



Islamabad POST

Wednesday, February 09, 2022

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

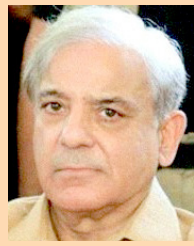
Price Rs. 20

Germany's foreign minister visits front line in Ukraine

Detailed News On Page-08

Shehbaz Sharif summoned in sugar scandal

Detailed News On Page-08



Opposition faces defeat on all fronts: Shahzad

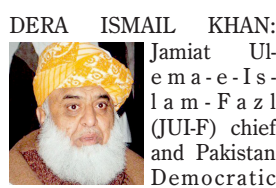
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Briefs

Not waiting for green signal

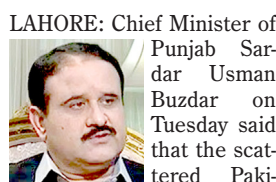
DNA



DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief and Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chairman Maulana Fazlur Rehman said on Tuesday that opposition didn't wait for the green signal, otherwise it would have been sitting at home. Talking to media in Dera Ismail Khan, he said that incompetent and illegitimate leaders cannot rule the country, adding that there is a storm of inflation in the country. He said Imran Khan is the culprit of the nation and the goal of opposition's struggle is to change this system.

Opposition nothing in front of PM

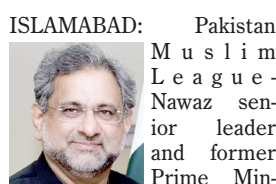
DNA



LAHORE: Chief Minister of Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar on Tuesday said that the scattered Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) should first solve its issues and even if the opposition unites, they are nothing in front of Imran Khan. According to details, Governor Sindh Imran Ismail called on the Punjab Chief Minister and discussed matters of mutual interest and political situation of the country. On the occasion, Usman Buzdar said that the no-confidence motion of the opposition, which also backtracked from its claims of resignations, would fail.

Opposition united in Parliament

KHAYAM ABBASI



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz senior leader and former Prime Minister (PM) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Tuesday has said that opposition parties are united inside the Parliament. Talking to media, the PML-N leader told that Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) willingly parted its way. If PPP wants to rejoin opposition parties' alliance Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) then it needs to regain the trust, he added.

Pak keen to bring, China US together

The Prime Minister says the world cannot afford another cold war between China and the U.S.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD, Prime Minister Imran Khan has said that Pakistan has good relationships with both China and the United States and wants to play the same 'instrumental role of the 70s' which had brought the two countries closer.

"We have a good relationship with the U.S. and also an iron-brother relationship with China. We want to play the role of 1970 when Pakistan was instrumental in getting the United States and China together," he said in an exclusive interview with Liu Xin of CGTN's The Point. The prime minister was referring to the historic breakthrough in China-U.S. relations in 1971 which was made possible due to the pivotal role played by Pakistan, which also enjoyed the trust of both countries. "The famous visit of Dr. Henry Kissinger (the U.S. State Secretary) was organized by Pakistan, so we hope to play that [same] role," he said. Replying to a question, he said the world cannot afford another cold war between China and the U.S. "The world should not go through the situation where it is divided into two camps and it does not benefit anyone," he said. "I hope that this does not escalate into another cold war where we have to choose sides."

Imran Khan said his priority in Pakistan was the uplift of 220 million people which was also linked with peace and

PM, COAS visit Nushki, meet personnel

BUREAU REPORT

NAUSHKI: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said the Pakistani nation was very resilient and strong and no acts of terror can deter them from moving forward. Addressing officers and men of the Frontier Corps and Pakistan Rangers, the Prime Minister vowed to give a befitting response to the terrorists who were trying in vain to hamper the pace of progress, particularly in Balochistan. Imran Khan accompanied by Ministers of Foreign Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Information Fawad Chaudhry and Interior Sheikh Rashid Ahmed addressed the gathering. Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa and senior commanders were also present.

His visit comes days after the armed forces thwarted two attempts by terrorist outfits at Nauskhi, Panjgur and Kech. According to ISPR 20 terrorists were killed in the operation at Nauskhi and Panjgur. According to ISPR, a detailed briefing was given to PM on security situation in the

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Shehbaz discusses in-house change with MQM leaders

Shehbaz Sharif says that the country has been destroyed by Imran Niazi



BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: A delegation of the Muttahida Quami Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) on Tuesday met Leader of Opposition in National Assembly and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) president Shehbaz Sharif and discussed overall political situation and in-house change.

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PML-Q not to leave PTI at Centre

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Punjab Assembly speaker and Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leader Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi said on Tuesday the party was not considering parting ways with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government at Center. Talking to the media along with the delegation of Muttahida Quami Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), a senior politician and PML-Q president, Pervaiz said only the opposition could tell about the no-trust move it planned to bring against the government in the National Assembly.

**NUSHKI:** Prime Minister Imran Khan interacting with tribal elders in Nushki, Balochistan. – DNA

PTI's allies not to leave govt: Farrukh

Says Opposition a group of corrupt people who had the common agenda



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Tuesday said all the allied parties of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) were fully intact with the government.

The PTI had full confidence and support of its allies, which would not leave its government, he said while talking to a private news channel.

The minister said the opposition was a group of corrupt people who had the common agenda of how to conceal or save the plundered public wealth, and they had gathered a day before yesterday for the purpose. The corruption of opposition leadership had been caught and the accountability process against them was moving forward, he added.

He said both the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) were continuing their proceedings against Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif for corruption and money laundering of billions of rupees.

Earlier, Punjab Assembly speaker and Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leader Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi said on Tuesday the party was not considering parting ways with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government at Center.

Hijab row turns violent in Karnataka

A lone hijab-wearing girl student was heckled by RSS goons; authorities shut schools

NEWS DESK

BENGALURU: Even as the High Court started hearing the matter, the Hijab row turned violent in Karnataka on Tuesday as incidents of stone pelting and lathi-charge were reported in the state at Pre-University Colleges. According to sources, many students were injured in the stone pelting. Authorities in southern India ordered schools to shut as protests intensified over a ban on hijab that has outraged Muslim students. The Karnataka Police resorted to lathi charge as incidents of stone pelting

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Opp. raises issue in Indian Parliament

DNA

NEW DELHI: The Opposition in India has raised the issue of ban on headscarf (hijab) in Karnataka in the Lok Sabha, lower house of Indian parliament, with many MPs opting to move adjournment motions. The Congress, Indian Union

'Terrorist groups enjoy freedom in Afghanistan'

"Al Qaeda is also continuing to recover from a series of leadership losses"

CENTRELINE REPORT

NEW YORK: Al Qaeda's past ties to the recently empowered Taliban have the potential of making Afghanistan a safe haven for extremists, and "terrorist groups enjoy greater freedom there than at any time in recent history", UN experts said in a report circulated on Monday. In the wide-ranging report, the experts also said extremists linked to both Al Qaeda and the militant Islamic State (IS) group are successfully advancing in Africa, especially in the

turbulent Sahel. And they said IS continues to operate "as an entrenched rural insurgency" in Iraq and Syria, where its so-called caliphate ruled a significant swathe of the two countries from 2014-2017 when it was defeated by Iraqi forces and a US-led coalition. In what it called "a bright spot" in Southeast Asia, the panel of experts said both Indonesia and the Philippines reported "significant gains" in disrupting IS and Al Qaeda-affiliated "terrorism" and "some optimism"

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Inside...

Broiler sellers violating official prices across Gujrat – **Page 02**

ICCI, PWCCI to promote empowerment of women – **Page 03**

Opposition faces defeat on all fronts, says Dr Shahzad – **Page 04**

Value for money essential when delivering aid to Afghanistan – **Page 05**

Macron on diplomatic shuttle to Kyiv to ease Ukraine crisis – **Page 06**

Azerbaijan urges pressure on Armenia to fulfill obligations – **Page 07**

Biden says no Nord Stream 2 if Russia invades Ukraine – **Page 08**

Missed opportunities in Kashmir (Part-2)

Analysis

ISHTIAQ AHMED



INDIA has also used the bilateral peace process with Pakistan to buy time and achieve status quo ante in the disputed territory, be it the Composite Dialogue of the 1990s and its revived form during the Musharraf era, when Pakistan even abandoned the UN option and offered a four-point formula as an 'out of the box' solution. In the last three decades or more, the Indian oppression against Kashmiri Muslims is manifested in the presence of estimated 700,000 security personnel (one armed person for every 17 civilians), and enforcement of draconian laws such as the Armed Forces Special Powers Act and the Public Safety Act, and the consequent arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings. Human rights groups have estimated over 8,000 instances of extrajudicial killings since 1990, including nearly 2,000 such cases during 2008-18. India has not only bid farewell to its pretence of sovereignty for Jammu and Kashmir by revoking Article 370, but the simultaneous annulment of Article 35-A (which was made part of Article 370 in 1954) has seen Kashmiri land being sold out for cheap, Kashmiri demography being re-engineered to accommodate Hindu settlers, and Kashmiri identity being reshaped with the exclusion of Kashmiri Muslims. Pakistan's lack of action on Kashmir, before August 2019 and especially afterwards, has allowed India to extend the scope of its militarisation campaign to the marginalisation of Kashmiri demography and identity. India has also used the bilateral peace process with Pakistan to buy time and achieve status quo ante in the disputed territory, be it the Composite Dialogue of the 1990s and its revived form during the Musharraf era, when Pakistan even abandoned the UN option and offered a four-point formula as an 'out of the box' solution.

The saffron project of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party aims to Hinduise non-Muslims for which almost half a million non-Muslims have acquired residency in Kashmir through a new Domicile Order. The new Land Act allows non-resident Indians to re-purpose agricultural land, constituting 90 percent of the occupied territory. With vocal state support, Indian investors are claiming their own share of the pie in the guise of tourism and development. Of late, there is also a systematic attempt to redraw the political map of the Kashmir Valley and the Jammu region in order to disenfranchise the majority Muslim population in the Kashmiri Valley.

Of course, Pakistan has its own contribution towards worsening the Kashmiri situation. Back in the 1990s, it looked the other way as the militants involved previously in the internationally-sponsored jihad in Afghanistan played havoc in the Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir, eventually providing India with an opportunity to blame Pakistan for sponsoring cross-border terrorism. Pakistan itself became a victim of jihadi terrorism during the War on Terror.

Between 1999 and 2019, at least thrice, the Subcontinent has faced the threat of a conventional combat turning into a nuclear war between India and Pakistan. In between, however, there was one golden opportunity to bilaterally resolve the Kashmir issue after the devastating earthquake in 2005. The two countries were able to chalk out a framework for Kashmir settlement in 2006. Under this framework, the Line of Control would freeze; the Kashmiris living on both sides would attain self-governance; India and Pakistan would gradually demilitarize the conflict zone; and India, Pakistan and the Kashmiris would work out a joint mechanism to monitor the Line of Control and the concomitant trade and movement of people. After 15 years, a treaty of peace and friendship would be signed if all the outstanding issues had been addressed.

We had lost the winnable Kulbhushan Jadhav case at the ICC in 2019 primarily due to weak work by our legal team. The All-Parties Hurriyat Conference leader, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, tacitly agreed to this framework and proposed the idea

of the United States of Kashmir. Unfortunately, this golden opportunity for a political settlement in Kashmir was also missed due to subsequent deterioration of political situation in Pakistan and lack of resolve on India's part, especially in the wake of the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks.

Now, once again, Pakistan seems amenable to peace. Its National Security Policy for 2022-26, which was unveiled last month, states that "Pakistan, under its policy of peace at home and abroad, wishes to improve its relationship with India," if New Delhi agrees to a "just and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute." India's response is still one of defiance. It is not ready to budge an inch from its settler colonial approach in the disputed region.

When it comes to Kashmir, India's gain is Pakistan's loss. Yet, the government's response to Indian excesses remains limited to sponsoring solidarity events on Kashmir, or making declaratory speeches here and there. The Kashmir issue is also absent in media debate or

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Broiler sellers violating official prices across Gujrat

A heavy amount has been looted in two different incidents in Gujrat. In first incident two unidentified dacoits looted about ten lakh rupees from a paper merchant in MangowalGharbi

YOOSUF BHUTTA

GUJRAT: Broiler sellers across the district have started selling chicken at a price higher than the official rates, which has resulted in an artificial price hike. No administrative officer is taking notice of this illicit profiteering. According to the details, the local market committee fixes the prices of broiler chickens and eggs daily and an official rate list is provided to each shopkeeper. Shopkeepers are, by law, bound not to display the official rate list at any prominent place, but most shopkeepers do not bother to display the rate list. They overcharge at least rupees 30 to 50 per kilo chicken. Customers are forced to pay excessive price than official rates. If any customer argues on rates with the shopkeeper, he/she is denied the sale of chicken. Disputes between butchers and customers at many places have been reported. The shopkeepers are charging exorbitant

prices and no one is going to ask them. It is not only a matter of concern but very alarming that, in addition to overcharging, most of the butchers reduce weightage in the sold chicken. It is noticed that they give 200-300 grams lesser meat per kilogram. Public circles and broiler consumers have urged the district administration of Gujrat to strictly direct the chicken vendors to display official rate lists on a suitable place, to sell the meat as per rate list and with full weight.

Two young women missing

Two young women were found missing from their houses in two different incidents. In first incident one Tayyaba, a married woman, resident of village MaariWarraichan fled with her unidentified acquaintances on Sunday night. Her brother Yousaf Iqbal has reported the incident to Civil Lines Police. In second incident one Naveed Ahmed resident of Karianwala has reported that he was asleep with his family members that his daughter Sadia, aged-18

ran away from the house. Karianwala police have registered a case.

2 incidents of robbery

A heavy amount has been looted in two different incidents in Gujrat. In first incident two unidentified dacoits looted about ten lakh rupees from a paper merchant in MangowalGharbi. In second incident one veiled dacoit robbed thousands of rupees from a villager Lal Hussain in village SammanPindi while he was on his way to home on his motorcycle. Police have registered cases of the both incidents.

Naan prices

Tanoor owners have raised the price of Naan from rupees 10 to 15 in the city. It is worth mentioning that they have raised the price on one side and reduced the weight of Naan on the other side. Contrary to the directive of the deputy commissioner, Tanoor owners are selling Naans of less than 100 grams at the price of rupees 15. People are helpless while purchasing expensive Naans with reduced weight.

Farrukh visits Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology

FAISALABAD: State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib Tuesday visited Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology (FIC). He interacted with patients at CCU and other wards and inquired about the medical services being provided to them. He expressed satisfaction on the response of the patients that they were being extended decent health cover in hospitals. – APP

‘Terrorist groups enjoy freedom in Afghanistan’

FROM PAGE 01 that their operational capability “may be significantly degraded”. The report to the UN Security Council by the panel of experts monitoring sanctions against Al Qaeda and IS, also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), called the Taliban’s return to power on August 15 amid the chaotic final withdrawal of US and NATO troops after 20 years the most significant event of the last six months of 2021. The Taliban first ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001 and were ousted for harbouring Al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden for masterminding the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the US in 2001. In a February 2020 deal that spelt out the terms of the US troop withdrawal, the Taliban had promised to fight terrorism and deny terrorist groups a safe haven in Afghanistan.

But the panel of experts said, “there are no recent signs that the Taliban have taken steps to limit the activities of foreign terrorist fighters in the country.” On the contrary, it said, terrorist groups are enjoying “greater freedom”, though member states “have not reported significant new movements of foreign terrorist fighters to Afghanistan”. The experts noted that Al Qaeda released a statement congratulating the Taliban on their victory on Aug 31, but since then it has maintained “a strategic silence, likely an effort not to compromise Taliban efforts to gain international recognition and legitimacy”. “Al Qaeda is also continuing to recover from a series of leadership losses and is assessed to lack the capability to conduct high-profile attacks overseas, which remains its long-term goal,” the panel said. Al Qaeda’s leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri was reported alive in January 2021, it said, “but member states continue to believe that he is in poor health.” The experts noted that Amin Muhammad ul-Haq Saam Khan, who coordinated security for bin Laden, returned to his home in Afghanistan in late August. And they said an unnamed country reported that bin Laden’s son, Abdallah, visited in October for talks with the Taliban.

German envoy visits Agriculture College of Sargodha University

SARGODHA: German Ambassador Bernhard Schleg Hague Tuesday visited various departments of the College of Agriculture, University of Sargodha, citrus nurseries, laboratories and educational departments. College Principal Prof. Dr. Athar Nadeem, Chairman Department of Botany and Hall Council Prof. Dr. Amir Ali, Chairman Department of Plant Pathology Dr. Usman Ghaznafar, In-charge citrus nursery Dr. Rashid Mukhtar Bilal, teachers and students of different departments were also present. Speaking to the agricultural scientists and the faculty, Bernhard Schleg said that the University of Sargodha was a renowned and extraordinary university of research, especially in the field of agriculture. He said that Sargodha had a special reputation in the world for its Kinnow production and the work done by the College of Agriculture for disease-free variety and seedless Kinnow

would also increase the production of citrus in Pakistan. College Principal Dr. Athar Nadeem said that the institution was focused on other agricultural sectors besides citrus and its far-reaching results were coming to the fore. He said that with regard to agricultural machinery, the college had achieved many milestones and registered a patent in the context which had also promoted agriculture in the area. Chairman Department of Botany Prof. Dr. Amir Ali also briefed the German ambassador on the ongoing educational, research and construction activities at the University of Sargodha along with the College of Agriculture. In-charge citrus nursery Dr. Rashid Mukhtar Bilal gave a briefing on the Department of Horticulture and said that special work was being done on seedless Kinnow in the nursery. – APP



HYDERABAD: A view of a large number of people take part in the 2nd day of Hyderabad literature festival in Hyderabad. – DNA Photo by Jan Ali Laghari

CCP, PICG sign MoU for strengthening governance

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) and the Pakistan Institute of Corporate Governance (PICG) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation, collaboration, and capacity development for strengthening corporate governance and competition compliance in Pakistan. The MoU was signed by the CCP Chairperson Ms. Rahat Kaunain Hassan and PICG Chief Executive Officer Mr. Ahsan Jamil in a ceremony at the CCP’s head office in Islamabad, also attended by Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Chairperson PICG Board of Directors, CCP Members Ms. Shaista Bano, Ms. Bushra Naz Malik, Mr. Mujtaba Ahmad Lodhi, and other senior officers. Addressing on the occasion, the CCP Chairperson Ms. Rahat Kaunain Hassan welcomed the support of PICG in joining hands with the CCP through signing of the MoU. She stated that corporate governance and competition principles are intertwined. There is commonality of objective in that both regulate human behaviour and promote fair play. She further stated that the collaboration aims to promote good govern-

ance, ensure corrective behaviour and sustainable compliance through advocacy measures and trainings for the corporate sector. In the face of the increasing complexity of corporate arrangements, this would help create awareness on the internal and external drivers of collusion or anti-competitive practices. It would also enable the corporations towards better strategic planning. Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, in her remarks, said that the PICG board has envisioned to bring a new dynamism in the PICG with the aim to improve corporate governance in Pakistan. She welcomed the signing of MoU between PICG and CCP,

saying that the prevailing conditions in public and private sectors require more of such partnerships. “I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with the Competition Commission of Pakistan. This MoU will greatly help to reinforce the respective mandates of CCP and PICG,” she said. Mr. Ahsan Jamil in his remarks said that the importance of free and fair competition for productivity, exports growth and global competitiveness cannot be overstated. Similarly, good corporate governance is beneficial for businesses as it reduces cost, ensures fair play and protects businesses from unde-

sirable outcomes. PICG is looking forward to working with CCP in promoting good corporate governance and competition law compliance. He mentioned several initiatives that PICG is taking to improve corporate governance in Pakistan including a strong SME governance focus, the co-creation of an ESG Task Force and forging a corporate Governance research agenda. The collaboration between the CCP and PICG will be extremely beneficial in promoting good corporate governance and competition law compliance. The MoU will not only allow both parties to exchange information on pertinent issues, but also work together in undertaking advocacy, research, and training initiatives to promote public awareness of the Competition Act and the Listed Companies (Corporate Governance) Regulations, 2019. The collaboration aims to improve awareness of the competition law landscape and a commitment to compliance within organisations. Furthermore, both parties will hold collaborative sessions on competition law, promoting compliance and organisational governance, and assist each other in matters of mutual interest for better implementation of their respective mandates.



PESHAWAR: SACM KP on information, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif Giving a briefing on legislation to protect children’s rights. – DNA

Pesco notifies power shutdown

PESHAWAR: Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) have notified power shutdown in areas of provincial metropolis, Haripur and Mardan due to maintenance. Power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Sakhi Chashma Grid Station on February 9 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, resultantly consumers of 132 KV Sakhi Chashma grid connected 11 KV feeders will face inconvenience. Power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Sakhi Chashma Grid Station on February 9 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, resultantly consumers of 11 KV Opazai an Nishat feeders will face inconvenience. Similarly, power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Haripur Grid Station on February 9,14,16 and19 February from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, resultantly consumers of 11 KV Panian 1,2, Kot 1,2, Zeb Pharma, Chamba, PIDC, Phosphate, KTS 1,2, Judicial Complex, Swabi Mera, Swabi Mera 2, Town 1,2,3,4,5, SNK, New Khan Pur, Baldher, NRTC, T and T, TIP feeders will face inconvenience. Power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Mardan Grid Station on February 9,16 and 23 February from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, feeders will face inconvenience. – APP

Rs 400mn to be spent on education, poverty alleviation in S. Punjab

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHAN: Plan has been prepared for achieving sustainable development, elimination of poverty, increase in literacy and provision of clean drinking water goals in Southern Punjab and Southern Punjab Secretariat and United Nation Development Fund has jointly set the goals. For achieving the goals in Southern Punjab, Punjab Government and in accordance with UN 400 million rupees will be spent, in this regard Planning and Development Department South Punjab and UNDP has issued a report. Report was launched by Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Captain (R) Saqib Zafar and UNDP Pakistan’s Country Head Mr. Knut Ostby. All administrative Secretaries and UNDP’s representatives Ammara Durran, Umar Ikhlal and Zafar Qureshi participated in launching session. Secretary Planning and Development Shoaib Syed gave briefing on this occasion. Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Captain (R) Saqib Zafar said while addressing the session that District SDG’s report holds the value of policy document and with its implementation opportunities of human development will be available, he said that there is a need to bring districts of Southern Punjab in the race to develop-



ment. He added that elimination of poverty holds a value of a challenge. Poverty rate in Muzaffar Garh and Rajanpur is the most, he expressed hope that UNDP and Southern Punjab Secretariat will be successful in achieving sustainable development goals. Captain (R) Saqib Zafar said that Government of Punjab will allocate heavy funds for south Punjab in the next budget. UNDP Pakistan’s Country Head Mr. Knut Ostby said that elimination of poverty and lifting the quality of life of common person is a global agenda, he added that UNDP has set its target upto 2030.

Smooth supply of electricity being ensured: CEO

Two newly completed 132-KV grid stations at FIEDMC have been energized

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Smooth supply of electricity is being ensured to the CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) projects in FESCO (Faisalabad Electric Supply Company) region under the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan and special directive of the FESCO BOD, said Chief Executive Officer (CEO) FESCO Engineer Bashir Ahmed. Talking to media persons here on Tuesday, he said that FESCO is taking steps on war-footing for quality service in CPEC projects at Value Addition City, M-3 Industrial City, Allama Iqbal Industrial City and Bhalwal Industrial state. He further said that two newly completed 132-KV grid stations at Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development & Management Company (FIEDMC)



have been energized and now 70-megawatt of additional load is available at these grid stations. He said that a new grid station is under construction at Allama Iqbal Industrial city while a tender has been floated for the construction of 132-KV transmission line from 220-KV Bandala grid station to FIEDMC. “This project would be completed in the period of one year”, he said and added that 116-megawatt load would be made available under the short

term while 170 megawatt in later phase would be ensured for FIEDMC. CEO Engineer Bashir Ahmed disclosed that commissioning of 220-KV Lalian would be held this year which would provide relief to the transmission lines from Liberty to Nishatabad and Liberty to Chiniot road. He said that the FESCO would be able to transmit 300 megawatt load to FIEDMC through the Gatti-Nishatabad line which would help provide uninterrupted power supply to the FIEDMC industrial zones. Bashir said that industrial consumers are FESCO’s top priority as the role of the industrial sector is imperative to give a quantum jump to the economic activities. He said that FESCO is striving hard to facilitate its industrial, agriculture and commercial consumers through consumer friendly policies.

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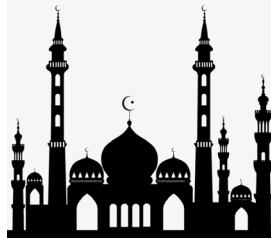
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Islamabad Metropolitan	
Corporation.....	9209224
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Rawal Town.....	5773343

Wasa Water Tank	
Rawalpindi.....	0331-5022125

ICCI, PWCCI to promote empowerment of women

Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, ICCI said that only 1 percent women in Pakistan were entrepreneurs, which was not helping the country to realize its full economic potential and called upon the govt to make greater efforts to encourage

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and Peshawar Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PWCCI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together to resolve the key issues of women entrepreneurs and promote their economic empowerment. Muhammad Shakeel Munir President ICCI and Ms. Shahida Parveen, President PWCCI signed the MoU during a ceremony held at ICCI.

By signing the MoU, ICCI will support PWCCI in highlighting the key issues of women entrepreneurs for the attention of the policymakers and cooperate with it in its efforts for increasing the role of women in the economic development of the country. Both Chambers will strengthen mutual cooperation to help women entrepreneurs in business development and will raise the common issues of businesswomen with



joint efforts at relevant forums for redress. Both trade bodies will cooperate in sending businesswomen delegations abroad to attend international trade fairs and exhibitions. They will work together to develop recommendations for the government to accelerate business activities and exports. They will also make joint efforts for promoting a positive image of Pakistan and for enhancing trade, investment, exports and tourism. Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that only 1 percent women in Pakistan were entrepreneurs, which was not helping the country to realize its full economic potential and called upon

the government to make greater efforts to encourage and promote women entrepreneurs for their better economic empowerment that would ensure robust growth of the country. He urged that the government should take policy measures to overcome the barriers for women entrepreneurs and encourage more females towards entrepreneurship for inclusive economic growth of the country. He assured that ICCI would fully cooperate with PWCCI for promoting the interests of businesswomen. Ms. Shahida Parveen, President, Peshawar Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that growth of women entrepreneurs was very important for sustainable economic development of Pakistan. However, she said that women were facing multiple issues ranging from lack of easy access to finance to legal barriers that prevent them from establishing businesses. She urged that the govt should address these issues to encourage women entrepreneurs.

Education necessary for progress, prosperity: Asad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Asad Qaiser on Tuesday underlined the importance of water conservation and education for all for the sustainable future of the country. While addressing a ceremony related to Tarbella Five extension project he said the initiative of WAPDA under a decade of Dams would help Pakistan to achieve water autarchy. The British High Commissioner in Pakistan Christian Turner was the Special invitee. Speaker Asad Qaiser sought to maintain close liaison with all stakeholders for the uplift of the country. He also sought close liaison of Pakistani Educational institutions and British institutions for supporting education and especially women education in the country. He also apprised the British High Commis-



sioner about the university of Swabi and the cooperation of KORT. Meanwhile, Speaker Asad Qaiser, Chairman WAPDA, British High Commissioner also inaugurated tree plantation drive 2022 to celebrate the tree Tarbella Dam Project. Later, Chairman WAPDA briefed the visitors about the Tarbella Five ex-

tension project which would enhance the power generation capacity of the dam up to 6000 megawatts. He said Tarbella five extension would increase storage capacity as the project is under progress under WAPDA decade of Dams. He briefed the participants that small dams like Dasu Diamer and Basha would enhance storage and Power Generation capacity. He also briefed about 300 megawatts projects of solar power plant on Tarbella for which PC -1 has been prepared. British High Commissioner Christian Turner expressed his thankfulness to speaker for inviting him and appreciated his policy initiatives of gender and disability-inclusive initiatives. He said the sustainable future of the world and Pakistan was dependent on water conservation and education for all. He said UK support programmes to upgrade social sectors would further deepen the ties among both countries.

First OIC Int'l conference of Neuroscience starts today

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The first OIC International Conference of Neuroscience will start at the COMSTech Secretariat from Wednesday (February 9) to build capacity of health professionals in the field of neurological care. "This international conference of Neuroscience, to be held from 9 to 10 February, aims to build capacity of health professionals in neurological care, and to promote networking among experts of OIC countries especially the least developed African countries", an official of COMSTech told APP on Tuesday. He said, scientists, researchers, academicians, graduate students, neuro-scientists, neurologists, neurosurgeons, psychiatrist, neuro-psychologists, neuro-radiologists from the OIC countries will participate. The workshop will cover the thematic areas including Stroke, Epilepsy, CNS infections, Environment and brain, Diagnosis and approach to neurological diseases and OIC collaboration for research network, the official said. The official said that Neuroscience is one of the most important components of science which covers structure and functioning of the whole nervous system. The field of neuroscience includes basic scientists, neuro-immunologists, neurologists, neurosurgeons, psychiatrist, neuro-psychologists, neuro-radiologists, neuro-rehabilitation, and so forth, he told.

Revenue of NHA increased by Rs 103 billion

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed on Tuesday informed Senate that the revenue of the National Highway Authority (NHA) has increased by Rs 103 billion during the last three years of the government. On point of order, he said, the revenue increased due to the elimination of corruption and digitalization of different processes. He said that the present government has started construction work on mega-dams which were unfortunately ignored by the previous governments. While criticizing the opposition parties, he said that they had failed to work for the welfare of poor people in past but the PTI government has initiated various projects including the Ehsaas programme, Sehat Insaf Card, Housing scheme, Kamyab Jawan programme. The minister said that record economic growth has put the country on the road to prosperity and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth jumped to 5.37 despite COVID-19 and global inflation. The minister said that the government was constructing a total of 7,889 kilometers of roads under the National Highway Authority (NHA). He said that 1667 km roads were under construction whereas 1819 km at the procurement stage. While 2368 km roads were at the planning and design stage. He said that the previous government only planned 1303 km roads during its first three and a half years tenure. Saeed said that the PTI government had started three times more road projects than the previous two governments. He said that 4-lane Motorways have been constructed at a comparatively reduced cost than those constructed by the previous PML-N govt. – APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training, National Heritage and Culture Shafqat Mehmood presents souvenir to Iranian Ambassador Syed Muhammad Ali Husseini on the eve of 43rd anniversary of Iranian victory. – DNA

Govt. to distribute health cards in Sindh soon

The minister said that during the recent OIC meeting held in Pakistan, Prime Minister had highlighted the issue of Kashmir and Palestine. Criticizing the opposition parties, he said, that leadership of the opposition parties failed to deliver and address the issue of public

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan Tuesday informed the Senate that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government would distribute health cards in all the districts of Sindh province soon. On a point of order, he said the government had already distributed health cards among the people in Tharparkar that would not only make life easier for ordinary citizens but also improve the health care system of the country. He said the federal government was also planning to distribute health cards in Hyderabad and Larkana at the earliest. He said

the health cards introduced by the government would help people in small towns and villages who mostly visit public hospitals in their respective districts which have already limited resources. He said the entire population in all districts of Punjab would be given health cards. "The health cards will be distributed in all districts of Punjab by March 31, 2022." "We are giving health cards to the people at their doorstep", adding, "Through Naya Pakistan Qaumi Sehat Card, we are providing top quality medical services to people." He said that the provision of universal health insurance was turning the dream of Prime Minister Imran Khan into reality, adding, "We salute Prime Minister



Imran Khan for this great service to humanity and health is their foremost priority". He said health cards had also been distributed among the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The minister termed Prime Minister Imran Khan's visit to China successful and said that it was unfortunate some elements were

pursuing the narrative of India on the visit of Imran Khan. He said that the relationship between Pakistan and China will further strengthen. He said this relationship is higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the seas. He asked these elements to keep Pakistan's interest supreme and not follow the narrative of India. He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan is also scheduled to undertake a visit to Russia and some other important countries. The minister said that during the recent OIC meeting held in Pakistan, Prime Minister had highlighted the issue of Kashmir and Palestine. Criticizing the opposition parties, he said, that lead-

ership of the opposition parties failed to deliver and address the issue of the public. He said that leadership of opposition parties is in a panic as they believed if Imran Khan completed his tenure the politics of these parties will be finished. The minister said that leadership of the opposition parties is united to save the loot and plunder they made during their governments. He said that all the institutions were running in loss during the PML-N and PPP governments. Criticizing Maulana Fazal ur Rehman, he said he had failed to highlight the Kashmir issue, while Shahryar Khan Afridi had effectively rose the Kashmir issue at all the international forums.

NA panel slams DRAP over drug shortage

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly Standing Committee on Health on Tuesday took the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) to task over a shortage of paracetamol, the most commonly prescribed medicine for Covid-19 patients. The committee met at the Parliament House with MNA Khalid Magsi in the chair. Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan and officials of the Ministry of Health were in attendance in the meeting. The NA panel expressed concern over paracetamol shortage in the country's pharmacies. The medicine is not available for Covid-19 patients, the committee members lamented, adding that the drug regulator has failed to ensure availability of essential medicines. They noted that rising medicine prices hit people hard as pharmaceutical companies arbitrarily increase drug rates. "Unfortunately, there is nobody to hold these firms accountable," they added. The NA panel said medicine prices have reportedly gone up by 500 per cent. Dr Faisal Sultan blamed paracetamol shortage on its increased demand. Pharmaceutical companies are facing shortage of raw material used for manufacturing the medicine, he explained. Officials of the health ministry said the firms import raw material used to manufacture medicines, adding medicine prices are linked with the exchange rate as the cost of production increases with an increase in prices of raw material.

Police is committed to resolve public issues: IGP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Ahsan Younas said that Islamabad Police is committed to resolve public issues on priority. He said this while listening complaints and issues of public as well as retired and serving officials during khuli kacheri held at Central Police Office. During the khuli kacheri, he listened the grievances of the citizens and marked their applications to the concerned officers for timely action on merit. He also directed them to send reports to his offices in the given time frame. Muhammad Ahsan Younas emphasized that Islamabad police would not leave any stone unturned to secure the lives and property of the citizens. "Such interaction would be continued in future to provide maximum relief to the citizens" he maintained. He said that positive image of policemen should be ensured before them through unbiased approach towards anyone. The IGP hoped that interaction during 'open kacheries' would help to promote friendly policing.

Tarin holds meeting with Country Director WB

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Mr. Shaukat Tarin held a meeting with Mr. Najy Benhassine, Country Director, World Bank and his team at Finance Division, on Tuesday. Secretary Finance and senior officers attended the meeting. The meeting reviewed the progress on the ongoing World Bank's projects and programmes in Pakistan. The meeting also focused on Resilient Institutions Strengthening Program (RISE-II) and discussed some prior actions to be met for the timely completion of the programme. In his remarks, Finance Minister Mr. Shaukat Tarin appreciated the World Bank for being a source of support in pursuing reform agenda and implementing various development projects for the country.

Briefs

Covid claims
eight more
lives in RWP

RAWALPINDI: As many as 102 more people were tested positive for coronavirus during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 45,313 in the Rawalpindi district, while eight persons lost their battle of life against the deadly disease.

As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Tuesday, among the new patients, 41 belonged to the Rawalpindi Cantonment, 23 from Potohar town, 15 from Rawal town, five from Kahutta, four from Kallar Syedan, three from Gujjar Khan, AJK and Islamabad, two from Jehlum while one of each case has arrived from Taxila, Attock and KPK.

"Presently, 96 patients are admitted to eight health facilities, including 52 in the Institute of Urology, 25 in the Fauji Foundation Hospital, seven in the Benazir Bhutto Hospital, four in the Holy Family Hospital and District Headquarters Hospital each, two in the Hearts International Hospital and one of each in the Bilal hospital, and Begum Akhtar Memorial trust. As many as 5,152,961 people, including 44,588 health workers, had so far been vaccinated against the fatal disease since the start of the vaccination drive from March 10, 2021", it informed. The report updated that three patients were on ventilators in critical condition, 41 stable and 52 were on double oxygen support. APP

Students
excited to
resume study
in China

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani students, stuck at home due to the Corona pandemic, welcomed the Chinese Government's decision to facilitate their return to resume their classes in Chinese educational institutions.

"It's a fantastic feeling; I feel it's the Eid festival," Adam Ali, who represents Pakistanis studying in China told Gwadar Pro. "We are grateful to the Governments of Pakistan and China for discussing our issue at such a high level", he added. About 28,000 students are enrolled in various Chinese educational institutions. More than 6,000 of them have been stuck at home since March 2020 after China suspended the entry of foreign students to contain the spread of Covid-19.

"While ensuring safety against COVID-19, China will arrange for Pakistani students to return to China and resume classes in a prudent manner," reads a joint statement issued following the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to China. During the visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan, both sides also noted with satisfaction the robust cooperation between Pakistan and China in the education sector, and the two sides are committed to further enhancing cooperation between the educational institutions of the two countries. - APP

Govt not
afraid of
opposition's
quick march

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Waleed Iqbal on Tuesday said that the incumbent government is not afraid of any kind of protest, sit-in, or quick march of the opposition parties.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that splitting opposition parties have differences among themselves and they are not able to topple the government before general elections 2023, adding, the government will complete its constitutional tenure and will continue its agenda of serving the people.

Waleed Iqbal criticized that opposition has already faced defeat in previous moves against the government and now it will also face political defeat on the roads. The alliance of opposition political parties is only aimed at protecting the looted wealth of the nation and for this purpose opposition political parties are doing the politics of personal interests, he added. He advised that the opposition should play its role to strengthen the parliament and democracy rather than resorting to protests. - APP

Opposition faces defeat on
all fronts, says Dr Shahzad

The Leader of the House said the public money was spent to run the proceedings of the Parliament, and the opposition should have realized it

STAFF REPORT

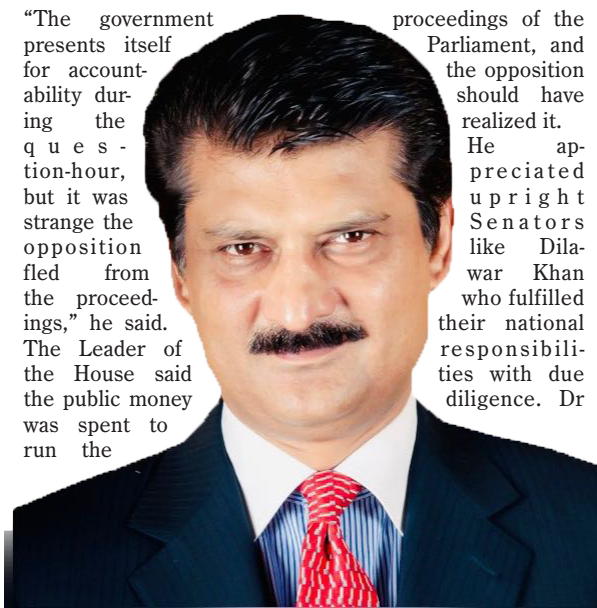
ISLAMABAD: Leader of the House in Senate Dr Shahzad Waseem Tuesday said the government had defeated the opposition parties on all fronts that were now struggling for their political survival due to their corrupt practices.

"Whether it is the passage of bills in the parliament, motion of no-confidence or the issue of quorum, the opposition always faced defeat in the parliament, likewise in the public meetings," he said after the treasury benches failed the opposition's move to adjourn the House in the pretext of lack of quorum in the Senate.

He said the opposition parties were in a desperate struggle for their political survival after being rejected by the masses due to their loot and plunder of the national wealth.

Dr Shahzad said the opposition exhibited a non-serious attitude during the question hour session of the House today and made a lame excuse of non-presence of the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health, who as per rules was not eligible to sit in the House. Representing the Ministry of Health, he said, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan and other ministers were present in the Senate to answer the questions.

"The government presents itself for accountability during the question-hour, but it was strange the opposition fled from the proceedings," he said. The Leader of the House said the public money was spent to run the



proceedings of the Parliament, and the opposition should have realized it. He appreciated upright Senators like Dilwar Khan who fulfilled their national responsibilities with due diligence. Dr

Shahzad said these days, the opposition was doing the politics of 'Khabay' (lavish food parties) in luxurious places, and ironically they talked about inflation and miseries of the common man.

He said Prime Minister Imran Khan had rightly stated that when the corrupt politicians would be made accountable for their plunder, they would get united against the democratically elected government.

He said now it was proven that all the corrupt elements were making alliances. "We want them together so that the public can see their real faces. On one side, there is the politics of status quo and

on the other, the politics of progressiveness." He said the both PPP and PML-N had never remained national political parties as now they were trying to find their hide-places in Sindh and Central Punjab respectively. "Now they are fighting the war of their survival," he said, adding they had nothing to do with the public issues. He reiterated that the government would recover the looted money and bring all the corrupt elements to the task. He made it clear the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government and its allies were united and stood firmly against the corrupt elements under the dynamic leadership of PM Imran Khan.

AIOU's
Matric/FA
exams to
begin from
March 1

ISLAMABAD: Final exams of Matric, I.Com and FA programs offered in semester Autumn 2021 of the Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) will start across the country from March 1 (Tuesday). According to the Controller Exams, Roll Number slips are being dispatched to all the students at their postal addresses and date-sheet has been placed at the University's official website.

As per the instructions of the Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, exam centers have been set up at the nearest places of the students' given addresses. All possible efforts have been made to ensure transparency in the entire exams' process. Special teams had been constituted to supervise and monitor the examination process. There was a 'zero-tolerance' policy against any kind of unfair practice, he said adding, strict vigilance system would be enforced during exams. - APP

Islamabad
Museum to
get sculpture
from abroad

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Museum has planned to get various sculptures from different countries of the world to attract local tourists. According to an official of Islamabad Museum, a number of projects were in pipeline for the attraction of people from different strata of society.

Talking to APP, the official said in the Museum, effort has been made to delineate the saga of evolution of cultures and civilizations in Pakistan through display of artifacts, and works of arts. He said the Museum covers the history of Pakistan through the artifacts displayed in chronological order, incorporating one of the earliest man-made tool, dating back to 2 million years, collected from Soan Valley, nine thousands years old objects from Mehrgarh (Balochistan), artifacts of world celebrated Indus valley civilization and statutory of Gandhara Civilization. He said, the antiquity representing Kot Digi, Gandhara Grave Culture. - APP



Islamabad: President Dr Arif Alvi and Begum Samina Arif Alvi offering Fataha over the sad demise of Dr Sania Nishtar's mother. - DNA

'Strong Pakistan guarantor
of Kashmir's independence'

ISLAMABAD: President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry Tuesday said that strong Pakistan from every aspects was the guarantor of Kashmir's independence from illegal Indian occupation.

"Pakistan would raise the issue of Kashmir in a full and effective manner at the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) Foreign Ministers' meeting here next month", he said in an exclusive interview with the national news agency APP.

He said "Atrocities on unarmed civilians in Occupied Kashmir is a disgrace on

the face of India. Due to the Hindutva, India has been exposed all over the world. They have taken heinous measures aimed at suppressing the ongoing people's struggle for self-determination in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir and changing the proportion of the Muslim population in occupied valley."

The President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir expressed that India has imprisoned the entire leadership of Hurriyat Conference in the occupied territories and unfortunately great leaders of Kashmir freedom campaign including Syed Ali Gilani

and Muhammad Ashraf Sahrai were martyred in custody of Indian forces. Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry said that the Government of Pakistan and Prime Minister Imran Khan had strongly reacted to the Indian government's August 5 move, Kashmir issue will be raised at every forum of the world. He said that Prime Minister Imran Khan had raised the issue of Kashmir during his address to the UN General Assembly and during his visits to foreign countries.

Barrister Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry said that India has increased oppression

and barbarism in occupied Kashmir valley. The President said that after the decision of the All Parties Conference and consultation with the Kashmiri leaders, a big rally is being organized in the federal capital Islamabad on February 24 to highlight the Kashmir issue at the international level.

He said "The rally will be taken out from National Press Club to D-Chowk, Islamabad in which a large number of Kashmiris including leaders of religious and political parties of Azad Jammu and Kashmir besides leaders of Hurriyat Conference will participate. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan met with Tahir Hussain, Secretary of National Assembly of Pakistan. - DNA

Leopard cats likely to exceed
Asian leopards in Margallas

ISLAMABAD: The Margalla Hills National Park's (MNHP) ideal habitat is ready to welcome relocation of new leopard cats from Karachi and animal experts believe they would exceed the biome's Asian leopards in near future. The Leopard Cats are currently the second largest predators of the MNHP and due to their 92 per cent survival rate, ability to co-exist with common Asian leopards and Park's ideal environment are likely to become the largest predators in number.

The Leopard Cats are native to MNHP that are totally different from a leopard as the former is relatively smaller in size as compared to the common leopard with a limited

range or area to survive in the national park, told APP Manager Operations IWMB Sakhwat Ali while briefing on the endangered cat species. The Sindh Wildlife Department recently rescued two male cubs of leopard cats and decided to shift them to the IWMB Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre established in

the national park. Sakhawat informed that the leopards were under quarantine of 7-14 days as per the protocol and would be released after the process. "A leopard and leopard cat share their territory due to communal feeding niche (profession of a predator or its habitat to feed on specific

preys). Leopard feeds on larger animals whereas the leopard cat feeds on household chickens, small rodents in the wilds and Kalij pheasants," he informed. The IWMB Manager Operations told that earlier in 2019, the wildlife board had released one leopard cat rescued from a poacher. In 2018, the IWMB rangers had found a dead leopard cat that was killed by AAA cartridge of shotgun rifle. "After that incident, a detailed study by PMAS Arid Agriculture University and the IWMB team was done to study the routes, feeding behaviour and movement of the cat in the national park that helped to develop good resource data on its conservation," he added. - APP

A.D.C No. 61/2021/NTC/SA
Government of Pakistan
National Tariff Commission

Notice of Termination of Anti-Dumping Investigation on Dumped Imports of Disodium Carbonate (Soda Ash) into Pakistan Originating in and/or Exported from the Republic of Turkey

The National Tariff Commission (the "Commission") initiated an anti-dumping investigation on March 30, 2021 under Section 23 of the Anti-Dumping Duties Act, 2015 (the "Act") concerning dumping of Disodium Carbonate ("Soda Ash") into Pakistan originating in and/or exported from the Republic of Turkey and material injury/threat of material injury caused by such dumped imports to the domestic industry manufacturing Soda Ash. The application for this investigation was lodged by ICI Pakistan Limited, Lahore and Olympia Chemicals Limited, Lahore (the "Applicants"). The Applicants reproducers of Soda Ash. The Commission after investigation in accordance with provisions of the Act and the Anti-Dumping Duties Rules, 2001 (the "Rules") has determined the following on a preliminary basis:

Investigated Product:

Disodium Carbonate, popularly known as Soda Ash, having chemical formula Na_2CO_3 , imported from Turkey (the "investigated product"). The investigated product is a white, crystalline, water-soluble material. It is imported under Pakistan Customs Tariff ("PCT") No. 2836.2000. The investigated product is used in the manufacture of detergents, soaps, cleaning compounds, sodium-based chemicals, float glass, container, tableware and specialty glasses, silicates and other industrial chemicals. It is also widely used in paper, metallurgical industries and desalination plants.

Period of Investigation ("POI"):

For investigation of dumping: From July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020
For investigation of injury: From January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2020

Determination of Dumping: The Commission has received necessary information from two Turkish producers/exporters of Soda Ash i.e. (i) Şişecam Diş Tic. A.Ş. and (ii) Kazan Soda Elektrik Company Limited/Ciner İç Ve Ticaret Corporation. Preliminary individual dumping margins are determined for these two exporters on the basis of the information provided by them, which are 47.91% and 78.98% respectively.

Injury to the Domestic Industry: The Commission in accordance with the part VI of the Act has determined that the domestic industry neither suffered material injury during the POI nor there is an eminent threat for material injury to the domestic industry.

Termination of the Investigation

In terms of Section 41(2) of the Act, the Commission shall immediately terminate an investigation if it determines that dumping margin is negligible or that volume of dumped imports, actual or potential, or injury is negligible. Keeping in view the information, analysis and conclusions of the investigation the Commission has determined that neither the domestic industry suffered material injury during the POI nor there is any threat of material injury in near future to the domestic industry due to dumped imports of the investigated product. Therefore, the Commission hereby terminates this investigation under Section 41(2) of the Act.

Further Information: A non-confidential version of the detailed report is placed on the public file established and maintained by the Commission. The same is also posted on the Commission website www.ntc.gov.pk.

Authority under Law: This notice is published pursuant to Section 42 of the Act by order of the Commission.

(Ali Muhammad Shah)
Secretary, NTC
February 09, 2022

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Off to Russia?

REPORTS that Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit Russia later this month, confirmed by Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, signal a serious shift in the geopolitical and diplomatic priorities of Islamabad. The PM is expected to go there with a high-powered delegation to discuss trade, security, the \$2 billion Pakistan Stream Gas Pipeline (PSGP), and Afghanistan, but the optics, as well as the significance of the visit, go much deeper. For, just alongside this news also appeared the headline about US President Joe Biden expecting a Russian invasion of Ukraine “any day now”, as Washington and like-minded European capitals fine-tune plans to sanction the Kremlin and the Russian elite.

These are also times when Russia and China have formally formed a power bloc to rival the US and its allies, and a 21st century Cold War is already underway. Surely Putin didn't go to Beijing just for the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics, it was a show of force on the part of two of America's principal targets and also a way for them to show that membership to the alliance is now open. Let's not forget that this is happening also when Washington and Islamabad are about as far apart diplomatically as they have been in the last few decades, at least since the onset of the so-called war against terrorism. And for the PM to follow his “absolutely not” to the US request for bases in the country by openly standing with China and also warming up to Russia is a very clear political statement; that Pakistan is resetting its core alliances.

Yet such things are easier said than done. A critical part of the Russia-China faction is Iran, also a target of western hostilities and sanctions. Pakistan's entry into the fold would stretch the arc right across the region. But that's not yet been possible because our most reliable donor, USA, has problems with both China and Russia and our dear friend, and also the last-resort donor, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, doesn't really want us to warm up to Iran beyond a certain, neighbourly limit. These are also not steps that can be taken half-heartedly, especially in the present environment. Upsetting Washington could, and most likely will also make future loans from international lenders a lot more difficult, and expensive. That, of course, is always one of our main priorities. Pakistan has also asked President Putin to come here sometime this year, which means the government has given these issues serious consideration. How this plays out will become clear very soon.

Value for money essential when delivering aid to Afghanistan

Ajmal Shams



Afghans have been suffering through no fault of their own for more than four decades because of regional and international rivalries

WITH the collapse of the former Afghan government last August, a majority of the country's 40 million people face abject poverty, hunger and an uncertain future. According to the UN, more than 90 percent are already living below the poverty line. Beggars on city streets have become a common sight. But a small class of elites who made big fortunes over the past two decades of international aid flows are still enjoying a lavish lifestyle both inside Afghanistan and abroad. There is nothing wrong if their money was earned through legitimate means, legal entrepreneurship and hard work. However, if it was generated by depriving millions of people of their genuine right to those resources, it is utterly disgraceful and a national betrayal. Such individuals will go down in history as the most despicable people on Earth and they will have no place in national politics in future. But this is not enough. They must be held accountable for their actions against their own people and for eroding international trust.

Afghans have been suffering through no fault of their own for more than four decades because of regional and international rivalries. Their survival and well-being should be

looked upon as a moral obligation and humanitarian emergency. Due to the de facto rulers of Afghanistan's lack of national and international legitimacy, global financial institutions and donor governments will increasingly rely on the UN as the only feasible way to channel aid to Afghan communities.

The UN has a long history of association with Afghanistan. It may not have a very successful track record in the spheres of politics and conflict resolution, but it has no doubt played a pivotal role with regards to the delivery of humanitarian aid and development assistance to the Afghan people since the 1980s. It has remained on the ground regardless of the circumstances, for which Afghans owe it a debt of gratitude, while paying tribute to those UN staff members who have lost their lives in the service of duty. The UN's footprint in Afghanistan has significantly increased since the fall of the government last August, as several aid agencies and international financial institutions continue to use the UN to deliver support.

It is noteworthy that service delivery through the UN has had its drawbacks in terms of the effectiveness of aid and value for money. There is ample evidence that the decades of UN engagement in Afghanistan have suffered from issues of inefficiency, high administrative costs and unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles in getting aid to end users. Former President Ashraf Ghani was one of the critics of the UN model of aid delivery, but he fell short of presenting any practical agenda for reform.

One of the factors that drains the UN funds aimed at helping desperate Afghans is the composition of the project teams in various relief operations. Although internationally recruited UN staff are essential for the smooth delivery of aid, the associated costs significantly diminish the availability of resources for end users. Their salary and benefit packages are sometimes 20 times those of the locally recruited Afghan staff. While the UN has a defined salary structure for its various emergency operations and geographic locations, a new approach is needed due to the exceptional situation in Afghanistan, where every penny counts and could

save the life of an innocent Afghan.

It is also the responsibility of donor governments and agencies to come up with more cost-effective and efficient ways of channeling assistance through the UN. With Antonio Guterres – a vocal advocate and supporter of the Afghan cause – as secretary-general, a new path forward for UN engagement is possible. With the government's collapse last August, the large number of Afghans who can compete with the international labor force in terms of technical competence and managerial expertise, with the added advantage of local knowledge, should be utilized to the fullest extent possible. This would not only help mitigate the current wave of unemployment in the country, but also significantly cut down on the UN's administrative costs. The other equally important part of the aid delivery equation is the role of national non-governmental organizations. By internationally recognized definition and local laws, NGOs are not-for-profit organizations that are supposed to help Afghan communities with small-scale humanitarian relief and development projects. The track record of these local NGOs, judging by their role on the ground, is dismal. Afghan NGOs are accused of lacking transparency in recruitment, failing to enforce laws, and mismanaging funds. Donor agencies must be cognizant of partnering with local NGOs, with the latter hoping to win a share of the work from the billions of dollars in humanitarian assistance for Afghanistan in the months and years ahead. While there might be some genuine organizations with a humanitarian agenda, the majority of these local NGOs are increasingly seen by Afghans as the “NGO mafia.” The UN and others should hold them accountable for the resources they spend. It is time these NGOs stopped looking at Afghanistan as a new haven for their commercial interests. The international community, donor agencies and the UN must treat Afghanistan as an urgent humanitarian hotspot requiring smart ways of managing aid, not just business as usual. That way, they can protect the rights of millions of Afghans as well as judiciously spend the tax money of billions of their own citizens.

—Courtesy: Arab News

Youth unemployment

THE government has announced the opening of admissions for the free E-Rozgaar Training Programme 2022. This is a commendable initiative for youngsters who have completed 16 years of education to enrol in courses of E-Commerce, Technical and Content Marketing, Advertising, Creative Designing and Digital and Social Media Marketing. The students will also benefit from training in freelancing, profile making and liaising with clients.

This programme plays an important role in providing work opportunities to the youth in the IT sector and it has been a success as its trainees have earned over 350 million rupees in the past few years since it was launched. However, given the dire situation when it comes to youth unemployment in the country, these measures still fall seriously short.

According to a recently released report by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), over 31 percent of the country's youth is currently unemployed. The revelations in the report are quite concerning as it shows how a large part of the working-age group is not even part of the labour force. Also, despite policy initiatives to address this, the female labour force participation rate (LFPR) remains shockingly low. For a country that claims that the growth of this country is contingent on its youth, the youth appear to be struggling quite a bit due to reasons that are not of their own making. The report also states how the unemployment rate is the highest for young new entrants in the labour force, adding that it takes about a decade or more for the youth to find employment. This should not be the case if we are serious about reaping the demographic dividend.

Schemes like the E-Rozgaar programme are part of the government's effort to support Pakistan's digital transformation. However, the government's policies such as taxing data plans, internet services, and laptops are only going to prolong this long overdue transition. Some electronic dealers have reported that taxes on laptops and computers have negatively impacted sales by about 80 percent.

Does Turkiye have a new PKK strategy?

Omer Ozkizilcik

For years, the Turkish military has taken incremental steps to reduce the threat from the PKK. First, Turkish security forces drew the group out of Turkiye, and then targeted its bases in northern Iraq

EXPECT more Turkish operations taking place simultaneously in Iraq and Syria.

The Turkish military launched Operation Winter Eagle this week, destroying PKK terrorists' shelters, hideouts, and caves in northern Iraq. The first of its kind, the operation is being carried out in both Sinjar, Iraq, and northern Syria's Malikiyah and Mount Karachok, simultaneously targeting the PKK and its Syrian offshoot, the YPG. This may indicate the direction of Ankara's upcoming operations against the PKK/YPG. For years, the Turkish military has taken incremental steps to reduce the threat from the PKK. First, Turkish security forces drew the group out of Turkiye, and then targeted its bases in northern Iraq. While the Kurdish Peshmerga forces assisted the Turkish army from the south by cutting off the PKK's supply line, the Turkish Armed Forces built up bases in the north, and used drones for aerial surveillance and to strike PKK targets. Thanks to these successful military operations, the PKK was stripped of its supply lines from Iraq into Turkiye, and has since been unable to conduct any significant attacks inside Turkish territory.

As predicted, with drones and checkpoints acting as the blueprint for Ankara's success against the PKK in Iraq, the group lost its control over the mountainous border region. Currently, it only has operational capacity in areas located further south - in the Gara, Qandil, Sinjar, and Makhmour Mountains in Iraq - and territorial control near the Turkish border in Syria. None of the PKK bases in Iraq have territorial links to Turkiye at the moment.

Operation Winter Eagle represents the next phase of this strategy. It appears that the Turkish Armed Forces may increase pressure on the PKK primarily through its air force. Turkiye may try to galvanise the Iraqi army and the Kurdish Peshmerga to enter PKK-held regions by land and retake control of their sovereign territory.

With Turkish encouragement – and its own self-interest – the Iraqi army recently pushed into the Sinjar region and arrested several PKK militants. The Iraqi Central Government had signed an accord with the Kurdish Regional Government in October, which had foreseen the entry of the Iraqi army into Sinjar to push out the PKK. Turkish airstrikes will help to weaken the PKK and aid the Iraqi authorities' attempts to ensure safety and security by forcing the group out of the country. Ankara's airstrikes in Iraq are aimed at disrupting the terror organisation's capacity and reminding the Iraqi public of the group's presence. By transferring military actions into political capital, the Turkish government may seek to encourage the Iraqi army and the Kurdish Peshmerga to take further action.

This Turkish strategy is not unchallenged, however. The Iranian-backed elements in Iraq are shielding the PKK in the country: Qais al Khazali, leader of the Iraqi resistance group Asaib al Haq, has strongly condemned the Turkish operation and threatened: “The time will come when the resistance of Iraq [will teach Turkiye] harsh lessons.” Therefore, internal Iraqi politics will be of utmost importance for Ankara. Muqtada al Sadr's recent poll victory, the strengthening of the Sunni political parties, and the Kurdish KDP are all in the interest of the Turkish government to balance Iran's presence in Iraq. Tehran, meanwhile, views the PKK as a bulwark against Turkiye. Therefore, the success of new anti-PKK operations will depend on an entirely different geopolitical balance of power between Turkiye and Iran. If Turkiye succeeds, the de-facto regional alliance against the PKK between the northern Iraq's Kurdish Regional Government, the Syrian Interim Government, and Turkiye may expand to include the Iraqi Central Government as well. Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar said that Turkiye is ready for full cooperation and coordination with Baghdad in its fight against the PKK. If this materialises, by the end of 2022, the PKK could be limited to the Qandil Mountains. To prevent this, the PKK will bet on Iran's leverage in Iraqi politics.

On the other side of the border, Turkish airstrikes against the YPG in Syria as part of Operation Winter Eagle are a strong sign that military operations will run in parallel with Ankara's statements that the YPG and the PKK are the same. Until now, Turkish security forces have targeted the YPG in Syria and the PKK in Iraq in separate military operations. After this week, it is likely that simultaneous targeting of the groups will continue into the spring and summer. Since August 2021, Turkish security forces have targeted senior YPG terrorists with precise drone strikes to undermine the command capacity of the militants. Moreover, the targeting of senior members of the PKK/YPG in Syria and Iraq serves the goal of disrupting the command structure and the operational capability of the organisation. The drone strikes also help Turkiye to heighten and exploit the differences and the rivalry between the old leadership in Qandil and the younger YPG generation in Syria. The YPG's response to Ankara's two-pronged strategy hints that Turkiye is headed in the right direction. The day after the strikes, the group targeted Syrian civilians in Al Bab with rockets. The PKK/YPG has repeatedly targeted Syrian civilians with car bombs since it lost its capacity to conduct suicide or car bomb attacks in Turkiye. In the past, it would also have tried to attack the Turkish military. The attack on Al Bab shows that the PKK/YPG has lost this capacity and is therefore ‘limiting’ itself to attacks against Syrian civilians. The Syrian Interim Government responded to the attack by the YPG on Al Bab, and the Syrian National Army bombed YPG positions in the region. The Turkish Armed Forces prevented other attempts by the YPG in Syria and eliminated 43 YPG terrorists. One should expect the YPG to increase its attacks against Syrian civilians with the growing pressure on the PKK in Iraq, which in turn will facilitate a Turkish-Syrian military operation against the YPG in Syria. While the move by CENTCOM to open the airspace for Russia might have postponed the operation in 2021, the military operation itself remains inevitable.

—Courtesy: TRT World

Entrepreneurship – emotion vs. reality

Zechariah J. Dean



He began his business in 2017 on the back of a sickening feeling, where he found himself seated in a restaurant with colleagues, celebrating the success of a major project

TALK to most entrepreneurs and they'll make reference to a sixth sense, a gut feeling, a happy twinkle about an idea. “Investment for me is all about listening to my gut”, said Azhar Paul, founder of Azanti Sober Lifestyle. Being in tune with one's feelings is important to founders like Azhar. He began his business in 2017 on the back of a sickening feeling, where he found himself seated in a restaurant with colleagues, celebrating the success of a major project.

Whilst his team deliberated for 20-minutes discussing which red wine to select, Azhar found himself selecting a usual fizzy soda. “I was like a kid seated on an adults table”, he smirked. That sickening and melancholic feeling was enough for Azhar to knit together a range of past experiences to kick start one of UK's most excited sober lifestyle companies, which in November 2021 was recognised as the most innovative sober lifestyle company at the International Drinks Expo, in London. “My emotions were enough for me to conclude there was a problem out there and I needed to do something about it. I never had a complete picture but over the ensuing four years, I was able to piece meal together enough information to validate my idea.” The entrepreneur spent two years in stealth mode and chose to rely on his inner gut feeling, to drive forward his ambition. At each critical stage, he was forming relationships with various companies and leading authorities in the sober beverage industry. “Having these professionals support me was invaluable, as they helped me validate my thoughts.” So, how does the entrepreneur shape up to criticism, that what he achieved in four years could have been fast-tracked in two years if there was a concerted effort to acquire more analytics to corroborate his feelings? Azhar, smiled and reminded me that hindsight is always 20-20 vision. We both chuckle but we take this moment to appreciate that his achievements reinforced a long-held belief that entrepreneurs have a very strong Emotional Quotient (“EQ”).

In fairness, I appreciated from the outset that there was a demand for my product but

unlike Azhar Paul, I needed to build empirical evidence to prove and disprove my feelings. The data acquired helped me compile a 500,000-wordthesis, which plugged directly into my business plan and 10-year road map and enabled me to raise millions of pounds of investment. In short, there was credibility behind my assertions which sophisticated investors could use to justify investing in my venture. Not every entrepreneur will have such tenacity to engage in such deep research. The context in which you find yourself dictates how much of your decisions should be led by emotions. That said, there have been situations where I have witnessed individuals gambling with their funds. Fred (not the individuals real name) invested a sizeable six-figure sum into his newly formed FinTech business. The decision was purely led by emotions and his adverse experiences whilst being a customer of a leading UK retail bank, led him to build a new KYC system. Whilst I wouldn't wish to undermine Fred, the reality is that his business failed within 6 months. The only saving grace was that his failure came quick, and he was gracious enough to listen to his feelings to pull the plug. Yes, he lost his personal funds, but if he continued pushing water up the proverbial hill, the damage would have been much greater. Listening to one's emotions is important. To be tuned in and not lose focus is important. Entrepreneurs will find that at every critical stage of their venture, decisions need to be made and not all decisions can rely on clear data sets and reports. It's ok to engage your emotions to form a decision but remember to strike the right balance.

Briefs

Pak keen to bring...

FROM PAGE 01

stability. "I will get my people out of poverty if we have economic well-being, which comes with stability and peace," he said. "So, if you have conflicts, the first thing that gets affected is the economy and that is what we don't want."

Taking about the impact of Pakistan-China "all-weather strategic ties" on the region particularly Afghanistan, he said there was a consensus between Pakistan and China on how the two sides could cooperate in bringing stability and prosperity.

He mentioned that no other country than Pakistan had suffered in view of the Afghan conflict for 40 years, adding that for the first time, there was an opportunity of restoring peace in the war-torn country.

He said as Afghanistan faced a humanitarian crisis due to the freezing of foreign aid, Pakistan, China, and other European states agreed that "somehow likes and dislikes of the Taliban government should be set aside and the only thing in minds should be the 40 million people of Afghanistan – half of them in a very precarious position of food insecurity".

The prime minister termed as "unique" the relationship between Pakistan and China that had passed through the test of time.

When asked about the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) bringing a direct investment of over \$25 billion along with job creation in the past eight years, he said the project was significant for the economy and development of Pakistan.

PM, COAS visit Nushki...

FROM PAGE 01

area. In his interaction with troops, PM paid rich tribute to the martyrs and their families for their ultimate sacrifices for Pakistan. PM lauded the professionalism exhibited by the troops and appreciated the operational preparedness and bravery with which terrorists' attacks were repulsed. PM reiterated national resolve to support the armed forces in eliminating the remnants of terrorists trying to sabotage the development of Balochistan.

PM said, "through a comprehensive national effort, co-operation between federal and provincial governments and assistance of armed forces, we shall realise true potential of Balochistan".

Later, PM interacted with tribal elders of the area and acknowledged their unwavering support in fight against terrorism and facilitating government initiatives being taken to bring prosperity and development to Balochistan.

He assured Jirga members of continued sincere support for timely completion of development projects in Balochistan. PM stressed that development of Balochistan is priority and critical for future of Pakistan".

Imran Khan said no other army had faced unprecedented challenges faced due to acts of terrorism, in the wake of war in Afghanistan. He said the Pakistan army excelled in its professionalism and helped in ridding Pakistan of terrorism.

Shehbaz discusses...

FROM PAGE 01

A delegation of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) visited Model Town to meet the PML-N president. Shehbaz Sharif received senior deputy convener of MQM Aamir Khan and party leader Wasim Akhtar on his arrival. Ahsan Iqbal, Saad Rafique, Shah Mohammad Shah, Miftah Ismail, Maryam Aurangzeb, Malik Mohammad Khan along with the party president received the MQM leaders.

Talking to media after the meeting, the opposition leader said that economic, financial and political situation was discussed. The situation in Sindh was also discussed in detail. He also questioned about Rs1100 billion package for Karachi announced by Imran Khan, adding that the prime minister wants to push the opposition against the wall.

Macron on diplomatic shuttle to Kyiv to ease Ukraine crisis

Macron met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as fears of a possible Russian invasion mount. Moscow has massed over 100,000 troops near Ukraine's borders, but insists it has no plans to attack

AGENCIES

KYIV: French President Emmanuel Macron brought his diplomatic effort to defuse the crisis over Ukraine to its capital of Kyiv on Tuesday, a day after hours of talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin yielded no apparent breakthrough.

Macron met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as fears of a possible Russian invasion mount. Moscow has massed over 100,000 troops near Ukraine's borders, but insists it has no plans to attack. The Kremlin wants guarantees from the West that NATO will not accept Ukraine and other former Soviet nations as members, that it halt weapon deployments there and roll back its forces from Eastern Europe – demands the U.S. and NATO reject as nonstarters. Western leaders in recent weeks have engaged in multiple rounds of diplomacy in the hope of de-escalating the tensions and preventing an attack. High-level talks have taken place against the backdrop of military drills in Russia and Belarus. On Tuesday, Russia's Defense Ministry said six large landing ships were moving from the Mediterranean to the Black Sea for exercises. Macron's talks with Putin on Monday lasted more than five hours, and the French leader told reporters that they allowed him to ensure that "there's no degradation and no (further) escalation."

He said he did not expect Putin to make any "gestures", saying his objective was to "prevent an escalation and open new perspectives. ... That objective is met."



Macron said Putin "set a collective trap" when he initiated the exchange of written documents with the U.S. Moscow submitted its demands to Washington in the form of draft agreements that were released to the public, and insisted on a written response, which was leaked to the press.

"In the history of diplomacy, there was never a crisis that has been settled by exchanges of letters which are to be made public afterward," he said, adding that is why he decided to travel to Moscow for direct talks. Putin said after the meeting that the U.S.

and NATO ignored Moscow's demands, but signaled his readiness to continue talking. NATO, U.S. and European leaders flatly reject the demands that they say challenge NATO's core principles, like shutting the door to Ukraine or other countries that might seek membership; but they have offered to talk about other Russian security concerns in Europe.

Putin warned that Ukraine membership in NATO could trigger a war between Russia and the alliance should Kyiv move to retake the Crimean Peninsula, which Moscow annexed in 2014. In that case, he said, Europe-

an countries would be drawn into a military conflict with Russia where "there will be no winners."

U.S. President Joe Biden has said that any prospect of Ukraine entering NATO "in the near term is not very likely," but he and other NATO member nations and NATO itself refuse to rule out Ukraine's entry into the alliance at a future date. Biden met in Washington on Monday with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who also will travel to Kyiv and Moscow on Feb. 14-15.

Biden vowed that the Nord Stream 2 Russia-to-Germany gas pipeline, which has been completed but is not yet operating, will be blocked "if Russia invades, that means tanks and troops crossing the border of Ukraine again." Halting the pipeline's operation would hurt Russia economically but also cause supply problems for Germany.

Scholz warned Moscow that "a lot more could happen than they've perhaps calculated with themselves" in case of an invasion. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson warned Russia that an invasion of Ukraine will only make NATO stronger, but said he still believes "principled and determined diplomacy" could defuse the crisis.

Writing in The Times of London, Johnson urged allies to finalize plans for heavy economic sanctions that would come into effect if Russia crosses the border into Ukraine.

He said the U.K. is ready to bolster NATO forces in Latvia and Estonia as he prepared to meet the Lithuanian prime minister in London on Tuesday to show support for the Baltic nations.

Pakistan Super League, 2022

Points Table					
Teams	M	W	L	PT	NRR
Multan Sultans	5	5	0	10	+1.073
Islamabad United	5	3	2	6	+1.019
Lahore Qalandars	5	3	2	6	+0.337
Quetta Gladiators	5	2	3	4	-0.041
Peshawar Zalmi	5	2	3	4	-1.183
Karachi Kings	5	0	5	0	-1.136

Missed opportunities in Kashmir

FROM PAGE 01

public discourse.

The Kashmiris have already paid a huge price with their blood and tears. They are now at the receiving end of India's settler colonialism, which is meant to ethnically cleanse the Kashmiri Muslim population.

Ahead of the UN Human Rights Council session in Feb-March 2020, the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities had submitted a report on Indian human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir, equating them as war crimes and a genocide. Hence, the International Criminal Court could be the most appropriate forum to appeal, but neither Pakistan nor India has signed its protocol.

However, Pakistan is free to sue India in the International Court of Justice, which is mandated to resolve disputes between states. This means that breaches by a state, of international law obligations, can be brought before the court. Invoking its "compulsory jurisdiction" under Article 36 (2) might be a non-starter, as India would not agree. But Pakistan can approach the ICJ under Article 36 (1) of the Statute, as India has violated international law (UN Security Council resolutions) on an international dispute, of which both countries are legitimate parties. Thus, it may not be so difficult to prove that the ICJ does have the jurisdiction to hear this case.

We had lost the winnable Kulbhushan Jadhav case at the ICC in 2019 primarily due to weak work by our legal team. This time, the stakes are very high and it is still not too late. Pakistan must not abandon Kashmiris at the darkest moment of their sordid history.

All that the government needs to do is to put in place an effective team of legal counsels, including from amongst the Kashmiri diaspora, to prepare a convincing case on the basis of India's unlawful unilateral actions, and its subsequent subjugation and displacement of Kashmiri people. Simultaneously, it can gear up a proactive global diplomatic campaign to expose India's attempt to permanently colonise the indigenous population of Kashmiri Muslims.

Hijab row...

FROM PAGE 01

were reported during the students' protest. The police caned the students and protesters to quell the mob from the surrounding areas of the Bapujinagar Government Pre-University College in Shivamogga.

The cowardice of Hindutva-vadis exposed in Narendra Modi's India when a lone hijab-wearing girl student was heckled by RSS goons in saffron shawls at a Karnataka college who daringly shouted Allah-o-Akbar.

"Since I started studying (here), I've always worn the burqa and hijab. When I entered class, I removed the burqa... Principal has said nothing, outsiders started this," Muskan, a student who was heckled by a saffron scarf group told NDTV.

Opp. raises issue...

FROM PAGE 01

Muslim League (UML) and some other members raised the issue which is hogging the international attention these days. UML Lok Sabha MPs had given adjournment notice to demand a discussion on the Udupi Hijab row in Karnataka while Congress urged education minister to intervene to ensure the constitutional rights of the students are upheld and matter is resolved.

T.N. Prathapan, Congress MP said, "I request the Education Minister to intervene in this matter to ensure the constitutional rights of the students are upheld and matter is resolved."

24 matches decided in World Jr Tennis Championships

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: A total of 24 matches were decided in the ITF Pakistan AJ Towers World Junior Tennis Championships at the hard courts of PTF-SDA Tennis Complex on Tuesday. Salim Saifullah Khan President Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) witnessed the matches of the boys and girls and interacted with the participating players, coaches, parents and officials.

He appreciated the organization and administrative arrangements of the healthy activity for the development of tennis in the country. Unseeded Pakistan youngster Semi Zeb Khan, the upcoming proficient player, caused a major upset during the course of 2nd round encounter with 3rd Seed Nikita Safonov (RUS). In his pursuit of victory he added his foot speed and top spin made him a force to be reckoned with. Semi Zeb certainly wore down and dispirited his accomplished adversary by upping the velocity of his serves, rallying with self assurance and showing no hesitation in rushing the net frequently. He managed to oust the 3rd seed 6-4 6-2.

6th Seed Hamid Israr (PAK) lost his encounter against Maciej Zarebski (POL) in straight set 6-4 6-3 whereas another unseeded Ivan Iutkin (RUS) ousted the 7th Seed Aril Kayra Tuna (TUR) in one sided affair 6-0 6-1. Whereas 5th Seed Aldiyar Abzhan (KAZ) struggled hard to win his match against Mehmet Onur Turgut (TUR) in a thrilling three setter 4-6 6-3 7-5. Upcoming Ahmad Nael Qureshi (PAK) played excellent tennis against 4th Seed Ruslan Serazhetdinov (RUS). Ahmad lost the first set 6-2, but bounced back in the same fashion to level

the match at 1-1 set all. In the final set Ruslan played excellent game of tennis and did not allow his opponent to settle down and won the third set without conceding a single game and qualified for the quarter final.

In the Girls singles, 3rd Seed Melisa Ugar (TUR) struggled hard to win her encounter against Eunsoo Lee (KOR) in a well contested three set match. Eunsoo Lee won the first set 6-2 by breaking 3rd and 5th game of Melisa. In the 2nd set both the players held their respective serve till 5-5 all; Melisa played some excellent shots and broke the 13th game of Eunsoo and won the set at 7-5. The match was decided in the third set which was won by Melisa at 6-4.

Boys Singles (2nd Round): Aldiyar Abzhan (KAZ) beat Mehmet Onur Turgut (TUR) 4-6, 6-3 7-5; Amirali Ghavam (IRI) beat Asad Zaman (PAK) 6-1 6-1; Yunes Talavar (IRI) beat Bilal Asim (PAK) 6-4 7-5; Maciej Zarebski (POL) beat Hamid Israr Gul (PAK) 6-4 6-3; Ruslan Serazhetdinov (RUS) beat Ahmad Nael Qureshi (PAK) 6-2 6-6 6-0; Ivan Iutkin (RUS) beat Aril Kayra Tuna (TUR) 6-0 6-1; Semi Zeb Khan (PAK) beat Nikita Safonov (RUS) 6-4 6-2; Nikita Bortnichek (RUS) beat Dev Kangargimatch (ROU) 6-2 6-4.

Girls Singles (2nd Round): Melisa Ugar (TUR) beat Eunsoo Lee (KOR) 2-6 7-5 6-4; Olga Sorochkina (RUS) beat Seo Hyeon Park (KOR) 3-6 6-1 6-3; Tatyana Chsherbakova (KAZ) beat Amara Khan (PAK) 6-0 6-0; Tamara Ermakova (RUS) beat Artina Gashi (GBR) 6-3 6-4; Munisa Ashurbekova (UZB) beat Aleksandra Bortnichek (RUS) 7-5 6-1; Renata Gareva (RUS) beat Natalia Zaman (PAK) 6-1 6-1; Avrora Volkova (RUS) beat Anna Ali Qayum (PAK) 6-2 6-3; Andra Izabella Sirbu (ROU) beat Sa Rang Lim (KOR) 6-3 6-2.



Australia announce full-strength squad for historic tour of Pakistan

SYDNEY: Australia named a full-strength Test squad on Tuesday for its first Pakistan tour in 24 years, with spinners Mitchell Swepson and Ashton Agar drafted to back up their formidable pace attack. Pat Cummins' side which recently lost coach Justin Langer in acrimonious circumstances is slated to play a three-Test series in Rawalpindi, Karachi, and Lahore from March 4. Bowler Josh Hazlewood will be back in action after missing most of Australia's recent 4-0 demolition of England in the Ashes.

Scott Boland who thrilled fans with a stunning debut at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) during that series including a spell that saw him take six wickets for seven runs has been retained.

But there will be more backup in the spin department for stalwart Nathan Lyon, who is joined by leg-spinner Swepson and left-hander Agar. Batters Marnus Labuschagne and Steve Smith are also able to bowl spin, leaving the tourists with plenty of options if the subconti-

mental wickets start to turn.

It is Australia's first tour of Pakistan in almost a quarter-century. Cricket-mad Pakistan has struggled to entice foreign sides back after home internationals were suspended following a deadly terror attack on the Sri Lanka Test side in 2009. Pakistan was forced to play their home international matches abroad mostly in the United Arab Emirates until 2015 when normal service tentatively resumed.

For Australia, the tour will be a major test of Cricket Australia's decision to push Langer out of the coaching role.

Andrew McDonald has been appointed interim coach.

Australia squad: Pat Cummins (c), Ashton Agar, Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Marcus Harris, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Marsh, Michael Neser, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Swepson, David Warner. – Agencies

UK and Ireland abandon 2030 World Cup bid

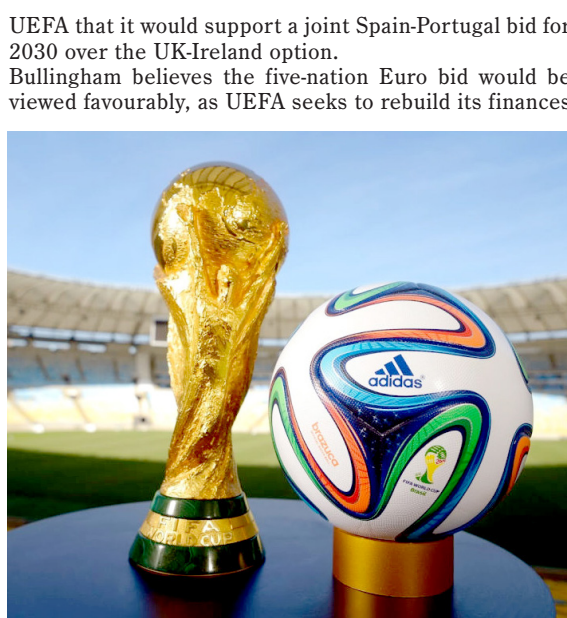
"Hosting a Euro offers a similar return on investment, with the European tournament carrying a far lower delivery cost and the potential of the benefits being realised sooner"

SPORTS DESK

LONDON: Football chiefs from the UK and Ireland announced on Monday they had decided not to bid to stage the 2030 World Cup and would instead focus on a joint campaign to host Euro 2028. The football associations of England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland have concluded that the European Championship represents a better option than the World Cup after a feasibility study, which was backed by UK government money.

"The five associations have decided to focus solely on an official bid to host Euro 2028 and have agreed not to bid for the 2030 World Cup," they said in a statement.

"Hosting a Euro offers a similar return on investment, with the European tournament carrying a far lower delivery cost and the potential of the benefits being realised sooner." English Football Association chief executive Mark Bullingham said there was "uncertainty" over future World Cups, in light of world governing body FIFA's proposal to stage the tournament every two years. He said the decision to focus on Euro 2028 was not based on any communication from European governing body



UEFA that it would support a joint Spain-Portugal bid for 2030 over the UK-Ireland option.

Bullingham believes the five-nation Euro bid would be viewed favourably, as UEFA seeks to rebuild its finances

following the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We believe we can put together an incredibly strong tournament in many ways," he said.

"And we also know we can deliver a really strong commercial return to UEFA and we feel that puts us in a strong position." A UK government statement said: "We remain passionate about bringing a World Cup to the UK and Ireland when the time is right."

"Meanwhile, the UEFA European Championships are one of the biggest global sporting events. Hosting the full tournament would be an exciting opportunity, bringing significant benefits to the whole of the UK and Ireland." Russia and Turkey are also reportedly in the running for Euro 2028. The World Cup bid was previously criticised as an "expensive vanity project" by Julian Knight, the lawmaker who chairs the UK parliament's Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, after the failed solo attempts by England to stage the 2006 and 2018 World Cups.

He welcomed the switch in focus on Monday but added: "It's unacceptable that £2.8 million (\$3.8 million) in taxpayer money was wasted on a pipe dream that was clearly doomed from the start."

"Football in the UK needs to sort out its reputation at home before we can go after the biggest tournament."

Briefs

Ukraine to hold military drill

KYIV: Ukraine's defense minister on Tuesday announced that the Ukrainian army will hold its own military drill at a time when Russia and Belarus will be holding their joint military exercises. Speaking to the Ukraine-based ICTV channel, Oleksiy Reznikov said Russia and Belarus would hold exercise from Feb. 10 to 20. Reznikov said Ukraine would also hold a parallel exercise in which the capabilities of Bayraktar unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), as well as Javelin and NLAW anti-tank systems, would be put to test. The joint military exercise of Russia and Belarus, "Allied Resolve 202", will kick off on February 10. According to official statements from Russia, two S-400 air defense systems as well as Su-35 fighter jets and Pantsir-S anti-aircraft gun and missile systems have been dispatched to Belarus for exercises. Moscow and Kyiv have been locked in conflict since hostilities in the eastern Donbas region broke out in 2014 after Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula. Russia has now amassed thousands of troops near Ukraine's borders, prompting fears it could be planning another military offensive against the former Soviet republic. The US and its allies have warned of an imminent attack, and threatened Russia of "severe consequences." – APP

China locks down southern city as omicron variant surges

BEIJING: China has ordered inhabitants of the southern city of Baishan to stay home and suspended transportation links amid a surge in COVID-19 cases at least partly linked to the omicron variant. Classes have been suspended, non-essential businesses closed and mass testing of residents ordered. Restaurants are only permitted to serve take-out. Traffic lights have been switched to red only to remind drivers to stay home. As of Tuesday, 135 cases had been reported in the city – at least two of them found to be omicron, health authorities said. The city has become the latest to be placed under lockdown in keeping with China's "zero-tolerance" approach to the pandemic. The policy requires strict measures be applied even when only a small number of cases have been found. A major concern is preventing outbreaks during the ongoing Beijing Winter Olympic Games. No new cases were reported in the Chinese capital on Tuesday. More than 30 athletes at the Beijing Olympics are in isolation facilities after testing positive for the coronavirus, organizers said Tuesday. The average stay in isolation is seven days. – APP

France summit for action on ocean protection

PARIS: World leaders, scientists and major companies gather in France this week to boost efforts to protect the oceans, which cover 70 percent of the planet but receive far less attention than land ecosystems. The One Ocean Summit in the northwestern port city of Brest on February 9-11 seeks to raise the international community's ambitions to protect sealife, cut plastic pollution and tackle the impact of climate change. The world's five connected oceans regulate the climate, nurture millions of species, feed the world and enable trade but are still badly understood and lack protection. President Emmanuel Macron hopes to eke "ambitious commitments" from "a small but determined" group of more than 40 countries and multinational companies, including European maritime transport giants Maersk, CMA CGM, Hapag-Lloyd and MSC. European Union leaders Ursula von der Leyen and Charles Michel will address the summit in person as France heads the bloc's six-month rotating presidency. – APP

Azerbaijan urges pressure on Armenia to fulfill obligations

The ministry recalled that in exchange for the return of eight Armenian servicemen by Azerbaijan, Armenia promised to provide information on Azerbaijani citizens missing in the first Armenian-Azerbaijani war and their mass graves

DNA

BAKU: Baku has urged the international community to put pressure on Yerevan to fulfill its obligations regarding the fate of Azerbaijani citizens who went missing during the first Karabakh war (1988-1994). In a statement published on its website on February 8, the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry said: "We call on the international community to put pressure on the Armenian side to take responsibility for clarifying the fate of the missing Azerbaijani citizens, the bloody legacy of the first Armenian-Azerbaijani war, and to demand that it fulfills its obligations." The ministry recalled that in exchange for the return of eight Armenian servicemen by Azerbaijan, Armenia promised to provide information on Azerbaijani citizens missing in the first

Armenian-Azerbaijani war and their mass graves. However, the statement made by Yerevan on February 7 about Armenia's non-commitment regarding the abovementioned issue should be regarded as the most extreme example of disrespect for the norms of international humanitarian law and the principle of humanism, the ministry stressed. It was reminded that, under the 1949 Geneva Convention and its relevant protocols, as well as general international humanitarian law, Armenia is required to provide information on civilian and military Azerbaijani citizens (who were systematically killed by Armenian armed forces) and the location of their mass graves. The ministry emphasized that humanitarian issues were one of the main topics of the videoconference held on February 4 at the initiative of French President Emanuel Macron, with par-

Azerbaijan, OTS eye Karabakh restoration

BAKU: Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov and Secretary-General of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS) Baghdad Amreyev met on February 7 to discuss the rehabilitation of Azerbaijani territories liberated from Armenian occupation in 2020, the ministry has reported. During the meeting, Bayramov emphasized the importance of OTS members' participation in the infrastructure-building process on Azerbaijan's liberated territories. The minister also briefed the visitor on Azerbaijan's reconstruction efforts in the liberated lands, as well as the current situation in the region. Bayramov emphasized Azerbaijan's strong interest in co-operation with the OTS and highlighted the activities of the OTS secretariat. Amreyev, for his part, praised Azerbaijan's active participation in the OTS. He also mentioned the organization's potential for collaboration with other international and regional organizations. In addition, other items on the agenda, including upcoming events, were discussed at the meeting. On November 12, 2021, the 8th summit of the OTS was held in Istanbul. At the summit, the decisions were made to change the name of the organization, to grant Turkmenistan the observer status. In addition, the document "vision of the Turkic World-2040" and the declaration of the 8th summit were adopted. Azerbaijan transferred its chairmanship to Turkey. – Agencies



BAKU: Pakistan ambassador to Azerbaijan Bilal Hayee meets Sheikh-ul-Islam Allahshukur Pashazade Chairman of Caucasian Muslims Office and exchanged views on cooperation for promotion of multicultural and interfaith harmony. – DNA

Rayeesi calls for broadening of Iran-Turkey ties



TEHRAN: Iranian President Seyed Ebrahim Rayeesi in a telephone conversation with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan underlined the need for expansion of Tehran-Ankara cooperation. "I hope that the two countries could further expand their political and economic cooperation," President Rayeesi said while wishing speedy recovery for the Turkish president who has just contracted COVID-19. The Turkish president, for his part, thanked President Raisi for his telephone call and voiced his country's readiness for further enhanced relations with Tehran. Erdogan also hailed Tehran's measures in resumption of pumping gas to Turkey. President Erdogan in a Twitter message on Saturday announced that he had tested positive for COVID-19. "Today my wife and I tested positive for COVID-19 with mild symptoms. Thankfully, we're experiencing slight symptoms that we have learned is the omicron variant," he Tweeted. – Agencies

Samrah, USDA brings top American brands to Pakistan

DNA

KARACHI/ISLAMABAD: Samrah Enterprises, the leading distribution company representing many international brands in Pakistan, has lived up to its name and has brought top American brands to Pakistan, in facilitation with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). A simple yet impressive ceremony, held at Greenvalley Diplomatic Enclave Islamabad, was graced by Mr. Christopher Rittgers, USDA Agricultural Counselor, US Embassy Islamabad, Mr. John Coronado, Commercial Counselor U.S. Mission to Pakistan, Mr. Rashid Yaqoob Raja, Agricultural Marketing Specialist, U.S. Embassy Islamabad, along with Mrs Samrah Munsab, Founder Samrah Enterprises, and Munsab Abrar, Director Naheed Supermarket. The new brands introduced at the ceremony, including the famous food brands Midamir Halal meat, Freshly, and Mission Foods, in The addition to Andalou Naturals in the Health & Beauty segment. Expressing her joy, Samrah Munsab, the Founder and Director Samrah Enterprises, said "House of Samrah is



known for introducing quality products, from all over the world, and today we are here to introduce top brands from the United States of America, which also includes our entry to the beauty segment, in addition to the Food products." Referring to the Andalou Naturals a wide range of organic beauty products. "We are thankful to the USDA for facilitating the whole process and making this launch possible." Speaking at the occasion, Mr. Rashid Yaqoob Raja, representing USDA, U.S. Embassy Islamabad said, "We came

together with Samrah Enterprises to bring the top American brands to Pakistan. It will be available through E-commerce, as well as in selected stores throughout the country". The America Pakistan Business Development Forum, led by Syed Nasser Wajahat Co-Founder Global Secretary General AMPAK BDF, and Muhammad AmanPir, President Diplomatic and political affairs AMPAK BDF, also attended the ceremony to extend their support to the launch of American products.

ABAD asks govt to out rightly reject demand of IMF

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Chairman Association of Builders and Developers of Pakistan (ABAD) Mohsin Sheikhani has demanded of the federal government to out rightly reject the demand of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for "Unwinding" the two key measures for the promotion of housing and construction activities and said that the suggestion of IMF will further weaken the economy of Pakistan. In a statement, chairman ABAD said that according to a World Bank's estimation for Pakistan, the real estate sector makes up 70 percent of the national wealth and this industry contributes significantly to the GDP. The World Bank's report itself speaks of the reality that how our national economy is dependent on real estate and construction industry, he said adding that finance has remained a serious issue for construction industry and if the demand of IMF is accepted by the government it will be the last nail in the coffin of Pakistan's struggling economy. He said that the present government of Imran Khan, foreseeing need of housing in Pakistan, had announced to build 5 million low cost houses during election campaign and after coming to power announced Amnesty Scheme for real estate and construction (also gave status of industry to construction) with the facilities of bank financing on special rates of housing. In view of World Bank's report the facilities given for real estate and construction was a right step, he said.

Australia ready for 'positive relations' with China

FOREIGN DESK

CANBERRA: Australia is ready to move forward with positive relations with China, but without any conditions, the nation's prime minister said on Tuesday. Morrison told Chinese media journalists in a virtual meeting that he has yet to meet Beijing's new envoy to Canberra. "We've always wanted a positive relationship with China, where we can trade with each other, but that must come without any strings," the prime minister said in response to a question regarding the statement last month by Xiao Qian, China's new ambassador to Australia, that Beijing wants to repair relations with Canberra. Both countries should move forward, but there should be no preconditions, he stressed. He was referring to the Chinese government's conditions for repairing ties with Australia last year, in which Beijing asked Canberra not to interfere in its internal affairs. "I don't think it means that we still can't work together, particularly on humanitarian issues and many other issues and economic issues," he said, adding that both countries' commercial links should be maintained. He called the Chinese government's imposition of heavy taxes on Australian goods "unfair" and targeted action against his country. There has not been any political dialogue between ministries or with the Chinese government for a long time, but there is no barrier, Morrison said, adding: "We are happy to meet and discuss matters and resume those discussions at any time." – APP

Greece, EU responsible for migrants death

ANKARA: Türkiye's foreign minister on Tuesday made clear he holds Greece along with the EU responsible for 19 irregular migrants who were found frozen to death near the countries' shared border last week. "As much as Greece, the EU is also to blame, because we know how Türkiye would be criticized if it did one-tenth of this," Mevlut Cavusoglu told a joint news conference with his Finnish counterpart Pekka Haavisto in the Turkish capital Ankara. "But on the contrary, Greece gets support in this regard and they have an excuse, (saying) 'Greece protects the borders of the EU,' whereas (in fact) the borders of Europe start from Türkiye in the east and south," he added. Cavusoglu said the migrants' deaths are part of a pattern by Greece. "Unfortunately Greece has continued its pushback policy by openly violating human rights in violation of international law," he said, referring to thousands of asylum seekers pushed back by Greece, endangering their lives in the process. "In the middle of the Aegean Sea, many immigrants lost their lives because of these pushbacks, even because Greece skewed these boats and pierced them with guns."

Israeli forces kill 3 Palestinians

RAMALLAH: An Israeli force member killed on Tuesday three civilians in the city of Nablus, northern West Bank, the Palestinian Health Ministry announced. The ministry said in a press statement that "the three citizens were martyred as a result of the Israeli occupation's direct shooting at them in the city of Nablus." Eyewitnesses told Anadolu Agency that an Israeli special force member, hidden in a civilian vehicle, stormed the Nablus' Al-Makhsieh neighborhood, and opened fire at a Palestinian car. Activists circulated a video showing an Israeli special force running after firing at the car. In turn, the official Israeli Broadcasting Corporation said a special military force killed three members of a "military cell" in Nablus, and claimed that they recently carried out a series of shooting attacks in the vicinity of the city. – APP

Chief of the Naval Staff pays official visit to Iraq

Iraqi Defence Minister while acknowledging the significance of strong bilateral military cooperation in diverse realms, stressed on enhancing collaborations in expanded military domains

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi is on official visit to Iraq. During the visit, the Naval Chief called on Commander Iraqi Navy Admiral Ahmed Jaasim-Maarij and Defence Minister HE Mr Jummalnad Sadoon Khattab, separately. Upon arrival at Naval Headquarters Basra, the Naval Chief was received by Commander Iraqi Navy Admiral Ahmed Jaasim-Maarij and was presented Guard of Honour. During the meeting with Commander Iraqi Navy, regional maritime security and professional matters of mutual interest including bilateral naval collaboration were discussed. The Naval Chief highlighted Pakistan Navy's efforts for ensuring maritime security in



the region including Regional Maritime Security Patrols and

participation in Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). The Admi-

ral also visited Naval Base Um Qasir and Iraqi Naval Academy

where a briefing was given to the Naval Chief. Later during Call-on with Defence Minister HE Mr Jummalnad Sadoon Khattab, professional matters of mutual interest including bilateral defence collaboration were discussed. The Naval Chief underscored the importance of enhancing interactions between the armed forces of both countries through exercises and training exchange programmes. The Iraqi Defence Minister while acknowledging the significance of strong bilateral military cooperation in diverse realms, stressed on enhancing collaborations in expanded military domains. It is expected that visit of the Naval Chief will further augment and expand defence ties between the two countries in general and navies in particular.

Briefs

Himalayan
avalanche
kills 7 Indian
soldiers

DNA

MUMBAI: A Himalayan avalanche killed seven Indian soldiers in the north-eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh near the China border, a defence ministry spokesperson said on Tuesday. "Search and rescue operations have now been concluded. Bodies of all seven individuals have been recovered from the avalanche site," Lieutenant Colonel Harsh Wardhan Pande, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Defence in the northeast, said in a statement on Tuesday. The Kameng region is at an altitude of 14,500 feet and had seen heavy snowfall in the last few days, he said. After several border standoffs in the past few years soured ties with bigger neighbour China, India has intensified patrols in Arunachal Pradesh in the eastern Himalayas and also stepped up construction of roads and tunnels. Arunachal shares a border with Tibet.

France to scrap
Covid test for
vaccinated
travellers

PARIS: France will soon drop its requirement of a negative Covid-19 test for vaccinated travellers from outside the European Union (EU), as daily infection numbers continue to fall, Europe Minister Clement Beaufort said on Tuesday. "We again required tests in December over the Omicron variant. In the coming days we will announce that tests are no longer needed for vaccinated people," Beaufort told France 2 television. Currently, anyone coming from outside the EU, including Britain, has to show a negative test result from the previous 48 hours, regardless of vaccination status. "This week, there will probably be a new European protocol for vaccinated people arriving from outside the EU, with eased measures," he added. EU members agreed on January 25 to better coordinate their travel rules, in particular for people crossing borders within the bloc. The Omicron surge prompted Italy and Denmark, for example, to impose recent negative test requirements for entry by fellow EU residents as well as vaccination proof, a tightening of the rules that irritated officials in Brussels. — APP

Khusro lauds
support of
World Bank

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Industries and Production Makhdoom Khusro Bakhtyar met World Bank Country Director Najib Benhassine in Islamabad on Tuesday. They discussed the priority areas for engagement to strengthen the partnership with World Bank in Pakistan. Both sides discussed the priority areas of engagement to strengthen the partnership with World Bank in Pakistan. The Minister appreciated the support of World Bank for covid response and health sector. While appraising the key features of industrial policy in pipeline, he urged that World Bank might provide expert advice on formulation of framework of policy. He said that new industrial policy would focus on enhancement of local production, exports bandwidth, and import substitution to step up the industrialisation in Pakistan. Najib, Country Director thanked the Minister for expediting implementation of WB-funded projects in Pakistan as Minister to Economic Affairs. He assured that WB would consider the recommendations of Hon'ble Minister to strengthen the WB's portfolio in Pakistan and valuable assistance to formulate industrial policy.

Opposition
stages walkout
from Senate

ISLAMABAD: The opposition walked out of the Senate after pointing to quorum prompting the leader of the house to flout his gesture. The upper house on Tuesday once again could not maintain its decorum and erupted into uproar and the opposition members left the session after pointing to quorum. Leader of the House Shehzad Waseem rued that the opposition always ran away from the house. Earlier, the Ministry of National Health Services submitted its written reply to the upper house confessing that the number of AIDS patients was increasing in Pakistan. The reuse of syringes and non-availability of AIDS testing and treatment and unscreened blood bags were main causes behind the rise in AIDS patients. Senator Mushtaq said that Pakistan was included in the 11 dangerous countries of the world where AIDS was spreading quickly. So far, 0.240 million people are suffering from AIDS in Pakistan, he added. — DNA

Biden says no Nord Stream 2 if Russia invades Ukraine

Joe Biden had earlier praised close ties between Washington and Berlin, adding they were "working in lockstep" to further deter Russian aggression

NEWS DESK

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden promised there would be no advancement of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline project, should Moscow launch an invasion of Ukraine. Biden was speaking after talks with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz over the tense situation on Ukraine's border with Russia, close to which some 100,000 Russian troops have been deployed. A key bone of contention between Washington and Berlin has been the construction of the pipeline that is set to pump Russian natural gas directly to Germany, bypassing Ukraine. Responding to a question on Nord Stream 2, Biden said there would be no chance of the project going ahead if Russian tanks and troops crossed the Ukraine border. "There will no longer be a Nord Stream 2. We will bring an end to it. I promise you we'll be able to do that," Scholz — on his inaugural visit to the White House as Germany's chancellor — said "far-reaching measures" had been agreed upon with allies and partners including the US. "We will take all necessary steps. You can be sure

Germany's FM visits
front line in Ukraine

KYIV: German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock visited the front line of the conflict in eastern Ukraine on Tuesday. The German foreign minister received a firsthand account of the humanitarian and military situation in the Donbas region. The Ukrainian government has been embroiled in an armed conflict with pro-Russia separatists since 2014. Baerbock, dressed in a protective helmet and vest, spoke with a Ukrainian general about the situation in the region. She was in the area for around 40 minutes, and no violence occurred during her visit, according to a reporter from the German dpa news agency. According to UN estimates, over 14,000 people have died in the conflict so far. Germany's foreign minister toured the coastal village of Shyrokyne, which lies in the embattled Donetsk Oblast. "Once a holiday resort, now a testimony to the fact that we have war in the middle of Europe," Baerbock said while surveying the town, which served as a battleground for over four months in 2015. She appeared visibly shaken by the damage she witnessed in Shyrokyne. "Children's toys are lying on the side of the road, houses are destroyed," Baerbock said, while describing the scene as "very depressing." Baerbock said it would be impossible "to solve this aggression from the Russian side militarily, so I am doing everything I can to make sure that we move forward step by step at the negotiating table." Baerbock first landed in Ukraine on Monday, where she met Ukrainian officials in Kyiv. During her visit in the capital, she vowed solidarity with Ukraine, despite Berlin's refusal to send weapons to the country. While meeting with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba in Kyiv, she said Germany is willing to "pay a high economic price" if sanctions are required to be implemented against Russia. — DNA

there won't be any measures on which we have a differing approach. We will act together jointly." When pressed on Nord Stream 2, Scholz avoided mentioning the project explicitly but repeated his message of solidarity. The US State Department previously said it will work with Germany to make sure Nord Stream 2 does not happen in the event of an invasion. Biden had earlier praised close ties between Washington and Berlin, adding they were "working in lockstep" to further deter Russian aggression. Scholz has been to the White House before, serving as finance minister and deputy chancellor under his predecessor Angela Merkel, but he has been criticized for delaying his inaugural US visit as chancellor. He took office 60 days ago. Both former Chancellor Merkel and her predecessor Gerhard Schröder were quicker to head across the Atlantic. While the countries have been staunch allies since the end of World War II, Germany is finding itself being increasingly questioned over its commitment to preventing Russian aggression. Germany has come under criticism over its heavy reliance on Russian energy supplies and its refusal to export lethal weapons to Ukraine.

Shehbaz
summoned in
sugar scandal
on Feb 10

DNA

LAHORE: A special court on Tuesday summoned Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz president Shehbaz Sharif in a case pertaining to the sugar scandal. Opposition leader in the National Assembly and his sons, Hamza and Suleman are facing money laundering and sugar scam. As per summons released by the special court, Shehbaz has been directed to appear before the court on February 10 after his plea for exemption from the court hearing was cancelled by the court. Shehbaz had filed a plea for exemption from court appearance after testing positive for COVID-19. The opposition leader in NA will be given copies of the challan on his court appearance. It may be noted that Shehbaz Sharif and his son Hamza Shahbaz are currently on bail in the case. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has submitted a charge sheet against Shehbaz, Hamza and 19 others in the money laundering case. The FIA filed the 43-long page case challan before the special judge Central. The PML-N president, Hamza, and 19 other persons have been named accused in the charge-sheet.

Europe to cut
funds for Poland
over unpaid fine

BRUSSELS: The European Commission said Tuesday it will take the unprecedented step of tapping into EU funding earmarked for Poland to collect a fine Warsaw racked up for refusing to close a coal mine. The EU executive has informed Poland of its decision, which will be carried out next week, a commission spokesman, Balazs Ujvari, told AFP. Polish government spokesman Piotr Muller said Warsaw would use "all possible legal means to appeal against this," Poland's PAP news agency reported. The cut will amount to nearly 15 million euros (\$17 million) for the period between September 20 and October 19 last year. The total unpaid fine amounts to around 70 million euros including interest, according to an AFP calculation. The Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) hit Poland with the 500,000-euro a day fine last September for refusing to comply with an order to close its Turów mine producing lignite, or brown coal. Poland's neighbours, the Czech Republic and Germany, had complained of environmental damage the mine caused, affecting groundwater levels and creating dust and noise. Last week, Poland signed a deal with the Czech Republic to end the dispute over the mine, but that did not erase the CJEU fine, which Warsaw had steadfastly said it would not pay. "From the very beginning, Poland has emphasised that the decisions taken by the CJEU had no legal or factual basis," Muller said. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Ahmed Chinoi, Director Pakistan Stock Exchange and former Chairman CPLC Karachi presenting a bouquet to Zahid Latif Khan, newly elected Chairman of REIT. Zahid Latif has been elected as the chairman for the third consecutive time. Editor Islamabad POST Ansar Mahmood Bhatti and others also seen in the picture. — DNA

CJCSC installed as 2nd Col.
in Chief of Sindh regiment

DNA

RAWALPINDI: General Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC) was installed as the Second Colonel in Chief of the Sindh Regiment and Lieutenant General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, Corps Commander Rawalpindi was installed as the 13th Colonel Commandant of the Sindh Regiment in a ceremony held at Sindh Regiment Centre, Hyderabad. Lieutenant General Muhammad Saeed, Corps Commander Karachi and Lieutenant General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, pinned the badges of 'New Colonel in Chief' of Sindh Regiment to General Nadeem Raza, Chairman JCSC. General Nadeem Raza, Chairman JCSC and Lieutenant General Muhammad Saeed, Corps Commander Karachi pinned the badges of rank on the shoulders of Lieutenant General Sahir Shamshad Mirza, to formally install him as the 13th Colonel Commandant

of Sindh Regiment. Chairman JCSC also laid floral wreath at the Yadgar-e-Shuhada and offered Fateha. Speaking at the occasion, General Nadeem Raza lauded the performance of Infantry during war and peace. CJCSC highlighted the challenges being faced by Pakistan Defence Forces and reiterated the need to work with full devotion and commitment to overcome these challenges. General Nadeem Raza emphasised on officers and jawans to devote their wholehearted efforts in further honing their professional skills. He said that a professionally competent soldier would always overcome challenges with greater dignity and grace in the face of any test and advised them to make optimum use of training opportunity available to them. A large number of serving / retired officers, JCOs and soldiers of Sindh Regiment were also present during the ceremony. Earlier, a smartly turned-out guard presented Guard of Honour to the General Nadeem Raza, Chairman JCSC.

PPP's long
march to oust
incompetent
govt: Shazia

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Central Information Secretary PPP-P and member of the National Assembly Shazia Atta Marri has said that PPP will hold long march to be started from Karachi on 27th of February to oust the Imran Khan's incompetent government. Pakistan Peoples Party's Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will lead long march against unprecedented inflation and unemployment during the PTI led government, she added. This she expressed in a statement issued hereon today. Ms Marri said that prime minister Imran Khan has mortgaged the country at the others hands while federal government has kept the Parliament unaware about the terms and conditions under which heavy loans are being taken from international loan giants.

CM stresses on speedy
justice to citizens

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: An important meeting regarding law reforms was held here with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan in the chair. The meeting reviewed in detail progress so far made on reforms in Criminal Procedure Code. Special Assistant to Chief Minister for Information Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif, Chief Secretary Dr. Shehzad Bangash, Additional Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah, Principal Secretary to CM Aamjad Ali Khan, Advocate General Shumail Butt, concerned administrative secretaries and other relevant officials attended the meeting. The participants were briefed about the various aspects of the proposed reforms in Criminal Procedure Code and it was told that the provincial government had completed most of the work on necessary reforms in CrPC whereas a strategy was also being prepared for the implementation of those reforms in consultation with all the stakeholders. Talking on the occasion, the chief minister said that dispensation of speedy justice to the general public was one of the top priorities of the incumbent government and Prime Minister Imran Khan adding that the provincial government was serious to this effect. He said that reforms in CrPC was the dire need of hour to ensure easy access of the common man to justice. The chief minister directed the Chief Secretary to lead the overall process of reforms adding that the entire process of reforms in CrPC be finalized within a month time period. Underlining the need for consultation with all stakeholders in the reforms process, the chief minister directed the authorities concerned to ensure full scale consultation with all the relevant stakeholder including judiciary and lawyers in finalizing the reforms process.

India riled after big brands
back Kashmir on social media

NEW DELHI: Pro-Kashmir social media posts by KFC, Hyundai, and other global brands have sparked uproar in India, with diplomats saying Tuesday that the controversy had prompted an apology from a foreign government. This year, several Pakistan-based social media properties connected to some of the world's biggest corporate names used the occasion to proclaim their messages of support for Kashmir on February 5, which is celebrated as Kashmir Day. Several American fast-food chains and South Korea's Hyundai also joined. "Let us remember the sacrifices of our Kashmiri brothers and stand in support as they continue to struggle for freedom," a Twitter account associated with the automaker's Pakistan operations posted on Sunday. India said Tuesday that its ambassador to South Korea had immediately sought an explanation from Hyundai at its Seoul headquarters. Foreign minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar also spoke with his South Korean counterpart Chung Eui-yong to convey "strong displeasure" over the phone, according to an Indian readout of the discussion. Chung "conveyed that they regretted the offence caused to the people and Government of India by the social media post," ministry spokesman Arindam Bagchi said in a statement. Hyundai issued a statement to distance itself from the Twitter account, which it said was operated by a company partner. "We deeply regret any offence caused to the people of India by this unofficial social media activity," it said on Tuesday. Pakistan-based social media properties connected to Pizza Hut, KFC and Domino's Pizza were among those also posting messages to mark the Kashmir holiday, prompting boycott calls among incensed Indian social media users. The posts were later deleted and several brands later issued apologies elsewhere. KFC's India arm expressed remorse for a post that appeared "on social media channels outside the country" in a tweet on Monday. — Agencies



LAHORE: German Ambassador Bernhard Schlagheck exchanging views with Maryam Nawaz. — DNA