracing dialogue over force of arms and ideological purity in order to resolve some of its most intractable issues.

For the Arab world to successfully chart a path to enduring stability, leaders and governments should not just lean on increased opportunities for dialogue with each other, nor go all in on rapprochement at the expense of everything else.

Granted, most of the region's ills are usually cross-border affairs, but the key to ensuring that negotiated solutions can be implemented, and endure the test of time, lies inward. Unfortunately, the internal dynamics of many Arab states are dominated by intense rivalries and clashes between a new crop of vocal, idealistic forward-thinkers with visions of a responsive state, and an increasingly draconian cabal of ascetic hardliners tethered to antiquated worldviews. For decades, the latter have consistently failed to determine the exact form of government that is better adapted to a fast-changing world, particularly in terms of addressing the mounting demands of the former. The formula of exchanging government services for public consent has become anachronistic and ineffective, due to massive demographic changes and new societal behavior.

The past decade alone has dramatically transformed Arab people's perceptions of what their relationship is to the state, and what to expect from their government. In the interim, the lunge toward illiberalism after the "Arab Spring" turmoil appears to have nurtured an apathetic citizenry, resigned to defeat and deference to paranoid regimes. However, as time goes on, the continued failure to rewrite social contracts to deliver solutions instead of woes will lead to another cataclysm that would dwarf the upheaval of just over a decade ago.

So far, however, there seems to be no awareness of the urgency of a rapidly deteriorating situation. The new crop of leaders and the nascent political move-

ments in their wake keep failing to put together coherent and self-sustaining visions of what most Arab publics have come to believe is the role of the state, and what form of government can best deliver on their evolving needs.

This was despite an overwhelming pro-democracy surge in 2011, followed by prolonged internal conflicts, pandemic-induced crises, and endless political malaise. In Libya, Lebanon, Iraq, Tunisia, Sudan, and even Algeria, these internal developments were key turning points for the opposition to launch their visions of the state, and properly center the need for governance reform in their campaigns. Had they done so, not only would nascent political movements have dominated national discourse, they would also have better managed the transformation of popular mobilizations into serious legislative gains needed to oversee the next phase of transition toward inclusive democracies.

Now, however, it is uncertain whether any organic momentum in the pursuit of governance reform will ever emerge, let alone survive repression from the top and apathy from the bottom. Unlike several years ago, the few remaining opposition movements no longer enjoy broad support from citizens still overwhelmed by crises, and increasingly expectant of state intervention in the consistent provision of social goods, services, access, mobility and security. Instead, any plans to undo the status quo are met with either deaf ears or derisive dismissals. As a result, an aging class of political elites and the connected few simply continue perpetrating their vision, in which the state is only a vehicle to uphold a limited definition of sovereignty, personified by despots and accessible only to a minority.

The combination of COVID-19, economic disruption, political paralysis, and social unrest, will again test the integrity of governance systems across the Arab world. This is especially true in the civil war-torn states, where actors are still unable to compromise on their visions of the state, and how best to govern through a transition period. It is likely to be even worse for societies that elected to defer their aspirations for hard-won inclusive governments in favor of short-term stability and the comfort of the familiar.

For now, the region is limping along, despite successive pandemic waves, high levels of unemployment particularly among women and youth, sluggish economies, and growing pessimism about the future. Fears of climate change-induced mass migration, food and water insecurities, renewed conflict, and more draconian regimes cloud predictions of what the future has in store for a region that must now fend for itself. Worse yet, the region's laundry list of challenges is even less of a priority going forward as great power competition intensifies in the Indo-Pacific and eastern Europe, while most of the rest of the world is far too preoccupied with their own domestic woes to bother brokering fragile settlements between squabbling rival actors.

Effective governance is important because if the Arab world is not keen on becoming yet another backyard for some other great power, or a battleground for competing interests, it must solve its own problems. However, effective solutions are not going to come via an avalanche of high-level talks or top-level settlements, while ignoring the glaring governance deficits at home. Without reworking citizen-state relationships, establishing responsive state structures, and restoring credibility to participatory mechanisms, any progress toward regional peace and stability will only be fleeting.

—Courtesy: Arab News

Murree on the verge of catastrophe

Khayam Abbasi



A complete ban should be imposed on any kind of housing societies in Murree

MURREE (Queen of Mountains) a well-known hill station not only in Pakistan but all over the world because of its beautiful climate, forests, mountains and natural landscapes, has reached the brink of climate catastrophe. The question of why and how this happened has a long history, but without getting bogged down in these things, if we do not plan for the future, we will not only have to lose this beautiful hill station close to the capital but it can also lead to a new human tragedy. Today you see nothing but tall buildings all around Mall Road Murree. Despite being in the seismic zone, most of the buildings have not taken care of emergency arrangements and no steps have been taken to preserve the natural beauty of this beautiful hill station. But unfortunately this condition is not only of Mall Road but also in different villages you will see such unplanned constructions. Murree is losing its natural beauty due to the carelessness and turning into a 'mountain of concrete'. The rapid deforestation for these constructions

has brought Murree to the brink of environmental catastrophe. The promotion of tourism does not necessarily mean a war with nature. Do we have the power to fight nature? No way. Illegal deforestation threatens wildlife habitats, which are an important part of our biodiversity. If we do not raise our voice then after 20 years this beautiful hill station of Pakistan will lose its nature. Everyone has ruined this beautiful gift of nature, but not anymore, raise your voice. Be it hotel mafia or property mafia or timber mafia, resident of Murree or coming from outside, together they have destroyed Murree and turned from a beautiful hill station into a mountain of concrete. Our institutions and administration have always worked for the interest of the elite and capitalists, but we ourselves have been negligent. To this day we have never realized the silent environmental catastrophe that is now knocking on our door.

Our representatives are not aware of this but now we have to stand up for our future to save Murree. If we do not stand, we must wait for a new human tragedy, and it is not in anyone's power to fight against nature any longer. Our first demand is to make a comprehensive plan for tourism should be formulated keeping in view the environmental impacts and climate change. All of Murree's bylaws should be changed to avoid the rapid threat of climate change. Concrete construction above one floor of any hotel or plaza should be banned. Additional tax should be levied on every commercial building constructed beyond a certain area. Create environmentally friendly SOPs for any construction and ensure their implementation. Environmental impact assessment (EIA) should be considered necessary for every commercial project and approval should be given accordingly.

A complete ban should be imposed on any kind of housing societies in Murree. Where such societies have been formed, climate tax should be levied on them and arrangements should be made to keep the environment clean from their garbage. A time frame should be fixed for the reconstruction of buildings constructed in Murree keeping in view the construction quality and time of erection. Two to three parking plazas should be constructed in Murree immediately. Tehsil Murree should be declared a protected area and the purchase and sale of land for non-natives should be banned for some time. Being a signatory to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, Pakistan is to increase protected area to 17 per cent of its total territory by the year 2030 to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values. Pakistan's total protected area is around 11 per cent. Establish a task force to stop deforestation. All the forests of Murree should be given the status of National Parks for the protection of wildlife. Launch a massive tree planting campaign to protect the natural environment and to avoid the severe effects of climate change. No such business should be given NOC till ten new trees are planted in place of one tree cut down from the land for any commercial purpose. Waste management system should be further improved and its jurisdiction should be extended to the suburbs in order to save the forests from being polluted by commercial activities. The management should ensure that the hotels in Murree are categorized according to their facilities and standards and the rate list accordingly. Necessary SOPs should be implemented immediately to protect natural streams from contamination. This is the war of our future that we have to fight against climate change. If we lose, our future will be lost. Twenty-three lives have been lost in the recent tragedy but God knows how many more lives will be sacrificed?

Briefs

Barty hammers Tsurenko in 54 minutes

SPORTS DESK

MELBOURNE: World number one Ashleigh Barty thrashed Lesia Tsurenko 6-0 6-1 in just 54 minutes to reach the second round of the Australian Open. Home favourite Barty won 11 games in a row before the Ukrainian finally got on the board on Rod Laver Arena.

Wimbledon champion Barty barely put a foot wrong, eventually converting her fifth match point in front of a passionate home crowd. She will face Italian qualifier Lucia Bronzetti next. Barty paid tribute to her indigenous Australian heritage and the crowd support in her on-court interview. "This is beautiful - it has felt like it's an eternity since I was back on this court," she said. "I am a proud indigenous woman and I love to celebrate my heritage. It's what connects me to all of you here and what connects me to the land."

Barty broke qualifier Tsurenko at the first opportunity and then staved off two break points in her next game to consolidate her lead. She was dominant throughout, closing out the first set in 24 minutes before racing into a 5-0 lead in the second.

Rennes thrash sorry Bordeaux

NEWS DESK

PARIS: Rennes ended a run of three successive Ligue 1 defeats by crushing 10-man Bordeaux 6-0 on Sunday to plunge Vladimir Petkovic's struggling side into the relegation zone.

Bordeaux have won just three times in 21 league games under Petkovic, who left his job as Switzerland boss after leading the country to the Euro 2020 quarter-finals. "I take full responsibility. I wasn't able to sufficiently push the players and help them shake this fear. When you're afraid, you can't play football," said Petkovic, who sidestepped questions over his future. "I'm a fighter, my star sign is Leo. I don't give up. It's up to me now to be able to transmit this energy to the team. "We're in a battle for survival. We must approach matches in a more combative way, with the desire to win at all costs."

Bordeaux have been hit badly by Covid-19 cases, while captain Laurent Koscielny is expected to leave this month after it was decided he was no longer in the club's plans.

'Govt handed over...

FROM PAGE 01

FROM PAGE 01 economy in the hands of foreign powers. Addressing a presser on Monday in Islamabad, the former prime minister said that the opposition wanted a thorough debate on recently approved SBP bill. He lamented that the government had handed over country's economy to the foreign powers believing that people would be encumbered with more economic miseries.

If all matters pertaining to this bill were not brought before the masses, this bill would be reversed, Abbasi said adding that there is no clause in the State Bank which let it go unaccountable if the bank fails.

The PML-N leader deplored that now the government would not borrow money from the central bank, rather it would take loans from other banks.

He said that the State Bank governor would become the second most powerful man in Pakistan and the bank would go under the control of just one party. Government or parliament would no longer hold any authority over it, he added.

Abbasi stated that the government could have taken loans three times from the State Bank in a month, but now it could not do so. Rather the government will borrow money from other banks. This thing will stifle growth in the country and people will confront more economic difficulties, he added.

GSV launches football talent drive in Pakistan

The trials are being heavily invested into by GSV in Pakistan offering the very first UEFA scouting assessment on a national level in Pakistan to talent ID in 10 cities across 11 venues to subsequently offer life changing careers through professional football contracts in Ireland

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: Rawalpindi Express Shoaib Akhtar kicks off a life changing career opportunity for 20 super talented Pakistani football players which launched under the umbrella of Global Soccer Ventures (GSV) NexGen Soccer Trials in collaboration with Kamyab Jawan Sports Drive here on Monday.

The road to UK & Ireland has now become unstoppable with the world's fastest bowler, Shoaib Akhtar setting his sights to help fast track football in Pakistan. Shoaib Akhtar will also offer a transformational role to help shape the future of football in Pakistan with GSV. The trials are being heavily invested into by GSV in Pakistan offering the very first UEFA scouting assessment on a national level in Pakistan to talent ID in 10 cities across 11 venues to subsequently offer life changing careers through professional football contracts in Ireland.

The tour also includes 4 master-classes in Karachi, Islamabad, Quetta, and Lahore to develop local football coaching expertise to European standards under St. Patrick's Football Club development program. At least 15-25 coaches have been selected on merit to attend master-classes to help up-skill their football coaching meth-



ods and transfer skills so they become certified train-the-trainers in Pakistan leaving a sustainable roll-out plan under Kamyab Jawan Sports Drive. Yasir Mahmood, Chairman of GSV said, "Football is here to stay for the right reasons to develop and provide an opportunity for Pakistani players. With Akhtar as an iconic cricket legend well regarded around the world will help play a transitional role in making football become on top of the minds of our nation". Zabe Khan, CEO of GSV said,

"The only lifeline a player has and that is to play. Pakistan has seen nothing but football being swiped off its so-called grassroots. I welcome Shoaib Akhtar standing shoulder to shoulder with GSV offering a new hope for Pakistan's next generation football players". Allison Blackburne, British Deputy High Commissioner said: "Football is not just a sport, for many in the UK it's a way of life, and it would be great to see it become more popular in sport-loving Pakistan. I'm delighted that talented

young players here in Pakistan will have this opportunity provided by GSV to learn from some of the best UEFA coaches through St Patrick's Athletic Football Club". Karel Freyre, Belgian UEFA licensed coach said, "Football is for everyone and I am looking for talent with potential to develop and grow into professional players in Europe. I am really excited to see what football technical excellence Pakistan has to offer with football as I see trial registrations rising by the hour". Usman Dar, SAPM on Youth

Affairs and Chairman Kamyab Jawan Program said, "The revival of sports is the top priority of Prime Minister Imran Khan's Government. I welcome GSV in their efforts for reviving football in Pakistan. PM's Kamyab Jawan Program together with GSV will ensure that through football talent hunt we will produce the next football Kamyab Jawan heroes who will represent Pakistan nationally and internationally".

Garret Kelleher, President of St. Patrick's Football Club said: "It is simply wonderful that the resources are now being put in place in Pakistan to allow football inspiring those with a passion for the game to fulfil their dreams and aspirations just like Shoaib Akhtar has in the world of cricket representing Pakistan at the highest level". Zeeshan Yousuf, CEO of itel said: "The world's most popular sport with 4 billion fans around the world is about to ignite Pakistan's football. It is the most spectacular and universal sport. What excites me the most about this legacy project of GSV is the prospect of changing lives of 20 successful kids will be on a life-changing journey to Europe. Pakistani talent has the once in a lifetime opportunity to get groomed and secure professional contracts to take on the world, as they get set to represent Pakistan internationally. How fantastic is that".

Osaka, Nadal advance in Australia after Djokovic flies



SPORTS DESK

MELBOURNE: The first test of Naomi Osaka's new approach to tennis might have been when she completely whiffed an overhead to give her opponent a break point on Day 1 of the no-Novak Djokovic Australian Open. Osaka didn't throw her racket. She didn't roll her eyes. She smiled. "There are situations where I previously would get upset. But at this point in my life, like, I'm here because I want to be here and because I find that it's fun for me," Osaka said. "Might as well enjoy it while I still can."

In Osaka's mind, the drama involving nine-time champion Djokovic's deportation on the eve of the Australian Open was something for the players in the men's draw to worry about. Her title defense began smoothly enough:

She won the first five games on the way to a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Camila Osorio. With so much attention on the 11-day saga of Djokovic's attempt to participate in the year's first Grand Slam tournament, the returns of Osaka and Rafael Nadal have been overshadowed.

Osaka wasn't bothered by that. Nadal didn't seem to be put off by it, either, renewing his bid for a record 21st Grand Slam singles title with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Marcos Giron.

Nadal is tied with Djokovic and Roger Federer with 20 major singles titles each, the most in the history of men's tennis. With Djokovic unable to defend his crown in Melbourne because he didn't meet Australia's strict COVID-19 vaccination criteria, the door is slightly more ajar to Nadal.

Osaka's main concern, meanwhile, is winning a third Australian title in

four years. "To be completely honest, it didn't really affect me," Osaka said of the Djokovic drama. "My goal, like even before this whole situation, is to just focus on myself more, what I need to do to become better."

"Me, I'm a tennis player. I'll focus on my matches. You as, I guess, an audience, focus on whatever is in the news, no?" A potential fourth-round meeting with top-ranked Ash Barty could be waiting. Barty, aiming to be the first Australian woman to win the title in Melbourne since 1978, beat Lesia Tsurenko 6-0, 6-1.

Osaka, after winning the title last year, pulled out of the French Open before the second round, then sat out Wimbledon. She played at the Tokyo Olympics, where she lit the cauldron, but ended her 2021 season early after a third-round loss and a teary news conference at the U.S. Open.

Liverpool will not give up chase of Man City: Klopp

WEB DESK

LIVERPOOL: Jurgen Klopp insisted Liverpool will not give up the chase of Manchester City at the top of the Premier League after bouncing back to winning ways to beat Brentford 3-0 on Sunday. Fabinho, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Takumi Minamino scored the goals as the Reds coped without the absence of Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane at the Africa Cup of Nations.

Victory lifts Klopp's men up to second, within 11 points of the runaway leaders, but they also have a game in hand on City. "We don't have to convince anybody outside (the club). People who are with us, they want to enjoy the ride," said Klopp. "This is not the situation to talk about a title race, 11 points with one game in hand. In a normal world (City win the league), but what is normal nowadays?"

Liverpool failed to take advantage of an extra man for over an hour as Thursday's League semi-final, first leg against Arsenal ended 0-0, sparking fears of how they will cope for the rest of the month without two of their main sources of goals. And Klopp was happy to quieten the "noise" over the absence of Salah and Mane. "We can cut off the public noise. We knew against Arsenal that was not right," added Klopp. "That a couple of world class players aren't here, we know that. We knew we didn't have to make a lot of it."

Klopp made just two changes from the Arsenal stalemate as Curtis Jones and Oxlade-Chamberlain were recalled to add extra creativity and dynamism to the midfield.

He was rewarded with a bright start as Diogo Jota headed over, Trent Alexander-Arnold flashed a shot just off target and Alvaro Fernandez made a brilliant save to deny Virgil van Dijk. However, the Anfield crowd were growing restless until Brentford allowed Alexander-Arnold's corner to bounce inside the area and Fabinho headed in at the back post. "We were unbelievable in the first half against one of the best teams in the world," said Brentford boss Thomas Frank.

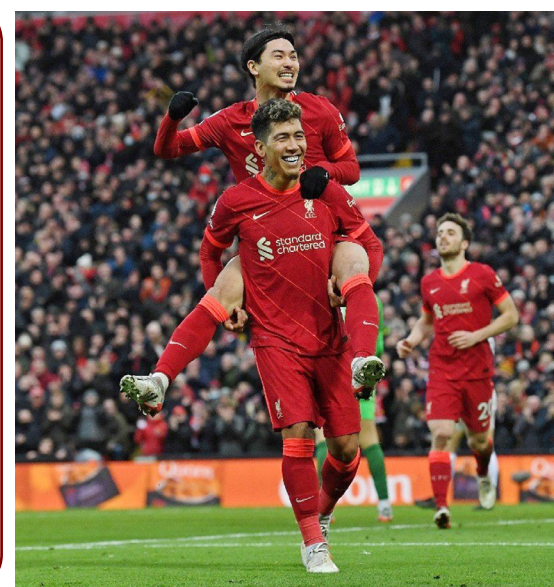
Covid cases rise before Olympics



BEIJING: The number of Covid-19 cases in China reached its highest level since March 2020 on Monday, as Beijing races to smother outbreaks just three weeks before hosting the Winter Olympics. China, where the virus first emerged in late 2019, has stuck to a strict policy of targeting zero Covid cases even as the rest of the world has reopened. But its approach has come under sustained pressure in recent weeks with multiple clusters across the country just

as the Games are about to get under way in Beijing. On Monday there were 223 more cases reported in China, including another 80 in the virus-hit port city of Tianjin, and nine more - including cases of the highly transmissible Omicron variant - in the southern manufacturing hub of Guangdong. Athletes and officials have already started to land in the capital ahead of the Games, immediately entering a tightly controlled bubble separating them from the rest of the population.

But after a local Omicron case was detected in Beijing over the weekend, authorities have also tightened regulations for those arriving in the capital from elsewhere in China. The city is now demanding a negative test before travel and a follow-up test after entering the city, with residents urged not to leave the city for the upcoming Lunar New Year holiday. Some tourist sites in the capital have also been closed. The infected woman in Beijing had not travelled or had contact with infected people, authorities said, as they tested some 13,000 people living or working in the same area. - APP



Ireland stun West Indies to seal ODI series win

West Indies had suffered a collapse of their own, losing six wickets for just 29 runs

NEWS DESK

JAMAICA: Ireland survived a dramatic late batting collapse to secure a famous series victory against the West Indies with a two-wicket win in the third and final ODI in Kingston, Jamaica.

The Irish lost four late wickets after being 190/4 and seemingly cruising to their required target of 213.

But the visitors held their nerve to complete one of the highest-profile series wins in the history of Irish cricket and collect 10 further ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League points to go to the third spot in the standings.

Earlier the West Indies had suffered a collapse of their own, losing six wickets for just 29 runs to leave their first innings in tatters after Shai Hope's early half-century, with Andy McBrine taking 4/28.

And while Jason Holder inspired a wag from the tail to lift the West Indies to a total of 212 all out from 44.4 overs, it wasn't

a high enough target to deny Ireland, with McBrine and Harry Tector hitting fine half-centuries in what proved to be a nervy second innings.

Ireland's five-wicket win in the second ODI on Thursday had set up a winner-takes-all series finale. And it was the West Indies who got off to a flier in the deciding ODI at

Sabina Park, as Shai Hope brought up the fastest half-century of his ODI career, reaching the landmark off just 37 balls.

But Hope's departure in the 11th over sparked a collapse as the home side lost three wickets for four runs to heap the pressure on the middle order, with Craig Young and McBrine doing the damage with the ball. And when McBrine struck for the third time to have captain Kieron Pollard caught in the slips for 19, it looked like the West Indies were in danger of posting an uncompetitive total.

A rear-guard effort, inspired by Holder (44), Akeal Hosein (23) and Odean Smith (20*), helped West Indies past 200. But Young returned to the attack to pick up his third wicket of the game to bring the innings to a close, finishing with figures of 3/43.

A famous series win was within reach for Ireland, but their run-chase got off to the worst possible start when William Porterfield fell to the very first ball of the innings, caught on the boundary off Alzarri Joseph.



Imran, Putin discuss...

FROM PAGE 01

economic ties and energy cooperation. He reiterated the Government's resolve for early realization of the Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline Project. Both leaders agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in different areas, increase high-level exchanges, and remain in close contact on matters relating to Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Imran Khan underscored that a peaceful and stable Afghanistan was pivotal for regional stability. Afghanistan was facing dire humanitarian and economic challenges and support of the international community to the people of Afghanistan at this critical juncture remained vitally important, he stressed.

The Prime Minister also underscored the importance of release of Afghanistan's financial assets for addressing the dire needs of the Afghan people. The Prime Minister said that he looked forward to President Putin's visit to Pakistan as well as his own visit to Russia at an appropriate time.

Committee backs...

FROM PAGE 01

Shahzad Akbar, law ministry secretary, interior additional secretary and other high officials. The special ministerial committee in its meeting took important decisions regarding prisoners' swap agreement between Pakistan and Britain. It decided to sign the treaty in the best public interest. The meeting thought it prudent to first consult the UK government before taking the matter to the federal Cabinet. In case the treaty is signed, both the countries could repatriate their condemned criminals to each other. As per the agreement, only those citizens could be repatriated who have been awarded punishments from the concerned courts of both countries.

After having a consultation with Britain, the special committee will present the treaty to the federal Cabinet for its final approval.

It is pertinent to mention here that the first round of consultation on the prisoners swap treaty with the UK was held in Oct 2019.

Bilawal forms committee...

FROM PAGE 01

the march. Other members of the committee are former prime minister Raja Pervez Ashraf, former Senate chairman Syed Nayyer Bukhari, former Sindh chief minister Syed Qaim Ali Shah, Anwar Saifullah and Muhammad Sadiq Imrani. Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had on January 6, 2022 announced that the party would set out on a long march against the government from Karachi on February 27. Bilawal said the people of Pakistan wanted to get rid of the government. "The country's economy has been destroyed under the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government," added Bilawal.

It is worth-mentioning here that the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), an opposition parties' alliance, had also announced that it would march on Islamabad on March 23 to show the government the door.

Three dead...

FROM PAGE 01

the UAE, a partner in Yemen's pro-government coalition, in what would be a major escalation in the seven-year war.

Yahya Saree tweeted that the rebels' armed forces had said they would "announce an important military operation in the UAE in the coming hours".

Drone attacks are a hallmark of the Huthis' assaults on Saudi Arabia, the UAE ally which is leading the coalition fighting for Yemen's government in a grinding civil war.

The rebels have previously threatened to target Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the gleaming crown jewels of the UAE which last year opened its first nuclear power plant.

The Huthis' latest statement comes two weeks after they seized a UAE-flagged ship, the Rwabe, off the Yemen coast, and released footage purporting to show military equipment on board.

Briefs

Covid cases rising in Kazakhstan

NUR SULTAN: The number of daily COVID-19 cases exceeded 11,000 as cases of the omicron variant have been detected in Kazakhstan, the country's Health Ministry said on Monday. Kazakhstan reported 11,524 infections in the last 24 hours, bringing the caseload to over 1 million, the ministry said in a statement. With four more deaths, the total number of fatalities increased to 13,081. The omicron variant, first seen in the country a week ago, led to the current situation in the country, according to experts. The country put additional restrictions to stem the spread of the virus. Currently, only those who have been vaccinated can enter public areas such as shopping malls, entertainment venues, and indoor sports facilities. Since December 2019, the pandemic has claimed over 5.53 million lives in at least 192 countries and regions, with more than 328.12 million cases confirmed worldwide, according to the US-based Johns Hopkins University. - APP

Israel police in standoff over Jerusalem eviction

JERUSALEM: Israeli police were in a standoff Monday with a Palestinian man who carried a gas canister onto the roof of his home in a Jerusalem flashpoint district as his family faced eviction. Israeli media reported that Mohammed Salhiya had threatened to set himself on fire if the eviction order from Sheikh Jarrah area of Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem was carried out. Salhiya's family has been facing an eviction threat since 2017, when the land where his home sits was allocated for school construction. Police and the Jerusalem municipality said in a joint statement delegates went to the home early Monday to carry out an eviction order after the Salhiyas ignored "countless opportunities" to vacate the land as ordered. "We've been in this home since the 1950s," said Salhiya family member Abdal-Ikermawi from the roof of the home. "We don't have anywhere to go," he said in quotes provided by the Sheikh Jarrah Committee organisation, adding that the family was made up of 15 people, including children. An 11-day Gaza war between Israel and the Palestinians erupted last year, fuelled by anger in Sheikh Jarrah where families battled eviction orders. Police said their "negotiators" were at the Salhiya home after several residents of the house "began to fortify themselves with a gas canister and other flammable material". - APP

Indonesia extends luxury sales tax incentive

JAKARTA: Indonesian President Joko Widodo has approved the extension of the luxury sales tax (locally known as PPNBM) incentive for automotive products, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs Airlangga Hartarto said. Cars with a selling price below 200 million rupiahs (about 13,958 U.S. dollars) or LCGC (Low Cost Green Car) are subject to PPNBM of 3 percent, and the government will cover the entire PPNBM in the first quarter of 2022, the senior minister told a press conference on Sunday. "In the second quarter, 2 percent of PPNBM is borne by the government, in the third quarter 1 percent is borne by the government, in the fourth quarter (the public) pays in full, which is at the rate of 3 percent," Airlangga was quoted as saying by Antara news agency on Monday. Meanwhile, for automotive products with the prices of 200 million rupiahs (about 13,958 US dollars) to 250 million rupiahs (about 17,448 U.S. dollars) with a normal PPNBM rate of 15 percent, the government will bear half the tax in the first quarter of 2022, he noted. He added that President Widodo also approved the extension of the property fiscal incentive or the government-borne value added tax (PPN DTP) until June 2022. - APP

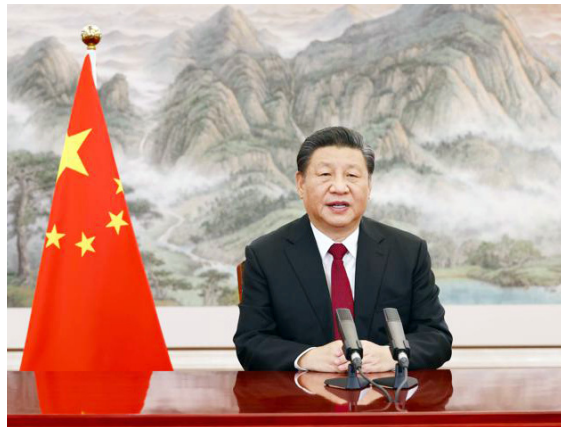
China's Xi rejects 'Cold War mentality,' pushes co-op

Xi said China "stands ready to work with" other governments on climate but announced no new initiatives and offered no resources. He said it was up to developed countries to provide money and technology

WEB DESK

GENEVA: Chinese President Xi Jinping called Monday for greater world cooperation against COVID-19 and said China would send an additional 1 billion doses of vaccine to other countries, while urging other powers to discard a "Cold War mentality" at a time of rising geopolitical tensions - a veiled swipe at the United States. The Chinese leader touted his country's efforts to share vaccines, fight climate change and promote development at home and abroad as he delivered the opening speech of a virtual gathering hosted by the World Economic Forum. The online event is being held in place of its annual January meeting in Davos, Switzerland, because of health concerns linked to the coronavirus pandemic.

The global outbreak that has claimed over 5.5 million lives and upended the world economy was another theme. In a panel session on the virus, Moderna's CEO said the vaccine maker was working on a single-shot booster for both COVID-19 and the flu, while U.S. infectious diseases expert Dr. Anthony Fauci lamented the reluctance of many Americans to follow basic measures like mask-wearing and getting vaccinated. "This is such a formidable virus," Fauci said, noting the difficulty in achieving herd immunity against COVID-19 because of the tendency of immunity to fade, even after vaccination. "You make the virus have an advantage when you don't implement in a unified way all the very well-recognized public health measures, particularly the vaccines."



Xi, who hasn't left China since the coronavirus emerged in early 2020, said in his speech that China has exported over 2 billion doses of its COVID-19 vaccines to over 120 countries and international institutions. He announced plans to provide an additional 1 billion - including a donation of 600 million doses to Africa and an extra 150 million to Southeast Asia. By comparison, managers of the U.N.-backed COVAX program to ship vaccines to developing countries announced over the weekend that it has now delivered 1 billion vaccine doses. Xi touched on standard themes from previous talks to international audiences, including responding to trading partners' com-

plaints by promising to open China's state-dominated economy wider to private and foreign competition. His comments come as tensions between the United States and China have simmered on topics like Taiwan, intellectual property, trade, human rights and the South China Sea. "We need to discard Cold War mentality and seek peaceful coexistence and win-win outcomes. Our world today is far from being tranquil," said Xi, through a translator. "Protectionism and unilateralism can protect no one. They ultimately hurt the interests of others as well as one's own. Even worse are the practices of hegemony and bullying, which run counter to the tide of history. A zero-sum approach that enlarges one's own gain at the expense of others will not help," he added. "The right

way forward for humanity is peaceful development and win-win cooperation." Xi said China "stands ready to work with" other governments on climate but announced no new initiatives and offered no resources. He said it was up to developed countries to provide money and technology. After Xi spoke, Moderna CEO Stephane Bancel said during a session on the future of COVID-19 that he hoped the U.S.-based company would have a combined vaccine booster ready to test in advanced research in the second quarter, saying a best-case scenario would be if the single shot covering both flu and COVID-19 would be ready for use next year. "I don't think it would happen in every country, but we believe it's possible to happen in some countries next year," Bancel said.

Russia will pay price if it moves on Ukraine



KYIV: German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said on Monday that she hoped mounting tensions with Russia over Ukraine could be solved by diplomacy, but she warned that Moscow would suffer if it does attack the country. "Each further aggressive act will have a high price for Russia, economically, strategically, politically," Baerbock, in Kyiv on a trip that will next take her to Moscow, told a joint news conference with her Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba. "Diplomacy is the only way." Talks between Moscow and Western states on Russia's deployment of tens of thousands of troops along Ukraine's border ended with no breakthrough last week. A cyber attack against Ukraine and Germany were united in pushing to revive four-way peace talks on ending the war in eastern Ukraine in the so-called "Normandy" format, which includes Germany, France, Ukraine and Russia. Excluded from much of last week's talks, Ukraine has repeatedly sought and received reassurances from allies that no decisions would be taken about its future without its involvement and assent. - Agencies



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shah Farman and Chief Minister KP Mahmood Khan called on Prime Minister Imran Khan at Peshawar. - DNA

Pandemic still taking heavy toll on jobs: UN

GENEVA: The Covid-19 crisis is continuing to hit jobs hard around the world, the United Nations said Monday, warning it could take years for employment levels to reach pre-pandemic levels. In a new study, the UN's International Labour Organization revised its previous forecast that the global employment market will make a nearly full recovery from the virus this year. Blaming the impacts of Covid variants like Delta and Omicron and uncertainty around how the pandemic will evolve, it now projects a significant deficit in working hours in 2022 compared

to before Covid-19 emerged. "Global labour markets are recovering from the crisis much more slowly than we previously expected," ILO chief Guy Ryder told reporters, warning that the outlook "remains fragile." "We are already seeing potentially lasting damage to labour markets, along with concerning increases in poverty and inequality." Monday's report predicted that global working hours would be two percent below the numbers seen in 2019, leaving the world short of the equivalent of some 52 million jobs. Last May, the ILO predicted

the working hour shortage would be just half that this year. At the same time, the global official unemployment rate remains significantly higher than before the pandemic hit. This year, 5.9 percent of workers globally, or some 207 million people, are expected to be officially registered as jobless, which is better than in 2021 and especially 2020, but still up from 186 million in 2019. The ILO report said the global unemployment rate was projected to remain above the 5.4-percent rate seen before the crisis "until at least 2023". And it cau-

tioned that the overall impact on employment is significantly greater than what these figures would imply, since many people have left the labour force altogether. In 2022, the global labour force participation rate is projected to remain 1.2 percentage points below the level three years ago, it said. That corresponds to a deficit of some 40 million workers worldwide, ILO said. Ryder warned that the pandemic had already "weakened the economic, financial and social fabric in almost every country, regardless of development status." - APP

World's 10 richest men's fortune more than doubled in pandemic

ANKARA: The world's 10 richest men have more than doubled their collective fortunes - from \$700 billion to \$1.5 trillion - in the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, UK-based charity Oxfam said on Monday. Incomes of the 99th of the world population have dropped in the same period, and over 160 million people slipped into poverty, according to Oxfam, which released a report titled Inequality Kills. "If these ten men were to lose 99.999 percent of their wealth tomorrow, they would still be richer than 99 percent of all the people on this planet," said Gabriela Bucher, the charity's executive director, adding, "They now have six times more wealth than the poorest 3.1 billion people." According to Oxfam, inequality caused the death of one person every four seconds, or at least 21,000 people every day. "This is a conservative finding based on deaths globally from lack of access to healthcare, gender-based violence, hunger, and climate breakdown," the statement said. According to the report, the pandemic has set gender parity back from 99 years to 135 years. "Women collectively lost \$800 billion in earnings in 2020, with 13 million fewer women in work now than there were in 2019. 252 men have more wealth than all 1 billion women and girls in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean combined," it added. The charity also stated that the inequality amongst ethnic minorities soared during the pandemic, adding that people of Bangladeshi origin are five times more likely to die of COVID-19 than the White British population in the second wave of the pandemic in England. "Black people in Brazil are 1.5 times more likely to die from COVID-19 than White people. In the US, 3.4 million Black Americans would be alive today if their life expectancy was the same as White people - this is directly linked to historical racism and colonialism," it added. Bucher said, as quoted in the statement, "Inequality at such pace and scale is happening by choice, not chance." "Not only have our economic structures made all of us less safe against this pandemic, they are actively enabling those who are already extremely rich and powerful to exploit this crisis for their own profit," she added. - APP

KP signs MoUs worth US\$8bn with international investors

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on Sunday signed 44 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) worth US\$ 8 billion with international investors in different sectors during an investment conference held in Dusi (Thani, Dubai, United Arab Emirates). According to Gwadar Pro, the conference was organized during the month of KP at Expo 2020 Dubai, to invite foreign investors to invest in the province, known as the "land of opportunity". January is the month of KP at the Pakistan Pavilion at the ongoing Expo 2020 Dubai. The investment groups that have signed MoUs include Enertech-Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power (KHNP), Private Office of Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook-Al-Maktoum, Samara Group, VR Group, Sigma Group, Malik Foams, Nobel Future Land, InfraCo Asia and others. The investors have signed the MoUs to develop food-processing zones, integrated tourism zones (ITZ), Solarisation of Economic Zones, Construction of Transmission Lines across KP, agriculture and livestock sectors. Out of the 44 MoUs, 11 were signed between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development and Management Company (KPEZDMC) and foreign investment companies. A tripartite MoU was signed between Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO), InfraCo Asia (from Singapore) and KPEZDMC for polarization of All Economic Zones in KP. - Agencies

Pakistan playing crucial role in Afghan crisis

First, at a time when the Afghan people are facing difficulties, Pakistan stands firmly together with them and does its best to help them

BEIJING: Pakistan has been playing an extremely important role in alleviating the humanitarian crisis and avoiding the socio-economic collapse in Afghanistan. This was stated by Chinese scholar Cheng Xizhong, Visiting Professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law, according to Gwadar Pro. He emphasised that the international community should fully recognize Pakistan's crucial role in maintaining regional peace and stability. Prof. Cheng believes that Pakistan's important role on the Afghan issue is mainly reflected in the following aspects: First, at a time when the Afghan people are facing difficulties, Pakistan stands firmly together with

them and does its best to help them. Despite its own COVID-hit economy and natural disasters, Pakistan generously announced Rs 5 billion in-kind humanitarian aid for Afghanistan including food commodities, emergency medical supplies, winter shelters and other supplies besides allowing 246,144 new Afghan refugees to enter Pakistan. The country is already hosting over three million Afghan refugees. Second, Pakistan urgently appeals to the international community to actively participate in alleviating the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. Pakistan timely initiated the convening of the 17th Extraordinary Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of Organization of Islamic



Cooperation (OIC), which deepened the international community's understanding of the seriousness of the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and gathered the consensus of the international community on the need to take urgent measures to avoid the socio-economic collapse of Afghanistan. Pakistani leaders have also highlighted the need for humanitari-

an assistance to Afghanistan on various international occasions, and Pakistan's efforts are coming to fruition. The United Nations' largest-ever \$5 billion funding appeal, the US additional aid of \$308 million and over \$1 billion pledge from the European Union indicate the success of Pakistan's repeated calls for the world to help avert looming humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. Third, Pakistan is exploring the fundamental way to solve the Afghan issue. All external assistance can only temporarily alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, but to fundamentally solve the socio-economic problems facing Afghanistan, the international community should help Afghanistan cultivate its own

self-reliance capacity. Therefore, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan lately proposed personnel training for Afghanistan in medical, information technology, finance and accounting and other fields. He also directed to extend cooperation in the fields of railways, minerals, pharmaceuticals and media to help Afghanistan for rehabilitation and development. As the most important close neighbor, Pakistan knows the best about how to make Afghanistan move towards stability and development. The international community should seriously listen to and adopt Pakistan's views on solving the Afghan issue and make joint efforts with Pakistan to seek regional peace and stability. - APP

South Korea president vows climate action

DUBAI: United Arab Emirates (AP) - The president of South Korea on Monday vowed that his fossil fuel-dependent country and the oil-rich United Arab Emirates would jointly expand their investments in renewable energy to tackle climate change. During a visit to the UAE, President Moon Jae-in reiterated Seoul's commitment to reach carbon neutrality by 2050, slash methane emissions and boost renewables as the nation - known as one of Asia's biggest greenhouse gas emitters - comes under growing pressure to combat climate change. "Climate change is becoming a stern reality before our eyes," he told officials and business leaders gathered at a sustainable conference in Dubai. "I hope that UAE and South Korea's hydrogen cooperation will bring forward carbon-neutral, sustainable futures." South Korea imports fossil fuels from the Persian Gulf, including from Abu Dhabi, to power its manufacturing-dependent economy. But in public remarks during his trip to Dubai this week, President Moon has largely avoided discussing their deep cooperation in the oil and gas industry, instead stressing advances in hydrogen technologies and renewables. South Korean contractors built the UAE's Barakah nuclear power plant, the first on the Arabian Peninsula and Seoul's first attempt to build an atomic reactor abroad. The first of four reactors went online in the summer of 2020. As part of Seoul's pivot to greater environmental investments, Moon said on Monday that South Korea and Abu Dhabi were jointly planning to construct a massive plant that produces hydrogen in the form of ammonia. - APP

Ex-leader returns to 'defend Ukraine' from Russia

KYIV: Ukraine's ex-president Petro Poroshenko returned to Kyiv from Europe on Monday despite the risk of arrest, vowing to help protect the ex-Soviet country from a possible Russian invasion. Poroshenko, who served as president from 2014 to 2019, was placed under investigation for high treason and left Ukraine in December. He returned to Kyiv early on Monday on a flight from Warsaw and passed through passport control amid chaotic scenes, saying later that border guards had tried to prevent him from entering the country. A court in Kyiv was to decide later Monday whether to place Poroshenko in pre-trial detention. Thousands of his supporters gathered near the airport to meet Poroshenko. He told them he had returned to help Ukraine face the "growing threat of Russian invasion" and accused his successor, President Volodymyr Zelensky, of "betrayal" of the country. Tensions are at an all-time high between the West and Russia, which Ukraine accuses of having massed troops on its border ahead of a possible attack. - APP

German journalist acquitted of terror charges

ISTANBUL: A Turkish court has acquitted German journalist Mesale Tolu after years on trial for terror-related charges. "After 4 years, 8 months and 20 days: Acquitted of both charges!" Tolu tweeted after her acquittal. She was accused of engaging in terror propaganda and being a member of a banned left-wing group - the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party. Tolu, 38, was placed in pre-trial detention for eight months in 2017. She was later released but was barred from leaving Turkey until August 2018. She lives in Germany. Before her arrest, Tolu worked as a translator and journalist for the Turkish ETHA news agency. German-Turkish relations were tense at the time of Tolu's arrest, when eight other German or German-Turkish citizens were imprisoned. Berlin considered the arrests to be politically motivated. Reporters Without Borders ranks Turkey at 153 out of 180 countries in its World Press Freedom Index of 2021. - APP

Briefs

Operation against illegal buildings in Murree

DNA

MURREE: A grand operation against illegal structures that are creating road closures in Murree started Monday on the recommendation of a five-member probe body investigating the tragedy in Murree last week which claimed the lives of more than 23 people at the hill station amid a powerful snowstorm. The operation, according to municipal officer Raza Elahi, will target unlawful commercial complexes, hotels, and apartments without parking spaces. The municipal officer stated that the process of sealing and demolition of structures on Bansara Gali, Bhurban Road has started. Raza Elahi, who is in charge of the anti-encroachment operation, told that a five-member investigating commission had suggested that encroachments and unlawful constructions be demolished in Murree, declaring illegal structures and encroachments on the Murree Expressway and connecting highways a "major obstacle" to the flow of traffic. The committee, set up by the Punjab government, is investigating the causes and lapses that led to the deaths of 23 visitors in Murree during a snowstorm on January 8. The committee had recommended demolishing all illegal hotels, plazas, and building sites at the hill station. At least 23 people had died as thousands of tourist vehicles ended up being stranded in Murree due to heavy snowfall and ensuing road blockage last week.

ECP suspends membership of 150 lawmakers

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) suspended the membership of 150 members of the parliament including Farrukh Habib, Hammad Azhar and Shafiqat Mahmood. The memberships have been revoked for not submitting statement of assets and liabilities. The suspended members include Noor-ul-Haq Qadri, Farrukh Habib, Hammad Azhar, Shafiqat Mahmood, Fehmida Mirza, Amir Liaquat, Raja Riaz, Sadaqat Abbasi, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Senator Musaddiq Malik, Senator Sikandar Mandhro, Makhdoom Sami Ul Hassan, Syed Mubeen Ahmed and Javid Iqbal. The membership of 36 members of the National Assembly (NA), three members of Senate and 69 members of the Punjab Assembly has been suspended. Former Federal Minister for Power Awais Leghari is also among the suspended members, whereas, the membership of 14 members of Sindh Assembly, 21 members of KPK Assembly and 7 members of Balochistan Assembly has also been suspended. Sardar Yar Mohammad Rind is also a part of the list.

At least 12 killed in Afghan earthquake

HERAT: At least 12 people were killed after an earthquake hit western Afghanistan on Monday, an official said. The victims died when roofs of their residential houses collapsed in Qadis district in the western province of Badghis, district governor Mohammad Saleh Purdel told AFP. The quake was magnitude 5.3, according to the US Geological Survey, who originally recorded the magnitude as 5.6. "Several people were also injured in today's earthquake," Purdel said, adding that the victims included women and children. - APP

Qaiser reiterates pledge to facilitate Afghan people

Speaker urged all political leaders irrespective of their political affiliation to play their positive role in this regard through platform of Parliament

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Asad Qaiser has reiterated Pakistan's commitment to facilitate Afghan brethren in every manner in this hour of need. Addressing the All Parties National conference on Afghanistan issue in Islamabad on Monday, he stressed for making a national policy on Afghanistan issue as peace in Pakistan is linked with peace in Afghanistan. The Speaker urged all political leaders irrespective of their political

affiliation to play their positive role in this regard through the platform of Parliament. Asad Qaiser said to facilitate Afghan patients; we are planning to build hospitals near border areas while visa policy for Afghan patients is also being reviewed. He also urged the world community to play its role for provision of health facilities to Afghan people. The Speaker said our gov-



Ashrafi urged the international community to come forward and help the Afghan people in this hour of need.

ernment is introducing incentivized policy for Afghan investors to grow their businesses in Pakistan. He said this policy will be passed by the Federal Cabinet, on Tuesday. Addressing the conference, Special Representative to the Prime Minister on Religious Harmony Allama Tahir

He said the Afghan people have been facing a crisis like situation in the prevalent extreme cold weather. He emphasized on engaging with the Afghan interim government. Allama Tahir Ashrafi said the world has acknowledged Pakistan's stance that peace in Afghanistan is possible only through negotiations. He said the recently held OIC Council of Foreign Ministers' conference in Islamabad provided an opportunity to the international community to discuss the problems being faced by the Afghan people and find their solution.

Covid-19 claims six more patients

DNA

KARACHI: As many as six more patients of Coronavirus died overnight lifting the death toll to 7,703 and 3,238 new cases emerged when 17,725 tests were conducted. This was stated by Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah in a statement issued here on Monday. He added that six more patients of COVID-19 lost their lives lifting the death toll to 7,703 that constituted 1.5 percent death rate. Mr. Shah said that 17,725 samples were tested which detected 3,238 cases that constituted 18.3 percent current detection rate. He added that so far 7,368,038 tests have been conducted against which 504,193 cases were diagnosed, of them 93.7 percent or 472,524 patients have recovered, including 399 overnight. The CM said that currently 23,963 patients were under treatment, of them 23,643 were in home isolation, 26 at isolation centers and 294 at different hospitals. He added that the condition of 260 patients was stated to be critical, including 20 shifted to ventilators. According to the statement, out of 3,238 new cases, 2,446 have been detected from Karachi, including 976 from East, 695 South, 521 Central, 242 Korangi, 219 Malir and West 93. Hyderabad has 186, Sukkur 53, Shikarpur 34, Ghotki 24, Jacobabad 22, Dadu 21, Jamshoro 20, Mirpurkhas and Shaheed Benazirabad 14 each, Sanghar 12, Naushero-Feroze and Thatta 11 each, Matiari and Badin 10 each, Larkana, Tando Muhammad Khan nine each, Kashmore eight, Tando Allahyar and Umerkot six each, Khairpur and Tharparkar two each.

Senate unanimously passes 3 resolutions

ISLAMABAD: The Senate on Monday unanimously passed three resolutions including implementation of the agreement concluded with the Federal Government employees in 2021 in letter and spirit, empower the Copyright Board for fixing of the royalties for licensing and assignment of work and ensuring payments to the artists, and funding of Metro Bus and Circular Railways in Quetta by the Federal Government. The resolutions were moved by Kamran Murtaza, Faisal Javed and Danesh Kumar respectively in the House. The treasury benches did not oppose all the three resolutions. The resolution moved by Kamran Murtaza read: "The Senate of Pakistan urges upon the government to implement the agreement concluded with the Federal Government employees in 2021, in letter and spirit, with particular reference to the up-gradation of posts of scale 1-16 and merger of all ad-hoc allowances in the basic pay." - APP

Flaws in prosecution let criminals go scot free: SC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has reproved the prosecution for not pursuing cases in a diligent way which result in the condemnation of the innocent and acquittal of the real criminals. A two-judge bench of the apex court headed by Justice Qazi Faiz Isa on Monday heard a bail application of an accused arrested on charge of smuggling charas. During the hearing, Justice Isa expressed his ire over the flaws in the methods of prosecution and the way it dealt with cases. "Everybody finds faults with the court but no one sees flaws in the prosecution," the judge ruled. Justice Isa observed that according to the FIR, the accused was held during checking at a general picket and security officials recovered charas from his possession. He wondered why the police did not record the whole incident as policemen carried mobile phones too. What will happen if an accused denies his presence at the crime scene, he said. The judge inquired if the interior ministry was not aware that every official carried mobile phone. "Or is it the case that the prosecution deliberately leaves flaws in connivance with the accused? Or is there any veracity in the assumption that the prosecution tries to fool the courts," he wondered. Justice Isa remarked that the police caught charas during a random checking at a check post. They presented challan against the accused but failed to provide details about the car owner. The public prosecutor told the court that details of the car owner were sought from the excise department.



ISLAMABAD: The special committee meets at the Interior Ministry in Islamabad, Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Human Rights Minister Dr Shireen Mazari, Interior Advisor Barrister Shahzad Akbar attended the meeting. - DNA

Taliban say female educational institutions to reopen

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Girls' schools across Afghanistan will hopefully reopen by late March, a senior Taliban leader has told the Associated Press, offering the first timeline for the resumption of high schools for girls since the group retook power in mid-August. Speaking to journalists on Saturday, Zabihullah Mujahid, spokesman for Afghanistan's government and deputy minister of culture and information, said the group's education department would open classrooms for all girls and women in the Afghan New Year, which starts on March 21.

Although the Taliban has not officially banned girls' education, the group's fighters have shuttered girls' secondary schools and barred women from public universities in some parts of the country. Girls in most of Afghanistan have not been allowed back to school beyond grade 7 since the Taliban takeover, and reversing that has been one of the main demands of women's rights activists and the international community for months. Education for girls and women "is a question of capacity," Mujahid said in the interview. "We are trying to solve these problems by the coming year," so that schools and universities can open, he added. The inter-

national community, reluctant to formally recognise a Taliban-run administration, is wary that the group could impose harsh measures similar to its previous rule 20 years ago. At the time, women were banned from education, work and public life. "We are not against education," Mujahid stressed, speaking at the culture and information ministry in Kabul. "In many provinces, the higher classes (girls' school) are open, but in some places where it is closed, the reasons are economic crisis and the framework, which we need to work on in areas which are overcrowded. And for that we need to establish the new procedure," he said.

PM Imran inaugurates Special Technology Zone in KPK



SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) and Pak-Austria Fachhochschule: Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology (PAF IAST) hosted a ceremony to officially announce the opening of Special Technology Zones (STZ) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday. The Honorable Prime Minister, Mr. Imran Khan, attended the ceremony as chief guest. Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan, Federal Ministers Pervez Khattak, Asad Umar and Umar Ayub,

Special Assistant to Prime Minister Shahbaz Gul, Chairman STZA, Aamir Hashmi and others also attended the event. The STZA awarded the first Zone Developer License in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to PAF-IAST and the second License to KPITB for Pakistan Digital City in Haripur. Both the PAF-IAST and KPITB are committed to the development of knowledge ecosystems, which will enable youth employment, opportunity creation, and economic transformation through the technology sector. The STZs will open avenues for the youth, foster new high-tech skills, and create opportunities for employment, business, entrepreneurship and international investors. The PAF-IAST has established their own Technology Park to encourage the commercialization of research and to attract foreign direct investment to Pakistan. The university aims to facilitate interaction between the university and industry, and particularly with technology and R&D led companies. The university also offers skill-based training in emerging fields of Artificial Intelligence, Information Technology, and Biomedical Engineering. KPITB, which was also awarded Zone Developer License, plans on establishing Digital City, for which the work is already initiated, to promote and jumpstart growth in the technology industry by bringing together various ecosystem players. KPITB intends to transfer the following technologies: i) High-tech manufacturing, ii) Quantum Computing, iii) Cybersecurity, iv) Artificial Intelligence, and v) Cyber Physical Systems.

Qureshi urges Opp to join hands for South Punjab

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Monday urged the Opposition parties to come forward and join hands with government for evolving consensus on creation of province of South Punjab. Taking part in debate in the Senate on Bill moved by Senator Rana Mahmood ul Hassan to introduce the Bill further to amend the Constitution, he said that Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) was supporting creation of new province on the desire of the people of South Punjab. He said that creation of new provinces will also end deprivation among the people of small provinces. The Foreign Minister said that South Punjab is very backward and PTI government has taken steps for correcting the balance of the federation. He said that amendments were also made in the rules of business and Punjab government had also approved it and notified and also implemented. He said that on the basis of this, in two important cities of South Punjab including Multan and Bahawalpur Secretariats' foundation stones were laid and funds were also allocated besides starting of work. He said that a site was identified in Bahawalpur for establishment of some departments. Qureshi said that few departments also started sitting in both the cities. "We want to take it forward", he added. The Foreign Minister said that as per the PTI manifesto, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs has not opposed, rather he supported it which was referred to the committee. He requested that we all should set a side political point scoring on this issue and move forward on it. Unfortunately, we do not have two third majority otherwise PTI will move it on its own. I will request all the political parties to speak on the subject, he said and added, we all should unanimously develop consensus in the committee on it. He said that same consensus would be developed in Punjab Assembly. - DNA

North Korea fires more suspected missiles

WEB DESK

SEOUL: North Korea fired two suspected ballistic missiles Monday, Seoul said, its fourth weapons test this month as Pyongyang flexes its military muscle while ignoring offers of talks from the United States. Despite biting international sanctions, Pyongyang has conducted a string of weapons tests this year, including of hypersonic missiles, as leader Kim Jong Un pursues his avowed goal of further strengthening the military. Reeling economically from a self-imposed coronavirus blockade, impoverished North Korea has not responded to Washington's offers of talks, while doubling down on weapons tests and vowing a "stronger and certain" response to any attempts to rein it in. The launches come at a delicate time in the region, with North Korea's sole

major ally China set to host the Winter Olympics next month and South Korea gearing up for a presidential election in March. Two suspected "short-range ballistic missiles" were fired east from an airport in Pyongyang early Monday, the South Korean military's Joint Chiefs of Staff said, with Japan also confirming the launch. Fired just before 9 am (0000 GMT), they flew 380 kilometers (about 240 miles) at an altitude of 42 km, the JCS added. The frequent and varied tests this year indicate North Korea "is trying to improve its technology and operational capability in terms of covert actions," Japanese Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi told reporters. Pyongyang said it successfully tested hypersonic gliding missiles on January 5 and January 11, with the second launch personally supervised by Kim. In response, the United States last week imposed fresh sanctions on

five North Koreans connected to the country's ballistic missile programs, prompting an angry reaction from Pyongyang. A North Korean foreign ministry spokesman described the move as a "provocation," according to state news agency KCNA. If "the US adopts such a confrontational stance, the DPRK will be forced to take stronger and certain reaction to it," the spokesman said hours before Pyongyang fired two train-launched missiles Friday. Analysts said the Monday test also appeared to be an attempt to send the United States a message. "It is signalling that it will forge ahead with tests despite criticism," Hong Min of the Korea Institute for National Unification in Seoul told AFP. Hypersonic missiles are a top priority in Pyongyang's new five-year defense development plan, unveiled in January 2021, which it has pursued while dialogue with the United States remained stalled.

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