

vide the Chairman of PPP with camels and horses has stated that PPP does not even have the number of people as many words in long march. The criminals have showed solidar ity with each other on the Kashmir Solidarity day. The Information Minister has said that, "The way the shouts have been raised it indicates the success of the visit to China."

PDM opposes presidential system

DNA



NEWS DESK / DNA BEIJING: Prime Minister Imran Khan met President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of People in Beijing Sunday. This was the first meeting of the two leaders since the Prime Minister's visit to China in October 2019. The two leaders reviewed the entire gamut of Pakistan-China bilateral cooperation and

Olympic Winter Games in Beijing

exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, in a warm and cordial atmosphere. Prime Minister Imran Khan congratulated the leadership and people of China on successful hosting of the 24th Olympic Winter Games in Beijing and extended his best wishes on the Chinese Lunar New Year.

The Prime Minister underscored that China was Pakistan's steadfast partner, staunch supporter and Iron Brother. The All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China had withstood the tests of times and the two nations firmly stood side by side in realizing their visions and shared aspirations

Continued on Page 06

PM to visit **Russia** this month

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Pakistan Imran Khan is likely to visit Russia in February. According to details, PM's this tour will be historic as it will take place after a prolonged duration of 23 years. PM Imran will pay visit to Russia on the invitation of Russian president Vladimir Putin. The PM has started preparations regarding the visit. The discussion related to mutual relations, North-South Gas Pipeline Project and some other important topics will be carried out. During PM Khan's visit, the discussions will focus on enhancing cooperation in the spheres of economy, trade, defense and energy.



The decline in the daily COVID-19 case count pushed the positivity ratio down to 8.69%

BEIJING: Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chinese President Xi Jinping pose for a photo. - DNA Five soldiers martyred in Kurram attack

The terrorists attacked from inside Afghanistan; Pak Army responded in a befitting manner

iential system. Addressing a gathering in Mianwali, the PDM Chief said that Shehbaz Sharif is the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly and he can meet with other parties under this authority. The PDM Chief said that the foundation of change has been laid after the success of KP elections. He added that, JUI-F does not recognize the illegitimate government of Pakistan Tehree-e-Insaaf (PTI), we will get rid of the PTI government.

Opposition can't dent PTI govt

FAISALABAD: Special Asto

sistant Prime Minister for Political Communication Dr Shahbaz Gill

has said that the whole lot of opposition cannot dent the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insat (PTI) government as their fundamentals are flawed and divergent. Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, he criticised the threatening attitude of the opposition leaders, who were trying to intimidate the state institutions for their vested interests. He said that Asif Ali Zardari and the Sharif families had been at daggers drawn in the past. - APP

News Desk

NEW DELHI: Bollywood superstar Lata Mangeshkar, known to millions as the "Nightingale of India" and a regular fixture of the country's airwaves for decades, died Sunday morning at the age of 92. The Indian government has announced a two-day national holiday to

Continued on Page 06

Legendary singer Lata passes away She was 92; two-day

national holiday in India

PM, Fawad pay tributes

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said on Sunday that demise of famous Indian singer Lata Mangeshkar marked the end of an era of music. In a tweet, Chaudhry Fawad said that Lata ruled the world for decades and the magic of her voice will live on forever. He said wherever Urdu was spoken and understood, there were admirers of Lata Mangeshkar. Responding to the news of the legendary artist's death, Prime Minister Imran Khan said the world had lost one of the

greatest singers. - APP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan witnessed a major decline in the new COVID-19 cases as only 4,874 people tested positive overnight, the National Command and Operation (NCOC) data showed Sunday morning, keeping the country's coro navirus positivity ratio below the 10% mark for the fifth consecutive day.

As per NCOC's stats, 56,051 diagnostic tests were performed during the last 24 hours, of which 4,874 came back positive. The decline in the daily COVID-19 case count pushed the positivity ratio down to 8.69% and active cases to 90,797 in a single day. However, the total number of coronavirus cases rose to 1,459,773. Meanwhile, the countrywide COVID-19 death tally was placed at 29,478 as 30 more people succumbed to the virus in the last 24 hours.

Pakistan's Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health, Dr. Faisal Sultan, asked the public to stop being lazy and get their booster shots if they haven't already. As Pakistan fights the fifth COVID-19 wave led by the Omicron, Dr. Faisal Sultan had urged people to get their shots. On Sunday, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) chief Asad Umar shared that Pakistan has been setting the highest daily vaccination records for three consecutive days. "Highest daily vaccination records set three days in a row," tweeted Umar.

Umar, who also holds the portfolio for the planning ministry, shared that the nationwide mobile vaccination campaign, designed by the NCOC and being "implemented with the help of provinces is producing outstanding results".

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: As many as five soldiers of Pakistan Army on Sunday embraced martyrdom while thwarting terrorists' attack from inside Afghanistan across the international border, and inflicted heavy losses to terrorists who opened fire on Pakistani troops in Kurram District. The Pakistan Army troops responded in a befitting manner, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) media release. The martyred soldiers were identified as Lance Naik Ajab Noor (resident of Karachi, age 34 years), Sepoy Ziaullah Khan (resident of Lakki

Continued on Page 06



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Security forces killed a suicide bomber during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Tank area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said Sunday. According to a statement issued by the military's media

Continued on Page 06

India on mission to destabilize Pakistan

Shujaat Hamza

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmad on Sunday said that India did not leave any opportunity to destabilize Pakistan as the entire Indian media seemed to be restless during the Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to China. Addressing a press conference here, he said that over 70 to 80 thousands Pakistani people and personnel of our armed forces rendered matchless sacrifices in war against terrorism. Paying rich tribute to the sacrifices to the personnel of security forces, he said 20 terrorists were killed in 72 hours while nine solider embraced martyrdom in the terrorist



attacks. Regarding talks with banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) outfit, the minister said doors for talks could not be closed. However, he said those should not be spared who took weapons

Continued on Page 06

US sources say Russia 70% ready to invade Moscow says its troops are in the region for military drills, but Ukraine and its Western allies remain concerned over Russian intentions

CENTRELINE REPORT

WASHINGTON: Russia has assembled about 70% of the military capability needed for a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in the coming weeks, US officials say. The ground is expected to freeze and harden from mid-February, enabling Moscow to bring in more heavy equipment, the unnamed officials said.

Russia is said to have more than 100,000 troops near Ukraine's borders but denies planning to attack.

The US officials did not provide evidence for their assessment. They said the information was based on intelligence but that they were unable to give details due to its sensitivity, US media report. The officials also said they did not know if Russian President Vladimir Putin had decided to take such a step, adding that a diplomatic solution was still possible.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, two US officials told news agency that weather conditions would provide a peak window for Russia to move equipment forward between about 15 February and the end of March.

According to reports, the officials warned that a Russian invasion of Ukraine could cause as many as 50,000 civilian deaths. They also estimated that an attack could see the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, fall within days and prompt a refugee crisis in Europe as millions of people flee.

Additional US troops have been arriving in Poland as part of a new deployment to bolster the Western military alliance Nato's forces in the region.

The first group landed at Rzeszow in the south-east of the country on Saturday. The Biden administration announced days ago that it would send nearly 3,000 additional troops to Eastern Europe.

Ukraine row: US troops arrive in Poland

WARSAW: The "first batch" of US soldiers reinforcing NATO allies arrived in Poland on Saturday, Polish army major Przemyslaw Lipczynski told the AP news agency on Saturday. He also said the bulk of a contingent of 1,700 US soldiers would come "soon." A Polish military source said the plane was carrying US chain of command personnel.TV footage showed temporary accommodation being prepared at the G2A Arena in the southern Polish town of Jasionka, while workers could be seen building a fence around the venue. The deployment comes amid fears that Russia could invade Ukraine. The US already has some 4,500 troops in Poland.Washington said last week that it would send about 3,000 additional troops to Central and Eastern Europe to defend NATO members against any "aggression."

This will include 2,000 troops being moved from the US to Germany and Poland. Another 1,000 US soldiers already in Germany are being sent to Romania. The US and its allies have accused Russia of amassing some 100,000 troops on the borders of Ukraine in preparation for an invasion. The US and EU have vowed to impose devastating sanctions on Moscow if it attacks. - News Desk

Moscow says its troops are in the region for military drills, but Ukraine and its Western allies remain concerned that the Kremlin is planning to launch an assault.

The tensions come nearly eight years after Russia annexed Ukraine's southern Crimea peninsula and backed a bloody rebellion in the eastern Donbas region. Moscow accuses the Ukrainian government of failing to implement the Minsk agreement - an international deal to restore peace to the east, where Russian-backed rebels control swathes of territory and at least 14,000 people have been killed since 2014.

Russia is insisting that Ukraine should not be allowed to join Nato.

Rivalry between Russia and the US, which still possess the world's biggest nuclear arsenals, dates back to the Cold War. Ukraine was then a crucial part of the communist Soviet Union.

Inside...

Army sacrificing for country, protection of people, says UBG – Page 03

Speakers for end to Indian occupation of Kashmir - Page 04

Israel expands its Iran strategy - Page 05

Azerbaijan, Ukraine mark 30 years of diplomatic ties – Page 06

Pakistan will continue its support to Kashmiris: Envoy - Page 07

> Qureshi, Wang Yi discuss regional, Afghan situation - Page 08



 Nationality : Male citizens of Pakistan Marital Status : Unmarried Height : Minimum 5 Feet 4 Inches / 163 cm EDUCATION QUALIFICATION: A candidate must have passed with minimum 60% marks in aggregate in any of the following:- F.Sc (Pre-Engg/Pre-Medical/Computer Science) 'A' level with Physics and Maths or Biology (with equivalence of Pre-engg/Pre-Medical). F.Sc with Physics and any two subjects i.e; Maths, Statistics, Computer Science and Biology Training Period : 03 years 	Age : 18 to 30 years on 02 November, 2022 Nationality : Male / Female citizens of Pakistan Marital Status : Marited / Unmarried Height (Male) : Minimum 5 Feet 4 Inches / 163 cm Height (Female) : Minimum 4 Feet 10 Inches / 147 cm Rank : : MCS / BCS (Hons) / BS in Computer Science (CS)/ IT/ Software Engineering/ Information Security / MSc in Computer Science / MS in (Cloud computing / Big Data Analytic / Database Administration with minimum 2nd Division from Pakistani / Foreign University recognized by HEC. Training Period : 24 Weeks	Age : 21 to 30 years on 02 November, 2022 Nationality : Male citizens of Pakistan Marital Status : Married / Unmarried Height : Minimum 5 Feet 4 Inches / 163 cm Rank : Flying Officer EDUCATION QUALIFICATION: LLB minimum 2nd Division from a reputed Pakistani / Foreign University recognized by HEC. Candidates having practical experience of Law would be given preference. Training Period : 24 Weeks LOGISTICS BRANCH (129 CSC SSC)
	MET BRANCH (129 CSC SSC)	Age : 18 to 30 years on 02 November, 2022 Nationality : Male citizens of Pakistan
11 LOGISTICS COURSE Age : 16 to 22 years on 02 Novmber, 2022 Nationality : Male citizens of Pakistan Marital Status : Unmarried Height : Minimum 5 Feet 4 Inches / 163 cm EDUCATION QUALIFICATION: A candidate must have passed with minimum 60% marks in aggregate in	Age : 18 to 30 years on 02 November, 2022 Nationality : Male citizens of Pakistan Marital Status : Married / Unmarried Height : Minimum 5 Feet 4 Inches / 163 cm Rank : Flying Officer EDUCATION QUALIFICATION: MS / MSc in Meterology, Msc Physics, MSc Maths with minimum 2nd Division from Pakistani / Foreign University recognized by HEC. Training Period : 24 Weeks	Age : 18 to 30 years on 02 November, 2022 Nationality : Male citizens of Pakistan Marital Status : Married / Unmarried Height : Minimum 5 Feet 4 Inches / 163 cm Rank : Flying Officer EDUCATION QUALIFICATION: BBA (Supply Chain Management / Marketing / Finance), BSCS / BSIT / BCS, BS (Economics / Statistics) BE (All disciplines excluding Civil Engg). Note: Each qualification must have 4 years degree with minimum 2nd Division from a reputed Pakistani / Foreign University recognized by HEC. Training Period : 24 Weeks :
any of the following:- F.Sc (Pre-Engg) with Chemistry as a subject		S / INSTRUCTORS FOR PAF COLLEGES WER TOPA (SPSSC)
A level with Physics, Chemistry and Maths (with equivalence of Pre-Engg) Training Period : 03 years 28 ADMIN & SPECIAL DUTIES COURSE	PAF COLLEGE SARGODHA: Gender : Male / Female Chemistry Lecturer: BS / M. Sc Chemistry (1st Div / Grade 'B') Image: Chemistry (1st Div / Grade 'B') English Lecturer: BS / MA in English 1st Div / Grade 'B' Image: Chemistry (1st Div / Grade 'B') PAF COLLEGE LOWER TOPA: Gender : Male	
Age : 16 to 22 years on 02 November, 2022 Nationality : Male citizens of Pakistan Marital Status : Unmarried Height (Male) : Minimum 5 Feet 4 Inches / 163 cm EDUCATION QUALIFICATION: A candidate must have passed with minimum 60% marks in aggregate in any of the following:- F.Sc (Pre-Engg/Pre-Medical/Computer Science) 'A' level with Physics and Maths or Biology (with equivalence of Pre-Engg/Pre-Medical)	 Experience: At least 5 years of teaching experience in a Cadet College due preference. (For PAF College Lower Topa) & at least 03 years of teachinstitutions (For PAF College Sargodha). Note: Each qualification must be from reputed Pakistani / Foreign I GENERAL (i) Proficiency in organizing sports and co-curricular activities. (ii) Ex (iii) Should be medically fit. (iv) Personality traits suitable for residential SELECTION PROCEDURE (i) Intelligence, Psychological, Academic test and Initial Medical examinat (ii) Interview by AHQ Special Selection Boards I & II. (iii) Final Medical examinat 	cellent English language skills, both spoken and written. Colleges. (v) Government servants to apply through proper channel. tion followed by interview at PAF I&SC.
 F.Sc with Physics and any two subjects i.e; Maths, Statistics, Computer Science and Biology Training Period : 03 years 	 qualification and experience. (iii) FREE accommodation, medical facilities, servant allowance and 50% Scheme and Pension as per Government rules. (ii) Pay/allowances as per existing rules. Additional emoluments and allow 	vances may be considered as per experience / qualification.
Online registration at your joinnef govern	ION PROCEDURE (153 GD (P) & ALLIED COURSES /	
 Online registration at www.joinpar.gov.pk Intelligence Test followed by Academic Test in the following subjects through e-Testing: General Duty Pilot, Air Defence and A&SD English & Physics Aeronautical Engineering & Logistics English, Physics & Maths 129 CSC Academic Test of Physics would be held for Air Defence (SSC) Graduate course 	 Initial medical examination and interview at I&S Centre. Only short listed candidates would be detailed for ISSB. Test / Interview by ISSB Kohat / Gujranwala / Malir / Quetta. Final medical examination at CMB, Lahore. Flying Aptitude Test (FAT) of GD (P) candidates only. Interview by AHQ Special Selection Board for CSC candidates only. Final selection by Air Headquarters in order of merit. 	Note: Appearing Candidates are also eligible to apply provided they have obtained 65% marks in Fsc / 'A' Level (Part-1) and bring a certificate from the Principal that they are likely to pass Fsc / 'A' Level Examination in the prescribed grades (FSc Courses only). Candidates with O / 'A' Level background are required to produce equivalence (Pre-Engg / Pre-Mecical) certificates.
 A candidate is ineligible if he / she is:- (a) Rejected by ISSB / GHQ / NHQ / AHQ selection boards. (i) Twice rejected by ISSB for Post Grad Entry. (ii) Twice rejected by ISSB for intermediate / Graduate (PMA / Graduate Equivalent) and once rejected by ISSB OR GHQ / NHQ / AHQ based selection boards. (iii)Once rejected by ISSB for intermediate / Graduate (PMA / Graduate / Equivalent) and twice rejected by ISSB OR GHQ / NHQ / AHQ based selection boards. Will the twice rejected by ISSB for intermediate / Graduate (PMA / Graduate / Equivalent) and twice rejected by ISSB OR GHQ / NHQ / AHQ based selection boards. WILL THE PROSPECTS Highly Competitive salary package Free Medical treatment self and family Training and posting in different cities of Pakistan and abroad Free accommodation and 50% waiver in fare by train and air travel 	 (b) Twice screened out by ISSB. (c) Tested within four months (120 days) gap of previous appearance in ISSB except waiver granted by the competent authority. However, bar of 120 days will not be applicable to candidaes appearing in GHQ/NHQ AHQ selection boards. (d) Dismissed / Removed / Debarred from Govt Services including Armed Forces (e) Convicted in a Court of Law for any heinous offense (to be ascertained by the competent military authority) (f) Permanently declared UNFIT by Appeal Medical Board (PUF by AMB) 	 (j) Withdrawn / discharged / resigned or purchase release from any Armed Forces officers Academy / Training institution on any ground. (k) Tempering of academic certificate / forgery / concealment to get undue advantage will make an applicant permanently ineligible for all types of commission in Armed Forces. (l) Gives incomplete, false or wrongful information. (m) Thrice screened out by Army / Nawy / Air Force during preliminary selection.
FUTURE PROSPECTS	For further details contact any of the following PAF Information & Selection Centres a	along with all original Educational Certificates and mark sheets, 02 passport size attested Card. Old NIC / Form B is not acceptable.
	photographs and self NADKA Smart ABBOTTABAD : 310-Mensehra Road, Near Ayub Medical Complex Ph: 0992-385157,385166	
 Free Medical treatment self and family 	FAISALABAD Main Jhang Road, Near Airport Chowk Ph: 041-9201199,2577799	P Solution Operation Operatio Operation Operation Operation Operation Operation Operat
 Training and posting in different cities of Pakistan and abroad Free accommodation and 50% waiver in fare by train and air travel Internationally recognized courses Membership of Air Force Officer Housing Scheme (AFOHS) 	HYDERABAD : 49 - Salahuddin Road, Cantt Ph: 022-920093 KARACHI : Main Sharh-e-Faisal (Near PAF Base) Faisal Ph: 021-99240999 LAHORE : 14 - Munir Road, (Near PAF Cinema) Munir Chowk Ph: 042-99220084, 36671041-3	PESHAWAR 9-The Mall, Peshawar Cantt Ph: 091-9210829,5286329 QUETTA M.A Jinnah Road Ph: 081-92017531 RAWALPINDI: 3-The Mall, Opposite AFIC Ph: 051-5701143,5701257-58
	- MULTAN : 217 - Sher Shah Road Ph: 061-9201183-920179	5 🤟 SUKKUR : Opposite Govt Islamia College, Minara Road Ph: 071-9310409
www.joinpaf.gov.pk PID (I) 5397/21 www.joinpaf.gov.p	k www.joinpaf.gov.pk wv	ww.joinpaf.gov.pk www.joinpaf.gov.pk



SERVICES



Namaz Timings

Fajr	05:36 am
Zohr	12:22 pm
Asr	04:05 pm
Maghrib	05:43 pm
Isha	07:08 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



RAWALPINDI: MNA and Parliamentary Secretary Planning Ministry Kanwal Shuzab distributing awards on the occasion of a cultural show presented by the inmates of Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi. DNA

Army sacrificing for country, protection of people, says UBG

The Pakistan Army and the FC had overcome the scourge of terrorism after a hard struggle and great sacrifices, but now issue is re-emerging, which has raised concerns among the masses

DNA

ISLAMABAD: United Business Group President Zubair Tufail and former President of Islamabad Chamber Muhammad Ahmed have said that Pakistan Army is successfully dealing with internal and external threats.

The officers and soldiers are sacrificing their lives for the sake of Pakistan and the business community across the country appreciates the sacrifices

raised concerns among the masses. Army officers and jawans are dealing with the chaotic situation, but the deteriorating law and order situation needs the immediate attention of the government, they said.

It was imperative for the government to take effective measures under an integrated strategy as those The Pakistan Army and attacking security forces are enemies of Pakistan the FC had overcome the who have to be crushed scourge of terrorism after a hard struggle and great sacwithout any delay. The escarifices, but now the issue lation of terrorist activities

six months and the increasing number of casualties in recent days are unbearable, and the enemy must be crushed before it can become emboldened, the business leaders demanded. Attacks on security forces in Balochistan have intensified and evidence of links with the enemy countries has been found which should be

used to unmask the unholy designs of these countries. Zubair Tufail, who is also the former president of FPCCI, Muhammad Ahmed

served as SVP of ICCI said, "We pay tribute to the security forces for repelling terrorist attacks in various places." They noted that one of the main motives of the terrorists is to sabotage the relations between Pakistan and China and damage CPEC. Last year's attack on Chinese engineers working on the Dasu Dam project was also linked to it.

They noted that there were about 4,000 terrorist incidents in the country in 2013 which were reduced to 319 the country of terrorists

PIDE latest research report on jobless rate

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Availability of opportunities implies that people have a range of life options, specifically economic, to pick from, and have a realistic chance to adopt what they want to do and succeed in it. For Pakistan, where nearly 60 percent of the population is aged under 30 years, opportunities become even more significant. The fact that we live in a world where technology is changing the way things are done at an unprecedented pace makes it very easy for those not keeping up to be left far behind, without opportunities. Is Pakistan offering such opportunities to its people to take up and excel? Is the country doing what needs to be done for its population to excel in the future?

The answers to these questions can be found in PI-DE's latest research report entitled "PAKISTAN OP-PORTUNITY TO EXCEL: NOW AND THE FUTURE" jointly written by renowned Economist and Vice-Chancellor PIDE, Dr. Nadeem ul Haque and Leading Researcher, Demographer & Pro-Vice-Chancellor PIDE, Dr. Durre Nayab.

More facilities at Pirwadhai **Bus Stand**

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Tahir Farooq has directed the authorities concerned to provide more facilities to the passengers at Pirwadhai Bus Stand. According to a district administration spokesman, the DC here the other day visited the Bus Stand and checked the facilities being

provided to the citizens. He also directed the authorities concerned to ensure separate waiting areas for male and female with wash room facility. - APP

Edhi Ambulance.....115 PIAFlightInfo.....114 PIACargo......9280979 Railway Inquiry.....117 Railway Exchange9270831-5 WASA Rawalpindi..5555489 CAA.



Hospitals

-	
СМН	5611111
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital9270907-11	
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 Offic	e9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonme	ent 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, Н-8.....9266316 Wapda Islamabad....9217579 Wapda Rawalpindi 111-309-309

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Wasa Water Tank Rawalpindi.....0331-5022125 is re-emerging, which has in the country over the last in 2020 but now they are in-

Z-Park-STZA agreement to develop ecosystems

DNA

between Pakistan's Special

Technology Zones Authori-

cun Science Park (Z-Park). "Under the agreement ISLAMABAD: The Prime signed between Pakistan Minister Imran Khan-led delegation visit to China has provided an opportunity for Pakistan to enhance and undertake the development of a modern tech ecosystem across the country. According to Gwadar Pro, one of the top outcomes of the premier's visit is the signing of an agreement

Chairman CDA

inaugurates Art

Gallery at F9 park

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority

Amir Ali Ahmed inaugurated an art gallery located at F-9

Park, Islamabad. The opening ceremony was attended

by renowned artists of the country as well as the gener-

al public. Addressing the participants at the inauguration

ceremony, the CDA Chairman said that a year ago it was

not possible to visit this F-9 Park in the evening however

due to the tireless work of the present CDA administra-

tion especially the Environment Directorate. The park has

now been restored and efforts are underway to further

improve it. Chairman CDA said that CDA is carrying out

various development works in Islamabad including vari-

and China, Z-Park and STZA will undertake the development of modern tech ecosystems across Pakistan," according to STZ's statement, adding the agreement with Z-Park was made possible as a result of extensive efforts made by the Pakistan Embassy in China, Chinese partner STZA's team.

stands by them in every

difficult time, they said.

Paying glowing tributes to

the Army and FC, Zubair

Tufail, President of United

Business Group, Muham-

mad Ahmed, former presi-

dent ICCI and Malik Sohail,

Chief Coordinator UBG, said

that businessmen and indus-

trialists stand shoulder to

shoulder with their troops.

ty (STZA) and Zhongguanis one of the first science parks and first national innovation demonstration centers in China, which focuses on electronic inbiomedicine. formation, energy, and environmental protection, new materials, advanced manufacturing, engineering, aerospace R&D, and services.

In recognition of the crucial need to harness the opportunities of the digital age, STZA was established under the STZA Ordinance Established in 1988, Z-Park 2020 to provide legislative

and institutional support for the development of the national technology sector. STZA is on fast-track towards its goal of transforming Pakistan's human capital into a high-end future workforce. Prime Minister Imran Khan

inaugurated STZ Islamabad in January 2021 and Lahore Technopolis STZ on December 27, 2021. The STZs promise a boost in tech export and an acceleration in transitioning towards a knowledge-based economy.

city can only be decorated with streets, parks or street lights but it should have its own civilizations and lifestyles have separate identities and no society can achieve its status without cultural identities. He further said that Islamabad is a beautiful city as well as has a distinct and unique identity in terms of culture and civilization.

Addressing the participants of the function, Chairman CDA Amer Ali Ahmed said that gathering of all of us here today is an attempt in this regard. Art and culture can be officially encouraged, but our artist community has a more important role to play in highlighting it, and it is in this spirit that the building has been renovated to promote art and culture. Sometimes ago, this building was very dilapidated, but today, by the grace of Allah, after the completion of the renovation work of this building, its condition and original shape is in front of everyone. He added that a proposal was also made to turn the building into a restaurant but there was plenty of space for the restaurant. Therefore, it was decided that there is a capacity for an art gallery in the city of Islamabad and Islamabad needs it, so an art gallery should be set up in this building. – DNA

Punjab Arts Council holds essay competition

DNA

RAWALPINDI: In connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day, essay writing, poster making, Kashmiri song and speech competitions were organized under the auspices of Punjab Arts Council. The purpose of these competitions was to make the young generation aware of the Indian atrocities taking place in occupied Kashmir. Director Arts Council Waqar Ahmad along with Divisional President of All Pakistan Private School Management Association Abrar Ahmad Khan distributed prizes among the children. The judges of these competitions were Mohammad Ishaq Saqi, Hamza Ali, Abid Hussain, Dr. Aneela Naik and Dr. Mohammad Ammar. He said that every Pakistani would not shy away from any sacrifice for Kashmir. Waqar Ahmad said that the silence of international organizations on Kashmir issue is regrettable. Abrar Ahmad Khan, Divisional President, APPSMA, said that today the whole nation is united in the voice of Kashmiris and the day is not far when they will get their right to self-determination and Kashmiris will get freedom from occupation.

SNGPL, SSGC repair 887-km pipelines ISLAMABAD: The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) and Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) have collectively repaired around 887-kilometer faulty pipelines

creasing again. However, the

people and business commu-

nity are hopeful that Chief of

Army Staff General Qamar

Javed Bajwa has the ability

to overcome this challenge.

He said that the army un-

der the command of COAS

would be successful in this

test as well. He said that the

nation would have to forget

its differences and unite to

improve the security situa-

tion in the country. The busi-

ness community hopes that

the Pakistan Army will soon

succeed in its mission to rid

and rectified 1447,342 leakages in line with the government strategy to bring down the Unaccounted for Gas (UFG) ratio. Besides, the companies' experts inspected around 13,388 Town Border Stations (TBSs) and rectified 633 stations after finding them leaked, according to an official document available with APP. The state utilities have installed Electronic Volume Corrector (EVC) meters at all industrial connections and high pressure connections that calculate actual volume commercial





Available in following cities

> ISLAMABAD Qamar News Agency 03105460372

RAWALPINDI Asim News Agency 03435802610

> <u>KARACHI</u> Nazir Siyal 03337554016

PESHAWAR Zarbagh News Agency 03005412069

> FAISALABAD Ishfaq Mughal 03007689850

JHELUM Iqrash News Agency 03005412069

KHARIAN Ijaz News Agency 03068863870

LALAMUSA Gulzar Ahmed Noshi 03359494788

SARA-I-ALMAGIR 0300 5428178

OGRA condemns the brutalities of Indian govt Chairman OGRA said that Indian Government has illegally occupied that Jammu &

Kashmir and is continuously violating human rights, killing innocent Kashmiris



DNA

ISLAMABAD: OGRA team (Oil & Gas Regulatory Authority) organised a walk to show solidarity with Kashmiri brethren and condemn the cruelties of Indian Government and occupied forces in Kashmir. Chairman OGRA said that Indian Government has illegally occupied

that Jammu & Kashmir and is continuously violating human rights, killing innocent Kashmiris.

He said that giving Kashmiris the right to self-determination is a basic right. The people of Kashmir must be given the right of plebiscite according to UN resolutions. The Chairman said that the entire Pakistani nation stand with the people of Kashmir till last breath.

ous highways, street lights, various parks. However, no

04

NATIONAL

Islamahad **POST**

Speakers for end to Indian occupation of Kashmir

The experts in one voice alarmed the Int'l community including UNSG to take immediate measures to stop India from committing mass atrocities in Kashmir

DNA

ISLAMABAD: On Kashmir Solidarity Day, Islamabad Institute of Conflict Resolution (IICR) in collaboration with Legal Forum for Kashmir (LFK) held an international conference on " Atrocity Crimes, Constitutional Onslaught, and Genocide Threat in IOJK: Role of Human Rights Watchdogs." The Seminar proceedings were divided in two ses-

sions; an inaugural session and a working session withrenowned speakers including Senator MushahidHussain Syed; Justice Ali Nawaz Chowhan (Chairman, Legal Forum for Kashmir); Syed Nazir-Gilani (President, JKCHR), Prof. Dr. NazirHussain; Dr. Salma Malik; Lt. Gen. NaeemLodhi; Lt. Gen. Amjad Shoaib; Advocate Nasir Qadri (Executive Director, Legal Forum for Kashmir);

Mr. Muzzammil Thakur

(President WKFM);, II-CR);Ms Sabah Aslam (Executive Director); Ms. FarzanaYaqoob; Barrister Sundas Malik: Barrister QamarSabzwari (Vice President, Islamabad Bar Council); and the brainstorming session headed by Dr. Rifaat Hussain. Ms Sabah Aslam, Execu-

tive Director IICR, in the opening remarks said, the planned law fare operation by Modi led BJP government since 2019 posed a

serious threat to the civilian population as the unbridled abuse of power by Government of India in IOJk has choked the political space of the dissidents.

The legislative and administrative with full pace have already changed the disputed dynamics of IOJK governed under various United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The theme was broadly discussed by the national and international experts on Kashmir and recommended that this is the time for the Government of Pakistan and OIC states to formulate a uniform white paper on the resolution of Kashmir and stop the fascist Indian forces from perpetrating genocide in the Muslim majority region of IOJK.

The experts in one voice alarmed the International community including UN Secretary-General to take immediate measures to stop India from committing mass atrocities in Kashmir.



Industrial peace imperative for development

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Industrial peace is imperative for the sustained development of Faisalabad and the Labor Department has played a proactive role in ensuring a peaceful climate in this industrial, commercial and business hub of Pakistan, said Mr. AtifMunir Sheikh, Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). He was addressing a farewell function in honor of Director Labour Malik Munawar-Awan on attaining the age of superannuation. This function was also attended by Haji TalibHussainRana and Shakeel Ahmad Ansari of sizing association. President Atif Munir Sheik appreciated the professional expertise, dedication and honesty of director labor who introduced a new trend to settle the conflicts between employees and employers through mutual dialogue. He said that both sectors ac-

knowledged his vision and hoped that his successor would also follow his footprints by retaining close liaison between workers and factory owners.

He said that Malik MunawarAwan is a very fortunate officer that we are saying goodbye to him with a heavy heart. Director labor thanked the business community for its unprecedented cooperation during his stay in Faisalabad and said that before his appointment workers and owners were confronting each other. However, he convinced them to resolve their issues on the table instead of taking them to the streets. He said that both employees and employers responded positively and all issues were resolved amicably up to the entire expectation of both. He said that some negative minds are still trying to sabotage the peaceful climate in Faisalabad but due to the positive response of workers and owners, they failed **Major theft** incident in **Dinga city**

STAFF REPORT

KHARIAN: Six unidentified armed robbers escaped by stealing jewelery worth around Rs 10 million from Biswai Jewelers Main Bazaar Dinga early in the morning. At around 6:30 in the morning, six unidentified armed thieves came in two vehicles and broke the locks of Basavi Jewelers and took away the safe box of jewelery which contained jewelery and cash worth about one crore rupees. D S P KharianIftikhar-



ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry addressing Kashmir Solidarity Day ceremony at ICCI. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI and other members of business community were present at the occasion. - DNA

ICCI urges India to resolve Kashmir issue: Shakeel

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) observed the Kashmir Solidarity Day to reaffirm its support for the just struggle of the people of Indian held Kashmir for their right to self-determination pledged under several UN Security Council resolutions.

Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad ShakeelMunir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry called upon the India to resolve the longstanding issue of Kashmir to promote regional trade and economic prosperity in the South Asia as the non-resolution of this key issue is holding back the entire region from capita lizing on the huge potential of regional trade and economic integration.

He also called upon the world community to play a role for resolution of the Kashmir issue that would lead to acceleration in business and economic activities in the region and bring prosperity to the people of South Asia. He stressed that India should show responsible behavior and give the Kashmiris their right to decide their future with their own free will that would

bring lasting peace to the region. It would enable both countries to spend more financial resources on poverty reduction and uplifting the living standard of their people. He said that ending poverty would give rise to a strong middle class in both countries that would give a boost to business and economic activities. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem

Khan Vice President, Islamabad

Kashmiris to fight till last drop of blood, says Mushaal

ISLAMABAD: The Chairperson of Peace and Culture Organisation, Mushaal Hussein Mullick said that the supremacist Indian regime unleashed a wave of state-sponsored terrorism and barbarism to silence the powerful dissenting voices in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Mushaal, wife of jailed Kashmiri Hurriyat leader, Muhammad Yasin Malik in a statement here on Sunday regarding 'Kashmir Solidarity Day' said that the fascist Narendra-Modi government turned the scenic valley a slaughter house and the world's largest open prison. She said that killing, arbitrary arrest, torture have become a norm in IIOJK, as innocent and unarmed Kashmiri people are being brutally killed and tortured for their crime to raise voice against the unlawful subjugation of Indian authorities. The chairperson vowed that the courage of the brave people of the valley could not be dampened with the brutal and inhuman tactics. However, the Hurrivat leader lamented the world powers duplicity and apathy towards the world worst crisis on the surface on the earth, as the fascist government adopted a ruthless policy of genocide and ethnic cleansing of the Kashmiri people of the occupied valley. Mushaal said that Kashmiris would never accept the Hindutva regime and would fight



Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Europe and West have achieved better economic prosperity by ending longstanding hostilities.

Monday, February 07, 2022

They stressed that India should learn lessons from history and give the Kashmiris their right to self-determination.

They reaffirmed that the business community of Pakistan would continue to extend political, moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiris in their struggle till the time they achieve the right to self-determination from the Indian yoke.

Baser Daud and Sheikh Amir Waheed former Presidents ICCI, Muhammad Naveed Malik former Senior Vice President ICCI, Azharul Islam, Malik Najeeb, Nasira Ali and other members of business community were present at the occasion

Hazara University closed due to corona cases

PESHAWAR: On the directives of the Deputy Commissioner Mansehra, Hazara University shut down after receiving reports of increasing coronavirus cases, said a notification of the University issued here on Sunday. According to notification, Hazara University will remain closed till February 15. Coronavirus was also confirmed in several staff of the university, therefore the university was losed, the administration of the University said. The purpose of closing the university is to protect the staff and students from corona. The notification said that after receipt of posi-



keel Ahmad Ansari also con gratulated director labor on the successful completion of his service and said that every year they were facing the problems of working hours and remuneration but all these issues were resolved positively. Later President AtifMunir Sheikh presented FCCI shield to Malik MunawarAwan, director labor. Meanwhile Haji TalibHus-

sainRana also gave away a shield of sizing association to director labor. RanaI kramullah, Abdullah Qadri and other members were also present during this farewell function.

to achieve their nefarious

designs. He said that we

must understand that Fais-

alabad is our own city and

we have to maintain peace

Earlier Haji TalibHussain-

Rana of sizing association

also appreciated the strat-

egy of director labor and

said that during his tenure

all labor related issues were

resolved instantly. Mr. Sha-

for its greater interest.

Tarar SHO LiaqatGujjar along with police personnel crime scene unit reached the spot and collected other evidence along with CCTV cameras in the vicinity while leaders of Anjuman-e-Tajiran and other personalities also reached the spot. Expressing regret and solidarity with the shop owners Rashid Ahmed Basvi and NaveedBasvi. they demanded the police to arrest the accused as soon as possible.

for their inalienable right to self-determination till last drop of their blood.

Highlighting the plight of the oppressed Kashmiri people, the Hurrivat leader reminded the world community of its obligations towards the resolution of the decades-long Kashmir dispute, where entire population has been under a lockdown since August 5, 2019. Mushaal said that UN is legally and morally bound to secure implementation of its resolutions on Kashmir, adding that settlement of the lingering dispute as per the Kashmiris' aspirations is imperative for peace and stability in South Asia, as it could trigger nuclear war between Pakistan and India. - APP

PAC holds Kashmir competitions

tive cases of the COVID-19

in the staff members of the

Hazara University Mansehr,

the varsity closed down for

10-day, starting from Feb 6.

DNA

RAWALPINDI: In connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day, essay writing, poster making, Kashmiri song and speech competitions were organized under the auspices of Punjab Arts Council. The purpose of these competitions was to make the young generation aware of the Indian atrocities taking place in occupied Kashmir.

Council Director Arts Waqar Ahmad along with Divisional President of All Pakistan Private School Management Association Abrar Ahmad Khan distributed prizes among the children. The judges of these competitions were Mohammad Ishaq Saqi, Hamza Ali, Abid-Hussain, Dr. AneelaNaik and Dr. Mohammad Ammar.

Kashmir Solidarity Day observed across Faisalabad at mosques forthe departed souls of martyrs of Kashmir,

Barrister Saif visits provincial ombudsman secretariat

News Desk

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant on Information and Public Relation Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif Sunday visited Provincial Ombudsman for Harassment Secretariat Peshawar and met with Provincial Ombudsman Rahshanda Naz. Provincial Ombudsman RakhshandaNaz has briefed the Special Assistant of the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information on the performance of the organization and the challenges it is faced while dealing with the cases of women harassment in their workplaces. She informed that all institutions have been directed to form committees to investigate incidents of harassment of women and fines have been imposed on institutions that do

not take action and do not investigate incidents of harassment. She said that under the Women's Rights to

Property Act, widows evicted from property have been given these legitimate rights. The role of the Provincial Ombudsman's Office is important in preventing incidents of harassment of women, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif said after the briefing.

He said the women of the ombudsman's office are welcome to assist in the ongoing cases in other provinces. Establishment of separate desks for women of integrated districts will immediately address their grievances, the Special Assistant said. He said, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has delegated the power to redress grievances through provincial ombudsman under the Enforcement of Women's Rights to Property.



ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Kashmir solidarity day was observed throughout the district with national enthusiasm and determination toextend the full support for the Kashmiri people for theirindependence. The day was dawn with the special prayers Various programs and eventwere held to show the solidarity with the Kashmiri brethren by thecitizens of Faisalabad. Different political, religious, social, traders and other organizations held seminars, walks, rallies, conferences and other programs to highlight the Kashmir issue and tocondemn the aggressions of Indian forces at held Kashmir. Under the arrangements of District Administration a Kashmirsolidarity rally was arranged which was started from District Council Chowk and culminated at Katchri bazar chowk after passing through Kahleeq Qureshi road and in front of Faisalabad Press Club. Divisional Commissioner Zahid Hussain, RPO Dr. Imran Mehmood, Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad, CPO Ghulam Mubashar Maikan, MPA Latif Nazar, ADCG Qaiser Abbas Rind, ACs Sahibzada Muhammad Yousaf, Ghulam Mustafa Jutt, PTI leader Mian Nabeel Arshad, CEOs Health and Education Dr. Bilal Ahamad, Ali Ahmad Siyan, other officers of Divisional and District Administration, Students and representatives of civil society were participanted in a large number and they were carrying banners and playcards inscribed the slogans in avour of Kashmiris.

ICC for facilitating Muslim business community "Many foreign investors have already established their industrial units with a dominating majority of Chinese", he said and added that many more hi-tech industrial units are in the pipeline and are expected to become operational within the next couple of years

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Islamic Chamber of Commerce (ICC) UK has been constituted to facilitate Muslim business community across the globe that is currently facing discrimination by the mainstream business handlers, said Mr. Zeeshan Mian Board Secretary of the ICC. During a meeting with Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce &Industry (FCCI), he explained in detail the aims and objectives of this chamber. He was critical of Islamophobia and said that Muslim buyers and sellers are being deprived of their rightful profit by the middleman who is exploiting both sectors. He said that this chamber will offer membership and facilitate them by eliminating the role of middleman. He said that ICC is also contemplating to set up its own bank and E-platform on the pattern of Amazon.

He said that ICC is a nonprofit organization which would have 350 members in its board. He further said that 50-50 members would be drawn from each continent while each country may have its own office to get maximum benefits from this chamber.

He said that ICC will also arrange an exhibition which is expected to attract more than 10,000 visitors. "Currently, this organization is passing through its nestling phase", he said and added that it would soon attain maturity to serve its members with maximum facilities. Mrs. Mehak Tarig Director, Mr. Rizwan Ali Editor ICC Gazette and Mr. Rahil Majid Board Member also introduced themselves and responded to the various questions.

Earlier Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh President FCCI introduced Faisalabad and FCCI and said that it is the third largest industrial. commercial and business centre of Pakistan which is also second after Karachi in revenue generation. He said that although textile is the iconic representation of Faisalabad while other sectors are also growing at a much faster pace.

He said that Faisalabad is contributing 45 to 47% in total textile export of Pakistan while in overall exports its share is 22 to 23%. He said that this city has the unique privilege to cater to 80% domestic clothing needs of Pakistan. He said that two globally compliant industrial estates are being developed in Faisalabad which are also enjoying the status of special economic zones.

"Many foreign investors have already established their industrial units with a dominating majority of Chinese", he said and added that many more hi-tech industrial units are in the pipeline and are expected to become operational within the next couple of years. He congratulated Mr. Zeeshan Mian on the bold decision to establish ICC and said that he should upload demand and supply of various products for the benefit of its members. "It would certainly encourage Muslim businessmen to finalize their bargaining deals without any intervention by middle man", he said and added that FCCI was going to organize first Pakistan Economic Conference in Faisalabad from March 18 to 20. "It will identify the core issues confronted by the business community with a focus on technology transfer and enhanced exports. He also quoted a joint venture launched by a Faisalabad based company with a Turkish counterpart. "Under this model local company will arrange finances while Turkish company will provide latest technology for the manufacturing of cheese which would be exported throughout the world", he said and added that it is most feasible model and on the same pattern we could upgrade our industrial sector with latest technological interventions particularly for the value addition of agriculture, dairy and livestock products.

28 more hospitals included in Sehat Card panel

PESHAWAR: The Steering Committee of Sehat Card Plus a flagship programme of the PTI government, has decided the inclusion of 28 more public and private hospitals in the panel of the programme, said an official handout issued here on Sunday. The meeting of the steering committee was held here with KP Minister for Health, Taimur Saleem Jhagra in the Chair. As many as 271 hospitals have applied for inclusion in the panel of Sehat Card Plus Programme of the province. The Committee reviewed the facilities available in these hospitals under an effective and transparent system, while the facilities of the hospitals presented by the State Life Insurance Corporation were reviewed by a Committee headed by the Director IMU that was followed by their presentation in the Steering Committee for formal approval. The Committee also reviewed the appeals of the rejected hospitals and the process was taken forward after re-verification.

Speaking on the occasion, provincial Minister for Health appreciated the efforts of the concerned departments and stressed for inclusion of more hospitals in the panel of the programme. He also issued directives for bringing more transparency in the programme. The Committee also constituted a joint committee of the Health Department and State Life Insurance Company to furnish recommendations for inclusion of more hospitals in the panel and bringing further transparency in it within a period of two weeks. - APP

Economic stability

ACK in November of 2021, the Saudi government and Pakistan formally signed an agreement in which the Kingdom agreed to provide economic support worth \$4.2 billion. As part of this deal, \$1.2 billion were allocated for the provision of oil supplies-the Saudi Oil Facility (SOF)-but due to legal and operational complexities, the SOF has not materialised as of yet. With both sides agreeing to complete the initiative at the earliest, there is some hope for economic stability for Pakistan.

The Saudi government has agreed to dispense oil and petroleum supplies at the rate of \$100 million per month, at the interest rate of 3.8 percent annually. This would prove to be a stable source of import that protects the country from fluctuating global oil prices, unreliable suppliers and would effectively stabilise the country's import and export levels.

There is a dire need to fix this imbalance as it has led Pakistan to suffer from crippling economic challenges like high inflation, a widening current account deficit, depreciating currency and depleting foreign reserves. Each of these problems also vary in extremity due to the various environmental and geo-political situations like the pandemic as well as the security crisis emanating from Afghanistan. In light of this, it is imperative that we make the most of this opportunity.

As of right now, PSO, Parco and NRL have signed the agreement but Saudi Aramco is yet to make it official. Both stakeholders have agreed to make the SOF operational by the end of the next month, which is why we should ensure that our efforts are focused on creating and maintaining a conducive environment for its development. This might be the only way to slash our current account deficit that stands at a mighty \$22 million currently, and then work towards stabilising the rupee.

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Assessing zoos

HE death of yet another giraffe at the Lahore Zoo tells us all we need to know about the level of care animals are receiving at the supposed wildlife refuge. Anyone that has ever visited the Lahore Zoo knows that the conditions some animals live in are surely less than optimal, to say the least. And judging by the number of animals that lose their lives on a regular basis, the provincial capital zoo's staff may not be equipped to handle the advanced level of care they have to provide to the many exotic species of life that they are charged to look after. The nine-year-old bull giraffe under question was one of three imported by the zoo in 2017. One of those died only days after,

and this second one lost its life at an unexpected age, considering that the average lifespan of a bull giraffe is around 25 years; it is usually even longer in captivity.

The zoo has imported six giraffes in the last fifteen years, with five of them having died to various causes-this giraffe died due to a suspected blood infection. The average cost of each of these was somewhere between Rs40-50 million.

In 2021, the zoo was in the news for all the wrong reasons. From shipping off some of its big cats due to an ability to pay for the food, to having to euthanise at least five animals as a result of ailments, there is a need to revisit the practice of keeping animals in captivity if their life expectancy is dropping dramatically as a result.

If zoos such as the one in Lahore cannot look after animals, they should be closed down with immediate effect and the animals transferred to a facility that can actually protect their lives. Lahore zoo is an attraction for the city's residents, but the lives lost and the monetary cost as a result are simply too high to be ignored. The provincial government must review the practices of the zoo, and if no satisfactory answer is found, there must be questions asked on whether it is even desirable to keep them open when it threatens the welfare of animals and provides no observable benefit.

Israel expands its Iran strategy

James M. Dorsey

Mr. Bennett last month reiterated that Israel would not be bound by any nuclear deal with Iran and would continue to consider itself free to act "with no constraints" if necessary

SRAELI Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has laid out an expanded Israeli strategy to confront Iran that appears to move beyond a potential military strike against the Islamic republic's nuclear facilities. Mr. Bennett appeared to be guided not only by concern about the fallout of a unilateral Israeli action but also seemingly mounting fears in Tehran that economic hardship could spark a social explosion. "Bennett's new approach is to take action gradually in an attempt to exhaust Iran's power, wear it down and weaken the violent energy it is sending to its offshoots in the Middle East," said Haaretz journalist Jonathan Lis. The expanded strategy is likely rooted, at least partially, in the notion that harsh US sanctions have deepened Iran's economic woes but that these are also the result of gross economic mismanagement, rampant corruption, and the cost of supporting Iranian intervention in Syria and militias in Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen. Iran hopes that lifting US sanctions as part of an agreement in Vienna would alleviate its economic problems. Israel's strategy appeared until now to centre on a possible military strike against Iranian nuclear facilities for which Israel's armed forces are preparing. Military analysts have questioned how effective an Israeli strike might be in destroying Iran's nuclear capability. Moreover, Israel could face severe international criticism, including by the United States, if it were to strike unilaterally once the Vienna talks succeed in reviving the nuclear accord.

Iran and would continue to consider itself free to act "with no constraints" if necessary. At the same time, the Israeli prime minister warned participants in the 2022 Davos World Economic Forum that "investing in Iran is not a sound investment whether there is a deal or not a deal... Their economy is tanking. The rial is depreciating. They are so incompetent that they are not able to get water to faucets in huge swaths of land, for example, in the Isfahan area," Mr. Bennett said.

The notion that a war of attrition could wear Iran down may have gained currency with the leaking of a seven-page summary of a meeting in November. In the meeting, senior commanders of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps warned that Iranian society was, in the words of a Mr. Mohammadi, identified as an official of the Guards' intelligence wing, in a "state of explosion." The seriousness of the warning was highlighted by the fact that the meeting was reportedly convened by the Guards' 'Working Group on the Prevention of a Livelihood-Based Security Crisis."

a series of recent cyberattacks targeting airlines, railways, gas stations, universities, and Iran's state broadcaster is part of an Israeli effort to capitalise on and fuel widespread discontent.

The United States and Saudi Arabia have, in the past separately, tried without success to provoke widespread unrest in Iran by supporting dissident ethnic groups.

The Saudi effort is a reminder that what starts in the Middle East does not always stay in the Middle East. It sparked a tit-for-tat exchange between Saudi and Iranian intelligence assets in the Netherlands, Denmark, and Norway.

A Danish district court last week convicted three members of an Iranian Arab opposition group on charges of financing and supporting terrorist activity in Iran in collaboration with Saudi Arabian intelligence services as well as espionage. Last year, a Danish court upheld a seven-year sentence given to a Norwegian citizen of Iranian origin for spying and collaboration in a failed plot to kill one of the Iranian Arabs sentenced last week.

The notion that an escalating cyberwar could

escalate beyond Israel and Iran as it apparent-

ly did with the Hezbollah attacks on compa-

nies across the region and beyond was but one

reason for authorities in numerous countries

to step up joint exercises focussed on cyber-

attacks from a wide variety of state-sponsored

and criminal entities, of which Iran is only one,

Israel's Joint Cyber Defense Division and

the US Cyber Command organised their

sixth joint drill in a year in December. Is-

rael led a 10-country simulation of a major

cyberattack on the global financial system

Participants included treasury officials

from Israel, the United States, the UK,

the UAE, Austria, Switzerland, Germany,

Italy, the Netherlands, and Thailand, as

well as representatives from the Interna-

tional Monetary Fund, World Bank, and

Yigal Una, head of Israel's National Cy-

ber Directorate, said that in "the end we

know everyone who's behind (an attack)

and we remember, and we can get even...

We don't feel for one second that we don't

-Dr. James M. Dorsey is an award-

winning journalist and scholar and a

Senior Fellow at the National University

Bank of International Settlements.

at about the same time.

have the upper hand."

and not necessarily the most important one.

Current status of the ten billion trees tsunami project

Mumtaz Ahmed Bhatti



Important thing is that everyone from Chief Conservator Waiter Forest South Jetty from Vendor to see the plantations and nurseries in Khuzdar, Lasbela, Athal, the whole day was spent on this visit to the mangroves and I did not feel the slightest bit tired because the mangroves I was getting to see such a beautiful plantation of mangrove forest spread over thousands of acres. Project director; TBTTP; Balochistan Syed Ali Imran and Conservator Omar Farooq Khan in Kakar office; The briefing on TBTTP's work in the field was even better. DFO Maqbool is second to none in the beautiful mangrove plantation as well as in the other plantations. The mention of the Ten Billion Trees Tsunami Project is incomplete without the plantation of Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Even today Azad Jammu and Kashmir; TBTTP; is best known for its beautiful and beautiful plantations. I; TBTTP; has written numerous columns in various newspapers and several times across Pakistan; I also had the opportunity to visit TBTTP's plantation sites. Wherever he went, someone asked for a visit schedule, someone justified the season and asked to take the visit to another date. I always paid a surprise visit to AJK which he never objected to but went for an immediate visit. If I asked them to go to five sites, they would show me more than ten sites. Most of the time I used to get tired of seeing the sites but I never got tired of showing the plantation sites of JK Forest Department. Because they have confidence in their work. Azad Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department; The reason for TBTTP's excellent performance is simple: their Secretary Trey, Chief Conservator Principal, Chief Conservator Development, Conservators, DIFs, Range Officers and Foresters all spend less time in offices and more time in the field. Chief Conservator Principal Sardar Naseer and Chief Conservator of Development Gul Hassan Shah both do not believe the reports but visit one plantation site each. When I was in Kotli; TBTTP's Plantation Visit was also attended by DFO reforestation Kotli Mohammad Farooq and Mohammad Ashraf Parwana DFO Water Shed Kotli. Rainfall in and around Kotli has been declining for two years and their timing has also changed. The absence of rains from 31st August to 6th January was very detrimental to the plantation, yet it did not cause as much damage as was feared. There were beautiful plantations and clean nurseries. No forest officer has control over the weather, but plantations here depend on rainfall. Watch the beautiful nurseries and plantations from morning till night. Small and big nurseries with Conservator Muhammad Rafiq DFO Latif Khan, DFO and Mohammad Shad in Bagh and Rawlakot. He also visited DFO Imtiaz in Jhelum Valley Forest Division, Imran shafi DFO in Mirpur and DFO Bhimber and saw all the plantations and nurseries very well. With the exception of Kotli, the demise of community nurseries in the entire South Zone is a sign of concern. In Azad Jammu and Kashmir; TBTTP's ideal performance is not being digested by some circles. I am also often told that if you do not see any shortcomings, errors or irregularities in the Kashmir Forest Department then this is my answer to these friends. Whenever I see any irregularity, I will write first. At the moment, if we look at the Ten Billion Trees Tsunami Project, in addition to the shortfall of funds; TBTTP; moving towards improvement. This improvement includes the hard work of National Project Director Hassan Ali Sukhera. Where we criticize when there is a shortcoming, it is also obligatory to appreciate when something is good. I will write about Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit-Baltistan

Mr. Bennett last month reiterated that Israel would not be bound by any nuclear deal with

Mr. Mohammadi argued that soaring inflation; hikes in the price of food, energy, and cars; and declining stock prices had "shaken public trust" in the government of President Ebrahim Raisi only months after it came to office. Shareholders last month staged a protest in front of the Istanbul stock exchange denouncing Mr. Raisi as a "liar,' and chanting "Death to this deceitful government."An Iranian legal and economic consultant said that millions of small investors had recently sustained substantial losses on the Iranian stock market.

"They've seen a substantial portion of their savings wiped out... When you get the shopkeeper on the corner talking about the stock market, you know you're in an advanced stage of a bubble. So people are moving assets offshore and buying property abroad," he said. Iranians are among the top buyers of residential real estate in neighbouring Turkey. The adviser said the Iranian government's proposed budget for the next year was fuelling the unrest. The budget significantly increases expenditure on the Guards and the military at the expense of social spending. Moreover, a ten per cent rise in government salaries would fall far below Iran's rampant inflation estimated a 40 per cent. According to the leaked document, a Colonel Kaviani told the Guards' meeting that real inflation ranged from 86 to 268 per cent.

Some Iranian officials have suggested that

of Singapore's Middle East Institute Inflation a Global issue

Munaza Kazmi

From the perspective of Pakistan, there comes the issue of increase in the prices of fuel, devaluation of currency and on top poor law and order. Let's say if a commodity's price increases 1% by the corruption from middle man, or other sales people it reaches to the end consumer with the further increase of 5% or more

O INCE the re-opening of the global economy, inflation has been rising around the world. This sudden change of macroeconomic conditions caught policymakers off-guard in terms of updating inflation forecasting models to a fast-evolving scenario as well as assessing the causes of this sudden surge and, remarkably, whether such causes are transitory or permanent. Considering the facts. Figure above shows the

monthly time series of 12-month CPI inflation rates across three large countries: the US, the UK, and Germany. Emphasizing three macro-periods: (1) the pre-COVID-19 era, categorized by low and stable inflation rates globally; (2) the COVID-19 era, when large parts of the global economy were artificially shut down and consumer prices declined; and (3) the post-COVID-19 era, when inflation surged and reached levels unseen for decades.

However, to assess the magnitude of this rise, note that in the US the average inflation rate in September and October 2021, at 5.6%, was almost three times higher than the average inflation rate in the six months before the COVID-19 crisis hit.

Despite the rapid surge, this increase in inflation was hardly unexpected. Because of the strict lockdown policies and COVID-19 closures across the globe, both the supply and demand of goods and services suddenly dropped to zero - perhaps for the first time in human history. While production stopped, many consumers started to accumulate savings as they did not face income cuts and had fewer opportunities to spend. In many countries, the surge in savings was also fueled by generous fiscal support through various fiscal policy measures.

Once the global economy reopened, as would happen with any car whose engine was shut down for months in the cold weather, production activities and supply chains needed time to restart: many workers had reallocated to different jobs, machinery was obsolete, and so on. In contrast, consumers immediately jumped at newly available spending opportunities, thus putting substantial demand pressure on a supply side that was already stressed. It is thus unsurprising that a slowly adjusting supply and fast-growing demand determined supply bottlenecks, backlogs in orders, and ultimately a sharp rise in prices.

In addition to demand pressures and supply-chain disruptions, labor market pressures were a third factor: with a substantial share of the working population retiring early after months of inactivity and other groups having enough liquidity to search for better employment matched, absenteeism and manpower constraints put additional pressure on the recovery and restart of productive activities worldwide.

From the perspective of Pakistan, there comes the issue of increase in the prices of fuel, devaluation of currency and on top poor law and order. Let's say if a commodity's price increases 1% by the corruption from middle man, or other sales people it reaches to the end consumer with the further increase of 5% or more.

However, Government of Pakistan under the leadership of Prime Minster Imran Khan is taking careful steps in order to curtail this menace. Prime Minister's policy for boosting the agriculture, enhancement in travel and tourism, growing the exports and to provide maximum benefits and privileges to the business community and private sector will improve the economy circulation, moreover will aid in decreasing the inflation factors.

Zone Athar Shah Kahga to Forester were very happy with the good behavior of Secretary Forest

HE world currently in the grip of climate change and Pakistan was among one of the country's most affected by it. Prime Minister Imran Khan's Ten Billion

Trees Tsunami Project (TBTTP) was widely appreciated around the globe as the project would help to improve the environment beside to face the future challenges. Wherever such a mega project was initiated there were found some irregularities but it was prime responsibility of the media to point out in the case of criticism. As well as the government should take prompt action in accordance with the law to address the error raised media in reports. I had written various articles and was appreciated the good work written on TBTTP but criticism was on the rampant plantation of eucalyptus in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. However, in a meeting with National Project Director Hassan Ali Sukhera said that Secretary Forest Punjab Shahid Zaman has stopped planting of eucalyptus.

After that I visited Multan, Chichawatni, Sahiwal, Bahawalpur, Lal Sohanra, Dera Ghazi Khan and Rajanpur in South Punjab and observed that the eucalyptus land was really affected by the bean sprouts. The South Punjab was rich in growth of such plants.

Another important thing is that everyone from Chief Conservator Waiter Forest South Zone Athar Shah Kahga to Forester were very happy with the good behavior of Secretary Forest. Forest employees said that whenever Mr. Trey visits, he appreciates our hard work and is happy to give cash rewards. For the first time, Secretary Forest Punjab Shahid Zaman is cleaning the skin of water so that water is not wasted and all the water is used for forests. Work is also being done to create a force to protect the forest, which is commendable. There is a lot of area for plantation in Balochistan but plantation is not easy here. The biggest issue is water. However, Balochistan Forest Department; TBTTP; is working better. When I was in Balochistan; I was going to Quetta to write on TBTTP's plantation. I saw much better plantations and nurseries than I had expected. I was most happy to see Secretary Forest Balochistan Dostin Khan Jamaldini showing great interest in the forest. When Dostin Khan Jamaldini visited the forest, his last visit was to the mangrove plantation.

A visit to a mangrove field by a high-ranking bureaucrat like this shows his keen interest in the forest. Then when I went to see the mangroves in the sea from Dam

very soon.

06

WORLD / SPORTS

Briefs Rooney reveals binge drinking

Azerbaijan, Ukraine mark 30 years of diplomatic ties President Aliyev sent a congratulatory letter to Ukrainian counterpart Zelensky

News Desk

battle

LONDON: Former Manchester United and England captain Wayne Rooney has revealed he struggled with binge drinking during his glittering playing career.

Battling with anxiety after emerging as English football's brightest star, Rooney went on secret drinking sessions to cope with the pub-

lic pressure and scrutiny. Now the manager of Championship side Derby, Rooney broke into the Everton side aged 16 and joined United immediately after shining for England at Euro 2004. The 36-year-old won the Premier League and the Champions League with United while establishing himself as the record goal-scorer for both the Old Trafford club and England. "I had made a lot of mistakes when I was younger, some in the press and some not in the press, whether that's fighting or whatever," he told the Mail on Sunday ahead of the release of the Amazon Prime documentary 'Rooney'.

News Desk

BAKU: Baku has said that Azerbaijan is looking forward to the further strengthening of the strategic partnership with Ukraine. The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry made the remarks in a statement posted on its official Twitter account on February 6 which marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of Azerbaijani-Ukrainian diplomatic relations.

"Today marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Azerbaijan and Ukraine. We send our best wishes to the government and people of friendly Ukraine on this occasion. We look forward to further strengthening of our strategic partnership!" the ministry tweeted.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry also tweeted that Azerbaijan and Ukraine remain good friends and strategic partners. "OTD we celebrate 30 years of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Azerbaiian. Both states remain good friends and strategic partners. We continue to deepen our strategic relations and bilateral mutually beneficial cooperation!" the Ukrainian ministry added. As reported earlier, President Ilham Alivey sent a congratulatory letter to Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: Islamabad United

have posted 177 runs for the

loss of six wickets in 20 overs

after their skipper Shadab Khan

elected to bat first in 14th match

of the Pakistan Super League

(PSL) 2022 against Karachi

Kings' at the National Stadium

gave them a 66 runs stand, as

Kings' bowlers continued to

struck in the middle to break

Paul scored 39, Hales 30, Munro

in Karachi.

reach 177.

the partnerships.



Zelensky. "It is pleasant to see that our interstate ties based on mutual trust, confidence and support in these years have evolved to elevate to the level of the strategic partnership while our collaboration in political. economic, energy and humanitarian fields has broadened its coverage," said the letter. Aliyev emphasized the importance of today's high-level political dialogue, numerous mutual visits, signed documents and jointly implemented projects coupled with the successful activities of the Intergovernmental Commission in defining new pathways.

Further, he expressed confidence in fostering and broadening the Azerbaijani - Ukrainian relations through joint efforts. In the early 1990s, Azerbaijan and Ukraine gained their independence from the Soviet Union and started a close friendship with establishing diplomatic relations in 1992. The relations of strategic cooperation, political, economical, and cultural ties between two countries are at a very high level. In 2001, the two countries founded

the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development (GUAM), along with Georgia and Moldova. Azerbaijan currently plays an important role in both the organization and the foreign policy of Ukraine due to its strategic role in the region.

Baku, Kiev support each other's integrity

BAKU: Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and Ukrainian Foreign Minister

Dmytro Kuleba exchanged the letters on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Ukraine, the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry told media. Bayramov stressed that bilateral relations of the countries, which have been developing for 30 years on the basis of mutual interests and have reached a strategic level, have strengthened in the political, trade, economic, cultural and humanitarian spheres and significant achievements have been made in mutual support within the regional and international organizations. "While adhering to the principle of inviolability of internationally recognized borders, Azerbaijan and Ukraine support each other's territorial integrity," the message said.

"The current level of relations between our countries is based on the will of our peoples and heads of state," Bayramov added. "In this regard, the visit of President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev to Ukraine on January 14, 2022, on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, shows the importance attached to the bilateral relations." The Azerbaijani minister expressed confidence that the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries, based on mutual respect and trust, will continue to develop in the interests of peoples of two countries. - News Desk

PM, Xi vow to further...

Islamabad **POST**

Monday, February 07, 2022

FROM PAGE 01 of peace, stability, development and prosperity. The Prime Minister briefed President Xi on people-centered geo-economics vision and his Government's policies for Pakistan's sustained growth, industrial development, agricultural modernization, and regional connectivity. He lauded China's continued support and assistance to Pakistan's socio-economic development which had greatly benefitted from the high quality development of CPEC. The Prime Minister welcomed increased Chinese investments in CPEC's Phase-II which centered on industrialization and improving people's livelihoods. The Prime Minister shared his views with President Xi on growing polarization in the world which threatened unraveling of global developmental gains, and posed serious risks to the developing countries. He highlighted that insurmountable challenges like climate change, health pandemics and growing inequalities could only be tackled though unqualified cooperation of all nations in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. In this regard, he lauded President Xi's visionary Belt and Road and Global Development Initiatives which called for collective action for sustainable development and winwin outcomes.

Five soldiers martyred...

FROM PAGE 01

Marwat, age 22 years), Sepoy Naheed Iqbal (resident of Karak, age 23 years, Sepoy Sameerullah Khan (resident of Bannu, age 18 years) and Sepoy Sajid Ali (resident of Bahawalnagar, age 27 years) who embraced shahadat (martyrdom) during fire exchange.

It added that as per intelligence reports, due to fire of Pakistan Army troops, the terrorists suffered heavy causalities.The ISPR said, "Pakistan strongly condemns the use of Afghan soil by terrorists for activities against Pakistan and expects that interim Afghan Government will not allow conduct of such activities against Pakistan, in future." It added that Pakistan Army was determined to defend Pakistan's borders against the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of its brave men further strengthen its resolve.

Giroud shoots open Serie A title race

WEB DESK

MILAN: Olivier Giroud bust the Serie A title race wide open on Saturday with a quick-fire derby brace in a 2-1 win which moves AC Milan to within one point of leaders Inter.

France international Giroud poked Milan level with 15 minutes remaining of a thrilling encounter after Ivan Perisic had given champions Inter a deserved first-half lead with a perfectly placed volley from Hakan Calhanoglu's corner. And three minutes later the 35-year-old sent the Milan fans at the San Siro wild with a neat turn and low

33, while Shadad scored a quickfire 34 runs, and in the end Azam Khan played a small-camfinish after collecting Davide Calabria's pass.

While for Kings', Imad Wasim, Umaid Asif and Usman Shinwari took one wicket each and also ended their four overs spells under the economy rate of seven. The Babar Azam-led Kings have

suffered four successive losses in this year's PSL and will look to win the first game of PSL 2022 by toppling United. In the 16th over of the match, as Chris Jordan bowled, Unit-

Though, no batter from United ed's skipper Shadab Khan hit a reached the half-century, but shot over the off-side but didn't their top-order contributed with get the proper connection, but 30-odd runs to help the team Bababr just lept onto that catch acrobatically. Paul Sterling and Alex Hales

At the start of the 18th over, Usman Shinwari bowled to Asif Ali who hit the ball towards the deep cover area, but Babar continued running towards that catch and grabbed it with just one hand while running.

Meanwhile, the fans on the microblogging website are praising



eo of 16 runs off just seven balls. Babar

"We were in difficulty for the first half. The second 45 minutes we got back in the game, and I was hoping for one or two chances in the area," Giroud said to DAZN. "The first was a bit lucky but the second was a good ball from Cala (Davide Calabria) and great for our fans... I don't know what to say. I'm very happy and proud of this team which never gave up." Giroud was only playing because Zlatan Ibrahimovic was out with an Achilles tendon injury but pounced just as Inter looked to be headed for what up to that point would have been a deserved win.

Legendary singer Lata passes away

FROM PAGE 01

mourn the legendary singer. Mangeshkar was born in 1929 and started her musical training early under the tutelage of her father Deenanath, singing in his theatrical productions when she was just five.

Her father's death when she was only 13 forced her to take on the role of breadwinner to support four younger siblings, and the family eventually moved to Mumbai in 1945.

There she pursued a career as a playback singer, recording tracks to be mimed by actors, and her high-pitched voice soon became a staple of Bollywood blockbusters. In a move reflecting her huge following, she was invited by the government to sing a patriotic tribute to the soldiers killed in the 1962 Indo-China war at India's Republic Day commemora-

tions in January 1963. Her rendition of "Oh the People of my Country" reportedly moved then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to tears.In the following decades, composers and film producers alike vied to sign the prolific Mangeshkar for their movies. "I composed keeping Lata Mangeshka's range and voice quality in mind," composer Anil Biswas said of her in an interview published in the "Encyclopedia of Hindi Cinema"."She had a wide range, and one could think of more complicated melodies than with the earlier untrained singers," he added.

Pakistan to learn from China to develop, winter sports: Fawad

BEIIING: Pakistan is ready to learn from the Chinese experience to develop and promote winter sports in its scenic northern areas, said Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain. Pakistan and China have good economic and strategic bonds and now converting into sports ties. Chinese media and culture are not known as much as western media in Pakistan but now we are working on these areas, he said in interview with China Economic Net (CEN).

"Prime Minister Imran Khan invited the Chinese companies to set up winter sports venues and facilities in Pakistan. I believe now Pakistan and China have culture, sports, and media interaction more often," Chaudhry Fawad added.

The Information Minister expressed that the way Chinese played with lights was mesmerizing, and added that the stadium and lights were combinations of science and art and the Chinese created beautiful effects with lights that are something the world must learn from.

"Pakistan's northern area is double than Switzerland in terms of size and having the world's highest peaks that are suitable for winter sports, but our winter sports are not up to the mark.



I hope China would help us by setting up a framework for winter sports in that region and we will be able to produce top athletes for winter sports," he added. Pakistani athlete Muhammad Karim from Naltar, a village in Gilgit-Baltistan is the only skier participating in the Beijing Winter Olympics and also is the only Pakistani skier to have participated in two Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia and Pyeongchang, South Korea.

"The Chief Minister of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) is very keen to set up winter sports facilities in GB to make the northern areas a hub of winter sports in Pakistan and China can help us by setting up these ski and winter sports facilities,"the Information Minister mentioned.

Pakistan's athlete delegation reached Beijing on February 2 and Muhammad Karim will take to the slopes on February 16 in the Yanging District at the China National Alpine Skiing Center. Earlier Pakistani giant slalom skier Muhammad Karim told China Economic Net that

"I'm very excited and fully prepared to participate in Beijing Winter Olympics. I heard that they used the latest technologies on ski slopes and the world's best sports facilities there. I can't wait to see all these things."ť Chaudhry Fawad said that when the Pakistani contingent entered the National Stadium received applause and a very warm welcome from spectators in the stadium that showed respect and love for Pakistan.

It is worth mentioning that Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Chaudhry Fawad Hussain along with other Federal Ministers attended the opening ceremony of the Beijing Winter Olympics on February 4th at the National Stadium in Beijing. The National Stadium, also known as the Bird's Nest, is the only venue in the world that hosted both the Winter and Summer Olympics. The 2008 Summer Olympics were hosted in the same venue here. - APP

New Zealand win historic Olympic gold



up overshadowed by Covid and rights concerns. Seven became six when the main event of the day, the men's downhill - one of the most closely watched events at the Winter Olympics - was postponed because of gusty winds and will now take place on Monday instead.

Wind also caused the cancellation of Saturday's third and final training run, albeit after three racers had come down the "Rock" course in Yanqing, notably hot favourite Aleksander Aamodt Kilde of Norway. There was no such trouble for the 20-year-old Sadowski Synnott, who held her nerve under brilliant blue skies to take the women's snowboard slopestyle title with the last run of the competition and make history. "Honestly it's absolute disbelief but it probably means more to me to win New Zealand's first Winter Olympic gold," said Sadowski Synnott, who was born in Sydney and moved to New Zealand when she was six. "It makes me super proud to be a Kiwi." - Agencies

Suicide bomber...

FROM PAGE 01

wing, the security forces conducted the operation near Dial road in Tank on "confirmed intelligence reports of the presence of TTP terrorists.

'The operation is continuing to eliminate the terrorists' abettors and accomplices," said the ISPR.

Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed said, "Pakistan's great security forces are teaching a lesson to terrorists."

Responding to a question about the recent terrorist attacks in Balochistan, Sheikh Rasheed paid tribute to the soldier who rendered their lives in the line of duty. He said that 9 security personnel received martyrdom in the attack while 20 terrorists were killed.

India on mission...

FROM PAGE 01

against State and our armed forces. Our valiant forces were responding to the terrorists in befitting manners, he added. Rasheed said Pakistan has deep, cordial and brethren relations with Saudi Arabia and Saudi Interior Minister would arrive in Pakistan tomorrow on a daylong visit. The government was making all out efforts to bring Pakistani prisoners languishing in jails abroad, he added. He said interior ministers of Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain etc were also being invited to visit Pakistan. Meanwhile, Pakistani held in minor offenses could be released. Pakistani prisoners have already been brought from Turkey owing to the efforts of PM Imran Khan, he added. Regarding the opposition long march, the minister said that they were not interested in march rather they wanted to remain alive in news.

Muslims marginalized in India's politics

"Every party is maintaining distance from Muslims because they fear that they would get fewer votes in elections and suffer politically if the Muslims stay close to their party," he said

NEW DELHI: Muslim experts and politicians encouraged the community in a webinar Saturday to come together and consider why the group has been marginalized and has become untouchable in current-day Indian politics.

The All India Majlis Tameer-e-Millat, an organization working on socio-economic causes of Muslims, organized the meeting on "The role of Muslims in the politics of the country." Former MP Mohammad Adeeb said today, Muslims have no status in politics.

"Every party is maintaining distance from Muslims because they fear that they would get fewer votes in elections and suffer politically if the Muslims stay close to their party," he said.

Adeeb said there are 126 seats in which Muslims can play a crucial role in forthcoming provincial elections in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. But every party wants to save itself from Muslims.

Elections in the country's biggest state are set for later this month.

Voting will be held in seven phases from



Feb. 10 to March 7.

Hindu monk Yogi Adityanath is the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh and belongs to Prime

Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Adityanath is known for his hateful rhetoric against Muslims. The President

of Maulana Azad University, Akhtarul Wasey, said Muslims should think about their present situation. He said Muslims are as much responsible as others for the state of affairs. "Muslims should focus more on education and self-employment to move forward," he said. "Muslims should not run away from politics, but participate openly in it, but they should not think that politics is everything." Tasleem Rehmani, President of the Muslim Political Council of India, said: "The biggest thing is that we (Muslims) do not have any data of our own community. We do not even know what our educational, political, social status is. We should make a roadmap by collecting our data so that we can move forward.

"It is important that we then entrust the task of the growth of the community to our youth.'

Senior journalist MA Majid said the biggest issue for Muslims today is that they have to prove their loyalty to the country.

"The reason for this is that Muslim leadership has been destroyed and it is not being allowed to grow," he said.

Π7

BUSINESS / WORLD



Pak embassy in Indonesia holds Kashmir day webinar

DNA

JAKARTA: The Embassy of Pakistan, in connection with Kashmir Solidarity Day, held an event at the Chancery on 5 February 2022 in which a large number of academics, intellectuals, faculty members from various universities and think tanks in Jakarta, and people from different walks of life attended.

Ambassador Muhammad Hassan, in his remarks, briefed the participants about the latest situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIO-JK) and highlighted how the Kashmiris were being subjected to every inhumane tactics and draconian laws by Indian security forces which were intended to create demographic

apartheid in IIOJK. While mentioning about Pakistan's unflinching diplomatic support to the Kashmir cause, he called on the international community to play its due role in the resolution of the Kashmir issue.

Other speakers included Dr. HendriTanjun, Member of Indonesian Waqt and Professor at Ibn-e-Khaldun University Bogor and Mr. Zaheer Khan, Chairman Kashmir Forum Indonesia who also spoke about the human rights violations in IIOJK, international law, and the role of the UN and international community in resolving the Kashmiri issue.

Kazakhstan reports 4,800 Covid cases

NUR-SULTAN: In the past 24 hours, Kazakhstan has registered 4,826 fresh cases of the coronavirus infection. Almaty city reported the highest number of new cases of the coronavirus infection - 1,273. Coming in second is Karaganda region with 632 new daily infections. Pavlodar region has the third highest

Pakistan will continue its support to Kashmiris: Envoy

Ambassador especially thanked govt and people of Azerbaijan for their continued support and solidarity with Pakistan on the just stance of Kashmir dispute

BAKU: On the occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day (5th February), the Embassy organised a photo exhibition showcasing the plight of Kashmiri people in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJ&K). Pictures depicting the oppression and atrocities perpetrated by the Indian Occupation forces against innocent men, women and children in IIO-J&K were displayed.

DNA

The exhibition was organised in one of the most prominent and busiest shopping malls of Baku with a view to create awareness among the masses of Azerbaijan about the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Taking keen interest in the event, large number of families, students, media persons and people fromdifferent walks of life witnessed the photographs and expressed solidarity and support with the oppressed Kashmiris. Ambassador Bilal Hayee informed media



persons on the occasion that the presence of over 900,000 Indian occupation forces in

the disputed territory of Jammu and Kash-

mir for decades had turned the beautiful

State of Jammu and Kashmir in the largest open prison. India's unilateral and illegal

actions of 5 August 2019 had further exacerbated the human rights situation in IIO-J&K. Kashmiri youth was being particularly targeted through arbitrary arrests, incarceration, indiscriminate use of pallet guns and extra-judicial killings in staged cordon and search operations. Some of the proofs of atrocities were evident from the photographs of the exhibition.

Ambassador further said that Jammu and Kashmir was an internationally recognized dispute, which was present and active on the agenda of the UN Security Council. Pakistan desired a peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with relevant UNSC resolutions and wishes of the people of Kashmir. He reiterated that Pakistan would continue to provide all possible diplomatic and moral support to Kashmiri brothers and sisters. Ambassador especially thanked the government and people of Azerbaijan for their continued support and solidarity with Pakistan on the just stance of Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Sri Lanka-Pakistan

ties contributing to

PM visit to China will further strengthen cooperation

Islamabad **POST**

Monday, February 07, 2022

DNA

LAHORE: Chairman UK Pakistan Business Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq Sunday said that ongoing visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China will further strengthen economic cooperation and impetus to flow of uninterrupted Chinese investment in various projects of national importance.

Commenting on the visit of Prime Minister to China, he said Pakistan signed a new agreement with China to kick off the \$60b second phase of flagship gigantic fate changer CPEC project having strategic significance for both countries and delivering tangible benefits to the people.

He said another signed framework agreement on industrial cooperation is aimed at attracting foreign direct investment, promote industrialisation, development of economic zones, execute projects in private and public sectors. He said Chinese cooperation with Pakistan has reached economic high points with substantial Chinese investment in Pakistani infrastructural expansion including the deep water port of Gawdar and both countries are also enjoying the ongoing free trade agreement.

Costa Rica headed to presidential polls

BOGOTA: Costa Rica is headed for an election Sunday to choose its next president. A total of 25 candidates are competing for the nation's top spot with an electorate that is undecided. Former President Jose Maria Figueres of the National Liberation Party is leading in surveys with 17% of the vote. He is followed by conservative Lineth Saborio of the Social Christian Unity Party with 13% and evangelical preacher Fabricio Alvarado of the New Re-

public party has 10%. Despite a large number of candidates, relatively tew are positioned as the

favorite. According to the

latest University of Costa

Rica survey published on

Jan. 26, there is no over-

whelming favorite, making

it highly likely that the

country will hold a second

round on April 3 between

A candidate is required to

have at least 40% of the vote

the top two vote-getters.

Ethnic violence against a little Pakistani girl in Armenia

AGENCIES

YEREVAN: According to "NewsArmenia.am" the news agency, a little Pakistani girl attending one of the kindergartens in Yerevan, capital of Armenia was subjected to systematic violence by the staff and teachers of the kindergarten, only because the father of the child is Pakistani and Muslim. The child was sexually

abused, her hands andneck were tied with a rope, her chest was burned with a ments. hot iron toy, she was forced to eat earth, grass, excre-



garten in Yerevan was re-"A report about violence ceived by the police. This against child of the kinderinformation was confirmed to the New-Armenia agency by the deputy head of the department for public relations and information of the police, Edgar Janoyan." "The police received such

a signal, at present the case is being investigated, materials are being prepared," Janoyan said. "On January 31, a man approached the law-enforcement officers, who said that his daughter, born in 2016, was subjected to ill-treatment in a kindergarten, which she attended from 2019 to 2021. The girl's father, an ethnic Pakistani, said that such a

mistreatment was due to her origin" stated on the news.

NEW YORK: Pakistan's UN Ambassador MunirAkram told a virtual event marking Sri Lanka's 74th independence anniversary that the Colombo-Islamabad relationship was contributing to peace and stability in the South Asian region.

DNA

"Pakistan and Sri Lanka enjoy relations of warmth and affection from the highest political level to the relationships between our peoples," he said while felicitating the country's

leadership and the people on the occasion. "The relationship between our peoples stretches back 2,500 years to the Buddhist and Ghandara eras.'

In his message, Ambassa-dor Akram said, "We are both committed to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, in particular the principles of sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs

of other States. "We have assisted each other in the recent times in the preservation of these principles in South Asia.".

Argentina joins Morocco in shock after tragic death of 'little Rayan' China's BRI

BEIJING: China has welcomed Argentina into its global IGHRANE: Morocco was in shock Sunday after emergency crews found a five-year-old boy dead at the bottom of a well in a Belt and Road Initiative as President Xi Jinping capped a weekend of frenetic diplomatic activity on the sidelines of fell down the well on Tuesday afternoon gained global attention and sparked an outpouring of sympathy online, with the Arabic hashtag #SaveRayan trending. Throughout the operation to extricate him from the bottom of the 32-metre (100-foot) well shaft, authorities had cautioned that they did not know whether he was alive. And reflecting the emotions provoked by the drama, it was the Winter Olympics. China and Argentina have inked an agreement on "jointly promoting the construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk

South Asia's peace

number of new COVID-19 cases - 467. The Kazakh capital, Nur-Sultan, posted the fourth highest number of COVID-19 cases - 412.

391 people tested positive for COVID-19 in Kostanay region, 360 - in Akmola region, 297 - in North Kazakhstan region, 294 - in Almaty region, 196 - in West Kazakhstan region, 188 - in East Kazakhstan region, 83 - in Aktobe region, 79 – in Atyrau region, 52 - in Shymkent city, 51 - in Zhambyl region, 22 - in Mangistau region, 18 - in Kyzylorda region, and 11 - in Turkestan region. To date, the total COVID-19 caseload in Kazakhstan stands at 1,270,954 since the start of the pandemic. - APP

Covid sickens dozens of Iranian lawmakers

TEHRAN: Fifty Iranian lawmakers have contracted the coronavirus, amid a wide spread of the omicron variant across the country, according to a local parliamentarian on Sunday.

MP Alireza Salimi told the Youth Journalists Club (YJC), a local news agency, that the upcoming session of the Iranian Parliament will be held in accordance with health regulations. He, however, did not provide any further details about the infections or names of infected lawmakers.

In March 2020, the 290-seat parliament suspended sessions for two weeks amid a rise in COVID-19 infections in the country.

Iran, the hardest-hit country in the Middle East, witnesses a surge in the number of the virus cases after a period of decrease due to the mass vaccination campaigns. However, in recent days. the daily average reached 30,000 cases.

On Saturday, health authorities registered 23,130 infections in the past 24 hours, taking the nationwide tally to 6,543,837, including 132,745 deaths.

According to official figures, 50 million Iranians - out of the 85-million population - received two doses of the coronavirus vaccine and more than 19 million received a third dose. – **APP**

Road", marking Argentina's entry into the initiative, state broadcaster CCTV reported on Sunday.

China's BRI is a trillion-dollar push to improve trade links across the globe by building landmark infrastructure, and the inclusion of Argentina is a major win for Beijing in Latin America. Chinese companies invested more than \$20 billion in non-financial direct investment on projects in BRI countries in 2021, according to China's commerce ministry. The deal came as Argentine President Alberto Fernandez made a three-day visit to China during which both sides also said they would continue to support each other on issues concerning sovereign interests. Xi also met with Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday, shortly after Pakistan's army said troops had put an end to four days of assaults by separatists in Balochistan province. China has invested significantly in the region where separatists have waged an insurgency for years, fuelled by anger that its abundant reserves of natural resources are not relieving citizens from crushing poverty.- APP

AU suspends debate on Israel's status

ADDIS ABABA: Diplomats say the African Union (AU) has suspended a debate on whether to withdraw Israel's accreditation, despite growing calls on the bloc to overturn last year's decision to grant the "apartheid regime" an observer status. "The Israel question has been suspended for now and instead there will be a committee set up to study the issue," AFP quoted a diplomat as saying on Sunday, on the closing day of the AU's annual summit in Addis Ababa.

The crisis began last July, when Moussa Faki Mahamat, chair of the African Union Commission, accepted Israel's observer status in the bloc, triggering simmering tensions within the body. According to AFP, diplomats said that the six-member committee will include South Africa and Algeria, who opposed Israel's accreditation, as well as Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, who supported it.

Cameroon also asked to be on the committee, while South Africa requested the inclusion of Nigeria as well, the diplomats said. As the summit opened on Saturday, Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh said Israel "should never be awarded for its violation and for the apartheid regime it does impose on the Palestinian people." Your excellencies, I'm sorry to report to you that the situation of the Palestinian people has only grown more precarious. - APP

Morocco's royal cabinet that announced he had been found dead. "Following the tragic accident which cost the life of the child Rayan Oram, His Majesty King Mohammed VI called the parents of the boy who died after falling down the well," a statement from the royal court said. By mid-afternoon Saturday, rescue crews, using bulldozers and front-end loaders, had excavated the surrounding red earth down to the level where the boy was trapped, and drill teams began creating a horizontal tunnel to reach him from the side. But progress slowed to a snail's pace as the drill teams worked by hand to avoid any vibrations that might bring the brittle soil down on the stricken child, local authorities said. AFP correspondents saw the boy's parents walk down the slope into the horizontal tunnel, visibly crushed, before returning and boarding an ambulance without saying a word. After a period of confusion, a crowd of onlookers began dispersing in sombre silence. The family was yet to announce the date of the funeral, but according to Muslim tradition it must take place soon, in principle as early as Sunday. Tributes poured in in the wake of the news that the rescue efforts had failed to recover Ravan alive. "I want to say to the family of little Ravan and to the Moroccan people that we share your pain," French President Emmanuel Macron said on Facebook. - APP

tragic end to a painstaking five-day rescue operation that gripped the nation and the world. The ordeal of "little Rayan" since he

Kashmiris looking at world community and UN: Shafqat

DNA

MOSCOW: Ambassador of Pakistan to Russia, HE Mr. Shafqat Ali Khan has said that Kashmiri people are looking at the world community and United Nations to hear their voices against decades long inhuman and barbarian state sponsored terrorism unleashed by the Indian Government to subdue their voice for self-determination. The Ambassador expressed these views while addressing a gathering on occasion of Kashmir Solidarity Day at the Embassy of Pakistan, Moscow. The Ambassador while throwing light on the Indian state sponsored terror activates in their illegally held Jammu and Kashmir, expressed resolve that Government and People of Pakistan are and will always

extend their diplomatic and moral support to their Kashmiri brethren. He said that Pakistan has always sought peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute as per the UN resolutions, however the Indian designs and actions have not only put the regional but world peace at risk. must take note.

HE Mr. ShafqatAlil Khan said that despite the brutal-



the audience covering the ity unleashed by India after its illegal actions of 5th Au-Indian atrocities committed against the Kashmiri popgust 2019, the Kashmiris withstood with resolve and ulation. The documentary their determination has not also highlighted the Indian witnessed any weakness. designs and its historical He said that these Indian background. The occasion begin with Talawat and Naactions are clear manifestation of its war hysteria of tional Anthem. Messages of the President of Pakistan which the world community and Prime Minister on Kash-A special documentary on mir Solidarity Day were read Kashmir was displayed for by Deputy Head of Mission Mr. SummarJaved and Press Counselor Zafar Yab Khan

respectively. Various pamphlets and banners depicting the Indian atrocities in the illegally held Jammu and Kashmir were displayed. A large number of Pakistani community members participated on the occasion. The event ended with resolve from the participants to continue support to Kashmiri brethren in their struggle against Indian occupation.

to avoid a run-off. And it appears that voters that are undecided will determine the results. Undecided voters make up 41% of the electorate, according to the survey. President Carlos Alvarado Quesada of the Citizen Action Party is not running because the country's constitution does not allow re-election. - APP

US airborne infantry troops in Poland

RZESZOW-JASIONKA: Elite U.S troops and equipment landed Sunday in southeastern Poland near the border with Ukraine on President Joe Biden's orders to deploy 1,700 soldiers there amid fears of a Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Hundreds more infantry troops of the 82nd Airborne Division are still expected to arrive at the Rzeszow-Jasionka airport. A U.S. Army Boeing C-17 Globemaster plane brought a few dozen troops and vehicles.

Their commander is Maj. Gen. Christopher Donahue, who on Aug. 30 was the last American soldier to leave Afghanistan.

"Our national contribution here in Poland shows our solidarity with all of our allies here in Europe and, obviously, during this period of uncertainty we know that we are stronger together,' Donahue said at the airport. Biden ordered additional U.S. troops deployed to Poland. Romania and Germany to demonstrate to both allies and foes America's commitment to NATO's eastern flank amid rising tensions between Russia and Ukraine. NATO's eastern member Poland borders both Russia and Ukraine. Romania borders Ukraine. The division can rapidly deploy within 18 hours and conduct parachute assaults to secure key objectives. Based in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the division's history goes back to 1917. - APP

Nonstop IMF borrowing poses political challenges BMP Chairman AnjumNisar calls for exploring investment resources from private sector

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman has warned that continued borrowing from the IMF and other multilateral sources is posing serious economic threat, as Pakistan has taken foreign loans of \$9.43 billion in just first half of this fiscal year, suggesting the economic team to convince the lender for softening its conditions so that government could pursue its pro-growth strategies through some incentives for the industry. BMP Chairman Mian Anium Nisar emphasized the need for exploring investment resources from the private sector as well as non-traditional regional partners through investment friendly

policies in the country. He said that the government is taking foreign loans to build the country's foreign exchange reserves, which are declining due to repayment of previous loans and financing of current account deficit. The State Bank's held foreign exchange reserves have declined by slightly above \$3 billion since August 2021. In just one week time, reserves

have declined by \$562 million mainly on account of international debt servicing. Reserves held by the SBP have decreased to \$17 billion, which would further come under pressure in the next six months as Pakistan has to repay \$8.7 billion in the second half of FY 2022. As the loan burden continues to go

high we need to create strategic partnerships with international investors looking for impact investments, particularly in the areas of SMEs, industrial development, healthcare, education, logistics and climate financing, he urged.

The BMP Chairman asked the government to be highly vigilant about Pakistan's external financing requirements. These requirements include short, medium and long term debt of the country due during a fiscal year, plus the current account deficit. External financing requirement for Pakistan is likely to exceed \$28 billion for FY2022. In addition there is also the Chinese safe deposit of \$4 billion which needs to be rolled over. The FPCCI former chief said that the country's economy is witnessing an unprecedented damage under the government's controversial agreement with the International Monetary Fund, as it has wreaked havoc on the industry by

unleashing a slew tsunami of unbearable hike in prices of utility. The government has also indebted Pakistan to the point of crisis, and has now taken us into a situation, which does not seem to be sound. The government must give the SBP reasonable autonomy to make monetary policy, but don't open up the county to ups and downs of international capital and its dictation, he said.

The amount of loans has increased after Pakistan had received \$3 billion from Saudi Arabia in Dec last year. The overall amount of foreign borrowing was recorded at \$9.43 billion in July to Dec against \$5.67 billion in the corresponding period of previous year. According to the fresh data, Pakistan had borrowed \$2.03 billion from foreign commercial banks

during the first half of the current fiscal year.

The breakup of commercial banks loans showed that country has taken \$1.14 billion from Dubai Bank, \$487.26 million from SCB (London), \$61 million from Ajman Bank PJSC and \$343.50 million from Suisse AG, UBL and ABL. Among multilateral development partners, mainly the Asian Development Bank provided \$1.062 billion, the World Bank disbursed \$965.73 million, the AIIB \$37.77 million, and IDB (S-Term) \$800.69 million. China disbursed 1.07 million dollars in December; however, the country received \$74.51 million in the first half (July-December) of the current fiscal year, the USA \$32.60 million, Korea \$3.23 million, the UK \$14.54 million, and Germany \$12.07 million.







Briefs Israel vows to 'act freely' against Iran

TEL AVIV: Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett vowed on Sunday to continue acting against Iran's nuclear program, according to local media. "Whoever thinks an agreement will increase stability is wrong," Bennett said in statements cited by The Jerusalem Post newspaper during a weekly cabinet meeting.

"Israel will maintain freedom of action in any situation, with or without an agreement," he added.

The Israeli premier said that Tel Aviv is strengthening itself militarily against any possible threat from Iran. The biggest "threat to the State of Israel is Iran," Bennett warned. Iran and P4+1 (Russia, China, France, the UK, and Germany) held several rounds of talks in the Austrian capital, Vienna, to salvage the 2015 nuclear deal. Under the agreement, Tehran has committed to limit its nuclear activity to civilian purposes and in return, world powers agreed to drop their economic sanctions against Iran. However, the US, under former President Donald Trump, unilaterally withdrew from the agreement in 2018 and re-imposed sanctions on Iran, prompting Tehran to stop complying with the nuclear deal. - APP

Qatar and UAE leaders meet for first time since Gulf thaw

DOHA: Qatar's emir met the de facto ruler of the United Arab Emirates during an official event at the Beijing Winter Olympics, in the first such interaction between the two Gulf leaders since four Arab states agreed to end a dispute with Doha over a year ago. Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani met Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan on the sidelines of a lunch hosted by China's president on Saturday, Qatar's state news agency said.

UAE news websites published a vid eo clip of the two leaders speaking. Abu Dhabi has yet to restore diplomatic ties with Doha since Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt agreed in January 2021 to end a row that led them to boycott Qatar in 2017 though

Qureshi, Wang Yi discuss regional, Afghan situation

FM Qureshi briefed State Councilor Wang on the gross human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and systemic assaults on the freedoms of minorities in India

BEIJING: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi and State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi Sunday discussed the evolving situation in the region and beyond, particularly the grave humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. The foreign minister held a meeting with his Chinese counterpart. The foreign minister is accompanying the Prime Minister on a visit to China to attend the 24th Olympic Winter games.

About Afghanistan, both sides appreciated the important role played by the meeting of the six neighbouring countries in evolving regional consensus and looked forwarded to its third meeting to be held in China.

It was agreed to maintain closer coordination to promote the shared objectives of peace, stability and development in Afghanistan and regional connectivity, a press release said.

Tunisian president dissolves Supreme Judicial Council

FOREIGN DESK

TUNIS: Tunisian President Kais Saied dissolved the Supreme Judicial Council on Sunday. He said the body that deals with judicial independence "has become a thing of the past."Sunday's announcement caps months of his sharp criticism of the judges, saying the judiciary is just "a function of the state." Last month, Saied revoked all financial privileges for council members. "In this council, positions and appointments are sold according to loyalties. Their place is not the place where they sit now, but where the accused stand." he said. It is just the latest move by Saied to tighten his grip on power. Last July he plunged Tunisia into a constitutional crisis when he suspended the country's parliament, dismissed the sitting prime minister and granted himself executive powers.

FM Qureshi launches portal for students, professionals

BEIJING: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi Sunday inaugurated a portal to facilitate the Pakistani students and professionals. During the launching ceremony, Ambassador of Pakistan to China Moeen-ul-Haque also accompanied the foreign minister, a press release said. The foreign minister, on the occasion, said that the portal would enhance technical linkages between the Pakistani students and the Chinese experts and serve as a vital platform beween them. The portal would provide support with regard to the latest innovative research and inventions, Qureshi said, adding that the portal would also highlight the contributions of Pakistani students and professionals in the relevant fields. - DNA

The foreign minister underlined that Prime Minister Imran Khan's meetings with the Chinese leadership would provide fresh momentum to the bilateral strategic cooperative partnership, add new avenues to practical cooperation,

spur high quality development of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) including industrial development, and develop greater synergies between the visions of geo-economics and the Global Development Initiative.

Foreign Minister Qureshi briefed State Councilor Wang on the gross human rights violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and systemic assaults on the freedoms of minorities in India. Recalling their last meeting in Chengdu for the 3rd round of Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue, the foreign minister appreciated the measures taken by the two sides to strengthen the All-Weather Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Pakistan and China.

He thanked his counterpart for China's firm support to Pakistan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, independence and national development, and reaffirmed Pakistan's full support to China on all issues of its core interest. Qureshi also congratulated his Chinese counterpart on the successful hosting of the Winter Olympics and conveyed his best wishes on the Chinese Lunar New Year. - APP

Ashrafi lauds struggle of Muslim World League

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Ulema Council, Special Representative to Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Middle East, Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi Sunday

said that the Muslim World League, Ulema-Mashaykh and the government have unanimous stance regarding interfaith dialogue and Islamophobia.

While talking to media here, following the virtual meeting of the Central Supreme Council of Muslim World League, he said the league has been playing a very significant and imperative role for the guidance of Muslims. The entire Muslim world considers the guidance on part of Rabita-e-Alami-e-Islam (Muslim World League) on religious issues very important and argumentative.

The way, in which, Secretary General of Muslim World League, Dr. Abdul Kareem Al-Issa, has interpreted Muslim scholars and Ulema-Mashaykh of the Islamic world over the past few years regarding interfaith dialogue, extremism and terrorism is very commendable. Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi also said that 'Mecca Declaration' and 'Paigham-e-Pakistan' document are messages of peace, security, stability, brotherhood and affection and representation of Islamic teachings and values. Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi also said that 'Mecca Declaration' and 'Paigham-e-Pakistan' document are unanimous message of peace and affection on part of the leadership of Pakistan and Islamic world.

Germany considers sending troops to Lithuania

BERLIN: German Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht said extra troops could be deployed to the Baltic nation amid regional tensions with Russia. She also defended Berlin's decision to not supply weapons to Ukraine.

Germany does not rule out sending additional troops to Lithuania, Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht said, as Russia's military buildup near Ukraine grows. "We (Germany) are already making a very important contribution in Lithuania, where we are the only country in the European Union to have

a battlegroup," Lambrecht said in an

interview with the Funke media group

These so-called NATO battlegroups,

led by the US, Germany, Canada and

to be published online on Sunday.



BEIJING: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi inaugurating a portal to facilitate the Pakistani students and professionals. - DNA

Queen Elizabeth says wants **IMF** stresses Pak to show

official visited Doha last August. Saudi Arabia and Egypt last year appointed ambassadors to Qatar. All but Bahrain have restored travel and trade links. The dispute erupted over accusations that Doha supported terrorism - a reference to some groups - and its ties with regional adversary Iran and Turkey. Doha denies the charges. The UAE, under a more conciliatory foreign policy driven by economic priorities, is engaging with both Tehran and Ankara, with which ties were badly strained over the role of Islamist groups following 2011 Arab Spring uprisings. - APP

Opp. to move no-trust when numbers achieved, Abbasi

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said that as the required numbers achieved a no-confidence motion will be tabled. Talking to media he said that the no-trust move is a part of the parliamentary democ-"There is an unconstitutionracy. al interference in our system," he claimed. "Whenever the crutches will be removed, the government will go home within 24 hours," he further said. "Twenty-two MNAs of the PTI don't want to be with their party," Abbasi further claimed.

"The country is hurtling towards devastation and collapse and the only solution is fair and immediate elections," the former prime minister said. "Whenever elections talked about, a feeler of presidential system put out," Abbasi said. On a question he said that his party remains in touch with the People's Party, "We are united for the future of Pakistan," PML-N leader added.

Blast targets US-led coalition convoy in southern Iraq

BAGHDAD: A roadside bomb targeted a military convoy carrying logistics for the US-led coalition against the Daesh/ISIS terror group in southern Iraq, according to a local security official on Sunday.

No injuries were reported in the attack that occurred on a highway in the southern al-Diwaniya province, the official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media. A military vehicle sustained limited damage in the blast. According to the source, Iraqi authorities have launched an investigation into the attack. - APP

Camilla to be Queen Consort

LONDON: Queen Elizabeth II on Sunday became the first British monarch to reign for seven decades, marking the landmark date with an announcement that she wants Camilla, the wife of her heir Prince Charles, to ultimately be known as Queen Consort.

The 95-year-old monarch begins her Platinum Jubilee in subdued fashion at her Sandringham estate in eastern England, where she traditionally spends anniversaries of her accession. Four days of festivities are planned for early June, coinciding with the anniversary of her 1953 coronation, including a military parade and music concert, street parties, a nationwide "Big Jubilee Lunch" and a "Platinum Pudding Competition". Commemorative coins

have been minted to mark Sunday's unprecedented milestone and eight new celebratory postage stamps have been issued by the Royal Mail. On Monday there will be ceremonial gun salutes in London's Green

and at Edinburgh Castle in Scotland Traditionally these are not held at weekends. Addressing the nation in a written statement late Saturday, the Queen said she wanted Camilla, the wife of her heir Prince Charles, to ultimately be known as Queen Consort. The statement shows that the Queen is planning for the future after her death and holds Camilla, who married Charles in a civil ceremony in 2005, in high esteem. Britain's longest-serving monarch acceded to the throne on February 6, 1952, following the death of her father King George VI. Aged just 25, she learned of the news

while watching wildlife in a remote part of Kenya with her now late husband, Prince Philip.

Kashmiris demonstrate protest

number of Kashmiris, Pakistanis and their allies Saturday staged a demonstration in front of the Indian embassy here at which speakers drew attention to the grave situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir and urged the world community to implement the UN-pledged right to self-determination to the Kashmiri people. Wrapped up in woolies, the participants raised vociferous and waved placards reading: "We Demand Human Rights", "Wake up, wake up - UN - wake up", "Indian army out of Kashmir" and "India: free Kashmir."

The protest, marking Kashmir Solidarity Day, was organized

North America). The speakers urged UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to persuade India to rescind the Domicile Law designed to change Kashmir's demography; release all political prisoners, including Yasin Malik, Khurram Parvez, Shabir Shah, Aasia Andrabi, Masarat Alam; repeal all special repressive laws; restore fundamental rights and freedoms, and create condition to allow the Kashmiri people to exercise their right to self-determination.

Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai, the forum's chairman, said that a series of draconian laws enacted by the Indian government in Kashmir provide an enabling environment that encourages and even rewards human rights abuses by its military and paramilitary forces. Despite the growing international awareness about India's heinous crimes. New Delhi has kept on killing and torturing innocent civilians in Kashmir, and UN reports and those various international NGO's testify the ongoing murderous campaign. "UN Secretary-General Guterres - the custodian of human rights - cannot simply stand by and

allow India to continue to kill, torture and maim the people of Kashmir in this way," Fai said. - Agencies

Thousands protest vaccine mandates in Canada

"The protesters in Ottawa have made their point. The entire country heard their point,"

said Transport Minister, who urged protesters to "go home and engage elected officials"

ministers' assets

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: International Monitory Fund (IMF) has released some more details of its agreement with Pakistan acknowledging of implemented 26 out of 27 points of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Sunday. The IMF stressed Pakistan to complete the implementation of the FATF action plan and establish a system of disclosure of assets on a priority basis. The IMF urged Pakistan that the assets of top government officials including ministers should be disclosed. It also said that the use of prize bonds should be reduced as they are being used for tax evasion and illegal activities. Pakistan should investigate and punish the leaders of terrorist groups, The IMF advised adding that the 'Financial Intelligence Unit' should also be made effective and corrected the flaws in the financial system. The IMF urged Pakistan to privatize its two public banks and LNG Power plants. It also stressed reducing the rate of issuance of bank loans and controlling the amnesty scheme of the financial institutions for the construction sector. It further stated that the Pakistani authorities should develop a working group strategy consisting of stakeholders of the matter of mortgaged property by the end of this month (February 2022) and also develop a legal, regulatory and policy framework for state-owned institutes

said they received advice from their

wearing masks themselves, criticized

Ottawa Police earlier this week for not

doing more to end the blockade. One

resident filed a class-action lawsuit

against convoy organizers, seeking up

to \$10 million in damages and an injunc-

Ottawa police, which warned on Fri-

day of a crackdown on the protest

and dedicated more officers, do not

have enough resources to end the

protests, the city's police chief said

on Saturday. Trudeau ruled out the

use of troops against truckers in the

tion to end the protests.

capital earlier this week.

Park, close to Buckingham Palace,

"The protesters in Ottawa have made

the United States, saw protesters bring

in portable saunas on Saturday to com-

One man rode through the area on

horseback, carrying a Trump flag, so-

cial media videos showed. Former US

President Donald Trump has spoken

out in support of the truckers against

Justin Trudeau who has destroyed Can-

ada with insane COVID-19 mandates."

GoFundMe took down the Freedom

Convoy's donation page on Friday, say-

ing it violated the platform's terms of

service due to unlawful activity. The

'the harsh policies of far-left lunatic

bat frigid temperatures.

Britain, are meant to stall an attack in the region and buy time for additional NATO troops to reach the frontline. "As a matter of principle, additional troops are available as reinforcement, and we are in talks with Lithuania at the moment to find out what exactly would make sense in this regard," she added. In addition, Eu-

> mania for air surveillance. "Everyone in NATO can rely on us," the minister said, who visited Lithuania in her first foreign trip in December. Germany has been the leading nation in the NATO operation in Lithuania for five years and provides around half of the 1,200 men and women in the multinational unit. - Agencies Sanjarani, CM

> rofighters would be deployed to Ro-

pay tribute to martyrs' bravery

DNA

QUETTA: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjarani and Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Quddos Bizenjo lauded the Frontier Corps (FC) Balochistan for their bravery in the recent terror attacks on two FC camps in the province.

The development came as the Senate chairman, chief minister, and other provincial ministers visited the Frontier Corps (FC) Headquarters and paid tribute to the martyrs and soldiers.

As many as 20 terrorists were killed in the Panjgur and Naushki operations. the military's media wing said on Saturday after the security forces completed a clearance operation. In Naushki, nine terrorists were killed, while four security forces personnel, including an officer, embraced martvrdom during the shoot out, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

In Panjgur, security forces repulsed the terrorist attack after an intense exchange of fire and terrorists fled from the area. it added.

The military's media wing shared that the security forces carried out a clearance operation to hunt down the hiding terrorists in the area after the attack on February 2.

"Four fleeing terrorists were killed at Panjgur, while four terrorists were encircled the next day by security forces. All encircled terrorists were killed in today's operation as they failed to surrender," the ISPR said.

During the operation, five soldiers, including a junior commissioned officer, were martyred and six soldiers were injured in the follow-up operations at Panjgur that lasted 72 hours.

their point. The entire country heard The website originally said it would hospitals to not wear hospital scrubs their point," said Transport Minister give refunds for any requests made in public in light of the protest. Omar Alghabra, who urged protesters to "The notion that we have to somehow by February 19 and would remaining funds to verified charities, but on Sat-"go home and engage elected officials." skunk around or be afraid of who we are Ottawa police said hate crime charges urday GoFundMe said it would refund and what were doing, I think, is offenwere laid against four people and they all donations automatically. sive and regrettable, and I think, a sad were investigating threats against public Tesla CEO Elon Musk, who has precommentary on our society," emergenfigures jointly with the US Federal Buviously criticized vaccine mandates, cy room doctor Raghu Venugopal told reau of Investigation. The well-organised called GoFundMe "professional media. Some Ottawa residents, who blockade, which police say has relied have endured near-incessant honking, thieves." Florida Governor Ron Departly on funding from sympathizers in smashed windows and harassment for

group had raised about C\$10.1 million.

Santis and other Republican state lawmakers vowed to investigate the California-based company over the move. About 5,000 people demonstrated in Ottawa, police said, while hundreds more gathered in Toronto, Canada's biggest city, and Quebec City, coinciding with the city's annual winter carnival. Four people were injured in Manitoba after a pick-up truck drove into a crowd late Friday, police said.

In Toronto, about 500 healthcare workers and supporters rallied downtown in opposition to the trucker convoy, according to a Reuters witness. Several Toronto healthcare workers

Ph: 051-2266165, Published by Ansar Mahmood Bhatti, Printed at Rohani Art Press, Islamabad Email: newsroomisbpost@gmail.com

near Indian embassy WASHINGTON: Braving freezing temperatures, a large

by World Kashmir Awareness Forum, an advocacy group, and the Council for Social Justice of ICNA (Islamic Circle of

News Desk

TORONTO/OTTAWA: Thousands of

people demonstrated in Canadian cit-

ies, including the financial hub Toron-

to, on Saturday as mostly peaceful but

noisy protests against vaccine mandates

spread from Ottawa, the capital. The

"Freedom Convoy" began as a move-

ment against a Canadian vaccine require-

ment for cross-border truckers, but has

turned into a rallying point against pub-

lic health measures and Prime Minister

"We're all sick and tired of the mandates,

of the intimidation, of living in one big

prison," said Robert, a Toronto protest-

er who did not give his last name. "We

just want to go back to normal without

having to take into our veins the poison

which they call vaccines." Protesters

have shut down downtown Ottawa for

the past eight days, with some partici-

pants waving Confederate or Nazi flags

and some saying they wanted to dissolve

Canada's government.

Justin Trudeau's government.