

# Samana

Monday, February 14, 2022

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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President Joe Biden's order on Afghan fund release an atroicity

Detailed News On Page-08

Washington eyes still on North Korea

A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency** 

**Detailed News On Page-06** 



Raheem Sterling hat-trick extends City's lead at top

**Detailed News On Page-06** 



## Briefs

### **Angry mobs** can't be left unchecked

**DNA** 

LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhut-

to Zardari or Sunday said that angry mobs across country cannot be left unchecked. Addressing the unfortunate incident of Khanewal, the PPP lead-

er said that such incidents are threat to the morals of whole society. Bilawal said that the incident that took place in Mian Channu's area of Tulamnba is shameful for the whole country, such incident are thought provoking. The government must ensure to take strict action against those found guilty in the incident.

### Media must project Sehat Card benefits

FAISALABAD: State Min-



dia must fulfil its social and moral responsibilities by projecting the Sehat Card initiative, so that people could benefit from it through free treatment in hospitals of their choice. He was talking to the media on Sunday after visiting Mian Muhammad Trust Hospital. He also asked the patients at the hospital who were getting treatment through Sehat Card at the hospital. He interacted with a patient who complained that she had deposited Rs 3000 as admission fee in the hospital. - APP

### Afridi withdraws from PSL





an all-rounder and former Pakistan cricketer Shahid Afridi announced to withdraw from the league midway. Afridi's announcement came hours after the Gladiators' win against Islamabad United. In a video message released after the match, the Pakistani sixer king said that his body isn't allowing him to continue playing. – **APP** 

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New SEZs planned in AJK under CPEC: PM AJK
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Turkish gold conversion likely to falter on lack of public trust Page 05

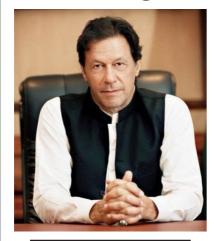
Zalmi claim comprehensive win over Karachi Kings Page 06

Canada police clear blockade of the Ambassador Bridge - Page 07

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## Engaging with Taliban only option: Imran

The Prime Minister says that sooner or later, the Taliban will have to be recognised by the world



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday said that there is "no other alternative to Taliban in Afghanistan," so the "only option the world has right now is to engage with the Taliban for things to move forward." In an exclusive interview with Fareed Fareed Zakaria for CNN, the premier talked about Pakistan's diplomatic relations with the new Taliban government in Afghanistan, the current state of the war on terror. and other issues. PM said that sooner or later, the Taliban will have to be recognised by the world as it is about the well-being and future of about 40 million Afghans. "Forty million people in Afghanistan are in

dire straits because of the ongoing situation

Continued on Page 06

### **Afghan FM** in Qatar in bid to unlock Afghan aid

DOHA: A Taliban delegation arrived in Doha Sunday in a new bid to convince governments to provide humanitarian aid, six months after the hardline Islamists toppled Afghanistan's Western-backed regime, officials said. The delegation, led by Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, will meet with the EU delegation in Doha, diplomatic missions and officials from Gulf countries, the Taliban's foreign ministry said on Twitter. Their arrival in Doha was confirmed by international sources including a spokesman for the British government, and the trip comes as Afghanistan's aid-starved economy sinks deeper into an unprecedented crisis. The latest bid to unlock aid follows meetings in Oslo late last month between representatives of the Taliban and governments that heavily bankrolled Afghanistan's previous government, which imploded in the face of a Taliban military offensive in mid-August. The Taliban gov ernment has yet to gain formal recognition from any country and the UN says that half of Afghanistan's 38 million people face food shortages. - APP

## Opposition has no guts to bring no-trust motion

### Fawad says Bilawal relying on JUI-F chief for the survival of his politics

YOOSAF BHUTTA

MANDI BAHAUDDIN: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain Sunday came hard on the opposition for another attempt to oust the democratically elected government,



saying, "It has no guts and prowess to bring a no-trust motion." The opposition, he added, had made such an abortive bid earlier and its current endeavour would also meet the same fate."The no trust move can succeed only when the opposition parties are standing on their own feet, but not through beseeching, entreating or hatching conspiracies," the minister said in a media talk here.

Fawad said the very next day of their announcement, he had challenged the opposition to table the no-confidence motion. How-

ever, they had not yet given any date for the purpose as they had preempted their defeat. Pakistan, he said, could not be handed over to Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Maulana Fazlur Rehman, who did not have any political prowess. The people could not be deceived any more as they had tried them earlier.

The Pakistan Peoples Party, the minister said, had never done 'religious politics', but its Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari now stood by Maulana Fazlur Rehman who, he believed, could bring out students of seminaries for the public meetings and long marches. Bilawal knew that his party was no more a crowd puller and, therefore, he was relying on the Jamiat Ulema-e Islam-Fazl chief for the survival of his politics, he added.

The minister held Asif Ali Zardari and Nawaz Sharif responsible for relegating their once mainstream political parties to regional ones, and said now their last hope

Continued on Page 06

## Flights to Ukraine halted or redirected

**News Desk** 

MOSCOW: Some airlines have canceled or diverted flights to Ukraine amid warnings from the West that an invasion by Russia is imminent despite intensive weekend talks between Moscow and Washington.

In an hourlong call Saturday with Russian President Vladimir Putin, President Joe Biden said an invasion of Ukraine would cause "widespread human suffering" and that the West was committed to diplomacy to end the crisis but "equally prepared for other scenarios," the White House said. It offered no suggestion that the call diminished the threat of an imminent war in Europe.

The White House said Biden would talk with Zelenskyy later Sunday. On Friday, Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, warned that U.S. intelligence shows a Russian invasion could begin within days. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has played down invasion concerns, urging

The U.S. picked up intelligence that Russia is looking at Wednesday as a target date, according to a U.S. official familiar with the findings.

the country to remain calm.

## U.S. says diplomacy still open

WEB DESK

DONETSK: The United States said diplomacy could still resolve a standoff with Moscow over Ukraine but added that the risk of a Russian invasion was high enough to warrant pulling U.S. embassy staff out of Kviv.

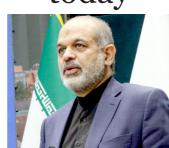
U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was speaking after talks on Saturday with Japanese and South Korean counterparts, following Washington's warning that Russia's military, which has more than 100,000 troops massed near Ukraine, could invade at any moment. Moscow denies having any such plans.

Continued on Page 06



Pakistan Muslim League Quaid (PML-Q) top leaders Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and Chaudhry

### Iranian Minister due in Pakistan today



**DNA** 

ISLAMABAD: On special invitation of Minister for Interior Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed, Iranian Interior Minister Dr. Ahmed Vahidi will arrive in Pakistan on Monday. Sheikh Rashid Ahmed will re-

ceive the distinguished guest at Noor Khan Air Base, said a statement issued by the Ministry of Interior here Sunday.

During his one-day visit to Pakistan, the Iranian Interior Minister would hold meetings with key government officials. The Iranian Interior Minister would also call on Prime Minister Imran Khan.

The Iranian Interior Minister along with his delegation would meet is Pakistani counterpart Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed. Talks would be held on Pak-Iran border management and prisoner exchange, the statement further said.

Earlier this month, The Saudi interior minister had arrived in Islamabad along with a delegation on a day-long visit, and called on the prime minister after meeting with his Pakistani counterpart, Sheikh Rashid, and President Dr Arif Alvi.

## Shehbaz Sharif seeks Chaudhry brothers' support

Shehbaz arrived at the residence of PML-Q top leaders after 14 years

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif has held a meeting with Pakistan Muslim League Quaid (PML-Q) top leaders Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi at their resi dence in Lahore on Sunday.

Shehbaz Sharif, the Opposition Leader in the National Assembly, arrived at the residence of PML-Q top leaders where he was welcomed by Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi. It is after 14 long years that Shehbaz has visited Chaudhry Shujaat and Chaudhry's Pervaiz Elahi's Gulberg residence. Both Sharifs and Chaudhrys, who

Continued on Page 06

No-confidence move a failed attempt: Asad

STAFF REPORT

BAHAWALPUR: Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Asad Umar said on Sunday that the Pakistan Democratic (PDM) Movement's planned move of a

Continued on Page 06

### Lawmaker's office triggers clashes in Sheikh Jarrah

WEB DESK

JERUSALEM: Fierce clashes have broken out between Palestinians and Israeli police in the flashpoint neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah in the occupied East al-Quds, after a far-right Israeli lawmaker opened an office in the area.

A video surfaced on social media on Sunday, showing Israeli settlers, under the protection of the regime's forces, throwing chairs at Palestinians after

Itamar Ben Gvir set up his office on a Palestinian-owned land in the restive neighborhood, Palestine's official Wafa news agency reported.

Ben Gvir's provocative move came despite mounting tensions over the forced eviction of Palestinian residents there. He told reporters in Sheikh Jarrah on Sunday that he would remain there until police looked after what he called the security of the settlers. Last night,

Continued on Page 06







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**Public** 

**Policy** 



## Long march to put last nail in govt coffin: Kaira

Says PPP workers have a history of presenting immense sacrifices for the party cause

**DNA** 

LALAMUSA: Former Chairman Municipal Committee Lalamusa and Tehsil Nazim Kharian Nadeem Asghar Kaira has urged PPP workers to do their best in order to make the long march a complete success. He said PPP long march will fix last nail the coffin of the incumbent government.

Nadeem Kaira expressed these views while speaking during a workers convention held in Kharian. Prominent PPP leaders from Punjab attended the convention. The convention was organized in connection with the long march preparations.

Nadeem further said we have to accord

Bride,

groom leave

wedding to

cast vote

PESHAWAR: Leaving the

wedding ceremony, the

bride and groom reached

the polling station to cast

their votes during the

ongoing Re-Polling in all

13 districts of the Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa including

The bridegroom cast his vote at Afridi Garhi

polling station Peshawar

Talking to APP, Hamza

said he is going to cast his

vote for the first time. "I

will vote first and then I

will eat my "Walima" with

the guest," he added. Vot-

ing is a national duty, so

it is most important, the

bridegroom Hamza re-

Similarly, three brothers

wearing identical clothes

at Gulbar Polling Station

including Shehkar, Am-

iad and Owais cast their

votes and such gestures

attracted many present

on this occasion at the

Polling Booth wherein

they were in identical

However, the re-polling

process is being continued

peacefully in the city with

foolproof security arrange-

ments have been made

in and around the polling

booths for the voters to

exercise the right of vote.

A total of 7 polling sta-

tions are being re-polled

and the polling sta-

tions include four male

and three female poll-

ing stations have been

set up with more than

11,000 male and female

voters exercising their

A special security plan

has been drawn up for the

re-polling. The election

process is being closely

monitored by the officials

of the security forces in-

cluding Police, Jawans of

Pakistan Army and FC.

There are clear instruc-

tions for strict action

against those who disrupt

The CCPO is giving in-

stant instructions on se-

curity and other important

Journalist's

death

bereaves KP

CM's Aide

PESHAWAR: Special Assis-

tant to KP CM on Information and Public Relations

(IPR), Barrister Moham-

mad Ali Saif has expressed

profound grief and sorrow over the sad demise of the

Wana based senior journal-

ist, Javed Noor Wazir, said

an official handout issued

In a condolence message,

the Special Assistant said

that he had recently talked

to late Javed Noor and in-

He said that the journalis-

tic services of Javed Noor

Wazir for tribal districts

will be remembered for

prayed for the eternal peace

of the departed soul of late

Assistant

Special

D.I. Khan. - APP

long period.

quired about his health.

here on Sunday morning.

the election process.

franchise.

clothes.

plied to a question.

Peshawar on Sunday.



a rousing welcome to our leader Bilawal Bhutto Zardari when he arrives in our cities adding PPP workers have a history of presenting immense sacrifices for the party cause and this time too they need to rise to the occasion.

The PPP leader said prices of daily use items were taking a heavy toll on the poor masses who had no option but to do ways with their lives. Nadeem said the deal with IMF had adversely affected the Pakistan economy adding govt did not take opposition parties into confidence before signing a deal with the International Monetary Fund.

He added, people were not ready to give more time to this government therefore they wanted it to dislodge sooner rather than later.

PPP long march this month, he said, would surely help get rid of the government. He appealed to the masses to take part in the long march in large numbers.

## Security guard of hospital gunned down in Gujrat

YOOSUF BHUTTA

GUJRAT: Security guard of a private hospital was gunned down by uniden-tified persons Saturday night. It is reported that one Kareem Khan resident of district Swat (KPK) was working as a security guard in Dr. Faakhra Masud's private hospital at Qamar Sialvi road. He was gunned down by some unidentified persons on Saturday night

his duty. It is further learnt that the assassinators took away his motorbike with them. Police have registered a case on complaint of the widow of the slain guard Mst. Pasheena Bibi. She told the police that a

few days ago nephew of her slain husband argued with him and threatened him of dire consequences.

She suspected that the murder was allegedly committed by the nephew of her slain husband. A-division police have registered a case under sections 302, 109 and 404 Cr.P.C.

Cash, jewelry looted A woman was deprived of cash and jewelry by unidentified robbers in broad daylight here yesterday. It is reported that one

Shaista Bibi resident of Shahdaula Road was walking through the road in broad daylight when two unidentified robbers snatched his handbag containing cash and jewelry worth rupees 1.63 lakh. Police have regis-

## Violators of sound system law to be punished

ATTAULLAH CHEEMA

GUJRAT: Government of Punjab pursuing public complaints against the use of loudspeakers by educational institutions particularly private schools that schools use loudspeakers for different activities which causes not only an annoyance but also noise pollution in the vicinity. Further, this malpractice harshly affects the elderly and sick persons. Therefore all those concerned be aware of the law imposed in this matter, according to which section (3)of the Punjab sound system(regulation)act 2015 there is a prohibition on the use of the sound system.

The act states that it shall be unlawful for any person to use or assist in using, permit to allow the use of a sound system that generates any loud, unnecessary or unusual noise or any noise, annoy, disturb, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or

safety of persons in or beyond the vicinity. All the chief executive officers (district education authority)in the province have been directed to make sure the compliance of the law as well directives of the Punjab government. NHA to repair motorcycle ramp

to convince the National Highways Authority to rectify the existing faulty steep motorcyclist RAMP erected with overhead bridge, railway road chowk on GT Road Lalamusa. Following public/complaints, demands regarding faulty structural existing steep motorcycles ramp, which had resulted in the death and injuring of many people, the NHA has accorded the approval of engineers estimate of amounting to Rs.13,950,302, for the extension of the steep motorcyclist. This project shall be undertaken through RMA, under the structural maintenance budget. The NHA source divulged the other day.

### MoU signed between IoBM and PIAIC



KARACHI: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between IoBM and the Presidential Initiative for Artificial Intelligence & Computing (PIAIC) on Saturday. As an academic partner, IoBM will provide logistics support including its auditorium to PIAIC that will offer courses related to AI and computing. The MoU was signed by Mr. Talib S. Karim, President IoBM, and on

behalf of PIAIC, the signatory was Maulana Bashir Farooqui, Chairman, Saylani Welfare International Trust (SWIT). Present on this occasion were Mr. Zia Khan, COO PIAIC and Mr. Muhammad Ghazzal, COO SWIT. IoBM's Ms. Sabina Mohsin, Executive Director; Dr. Tariq Rahim Soomro, Acting Rector; and Dr. Shujaat Mubarik, Dean CBM also graced this occasion with their presence. – **Staff Report** 

The people of Lalamusa has at last been able

## **Two secretariats of South Punjab**

The people of South Punjab now realize that the game of South Punjab Secretariat was played only to divert their attention from Seraiki and Bahawalpur Province

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The people of South Punjab became shuttlecocks. Instead of resolving the issues, the South Punjab was divided into two parts, half in Multan and half in Bahawalpur. In the cycle of appeasing the people of Seraiki Province and Bahawalpur Restoration Province, the government got angry with both of them. Out of 44 departments in South Punjab, only 15 departmental offices were set up, of which 8 were in Multan and 7 in Bahawalpur.

Javed Noor Wazir and fortitude to his bereaved family. Fifteen secretaries including Ad-Late Javed Noor Wazir was a ditional Chief Secretary have set cardiac patient and was unup offices in South Punjab. Seven der treatment in the Intensecretaries sit in Bahawalpur and sive Care Unit (ICU) of the eight in Multan. While 44 depart-Mufti Mahmood Hospital ments are functioning in Punjab Civil Secretariat, Additional Chief

Secretary South Punjab sits for three days in Bahawalpur and three days in Multan and one day in DG Khan. It is also not known for what purpose he will have to go to Multan and for what purpose he will have to travel to Bahawalpur. Chief Engineer Highway, Chief Engineer Building (South)& Chief Engineer Public Health Engineering (South) Lahore. Chief Engineers sit in their offices in Lahore Similarly, the offices of secretaries of various departments are present in Multan or Bahawalpur but the offices of their Directors Generals are in Lahore.

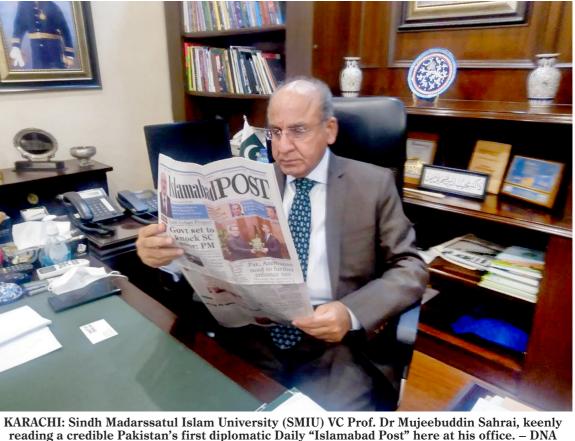
The people of South Punjab have become shuttlecocks. People from Multan are going to Bahawalpur for any government work and people from Bahawalpur have to go to Multan. Many people still do not know where the secretary of the depart-

ment sits. Out of 44 departments, only eight are in Multan and seven in Bahawalpur.

Even if people find the office of the secretary, then for more work they have to go to Lahore to meet the junior officers of the secretary treasury. Out of 44 departments, if 15 departments have to work here, then the remaining 29 departments still have to go to Lahore for work. Earlier, the people of South Punjab had to go to Lahore where all the offices of the Secretariat were present and people could do their work easily. Now two civil secretariats are being constructed in South Puniab. one in Multan and the other in Ba-

hawalpur. No effort was made to create Seraiki province, which was played cunningly by the people of South Punjab, nor was any step taken for the restoration of Bahawalpur province. By setting up offices of only a few secretaries in South Punjab, an attempt was made to show that the government has taken steps to create Seraiki province or restore Bahawalpur province. In fact, the people of South Punjab have been given a lolly pop in the form of South Punjab Secretariat which is humiliating their work instead of being on their doorstep.

The people of South Punjab now realize that the game of South Punjab Secretariat was played only to divert their attention from Seraiki Province and Bahawalpur Province. People have started asking all the politicians of South Punjab including Khusro Bakhtiar, Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Tariq Bashir Cheema what your government promised to make South Punjab a province in 100 days. There was no need for the lame South Punjab Secretariat.



reading a credible Pakistan's first diplomatic Daily "Islamabad Post" here at his office. - DNA

DC wants daily updates on dengue situaion

STAFF REPORT

LODHRAN: Deputy Commissioner Captain (R) Shoaib Ali has said that all users deployed for dengue prevention should ensure the functionality of their android mobile phones and upload progress daily. In this regard people uploading bogus data should correct themselves while all concerned departments should observe their responsibilities properly. He added that Health Department including all departments should take effective steps in elimination of dengue larva. He expressed these remarks while chairing the District Emergency Response Committee's meeting for dengue prevention.

In the meeting activities for dengue prevention done by Health Department and other concerned departments were reviewed, Deputy Commissioner said that indoor and outdoor hotspots should be monitored especially, he directed MS DHQ and THQ Hospitals to write CNIC, Cell number and Union Council while filling the details form of suspected dengue patients.

He asked to improve dengue surveillance in graveyards, he directed Municipal Officers to access their performance against set targets for cleaning of parks including surveillance of gravevards. He said that strict surveillance of sensitive locations should be done for the elimination of dengue larva. He added that for the public awareness organized dengue prevention campaign's positive results should be attained.

### ANF recovers 9.600 kghashish, held smuggler

PESHAWAR: Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Peshawar on Sunday conducted an intelligence based operation and recovered 9.600 kilograms of hashish and arrested the smuggler.

The ANF team on a tip off checked the alleged smuggler, identified as Ijaz ul Haq, resident of Orakzai near Garhi Qamardin Kohat bridge and recovered 9.600 kg hashish from his possession placed in a hand bag. The recovered narcotics was being smuggled from Peshawar to Punjab.

Case has been registered, and further investigation is in progress. - APP

## French Archaeologists distributes training certificates to students

NAZIR SIYAL

HYDERABAD: Shaheed Benazir Bhutto University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (SBBUVAS), Sakrand Organised an award distribution ceremony among talented students who completed the training under the supervision of French Archaeologists here on Friday.

The Certificate ceremony was in connection to the visit of French Archeologists under the MoU signed two years ago, led by Dr. Marjan Mashkour at SBBUVAS.

Dr. David, Dr. Pascal Monge, and Dr. Laura Mankaa also were among the French Archeologists. The French Team distributed certificates to Miss Asma Ayoub Khilji, Mr. Mu-

hammad Awais Soomro, Miss Dua Memon, and Miss Noor Saba Memon. The French Archaeologists praised the ef-

forts of Worthy Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Muhammad Farooque Hassan. Additionally, Dr. Marjan offered a Scholarship to Mis Asma Ayoub Khilji (Student) for higher studies at French University through Student Exchange Program.

Moreover, worthy vice-chancellor Prof Dr. Muhammad Farooque Hassan and Prof Dr. Zahid Iqbal Rajput paid thanks to Dr. David, Dr. Pascal Monge, and Dr. Laura Manka for their presence and Scholarship offers to the talented students of SBBUVAS and both sides agreed to work together on student and faculty exchange programs in near future



## Police to launch smart city project

BUREAU REPORT

Faisalabad

FAISALABAD:

city police have chalked out a comprehensive plan to launch "Smart City Project" in addition to constituting "FCCI-Police Liaison Committee" to improve the overall law and order situation in this district. Addressing the business community in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) here today, the City Police Officer (CPO) Mr. Ghulam Mubasshir Mekan paid best tribute to the supportive role of business community and hoped that this cooperation will continue in the future for the best interest of this city and its real stakeholders. About the crime rate in Faisalabad, he said that this metropolis is facing multiple natures of crimes including terrorists' attacks. "160 police officers and Jawans have so far laid down their lives in line with their duty", he said and added that we are fully prepared to continue our efforts in order ments. He said that during recent past crimes were not properly registered to give the impression of peace but this government is now en-

couraging crime registration

and maximum cases are re-

ported through 15. He said that there are 42 police stations in Faisalabad. "Out of these, the crime rate is comparatively high in 11 police stations as compared to the remaining 31 police stations", he said and added that Millat Town, Sargodha Road, Madina Town, Mansoorabad, Batala Colony, Sadar and Civil Line etc are among those police station where crime rate is high.

### 44 patients under treatment in KTH

PESHAWAR: As many as 44 corona patients are under treatment in Khyber Teaching Hospital Peshawar wherein a total of 122 beds are allotted for corona patients, spokesman Sajjad Ahmad said.

He said that 44 patients infected with corona are being treated at Khyber Teaching Hospital and they have 28 ventilators reserved for corona patients. Eight patients of Corona in Khyber Teaching Hospital are in intensive care and ventilators, spokesman said. He said, 18 patients infected with Corona are undergoing treatment at HDU and a small amount of oxygen has been allocated for 31 beds on which 18 patients are undergoing treatment. – APP

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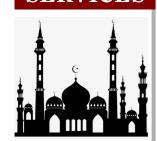
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<u>LALAMUSA</u> Gulzar Ahmed Noshi 03359494788

**SARA-I-ALMAGIR** 0300 5428178



### **Namaz Timings**

Fajr 05:31 aı	m
Zohr 12:12 pr	m
Asr 04:11 pr	m
Maghrib 05:50 pr	n
Isha 07:14 pr	n



### **Hotels &** Restaurants

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



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### **Emergency**

Rescue (Police)	)15	
Bomb Disposal	15	
Fire Services	Rawalpindi	
Islamabad	1122 & 16	
Emergency Am	oulance1122	
& Rescue Servi	ices.4451122	
Motorway Polic	e9266044	
Motorway Police9270601-20		
Women Polic	e Stations	
Islamabad	9222596	
Rawalnindi	9270601-20	



Edhi Ambulance	115
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CAA	9281092



### Hospitals

CMH	5611111
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital.	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa Internation	onal.4603666



### **Denartments**

Depui	LIIICIIC
CDA	9221334-43
CDA	9208301-04
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	5770886
Cantonment B	oard 9270151-3



### **Complaints**

**Water Tanker Service** E-7, F-10 & F-11.....9204654 G-5, G-6, G-7, G-8....9203883 G-9, G-10, G-11, G-12, H-8.....9266316 Wapda Islamabad....9217579 Wapda Rawalpindi 111-309-309

### Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation	9209224
Potohar Town	9209224
RawalTown	5773343

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

## Islamabad seeks broad-based ties with the US, says Masood

Pakistan wants enhanced economic ties with the US: Ambassador-designate

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Masood Khan, Pakistan's ambassador-designate to the United States had said Pakistan wants to enhance economic, investment and trade ties with the United States and that he will try his best to push the bilateral relations to new heights.

He said Pakistan would build

better mutual bilateral rela-

tionships between the two

countries for which every option will be explored and the business community of both the countries will be taken on board for the purpose. Masood Khan said this while talking to the President US-Pakistan International Chamber of Commerce (USPICC) Muhammad Ahmed, Secretary-General USPICC Malik Sohail Hussain and founder member and director of the chamber Hasnain Kazmi. He said that business delegations from Pakistan to the US and from the US to Pakistan will be encouraged to boost bilateral trade, invest-

ment and joint ventures.

**DNA** 

ISLAMABAD: The exhi-

bition will be attended by

renowned builders, devel-

opers, allied construction

companies, banks and busi-

nessmen associated with

the tourism industry from

Exhibition will play an

important role in invest-

ment which will boost the

country's economy, Khur-

A meeting was held under

the chairmanship of Pakistan

Association of Exhibition In-

dustry Chairman Khurshid

Barlas. It was informed in

the meeting that Peshawar

International Property Ex-

hibition and Convention,

which was scheduled to be

held on February 11-12-13

across the country.

sheed Barlas



said that Pakistan desires broad-based and multidimensional relations with utilise their best abilities to-

nounced program,

will now be held

on 25-26-27, keep-

ing in view the pre-

ventive measures

regarding outbreak

of the new wave of

omi variants. The

three-day interna-

tional property

exhibi-

the US and therefore the business community should

tion will be attended by

renowned builders,

developers, Allied

Construction Bank

projects and a large

number of people

from various busi-

ness communities

associated with the

industry.

Builders, de-

Property exhibition in

Peshawar from March 25

wards further enhancement

of Pakistan-US relations.

velopers, real estate agents

and companies associated

with the real estate sector

will be able to display their

products exclusively in the

exhibition, said Muhammad

Khursheed Barlas, Chair-

man Pakistan Association of

great opportunity for investment. This exhibition

will play an important role

in terms of investment in

Pakistan which will boost

the economy of Pakistan as

m ajor construction com-

panies across the country

He said that the main ob-

jective of the expo is to

promote construction and

business activities in this ep-

idemic of Corona so that the

country could move forward

on the path of development.

would participate.

Exhibition Industry.

He said it would be

stan's top export destination and a strategic partner, and both countries know

## **Police** speeds up efforts against violators

DNA

the value of relationships

across a number of fronts,

On the occasion, leaders

of USPICC Muhammad

Ahmed, Malik Sohail and

Hasnain Kazmi appreciat-

ed the services of Masood

Khan as Permanent Repre-

sentative of Pakistan to the

United Nations, Pakistan's

Ambassador to China, and

President of Azad Kashmir

and said that his efforts had

exponentially pushed Paki-

They said that the Chair-

man of USPICC Siddique

Sheikh and President

Sajjad gamar are very

well-connected with Sena-

tors, representatives and

big business houses. They

are waiting for his arrival

in the US so that he can

assist him in cementing

bilateral economic ties to

advance the shared agen-

da and common goals of

prosperity. The USPICC

officials informed that a

delegation of Pakistan en-

trepreneurs from various

sectors will soon visit the

US to explore trade and

investment opportunities

on which Masood Khan as-

sured all-out cooperation.

stan's exports to China.

Khan added.

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has accelerated its efforts against those involved in violation of traffic laws especially lane violations (by Bikers), under age bikers, seat belt violations, and not following parking rules.

ITP is working on hastening actions against traffic violators under special directives of Inspector General Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Ahsan Younis to reduce accidents and to facilitate the smooth flow of traffic.

Senior Superintendent of Police SSP (Traffic ) Mazhar Iqbal has advised all zonal DSPs and inspectors to take strict action against all the motorists violating traffic rules, including lane violations, seat belt violations and no-parking violations.

ITP has constituted special squads to conduct operations throughout the city, and its education wing will work to improve road safety awareness for the public on several highways of the capital. SSP Traffic has instructed officers to deal with the citizens in a courteous manner as disrespect will not be tolerated and to take unbiased action against rule violators.

He said that in-charge beat inspectors will be answerable for their jurisdictions and that strict departmental action will be taken against underperformers while those who work diligently will be rewarded for their efforts. The SSP (Traffic ) Mazhar Iqbal has also appealed the citizens to follow traffic rules and assist ITP in maintaining traffic discipline in the city.

### **AIOU closes admissions for MS/MPhil** and **PhD** today

**DNA** 

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has set February 14 (Monday) as the last day for admission in the spring 2022 semester inprograms offered in the cluding PhD, MS/M Phil, M.Sc Hons and BS (face to face programs). Admission forms and tuses for these prospecprograms available on the University's web Students can apply through online m o d e only. Admis BS prowill be given purely on sary to pass tne en

try test to get admission in M.Sc Hons, MS/M.Phil and PhD. Entry tests are scheduled to be held from 17th to 24th February. The first merit list will be displayed on the website on February 25 whereas the fee submission deadline is March 3. The second merit list will be uploaded on March 4 and the last date for fee submission will be March 11. Special care will be taken for transparency. It is pertinent to mention here that admissions in Matric, FA and I.Com will continue till February 22. Students have the facility to apply manually or through online mode in these programs. In case of online application, it will not be necessary to send the printed admission form to the university.

### Member engineering CDA visits Rawal Dam Project

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In line with the directions of Chairman CDA, Member Engineering of Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Sunday visited CDA Facilitation Center and Rawal Dam Interchange project. On this occasion Officers of relevant departments were also present along with Member Engineering.

Member Engineering CDA

took a detailed look at

the progress made in the construction work in the projects. on this occasion Member Engineering was briefed that the best facilities are being provided to the people and in this connection lift is also being installed which is in the final stages of completion.

Later, the Member Engineering along with the officers of the concerned departments also visited the Rawal Dam Interchange project and reviewed the progress of development works.

### Free poultry training to begin on Feb 14

RAWALPINDI: Poultry Research Institute (PRI) would start a week-long, free poultry training program at Murree Road. Shamsabad here from Feb 14. According to Senior Research Officer, PRI, the training program would continue till Feb 18 from 9 am to 1 pm timings. Interested people can contact on 051-9292172 and take prospectus from PRI office to apply for the course. The applications can be submitted till Feb 14 in the office of Director PRI.- APP



ISLAMABAD: A view of construction work of Rawal Dam Flyover underway during development work in Federal Capital. - APP

## 'Cultural fabric synthesis of multicultural infusion'

- NIHCR Webinar on Discourse of History on Indo-Pak History from Antiquity to Modernity XV: Pakistani Culture & Cultural Narrative

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Culture is human interaction with nature and history; it is an adaptive mechanism, said Prof Emeritus Aslam Syed here on Sunday.

Culture is the patterns of learned and shared behaviour and beliefs of a particular social or ethnic group. Humans in turn use culture to adapt and transform the world they live in, he observed while speaking a Webinar on Discourse of History on Indo-Pak History from Antiquity to Modernity XV:

Pakistani Culture and Cultural Narrative of Pakistan. Prof. Emeritus Aslam Syed has been serving the Centre for Religious Studies, Ruhr Universität, Bochum, Germany. He remained Chairman, Department of History, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad and also served the NIHCR as its Director. Responding to a question, Prof Syed said that the anthropological study of culture can be organized along two persistent and basic themes i.e. diversity and change. An individual's upbringing, and environment is what makes them diverse from other cultures. People's need to adapt and transform to physical, biological and cultural forces to survive represents the second theme, change.

The Webinar arranged online by the National Institute of Historical and Cultural Research (NIHCR), Centre of Excellence, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, was attended by over 700 participants ranging from students, teachers and researchers to have greater insights into the valuable views of the guest speaker.

Replying a question, Prof Syed said that cultural evolution occurred faster than biological evolution had significantly modified the effect of natural selection on humans. Over the last several hundred thousand years, we have developed new survival related cultural skills and technologies at a faster rate than natural selection could alter our bodies to adapt to the environmental challenges that confronted us, he said.

It was the 34th consecutive session on the Discourse of History, a brainchild of the NIHCR Director Dr Sajid Mahmood Awan. This activity inculcates interest to learn more and more about history not only among students, scholars and

historians as well as among ordinary people belonging to any field of life to know about nations' ways of running their States in a journey from antiquity to modernity. Responding to a question, Prof Syed said that Pakistan has multi ethnicities and diversified culture. The area which now forms Pakistan attracted people from different parts of the world; these people came here and made this land their permanent homeland. The social system has emerged as a synthesis of Arab, Iranian, Greek, British and a number of other cultural impacts.

### DNA ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company

**IESCO** 

issues notice

(IESCO) on Sunday issued a power suspension programme for Monday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM, Adhi, Chatta Bakhtawar, Ghauri Garden, Suhdran Road, Khanna-II. Al-Noor Colony-II. Khanna East, Khanna Dak, Azad Shaheed, New Waheedabad, Burma, Dharek, Kohsar Valley. Brahma, Bahtar, Malhwali, Vani, Kharpa, City, Maniwala, Zeeshan Colony, Lakho, Lohi Bhair, Sohdran, G-9/2, Police Line, Falcon, Jinnah Camp, Noor Muhammad, Al Noor Colony, Kurry Road, Khurram Colony. Muslim Town, Shahpur, Rahara, PHA-1, Bahria Enclave, Treat Feeders, From 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Lilla Town, Ahmedabad, Safdar Shaheed, Sanghoi, Nathwala feeders and surroundings.

### Youth can get free digital skills training

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Admission for free E-Rozgaar Training Programme 2022 has been announced for unemployed youth of the Rawalpindi district. According to Center Manager, Muhammad Shujja, the applications are now open for free training of digital skills and freelancing under E-Rozgaar Training Programme 2022.

He informed that the youngsters who have completed 16 years of education can get registered to become part of the training programme for free courses of E-Commerce, Technical, Content Marketing and Advertising, Creative Designing, Digital and Social Media Marketing. The students would be im-

parted three-month training for freelancing, profile making and order taking skills. He informed that the E-Rozgar Centers were working here in COMSATS University and Rawalpindi Women University.

### Briefs

### **Govt took** resultoriented steps, says **Zartaj Gul**

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Climate Change ZartajGul on Sunday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government took multiple climate-friendly steps to control environmental changes which would be proven result-oriented soon.

Talking to PTV news she said, on special directive of Prime Minster Imran Khan the vision of greener Pakistan will be practical through technical teams soon. The government imparted awareness amongst the public about environmental changes as the 70 percent of population was unaware of different environment matters.

Keeping in view the current situation, PM directed to take initiative which were to impact rapidly on environmental pollution as the country was badly affected on index.

The ministry of climate she said converted all brick kilns on zigzag technology on emergency basis to avert air pollution related issues adding that initiatives such as ban on polythene bags, ten billion tree tsunami and clean green Pakistan were highlighted internationally, which was a great success of Pakistan. - APP

### Allied political parties stand with govt firmly

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Jamshed Igbal Cheema said on Sunday that all allied parties were firmly standing with the federal government and it will complete its constitutional tenure. Talking to a private news channel he said, opposition parties were making hue and cry to just to get in power so that they may hide their corruption, vhich thev ha in the past.

He said the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) was not in favor of holding fresh general election because they want power for one and half year only.

On the other hand in short period of time the PTI government took concrete steps in foreign policy, climate control and smart lockdown policy matters during Corona pandemic situation which was endorsed by entire world, he said adding that the economy of country flourished positively.

He said the opposition parties were holding meeting together just to hide their corruption. - APP

### Citizens urged to use water judiciously

RAWALPINDI, Feb 13 (APP):The citizens have been urged to use water judiciously in their routine to avoid shortage as water supply to city areas from Khanpur dam would be decreased due to annual Khanpur Dam canal de-siting project.

Rawalpindi would only be supplied four million gallons per day (MGD) of water instead of the regular supply of 9.40 MGD during the annual silt cleaning of the open water channel from Khanpur Dam which would start

from February 14. According to Managing Director (MD), Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) ShoukatMehmood, the project would create a shortfall of 5.40 MGD of water in Rawalpindi.

He informed that the week long dredging activity would start on Feb 14 and continue till Feb 20.

The MD asked the citizens to use water judiciously as Rawalpindi would only be supplied four MGD of water instead of the regular supply of 9.40 MGD, 70% less. He urged the residents to avoid washing floors and cars, watering their lawns every day, and store water to avoid facing difficulties. WASA would take measures to ensure supply from bowsers and tube wells to fulfil the needs of the locals, he added. - APP

## New SEZs planned in AJK under CPEC: PM AJK

Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President ICCI said that many members of ICCI were keen for JVs and investment in Azad Kashmir to contribute towards the economic development of the region and AJK govt should offer them attractive incentives

ISLAMABAD: Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan Niazi, Prime Minister AJK said that Azad Kashmir offered plenty of investment opportunities in tourism, mines & mineral, hydel power and other sectors and urged that investors of Islamabad should capitalize on these potential opportunities while his government would fully facilitate them. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Sardar-AmjadJalil, Chairman, AJK Board of Investment also accompanied him.

Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan Niazi said that in line with the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, promoting the economy of AJK was a key agenda of his government. He said that a new Special Economic Zone was planned in AJK under CPEC in addition to Mirpur and Bhimber Economic Zones and investors of this region should take benefit of these facilities for investment. He said that the Tourism Authority was being formed in AJK to promote the tourism sector, which has already provided 8000 jobs



and the business community of Islamabad should identify sites for investment and his government would provide them all possible facilitation as their investment would bring progress and prosperity to the region. He instructed the Chairman AJK Board of Investment to keep in liaison with ICCI to facilitate its members for JVs and investment in AJK. He also briefed the business community about the 76 years old issues of Indian Held Kashmir and thanked Pakistani

leadership, nation and diaspora for observing Kashmir Solidarity Day this year with unprecedented zeal and fervour to send a strong message to the world community. SardarAmjadJalil, Chairman, AJK Board of Investment assured the business community and he would keep in touch with ICCI and would extend maximum facilitation to them for taking benefit of business and investment opportunities in AJK so that they

could play role in the economic develop-

ment and jobs creation in the region. Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad ShakeelMunir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that many members of ICCI were keen for JVs and investment in Azad Kashmir to contribute towards the economic development of the region and AJK government should offer them attractive incentives. He reiterated that the business community of Pakistan would continue to extend political, diplomatic and moral support to the people of Indian Occupied Kashmir till the time they get the right to self-determination.

MianAkramFarid, Chairman, Group said that a Committee should be formed comprising representatives of ICCI, AJK Investment Board and Mirpur Chamber of Commerce & Industry that should work to promote investment from this region in AIK. He said that the hospitality sector has huge potential in AJK and the government should focus on its better development. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice Pres-

ident, Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Zubair A. Malik, EjazAbbasi, Khalid Iqbal Malik and others also spoke at the occasion and expressed keen interest to invest in AJK.

### ANF seizes over 1086 liters Ketamine

RAWALPINDI: Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan on Sunday seized over 1086 liters Ketamine restricted chemical worth Rs 34 billion in international market from Karachi International Container Terminal. According to an ANF Head-

quarters spokesman, the operation was jointly conducted by ANF Intelligence and ANF Port Control Unit. The chemical which is used as psychotropic drug, concealed in 2172 rose water bottles was recovered from goods booked by a Karachi-based company for Dubai. ANF had launched an operation to arrest the accused allegedly involved in smuggling of illicit chemical, he informed.

In another operation conducted by ANF Intelligence and ANF Peshawar, 2.9 kg Ice was recovered at Bacha Khan International Airport which was tactfully concealed in a trolly bag.

An accused namely Adnan Khan, resident of Khyber Agency was also arrested. The spokesman informed that the accused was travelling from Peshawar to Doha through flight No. GR-601. In third raid, ANF Peshawar conducted an Intelligence based operation and arrested an accused namleyIjazul-Haq, resident of disttOrakzai Agency near GarhiQamardin Bridge, Kohat Pull and recovered 9.600 kg Hashish concealed in hand-bag of the accused. - APP

### Pak makes remarkable stride against polio

PESHAWAR: Pakistan makes a remarkable stride in its fight to eradicate polio within its geographical boundaries as no case of infection was reported in the country during the last one year from Jan 27, 2021 till date. The accomplishment not only brought smiles on faces of hundreds of thousands of front line health workers but also raises hope of making the country free from the crippling disease which at global level remained endemic only in two countries including Pa kistan and Afghanistan.

"In January 2021 a case of polio was detected in Balochistan and till date no other case of infection is reported, reflecting hard work and committed efforts of 380,000 polio workers of the country," remarked Abdul Basit, Coordinator Emergency Operation Center (EOC) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Talking to APP, Abdul Basit termed the development as good omen for achieving the goal of making the country 'Polio Free'. "For the first time we made this achievement of containing polio virus contagion to zero level throughout the year, raising hopes of wiping out of the disease from the country," Basit added. He said such accomplishments also raises morale of the team workers who have rendered great sacrifices for the cause of making Pakistan free from polio. - APP

### DC for resolving

traffic issues

RAWALPINDI: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Tahir Farooq has said that special focus was being given to control the flow of traffic on city roads which was becoming a big problem for the road users. He informed that solid steps were being taken to resolve the issue and the plan to construct flyovers at Kutchery chowk, Qasim Market and Chor chowk had been finalized. Talking about the ongoing development schemes of Rawalpindi district, he said, the construction work under

the Annual Development Program 2021-22, was being completed on 412 projects. Out of which, 316 projects were new while 96 were ongoing schemes and Rs 134748.072 million had been allocated for these projects. Most of the projects were related to schools, health department, WASA, public health, highways and local government. All the officers concerned of the district, he said, were using the Smart Monitoring of Development Projects App to update the progress on all the development schemes through which anytime, anywhere the record could be checked and the system was also strengthening the monitoring mechanism. - APP

### **PBM's initiatives vital to** empower weak segment

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal (PBM) is playing a dynamic role to empower and facilitate ignored segments of the society through its pro-poor initiatives by turning the country into a welfare state on pattern of Riyasat- i-Madina. The PBM has devised an inclusive plan to reach out maximum deserving people even in the remotest areas of the country. The social safety net programs for ensuring early education, child support and Medicaid bring about positive transformation in lives of thousands of people across the country. The organization is significantly contributing towards poverty alleviation through its various pro-poor services and assistance to destitute, widows, orphans, and other needy persons as per eligibility criteria approved the PBM board.

Bait-ul-Mal is working hard to empower women, build their resilience and lift them out of poverty. The main aim of various initiatives of the organization is to break the cycle of poverty and make poorest of the poor self-sustainable.

Through Individual Financial Assistance (IFA), the poor, widows, destitute women, orphans and disabled persons are supported through general assistance, education, medical treatment and rehabilitation. It is providing financial assistance to deserving patients for medical treatment up to one million rupees from public sector hospitals. According to official figures, Bait-ul-Mal has provided medical assistance to some 101,317 needy persons during the last five years. Some 16,729 individuals having complex diseases were provided medical treatment during the last financial year. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Former president ICCI Sardar Yasir Ilyas, Nawabzada Tanvir, Samar Abbas and Chaudhry Rizwan along with others cutting ribbon to inaugurate the apple store in Blue are. - DNA

## SAARC CCI hails Pak-Iran's generosity towards Afghans

This was stated by the President SAARC Chamber of Commerce

and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik on Sunday while talking to a traders delegation led by Chaudhry Kaleem Ullah Anjum Arain

ISLAMABAD: Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sunday said Pakistan and Iran have shown unforgettable generosity in hosting millions of Afghans reminding the rest of the world to come forward and

help Afghanistan. This was stated by the President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik on Sunday while talking to a traders delegation led by Chaudhry KaleemUllahAnjumArain. He said the 57 nation OIC which met in Islamabad recently resolved to work with the UN to get the entire fro-

zen assets unlocked.

ically needed to sustain ,stabilise and revive the Afghan economy and to save millions of lives of poor and hungry Afghan children.women and men.

He said this would be the most effective and generous display of solidarity with the people of Afghanistan.

He underlined the need to jump -start Afghanistan's economy through increased liquidity and called upon the world especially Europe and US must pull the economy back from the brink by freeing up entire frozen currency reserves and re-engage Afghanistan Central Bank.



Iftikhar Ali Malik said international funding must be allowed to pay the salaries of public sector employees he said adding that the Afghan economy was enduring a bitter winter the Afghan currency could go into free fall and country could lose 30 percent of its GDP within the year. He said Pakistan, on the request of SAARC Chamber, has abolished majority of taxes on Afghan transit trade while remaining customs duties were highly slashed to maximum extent to provide solace to traders war torn country.

He said Prime Minister Imran Khan also allowed certain items for Pak Afghan trade in Pak currency with a sole objective of facilitating them besides fully ensuring smooth flow of clearance of imported and exported items at land

border points. Iftikhar Ali Malik said free supply of food and medicines consignments are being supplied to Afghanistan by Pakistan and pharmaceutical companies of Karachi and Lahore.

He said President Anjuman Iranian Pakistan Mian Muhammad Saeed Deraywalay also announced to despatch a consignment of food items, cloths, medicines and essential uten-

### Hydropower generation to reach 20800 mw: Farrukh



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib said on Sunday that after the construction of 1967 Tarbela Dam, now Prime Minister Imran Khan was constructing ten big dams in Pakistan which would enable the country to generate cheap power. In his tweet, the Minister of State said that these projects would increase the production of hydropower from 9500 mw to 20800 mw. He said that an international conference under the aegis of Water and Power Development Authority would be held tomorrow which would be attended by dams experts from many countries including Australia, Switzerland, United States, China and Turkey.

### Police sub-inspector killed in Islamabad gunfight

ISLAMABAD: A sub-inspector of Islamabad police was on Saturday killed after an exchange of fire with suspects in a four-wheeler at a private housing society in BharaKahu area. According to police, armed men in a vehicle opened fire at labourers working at a private society and injured three of them. "As soon as the police were informed regarding the

incident, they chased the vehicle and intercepted it," they said adding, "After an exchange of fire between the two sides, sub-inspector Liaquat sustained injuries and later died while being shifted to a health facility." A police cop also sustained injuries during the gunfight while one of the men in the vehicle also sustained bullet wounds and was later arrested. "However, the other accomplice was able to escape," they said.

The injured and body were shifted to the hospital for treatment and medico-legal formalities respectively. SSP Operations Islamabad Faisal Kamran later detail-

ing the entire incident said that it occurred owing to an old enmity between the two sides and two members of a group opened fire on the other side. "One of the suspects is arrested in injured condition," he said adding that driver of the vehicle shot and killed the police sub-inspector and he is currently absconding. "We have obtained a CCTV footage of the entire episode," he said. Recently, Islamabad police claimed to have apprehended four muggers with three of them in injured condition after they foiled two robbery bids in the federal capital. The first attempt was foiled within the remits of the Noon police station after cops exchanged fire with six muggers.

"During an exchange of fire, two of them were arrested in an injured condition while one other was also held while trying to escape from the spot," the police said and added that the injured have been shifted to hospital for treatment. The second attempt was foiled within the limits of Ramna police station where robbers and cops exchanged fire, resulting in a bullet wound to one of the muggers.

## **Women pursuing careers in clean energy: experts**

Ms Roohi Raees Khan, Chairperson of Board of Directors, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited, was of the view that the country needs energy security, food security, social security, and national security. On energy front, we need a well-defined and coherent policy, which is now missing unfortunately

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Experts at a webinar said that despite glass ceiling, women in Pakistan are now pursuing their careers in science and technology with the mission to lead the country towards a prosperous future for which clean energy is the key to success.

The webinar titled: 'Role of Women in Energy and Climate Talks of Pakistan', was organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) on the occasion of International Day of Women and Girls in Science here.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms Syma Nadeem, Parliamentary Secretary and Convenor of SDG 7. Ministry of Inter-Provincial Coordination, said that a bill regarding a comprehensive renewable

energy policy will soon be tabled in the National Assembly and she is taking lead in this connection. She said Pakistan is well aware of the value of shifting to renewable energy resources according to the standards set by the United Nations, and the government is successfully using solar, wind and hydroelectrical sources to meet the country's agricultural and domestic needs. Moreover, she added, the growing demand of electricity greatly emphasizes upon us to shift to renewable energy by 30% till the year 2030. MsNadeem called upon academia

and think tanks to play their role to shift to renewable resources. She elaborated that the clean energy network, which SDPI has created. is also a great success, as it will envision policy recommendations for the ministries concerned on quarterly basis so that they could incorporate the same in the legislations regarding clean energy

Ms Roohi Raees Khan, Chairperson of Board of Directors, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited, was of the view that the country needs energy security, food security, social security, and national security. On energy front, we need a well-defined and coherent policy, which is now missing unfortunatelv. Women are not taken on board in many policy circles, she said. "Gas reserves in Pakistan are depleting and no further exploration has

taken place, and that's why we have been importing at a very high cost that the exchequer doesn't allow us due to low foreign reserves. This has to be corrected at a forum where the energy policy is formulated." SNGPL is looking for green energy itself and seeking alternatives like

solar and biogas. She lamented that people do not know much about the conservation of energy. "Gas worth Rs 6 billion could be saved by adopting a proper strategy and overcoming line losses." By the end of 2022, we will be able to counter gas leakages after the system being digitized, she said. SNGPL is also considering producing gas from bio-mass fuel as an alternative source, she added.

MsHiraWajahat, National Lead of Climate Launchpad, while discussing the barriers in the way of women to excel in the energy sector, said traditionally careers in these fields are male-dominated, however since 2017 women have been working on many strategic positions, which shows the old mindset is changing. Young people are much enthusiastic about this change where the female co-founder pitch in the new startups, she said, add-

ing that in the technology and the entrepreneurship, almost 50 % programmes are led by women. Girls in STEM have also been doing a great job, and now it is not meant for men alone. In response to a question, she said that in any field and department, women should be given some extra levies, equal representation and safe working environment. She added that taxes on technology transfer should not hurt our effort to put the country on the track of renewable energy. MsNameerah Hameed, Founder of Women in Energy, Pakistan, said that now there are 32% women serving in the energy sector. Younger female graduates have been entering and opting for careers in the fields of the renewable energy. Regrading barriers before women in these fields, she said, perception of gender role is

a major barrier in their way

### Political storm clouds

HE opposition's decision to bring in a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan in the parliament has brought out the expected derision and challenges from the government. The opposition parties have not announced a date for the motion to be tabled, and it is expected that there will be a lot of background conversations and chatter before the PDM and the PPP finally agree on when they will look to ouster the government.

The opposition parties smell blood in the government's camp. The recent meeting with PTI's allies—PML-Q and MQM—will have given the opposition heart. With BAP also demanding a bigger share at the federal level, the government should be taking Friday's walkout from the Senate and BAP's concerns seriously, given that keeping its allies close will be the best strategy for the ruling party in the days to come.

The allies on their part have not committed to anything with the opposition. This means that the government has the time and the space to woo them back into its camp, but this might come at the cost of some concessions in the remaining tenure of the government.

The political temperature is likely to see an uptick in the days to come. The upcoming indictment of Shehbaz Sharif and his sons on February 18, alongside the planned rallies and marches are likely to give the opposition even more drive in its bid against the government. But its previous attempts to defeat the government in parliament have not worked. The setbacks in both houses will give the opposition benches pause, and lead to careful planning before a date for the no-confidence motion is announced. It is hoped that the opposition does its homework this time, to avoid the embarrassment of losing out in situations where a win seems guaranteed.

The government must not get overconfident either. It still has the time to bring its allies and any dissident parliamentarians back into its fold. The advantage is with the government simply because it has more to offer its allies. But this will require some cajoling and careful manoeuvring in the background.

## Islamahad POST

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



### Possibility of war

HE situation in Ukraine is escalating badly to an alarming degree. The US State Department has ordered non-emergency US embassy staff to leave Ukraine amid rising tensions with Russia. Following this lead, a string of countries have joined the exodus of diplomats and citizens from Ukraine, while oil prices surged and US equities tumbled.

US power circles have been speaking of the possibility of a Russian invasion, that could spiral into aerial bombing in the Ukrainian capital. This is the worst-case scenario. It is also possible that this move by the US administration, of evacuating its diplomatic staff, is a way to put pressure on Russia to step down from its demands. Still the threat of war is there, and in a war, civilians will be collateral. Oil will likely hit \$120 a barrel and the global economy stands the risk of being radically altered if Russia invades Ukraine. The world cannot afford war in the Eurasian region.

Considering that the conflict includes NATO, the US and European countries, this will not be just a small border skirmish, but has the potential of becoming catastrophic. Both the Kremlin and the Western countries need to negotiate a better solution and stand down from their "all or nothing" positions.

The United States' claim that NATO poses no threat to Russia and its complete disregard of Russia's concerns is unreasonable, considering any country would be naturally worried for any militarisation near its borders. Similarly, Russia needs to respect Ukraine's sovereignty and utilise more soft-power diplomatic tactics rather than aggression. It is hoped that both Biden and Putin will be out of concern of the current alarming climate and their next negotiation turns out to be more fruitful.

## Turkish gold conversion likely to falter on lack of public trust

**James Dorsey** 

Ms. Esen, probably unwittingly, suggested that convincing Turks to convert their gold could prove to be an uphill battle

HEN Turkish finance minister Nureddin Nebati this week announced plans to encourage households to convert their gold holdings into Turkish liras in a bid to shore up Turkish central bank reserves, he was targeting people like Esra G. Ms. G., whose last name has been abbreviated

Ms. G., whose last name has been abbreviated to preserve her anonymity, has had a life-long troubled relationship with gold. When she was barely three years old, her distaste for it as an adornment was already so strong that she dumped all her gold rings, bracelets, necklaces, and earrings into the Bosporus.

Nonetheless, Ms. G. grew up to be an avid collector of gold, including an assortment of fiveand 10-gram Credit Suisse coins. As a young woman, Ms. G. preferred antique silver jewelry and wouldn't wear gold but kept her gold collection under her pillow.

"Gold is a tradition. It grows out of a deep-seated distrust of governments and currencies and has been handed down from generation to generation. They didn't take money. They took gold," she said. "I'm a child of that system. ... I want the gold where I can touch it and feel it." It is the many people like Ms. G. that Mr. Nebati is targeting. The minister told investors in London this week that he hoped his scheme would convert 10 percent of the estimated US\$250-300 billion worth of gold squirreled away in the homes and back yards of Turkey, much of it by women.

Ayse Esen, head of a leading Turkish gold refinery, shared Mr. Nebati's estimate. "We are aware of the fact that there is around 3,000-

5,000 tonnes of gold saved under mattresses, which amounts to an informal economy with a size of \$200-300 billion," Ms. Esen, CEO of Istanbul Gold Refinery (IAR), said. According to the World Gold Council, official Turkish gold reserves dropped from a high of 583 tonnes in July 2020 to 392 tonnes a year later.

Speaking to Sabah, a pro-government daily, Ms. Esen, probably unwittingly, suggested that convincing Turks to convert their gold could prove to be an uphill battle. She noted that a program launched ten years ago by the refinery and commercial banks had so far netted a mere 100 tonnes of hidden gold.

Lack of confidence in the government is only part of the problem. As important is the fact that much of Turkey's gold hoard is non-negotiable because it is held in the form of jewelry. Turkey's 40,000 jewelers turn approximately 150 tonnes of gold into jewelry a year.

Mr. Nebati reportedly told investors that some 30,000 gold shops would purchase privately held jewelry as part of his scheme and sell it to one of five government-contracted refineries that are believed to include IAR. The refineries would convert the jewelry into bullion that could be added to the central bank's reserves. It's not clear why Mr. Nebati believes his scheme would work this time around when earlier attempts failed. One such effort involved creating a facility that allowed holders of gold to deposit it with banks in exchange for gold certificates that would have been negotiable on a gold exchange. Ms. G., the woman who doesn't like gold jewelry, vowed already decades ago that she would never trust a bank with her gold, even though she doesn't hesitate to deposit money in a bank.

She, like many Turks, is historically suspicious of authority, and many of them see hoarding gold not only as a safe investment but also as a reserve that can't be taken away from them. It also doesn't violate the Islamic ban on interest. In the early 19th century, Turks hoarded gold to evade Ottoman taxes, which were based on what taxpayers physically possessed when the tax collector came around. As a result, Ottoman subjects bought gold and buried it not to be counted and taxed. Despite the Ottomans'

later introduction of paper money, Ottoman subjects continued to view gold as their most secure form of investment because of inflation. "People did not trust it," said a gold trader. "The certificate had no relationship to the gold. It was devalued by inflation, and people have distrusted paper money ever since. . . . Gold has become a symbol of distrust of the state." "I've been in this business for decades and have seen a lot of change. One thing never changes, and that is gold. Our money is worthless; gold is much better. Besides that, gold is part of our history," added a jewelry repair shop owner. Trust as much as tradition may

By attracting hidden gold, Mr. Nebati aims to help the government stop the freefall of the Turkish lira, which lost more than 40 percent of its value last year and halt the spiralling out of control of inflation that last month hit 36.1 per cent. Many blame the crisis on President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's idiosyncratic push to cut interest rates based on his unorthodox belief that this would lower consumer prices.

prove to be Mr. Nebati's Achilles heel.

Mr. Erdogan has recently suggested that he would halt or slow down the lowering of interest rates as a series of emergency measures helped the lira recover some of its value against the dollar.

The measures pushed Mr. Erdogan's approval rating up by two points to 40.7 per cent in January, still far behind the 54.4 per cent who evaluate the president's performance negatively. Polls show that Mr. Erdogan would lose to An-

Polls show that Mr. Erdogan would lose to Ankara Mayor Mansur Yavas and Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu - both from the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) and Iyi (Good) Party Chairwoman Meral Aksener, at the next elections.

Mr. Erdogan's numbers hardly project the degree of confidence that Mr. Nebati is likely to need to persuade his intrinsically skeptical compatriots from parting with their precious gold. Said a former Istanbul banker: "People are unlikely to put their holdings at risk for a scheme that does not guarantee their ability to preserve whatever wealth they have. Certainly not at a time of economic turmoil and a widening gap in trust."

## Biden doesn't get to use our money as 'aid'

**Mohsin Amin** 

Nearly a quartermillion people have died – as a direct result of the war, not including death by disease, poverty, and other factors related to the invasion

HIS is not aid. This is the mass punishment of ordinary Afghans over the US' political rivalries.

I remember visiting my village in Nangarhar, Afghanistan, in 2011 and stopping by two farmers in their 50s in the wheat fields. This was after the surge, when the US deployed an additional thirty thousand troops in Afghanistan, and the annual cost of war had reached over \$100 billion. Ten years had passed since the 9/11 attacks, and the Americans were sliding into an uncertain tunnel, with no sign of light at the end. I asked one of them, who was powerfully built with outward cheekbones. Do you know why the Americans are here? He said with a glazing smile, exposing the wrinkles around his face, indicating poverty and hardship.

"I don't know. I guess they like Afghanistan; it has fertile land."

"Do you know who was responsible for destroying the twin towers in New York in 2001?" I then asked, to understand how a farmer in a remote village would make sense of the US invasion.

"I don't know where New York is. Maybe the Americans would know." How much would the American know? Af-

How much would the American know? Afghans had nothing to do with 9/11. Nor would the majority of Afghans be able to explain why the Americans occupied their country for 20 years.

Yet, the Biden administration has still decided to split Afghans' own money between "humanitarian aid" for the country and compensation of the victims of the 9/11 attacks we were not part of.

This is an oppressive and tyrannical move to dismantle Afghanistan's economy and

inflict harm on 38 million Afghans. The US has spent over \$2 trillion for the war in Afghanistan over the last 20 years. But ordinary Afghans have seen little of it other than in the form of tens of thousands of bombs raining on them and ill-planned and executed, and ultimately, failed reconstruction efforts. Nearly a quarter-million people have died – as a direct result of the war, not including death by disease, poverty, and other factors related to the invasion. Today, the country is on the brink of famine, with 3.2 million children malnourished. Breastfeeding mothers are starving and are facing lactation insufficiency. The World Food Programme said 23 million Afghans don't know where the next meal will come from. In September last year, Afghan analysts warned the international community – just weeks after the Taliban takeover - that Afghanistan would

munity – just weeks after the Taliban takeover – that Afghanistan would drift towards extreme poverty and starvation if sanctions were not lifted and Afghanistan's central bank assets were not released to address the liquidity crisis. Afghan experts raised their voices, against the punishment of ordinary Afghans over the US' political rivalries.

Unfortunately, the international community did not avert the crisis in Afghanistan. The solution was to allow the Afghan economy to breathe. The international community wanted to

choke the economy with one hand and provide humanitarian assistance with the other. And so, Afghans beg for a sack of flour and beans every week. Just one day before Biden decided to split the frozen reserves of the Afghanistan central bank (DAB), the president of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) told the US Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee: "Sanctions, which are meant to be on the Taliban, have, in fact, chilled almost all economic activity. While those in power in Afghanistan have much to answer for, it is these policy choices of the international community that are the proximate cause of the crisis we face today." He added, "Business as usual will mean that a starvation crisis kills more Afghans than the past

20 years of war." When a group of Afghan activists, including myself started #UnfreezeAfgMoney – a social media campaign to call upon the US and EU to unfreeze DAB assets – four months ago, we made it clear to all parties that the frozen reserves (\$9.5 billion) of the DAB should strictly be administered by the enacted laws and regulations of the institution. In other words, it is not meant for government spending but for liquidity management in Afghanistan.

It is expected that the unfreezing of the assets will address the liquidity crisis, revive the banking system and eventually the economy, and, most importantly, regain people's trust in the banking sector so it doesn't collapse.

It is going to have catastrophic consequences. This is essentially giving back Afghans their own money as "humanitarian assistance" while throttling the economy. Spending DAB reserves on food or salaries will make the Afghani currency a worthless piece of paper and destroy the banking sector hanging on a thin thread.

Imposing sanctions and starving one million children to death is a blatant vengeance by the US after its withdrawal from Afghanistan. In contrast, the UN and international humanitarian organisations called for reviving the role of DAB to stabilise the economy, contain skyrocketing inflation rates, and prevent the Afghani currency from further depreciation. The UN Secretary-General told the Security Council last month: 'We must pull the economy of Afghanistan back from the brink. This means finding ways to free-up frozen currency reserves and re-engage Afghanistan's Central Bank. International funding must be allowed to pay the salaries of public-sector workers." "There are no sustainable workarounds that try to bypass the Central Bank and create parallel, shadow systems. No private bank could effectively take on this role," said the president of IRC.

This bizarre logic of the international community to suspend development projects that are almost complete, deprive people of their livelihoods, and push them towards poverty, and then divert the same funds from development to humanitarian aid to alleviate poverty has been puzzling to say the least.

Many Afghans didn't know about the 9/11 attacks and why the US invaded and bombed them for 20 years, but this time, even the villagers, including the two farmers in my village understand that the US is punishing them with hunger and sanctions by targeting commercial activity and suspending ongoing development projects.

But there is still time. The Biden administration must revisit this decision and consider various ways proposed by experts to re-engage the central bank of Afghanistan to prevent the total collapse of Afghanistan's economy.

-Courtesy: TRT World

## Righting the injustice of Africa's water crisis

Alex Simalabwi

Though Africa contributes only 4 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions annually, it is among the regions most vulnerable to climate change and climate variability

MAGINE that a crisis emerges in your home, workplace or community. You neither created it nor benefited from it. And yet you are bearing the brunt of the consequences, while those who did create and benefit from it continue to make the problem worse. For Africa, such an egregious injustice has become all too real.

has become all too real. Though Africa contributes only 4 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions annually, it is among the regions most vulnerable to climate change and climate variability. Already, climate disruptions and crises are severely undermining human well-being and economic development, with water-related disruptions posing some of the most serious risks.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2021 report confirmed that global warming intensifies and accelerates the water cycle. Climate change will not only continue to fuel ruinous rainfall and

and extreme drought in many areas. This means reduced access to drinking water in a region where one in every three people already face water scarcity daily. It also means more hunger, malnutrition and even famine. The first climate change-induced famine has already occurred. Last year, following the worst drought in four decades, Madagascar confronted a food crisis that left 1.3 million people facing severe hunger, with tens of thousands enduring life-threatening conditions. But the plight of Madagascar's people received precious little attention in the international media. Madagascar is not alone. In the Horn of Africa, a drought is destroying crops and livestock in Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia. When people cannot access their basic needs at home, they are likely to migrate in search of better conditions, potentially exacerbating economic and political insecurity and compromising future prosperity. That has already happened in Angola, with persistent drought forcing thousands of people to seek refuge in neighboring Namibia. But while those who have benefited the least from the activities that have fueled climate change could lose their homes, health and livelihoods, those who bear the most responsibility for this outcome have not provided nearly enough funding to enable Africa to adapt. In 2009, rich countries pledged to mobilize \$100 billion per year by 2020 to help developing countries cope with climate change. But they fell well short and the lion's share of the funding was allocated for mitiga-

flooding but will also cause more frequent and extreme drought in many areas. This means reduced access to drinking water in a region where one in every three people already face water scarcity daily. It also means more hunger, malnutrition and even famine. The first climate change-induced famine has already occurred. Last year,

The so-called WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) initiative, being pursued by the Southern African Development Community with Global Water Partnership support, is also advancing vital water-related objectives. By installing hand-washing facilities at border posts across the region, the initiative will help to stem the transmission of infectious diseases, thereby facilitating intraregional trade and economic activity and, ultimately, contributing to the realization of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

As with all these initiatives, success depends significantly on funding. That is why African countries and their international partners have developed the Water Investment Scorecard, a data-driven approach that, by tracking progress, will help to sustain pressure on decision-makers.

Africa did not cause the climate crisis, but African leaders are taking the initiative in developing strategies for coping with it, including its impact on the continent's water security and sanitation. The question is whether those who are most responsible for climate change will put their money where their mouth is before it is too late.

-Courtesy: Arab News

### Monday, February 14, 2022

Qalandars

beat Quetta **Gladiators** 

LAHORE: Lahore Qalandars have restricted Quetta Gladiators to a small 141run total for the loss of sev-

en wickets in 20 overs after

Shaheen Shah Afridi struck

twice in the opening over

during the 20th match of

the Pakistan Super League

(PSL) 2022 at the Gaddafi

Shaheen set the tone after

he dismissed the dangerous

Jason Roy on the second

ball and James Vince on the

next ball courtesy of a bril-

Sarfaraz also departed for

eight runs, as half of the Quet-

ta's batting line-up was sent

back to the pavilion with the

Though Iftikhar Ahmed

played a good 52-run knock

and forged small partner-

ships, he was also dismissed

on the last ball of the 17th

over by Haris Rauf. - APP

liant swinging delivery.

score of just 54 runs.

Stadium in Lahore.

### Briefs

### **Opposition** has no guts...

From Page 01 was Maulana Fazl, who, ironically, failed to blackmail the government in the past by bringing the seminary students to Islamabad."This time it will not be different and we will get rid of their blackmailing once for and all," he said in an apparent reference to Maulana Fazlur Rehman, who used the seminary students for showing his political prowess.

The minister sarcastically remarked on the planned long march of Maluana Fazl led multi-party alliance of the Pakistan Democratic Movement, saying the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf could rent them out the container used by the party during their struggle against the corrupt rulers.

As regards the ongoing accountability drive, he said Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Safdar had been convicted for their corruption, while Shehbaz Sharif and Hamza Shehbaz would be indicted in the money laundering case soon.

### U.S. says diplomacy...

From Page 01 A flurry of meetings and phone calls in recent days between top Western and Russian officials has produced no sign of a breakthrough to resolve in weeks of escalating tensions.

Germany Chancellor Olaf Scholz is set to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday but a German source said Berlin did not expect "concrete results" from those talks.

Scholz would make clear the West was united and any aggression would prompt "painful, considerable sanctions" on Russia, the source said. "The diplomatic path remains open. The way for Moscow to show that it wants to pursue that path is simple. It should de-escalate, rather than escalate," Blinken said after his meetings in the U.S. Pacific ar-

chipelago of Hawaii. In an hour-long call on Saturday, U.S. President Joe Biden told Putin that the West would respond decisively to any invasion of Ukraine, adding such a step would produce widespread suffering and isolate Moscow.

### Lawmaker's office...

From Page 01

scores of Israeli settlers stormed Sheikh Jarrah, where they attacked and terrified Palestinian families and attempted to evict some of them from their homes. According to witnesses, Israeli settlers, backed by the regime's forces, pelted stones at homes during the overnight attack and vandalized a number of Palestinian-owned vehicles.

The settlers also attacked a Palestinian family's house in the neighborhood and tried to forcibly evict them from their home, hours after they received an eviction order. Israeli forces fired tear gas canisters and stun grenades at Palestinians who tried to fend off the settlers' attack, causing some of them to suffocate due to inhaling tear gas.

### No-confidence move...

From Page 01 no-confidence motion is a failed attempt against the government, media reported. "PDM's component parties do not trust each other. Their attempt to oust the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government through a no-confidence motion in the National Assembly is destined to fail," the minister said while speaking to media persons at Sadiqgarh Palace, Dera Nawab Sahab

near Bahawalpur. He said the opposition's move was an attempt to save their ill-gotten money. adding that Prime Minister Imran Khan had entered politics to break their status quo.

Tabling no-confidence motion is opposition's constitutional right: Qureshi

Umar said that Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was doing a brilliant job on the foreign front. He noted that Pakistan's foreign policy was headed in the right direction.

## Zalmi claim comprehensive win over Karachi Kings

This defeat has virtually ended chances for Karachi Kings to qualify for the next stage as they are winless after six games

LAHORE: Peshawar Zalmi outclassed Karachi Kings to keep their hopes alive for the play-off stage of the HBL Pakistan Super League (PSL) season seven at the Gaddafi Stadium. Zalmi put 193 for six on the board due to their death overs' onslaught that was followed by the solid start from the openers. Later, Karachi Kings failed to keep up with the required rate and could only score 138 for six, handing 55 runs win to Zalmi.

A dominating win for Peshawar Zalmi against Karachi Kings. Babar Azam led side is now virtually out of the contention of finishing in the top four.

This defeat has virtually ended chances for Karachi Kings to qualify for the next stage as they are winless after six games.

After being put in to bat first by the Kings' skipper - Babar Azam, Zalmi's openers, Hazaratullah Zazai and Mohammad Haris, came out handy and provided a solid start to their side, gathering an astonishing 97-run partnership. Haris missed his fifty by just one run,



Zazai reached 52 off 42 balls. Haris cracked four sixes and three fours while Zazai had to his credit seven boundaries with one over the ropes. The pair was firmly extending dictating terms but their stand lasted till the 10th over. Haris's quick 49 came off just 27 balls and was

stopped by Mohammad Nabi. His partner, Zazai, was soon dismissed as he miscued Qasim Akram's delivery, handing a simple catch to Babar.

Following their departure, the side then quickly slipped to 122-3, but the veteran batter - Shoaib Malik alongside Ben Cutting provided an important 45-runs partnership to give the spine to the innings.

Malik scored 31 off 21 while Cutting scored 26 off 15 deliveries before getting dismissed. Sherfane Rutherford then provided a late onslaught with a quickfire 11 off just five balls to take his side to a commendable total. From Kings bowling, Chris Jordan bagged three wickets, while Qasim, Nabi, and Umaid Asif chipped in with one each. For Karachi, Babar Azam stood out there to clobber 59 runs in 46 balls. He also shared a 60 runs stand of the second wicket with Joe Clarke (26) who was the highest scorer after Babar. Peshawar developing the pressure on Kings with every bit and increase in the required run rate knew well in advance that the match was in the kitty.

Sharjeel Khan struggled to find his groove, scoring 14 off 16 balls while Nabi (15) and Ian Cockbain (14) didn't have much time to keep up with the scoring rate.

Salman Irshad and Wahab Riaz shared two wickets each while Mohammad Umar and Liam Livingstone claimed with one apiece.

### **Engaging** with...

From Page 01

in the country," the premier said, adding that the people of the United States should understand that disliking the Taliban government is one thing but thinking about the welfare of the Afghans is another as they are facing "extreme difficulties."

"Afghanistan is on the verge of experiencing the worst humanitarian crisis," PM Imran Khan said. "Considering the circumstances, is there any other alternative to the Taliban in Afghanistan? No, there isn't."

The premier questioned how would it be beneficial for the people of Afghanistan if the Taliban government is overthrown.

"Therefore, the only alternative we have is to work with the Taliban government [for the sake of the Afghans] because turning the Taliban away would only lead to chaos in the country," PM Imran Khan reiterated.

Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Imran Khan said Europe and all neighbouring states of Afghanistan have stressed upon de-freezing of Afghan assets to avoid humanitarian crisis in wartorn country.

Interacting with former diplomats and representatives of think tank in Islamabad on Sunday, the Prime Minister said provision of assistance to Afghan people is a collective responsibility of

the world community. The Prime Minister said that the United States also understood and realized the prevailing situation in Afghanistan, and all stakeholders have consensus that steps should be taken so that Afghanistan should not be descended into chaos.

Talking about China, he said the Chinese leadership had appreciated his government's steps to overcome the Covid 19 pandemic, and the economic indicators which were positive, he said, adding they reaffirmed economic support to Pakistan through specific projects.

The prime minister opined that his visit further added strength to the ties between the two countries. Federal ministers and PM's special assistants were also present during the interaction.

## Australia beat Sri Lanka in super over

### WEB DESK

SYDNEY: Australia beat Sri Lanka in a Super Over in the second Twenty20 international in Sydney on Sunday as Sri Lanka opener Pathum Nissanka struck a brilliant 73 from 53 balls in vain.

Australia posted 164-6 and were cruising to victory until powerful hitting by Nissanka and captain Dasun Shanaka (34 from 19 balls) kept the touring side in the game and they finished level on 164-8. In the tie-breaking Super Over, Australia's Marcus Stoinis and Glenn Maxwell easily chased down the five-run target set by Sri Lanka to put their side 2-0 up in the five-match series.

Josh Hazlewood was the pick of Australia's bowlers, taking 3-22 in addition to his miserly Super Over, capping a brilliant weekend for the 31-year-old after he was bought for \$1 million in the Indian Premier League auction on Saturday. A superb run-out by Steve Smith at deep midwicket ended Shanaka's effort, leaving Sri Lanka at 115-5 after 16 overs and the game delicately poised.

Nissanka holed out in the deep with 12 off four balls required, and one ball later



there was concern for Smith who hit his head on the ground in an acrobatic, but unsuccessful, effort to save a six.

"It was great to get the win, but pretty sloppy overall," said Australia captain Aaron Finch. After losing the toss, Finch survived two close lbw reviews before departing for 25, stumped off the bowling of Wanindu Hasaranga. The leg-spinner ended with figures of 2-33. Josh Inglis top-scored with 48, including five boundaries.

Sri Lanka, who did not concede a six until Matthew Wade's 20th over cameo of 13 from four balls against Nuwan Thushara, bowled with discipline and the seamers utilised clever changes of pace. "The boys showed character, these youngsters when they go to the middle, they take the fight on," Shanaka said. The series moves to Canberra for game three on Tuesday.

### Raheem Sterling hat-trick extends Man City lead

LONDON: Manchester City restored their 12-point lead at the top of the Premier League as Raheem Sterling's hat-trick put Norwich to the sword 4-0, while Manchester United's chances of just making the top four stumbled again in a 1-1 draw against Southampton on Saturday. City boss Pep Guardiola took the chance to rotate his side ahead of the return of the Champions League in midweek with Kevin De Bruyne among those rested.

Conquering Europe is the priority for Guardiola, but the English champions are well on course for a fourth Premier League title in five years. Norwich stunned City with a 3-2 win at Carrow Road when they were last in the top-flight, but their resistance lasted just 30 minutes until Sterling curled brilliantly into the far corner.



Phil Foden's shot sneaked just over the line three minutes into the second half before Sterling made it 3-0, heading in Ruben Dias' inviting knock-down. Sterling sealed his hat-trick

after Hanley was harshly adjudged to have brought down Liam Delap in the final minute.

The England international's penalty was saved by Angus Gunn, but the rebound broke kindly for Sterling to complete a perfect hat-trick of a right foot, left foot and headed finishes. - APP

### Bayern slump to shock defeat at Bochum

BERLIN: Bayern Munich midfielder Joshua Kimmich said his side need to question their mentality after they slumped to a shock 4-2 loss at Bundesliga minnows Bochum ahead of Wednesday's Champions League clash with Red Bull Salzburg. Bayern conceded four goals in the first half for the first time in a Bundesliga match since 1975 as promoted Bochum rampaged to victory, leaving the perennial champions stunned

"This was our worst performance of the season. We need to ask ourselves whether this is the mentality which Bayern Munich embodies," a dejected Kimmich told Sky. "Luckily it's happened in a Bundesliga match this time, but we have a Champions League game on Wednesday." he added.Bayern had not lost to Bochum since 2004 ahead of this game, and beat them 7-0 when the two teams last met in September. When Robert Lewandowski bundled in

But Bochum equalised quickly through Christopher Antwi-Adjei, before taking control in a frenzied 10 minutes before the break. Juergen Locadia gave the hosts the lead from the penalty spot after a Dayot Upamecano handball, and unsettled Bayern wilted under pressure.

the opener for Bayern on nine minutes, it seemed it would

be a normal afternoon for the perennial champions.

Cristian Gamboa smashed the ball into the top corner from the edge of the area two minutes later, before Holtmann curled in another brilliant long-range effort on the stroke of half-time. "My first Bundesliga goal, and it comes against Bayern. It's like a dream!" Gamboa

## Thomas Tuchel revels in Club World Cup triumph

### SPORTS DESK

ABU DHABI: Chelsea coach Thomas Tuchel described winning the Club World Cup as an "incomparable feeling" as the European champions got their hands on the last major trophy missing from their cabinet.

Kai Havertz repeated his heroics from the Champions League final in May, nervelessly converting a penalty deep into extra time as Chelsea overcame Palmeiras 2-1 on Saturday.

The Blues become the third English club to win the competition after Manchester United and Liverpool. "Maybe this cup or this tournament is

not so highly regarded in Europe, but once you're here and once you feel it, it totally catches you," said Tuchel. "You're on the bus and you drive in the evening and you see the lights of the stadium, and you don't know the other team because they don't come from your

country, not from your league, it's a fan-

tastic feeling. "And it's incomparable to

any other feeling and so that's why it's so beautiful." Chelsea's victory was all the more enjoyable for Tuchel, who only arrived in Abu Dhabi on Friday after a race against the clock following his positive Covid-19 test last week. He was forced

Michels to guide the team in his absence, resorting to video calls to stay in constant contact with players and staff. "Several times I was on my way to the airport and on the way back from there while I was driving because the test was not negative," explained Tuchel.



### Ukraine crisis won't take US eyes off N Korea think in a sense this week is a rea-

### FOREIGN DESK

TOKYO: The top U.S. diplomat has said that North Korea could continue to test weapons, including a possible launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile, as tensions between Washington and Moscow surge over a possible Russian invasion of Ukraine. "I certainly don't rule out that

North Korea could engage in further provocative actions as things are happening in other parts of the world, including in Europe with regard to Ukraine," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said when asked about the growing possibility of North Korea staging an ICBM test.

The U.S. warned Friday that Russia could use the more than 100,000 troops and materiel it has massed on the Ukraine border in an all-out invasion of that country that could begin at "any time." Speaking at a news conference Saturday following a trilateral summit meeting with his counterparts from Japan and South Korea in Hawaii, Blinken said the United States and its two Asian allies would "continue to work to find ways to hold the

- the most ever in a single month for the isolated nation. DPRK is the acronym for the

DPRK accountable," after it con-

ducted seven missile tests this year

North's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. North Korea launched a Hwasong-12 intermediate-range ballistic missile that Japan said has a range of 5,000 kilometers – putting all of Japan and the U.S. territory of Guam within striking distance – on Jan. 30, the first such test since November 2017. Both Japan and Guam are home to key U.S. military bases that would be used in any crisis on the Korean Peninsula. In mid-January, while calling on Washington to drop what it said was a "hostile policy," North Korea hinted at ending its self-imposed moratorium on nuclear and long-range missile tests.

The moves have stoked concern that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un may be opening the door to tests of increasingly powerful weapons after years of focusing on less provocative launches.

"I think it is clear to all of us that the DPRK is in a phase of provocation," Blinken said, noting the recent spate of missile tests, which are in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions. "We will continue to hold the DPRK accountable even as we seek to engage in diplomacy."

discussed ways of deepening cooperation to deter the North and "limit the reach of its most danger-

Blinken also said the three had

ous weapons." In a joint statement released after Blinken's trilateral meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong, the three top diplomats condemned the North's latest launches as "destabilizing" and committed to "close trilateral cooperation to achieve complete denuclearization and lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula.'

Amid concerns that the Ukraine crisis could take Washington's focus off the North Korean nuclear threat, Blinken reiterated the U.S. could deal with Pyongyang, even as it faces down other global challenges. "The bottom line is, and I

walk and chew gum at the same time," he said. Saturday's meeting was the final leg of a whirlwind trip to the Indo-Pacific region that took Blinken to Melbourne, for talks with

foreign ministers from fellow "Quad" nations, which includes Japan, Australia and India, as well as a stopover in the Pacific island nation of Fiji. The trip was widely viewed as aimed at helping ameliorate concerns over the U.S. focus on the region. In their joint statement, the three diplomats also voiced strong concern over Moscow's threat to Ukraine, pledging "unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity" and committing "to work closely together to deter further Russian escalation."

sonable demonstration of that, we

Although China was not specifically mentioned in the statement, the document backed the United States' newly released Indo-Pacific strategy while obliquely singling out Beijing over what the three claim are "activities that undermine the rules-based international order" and "unilateral actions that seek to alter the status quo and increase tensions in the region." The statement said the three countries had also "emphasized the importance of peace and stability" in the flash point Taiwan Strait.

### Shehbaz seeks...

From Page 01

were earlier quite close to each other, had drifted apart following they developed some differences. The PML-N delegation includes Khawaja Saad Rafique, Rana Tanveer and Atta Tarar.

From PML-Q, Chaudhry Shujaat, Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi, Salik Hussain and Shafe Hussain were holding the meeting. During the meeting, Shehbaz Sharif and the PML-N delegation inquired about the well-being of Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain while on this occasion the PML-N president requested the PML-Q to cooperate in the no-confidence motion.

The leadership of both the parties also discussed the political situation in the country. Shehbaz Sharif presented flowers to Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain on behalf of Nawaz Sharif and said that Nawaz Sharif has expressed his best wishes to you.

During the meeting, the PML-N leader said to Chaudhry Shujaat that may Allah grant him better health and mentioned to remain in touch with him in response to which Ch Shuiat Hussain thanked Mian Nawaz Sharif and Shahbaz Sharif.

## Business / World



### Briefs

## 'Freedom convoy' reaches Paris

PARIS: Motorists from the "freedom convoy" defied a ban Saturday to reach the center of Paris at the Champs-Elysees to demonstrate against vaccine mandate and other policies, resulting in several arrests, according to law enforcement agencies.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin in a statement on Twitter said 54 people were arrested and 337 were fined for participating in the "freedom convoy." They included Jerome Rodrigues, one of the organizers of the convoy and a leading figure of the gilet jaunes, or the "yellow vests" movement, FranceInfo news reported. Paris police banned demon strations and warned it would not tolerate road blocking. Thousands of police armed in riot gear were deployed in and around the main roads leading to the capital to disperse demonstrators.

They fired tear gas canisters as participating vehicles reached the Champs-Elysees and refused to move. Motorists were joined by a large crowd of demonstrators who indulged in vandalism and clashed with police leading to violent skirmishes. The gathering continued late into the

to disperse the crowd. The French freedom convoy is influenced by the strike in Canada by the truckers who are also opposing that government's vaccine requirements for cross-border movement into the US.

evening as police struggled

They are demanding "freedom" from the vaccine law, including minor children and lifting restrictions for health providers. - APP

### High waves kill 10 during Indonesia beach ritual

JAKARTA: At least 10 Indonesians died after tidal waves swept away a group of people meditating on a beach during Sunday's early hours, police said.

The group of 23 people was holding hands and meditating on Payangan beach, East Java province, shortly after midnight. "They were too close to the sea and could not save themselves when the tidal waves came and swept them away," local police chief HervPurnomo told TVOne.

Ten bodies had been retrieved from the ocean and 12 people rescued alive. One more person, a 40-yearold man, was still unaccounted for. It was unclear what kind of ritual the group was performing in the predominantly Muslim region, Purnomo said, but it was led by a spiritual guru who survived the incident and would be questioned.

Local media reported that some of the victims, who all came from nearby towns. were related. Regional military commander BataraPangaribuan told TVOne the beach was usually guarded and closed after dark but the group somehow found a way onto it. - APP

### Yemen confirms 3 UN workers kidnapped

ADEN: Yemen's government confirmed Saturday that three UN workers were abducted by unidentified gunmen in Abyan in the south. The Council of Ministers held a meeting in Aden after the abductions, according to the official Yemeni

news agency, Saba.

The Council said efforts are underway to release the workers and ensure their safety. "Unidentified gunmen abducted AkemSofiol, the director of the United Nations Office for Security and Safety in Aden, on Friday evening," Adel al-Awsji, the security chief of the Lauder directorate in Abyan province, told Anadolu Agency. He said the office's general coordinator, Mohamed al-Maliki, and security coordinator MazenBawazeer were also kidnapped.

The official said gunmen in the Suwayda area stopped the car the UN employees were in as they were headed to Aden to assess the needs of residents and took them to an unknown destination. A manhunt has been launched for the kidnappers. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the kidnapping. - APP

## Canada police clear blockade of the Ambassador Bridge

US President has asked Canadian PM Justin Trudeau to use federal powers to end the blockade of the bridge, North America's busiest land border crossing

**AGENCIES** 

WINDSOR: Canadian police cleared protesters and vehicles that had blocked a vital trade route on the border with the United States, making some arrests, but the bridge was not yet open to traffic on Sunday.

The officers moved in after a tense standoff between Canadian police and demonstrators since Friday when a court order and threats of arrest failed to end the blockade of the Ambassador Bridge in Windsor, Ontario, which entered its sixth day on Sunday. "Enforcement actions continue at the demonstration area with arrests being made. Vehicles being towed. Please continue avoiding the area," Windsor Police said in a Twitter post early on Sunday, without saying how many had been arrested.

Police stepped up their presence with more than 50 vehicles, including cruisers, buses and an armoured car on Sunday, as the number of protesters dropped to around 45 from roughly 100 on Saturday. Windsor Police tweeted "there will be zero tolerance for illegal activity". U.S. President Joe Biden has asked Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to use federal powers to end the blockade of the bridge, North America's



busiest land border crossing. Since Monday, protesters in trucks, cars and vans have blocked traffic in both directions, choking the supply chain for Detroit's carmakers. The bridge carries about \$360 million a day in two-way cargoes - 25% of the value of all

U.S.-Canada goods trade. "It's our hope that it will be open today,"

Windsor City Mayor Drew Dilkens told CBC News, when asked about the reopening of the Ambassador Bridge. "Police are finishing off some activity that they are dealing with... we are also working on plan to sustain control of this roadway

moving forward," he added. The "Freedom Convoy" protests, started truckers opposing a vaccinate-or-quarantine mandate for cross-border drivers, entered its 17th day on Sunday. But it has now morphed into a rallying point against broader COVID-19 curbs, carbon tax and other issues, with people joining in cars, pick-up trucks and farm vehicles.

Police moved in early on Saturday, pushing protesters back from the foot of the bridge, but more people streamed into the area in the afternoon and the operation appeared to have stalled.

Protests erupted across several cities in Canada on Saturday, with some 4,000 people in downtown Ottawa. Financial capital Toronto had some 1,000 demonstrators, though the police had shut key access roads to the central business district.

In the west, hundreds of protesters choked intersections along the Pacific Highway with vehicles leading to the Canada-U.S. border crossing in South Surrey, British Columbia. Several, camped out near the border crossing, vowed to stay "as long as is needed" until all COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

Strangling bilateral trade, protests have spread to three border points, including in Alberta and Manitoba.

German leader

travels to

Russia, Ukraine

as tensions grow

BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is flying to

Ukraine and Russia this week in an effort to help defuse

escalating tensions as Western intelligence officials warn

that a Russian invasion of Ukraine is increasingly imminent

and Germany has called on its citizens to leave Ukraine as

quickly as possible. Ahead of his first visits as chancellor to

Kyiv on Monday and Moscow on Tuesday for meetings with

the Ukrainian and Russian presidents, Scholz has renewed

his warning to Russia, as well as his advocacy of continu-

ing diplomacy in multiple formats "It is our job to ensure

that we prevent a war in Europe, in that we send a clear

message to Russia that any military aggression would have

consequences that would be very high for Russia and its

prospects, and that we are united with our allies," Scholz

told the German parliament's upper house on Friday. "But

at the same time that also includes using all opportunities

for talks and further development," Scholz said. Russia has

concentrated more than 100,000 troops near Ukraine's

border and launched a series of military maneuvers in the

region, but says it has no plans to invade the nation. Mos-

cow wants guarantees from the West that NATO won't allow

Ukraine and other former Soviet countries to join as mem-

bers, and for the alliance to halt weapon deployments to

Ukraine and roll back its forces from Eastern Europe. The

U.S. and NATO flatly reject these demands.

### Erdogan to pay 2-day visit to UAE

ANKARA: The Turkish president will embark on a twoday official visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday. RecepTayyipErdogan's visit comes at the invitation of Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Tur-Communications Directorate said in a statement on Sunday. Bilateral

relations between Turkiye and the UAE, and steps to deepen cooperation will be discussed during talks, according to the statement. The two sides will also exchange views on regional and international developments with an understanding of establishing and maintaining peace and stability in the region. The two leaders will attend the signing ceremony of a dozen of agreements after meetings to be held one-onone and with delegations. The agreements will cover various fields, including investment, defense, transportation, agriculture, health, and media.

### Woman, 2 children die of hunger in Somalia

The Turkish leader will

also visit the Expo 2020

Dubai on Tuesday, where Turkiye's national day will

be celebrated. - APP

MOGADISHU: A woman and her two children died of hunger and thirst in southwestern Somalia, as the local administration on Sunday feared more deaths due to the ongoing drought in the Bakool province. Rabdhure District Commissioner Mohamed Kheyr Salaad told local media that the district is severely affected by the drought and that he fears that more people will die as a result of water and food scarcity, as well as malnutrition. The region has been blocked by the al-Qaeda-affiliated terrorist group al-Shabaab for the past eight years, making it impossible for people to receive humanitarian aid by road, he said. "The only way to reach affected people who are suffering from the blockage is by air or roads leading to the Ethiopian border," he said. He added that the current situation is beyond the regional administration's capacity to handle, as humanitarian aid from Bakool province has yet to reach the affected area. – APP

### Hamas says settler violence 'playing with fire

GAZA CITY: Palestinian resistance group Hamas on Sunday condemned Israeli settler attacks on Palestinians in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in occupied East Jerusalem In a statement, group spokesman Mohammad Hamada termed settler violence as "blatant aggression and playing with fire." Several Palestinians were injured on Saturday night when Israeli settlers attacked Palestinian homes in Sheikh Jarrah. Hamas called on the Palestinians "to rally support to our people in Sheikh Jarrah" and to confront settler violence. Palestinians in Sheikh Jarrah have complained of repeated attacks by Israeli settlers, who reside next to them in homes taken from Palestinians over past years. Last year, tensions ran high in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood after an Israeli court ordered the eviction of several Palestinian families in favor of Israeli set-

## Iran CG stresses need for the unity of Muslims



DNA

KARACHI: Hassan Nourian, the Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Karachi, has said that Imam Khomeini's wish was that the Muslims of the world stand on their feet and be free to make their own decisions. comparing the present to the past, he said that unity is more needed than before because the anti-Muslim forces are more active today than in the past. A few years ago, the United States stated that it would not allow Iran to see the fourth decade of the Islamic Revolution, but Iran is now celebrating the 43rd year of the revolution

of Iran Hassan Nourian, was speaking at a dinner hosted by the Iran Consulate General on the occasion of the 13rd anniversary of the Iranian Revolution in honor of the dignitaries. Apart from other religious and political organizations, journalists, lawyers, and important personalities participated in the event as well.

The Consul General said that in preserving the revolution of 1979, more than 300,000 men, women and children lost their lives and a large number of people were injured in the 8 years of war and 17000 people were martyred in the fight against terrorism.

He said that the revolution

Australia evacuates

embassy in Kyiv

CANBERRA: Australia said on Sunday it was evacuating its

embassy in Kyiv as the situation on the Russia-Ukraine bor-

der deteriorated quickly, with Prime Minister Scott Morrison

calling on China to not remain "chillingly silent" on the crisis.

The United States and Europe stepped up their warnings of

an imminent attack by Russia on Ukraine, while the Kremlin,

jostling for more influence in post-Cold War Europe, rejected a

joint EU-NATO diplomatic response to its demands to reduce

tensions as disrespectful. Australia's embassy staff in Kyiv was

directed to a temporary office in Lviv, a city in western Ukraine,

around 70 kilometres (44 miles) from the border with Poland,

Foreign Minister Marise Payne said in a statement, "We contin-

ue to advise Australians to leave Ukraine immediately by com-

mercial means," Payne said. Morrison said that the situation

"is reaching a very dangerous stage" and added that "the auto-

cratic unilateral actions of Russia to be threatening and bullying

Ukraine is something that is completely and utterly unaccept-

able." Morrison, whose government has frigid ties with China,

called also on Beijing to speak up for Ukraine, after China crit-

icised a meeting of the U.S., Australian, Japanese and Indian

foreign ministers in Melbourne last week. - APP

in Iran was very different from the Russian and France revolutions because this revolution was based upon Islam He said that anti-Islam ic forces are trying to spread separatism in the Muslim countries at present and it is necessary to be wary of this. He said that Pakistan and Iran are two brotherly and friendly countries.

He said also that the visit of Pakistani President Arif Ali and Prime Minister Imran Khan to Iran has further strengthened the ties between the two countries. Furthermore, efforts are being made to further increase economic, social, political, and trade activities. Also from 1947 to 2021.

there was just one border between Pakistan and Iran at Taftan-Mirjava and now two more borders have dan-Gaped and Pishi-Mand. He said, adding that air service to Iran is also being increased and now besides Karachi-Tehran flights, other flights will soon start between the two countries. Media and scholars can play an important role in strengthening the relations between the two countries. the Consul General said that the Presi-

dent of Pakistan Arif Alvi.

has invited the President

of Iran to visit Pakistan

which he has accepted and

hopefully, the President of

Iran will visit Pakistan.

Scholz has repeatedly said that Moscow would pay a "high price" in the event of an attack, but his government's refusal to supply lethal weapons to Ukraine or to spell out which sanctions it would support against Russia have drawn criticism abroad and at home and raised questions about Berlin's resolve in standing up to Russia. Germany's reluctant position is partly rooted in its history of aggression during the 20th century when the country's own militarization in Europe during two world wars led many postwar German leaders to view any military response as a very last resort. Despite this historic burden, experts say it is of utmost importance now that Scholz stresses Germany is in sync with its European and American allies, especially when he meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin. "Scholz has to convey a very clear message in Moscow, and it can really only be: There is unity and oneness in the Western alliance. – APP

## Kazakh President pays tribute to those killed in January protests

Official statistics suggest that at least 4,500 people were hurt, and 225 people, including 19 security officials were killed

NUR-SULTAN: A month after Kazakhstan witnessed one of the intense upheavals in the country's history, President-Kassym-JomartTokyev on Sunday attended a commemorative ceremony to mourn the demise of the slain lives in the turmoil. As per the reports President Tokayev said that the Kazakh community have been through a lot this year after a prayer. He further stated that the country's future, as well as the state's integrity and people' safety, were all in jeopardy after the January events and that the attack was successfully repelled. He further said that many people died as a result of the upheaval and that this is a tragedy in every sense of the word. He also said that each matter is thoroughly probed on his orders by the competent authorities. He claims that the protection of human rights is critical to him. He also remarked that the country was shocked by the tragic occurrences. The President also stated that a social foundation called "Kazakhstan halkyna" (to the Kazakh people), which is a

creation of the public social fund has been established on his orders to assist those impacted, according to ANI. He further added that no one will be able to break the togetherness and harmony of the people and that this is a responsibility shared by all citizens, not just the government. He then stated that



## **Hopelessness looms among Afghan refugees**

FAISAL FAROOQ

MEER KHAN starts his long day at 6 o'clock in the morning with the school preparations. He attends a shelter school established by a non-governmental organization in the premises of KachiAbadi (Slum area), in the outskirts of Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan. Born in an Afghan refugee family living in Pakistan, he and his parents don't know their citizenship status. Uncertainly and fear increases among Afghan refugees living in Pakistan, whether legally or illegally, after Taliban's takeover of the country recently. The hopes of returning back to Afghanistan have almost ended with the recent developments in the Kabul as the life of a common man further devastated after the world pulled out their hands from helping the country.

Ameer Khan, 8, after attending school helps his father in the afternoon to sell vegetables on a hand-driven cart in the adjacent areas. Talib Jan doesn't know

the status of his son as they don't have any documents with them. Talib Jan said they left Afghanistan to protect their lives. He along with his wife and two children crossed to Torkham Border in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He describes his departure saying they navigated watchful Taliban to cross into Pakistan. The large-scale displacement of Afghan

refugees was triggered by the unrest following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. It was sustained by the later advent of the Taliban regime and the enduring conflict and political instability. By the end of 1980, there were more than four million refugees in Pakistan, with that number growing over the next five years. Today, Pakistan is hosting 1,435,445 registered Afghan refugees, making it the third largest host country of refugees in the world. Practitioners estimate that there are approximately one million more unregistered Afghan nationals in the country. The majority (68 percent) live in urban areas, with 32 percent living in "refugee villages," the local, informal, name for refugee camps. It is one of

the most protracted refugee crises in the world, and one that receives little support from the international community. Some arrived as children, grew up in Pakistan, married, and had children of their own who have never lived in Afghanistan. Others have arrived in the decades of turmoil in Afghanistan since then, seeking security, employment and a higher standard of living.

Islamabad is watching worriedly to see whether more refugees like Talib Jan and his family come pouring over the border as the humanitarian crisis is increasing in the country with every passing day. Pakistani officials are trying to keep the flow of refugees under strict control at Torkham, the dusty border crossing about 140 miles east of Kabul. Only small groups of people crossed the border, where only Pakistan citizens and Afghans with visas are allowed to cross. The recent movement of refugees may have negative implications for the Afghans already in Pakistan who have been used as a political bargaining chip for decades. The skepticism had left Afghan

refugees in a state of uncertainty. Though Pakistan's law allows those born there to get citizenship, the claims of Afghan children are generally not recognized. Prime Minister Imran Khan pledged to recognize their citizenship after he became prime minister in 2018, but he backed off following a backlash from politicians and the country's powerful military.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) said the biggest fear of Afghan refugees is deportation. In 2016, the Pakistani authorities forced more than 500,000 people to return to Afghanistan. The group warned that the move risked adding to a population of hundreds of thousands of people in Afghanistan rendered essentially homeless by poverty and conflict.

The Taliban's vengeful ways add to the risks. While the country's new leaders have tried to strike a moderate tone, reports of reprisals against former members of the security forces and other Taliban opponents have trickled out of the country. Wali Khan, another Afghan refugee living in the slum for years, said the police start creating problems with

changing political atmosphere at the highest level between Islamabad and Kabul. He said Afghans living in the country are being treated in hostile way by the authorities after the Peshawar APS massacre Wali Khan, a taxi driver, who had been residing with his family in the slum area of Islamabad since three decades, said he was asked many times to leave the country. He, however, said he doesn't have any other option except living in exile. Experts believe the international com-

munity can immediately facilitate largescale in-country programmatic solutions to avert a large-scale humanitarian disaster and mass displacement depends in part on ongoing negotiations with the Taliban government.

In the short-term, the current Afghan government may have financial resources to soften themselves from international sanctions. However, this will not extend to the Afghan people, who will be the ones to suffer the most and potentially for many years to come, especially if the Taliban isolate them in an exile state. (Names changed for the safety of people)



# Islamahar POST



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### **Briefs**

## **Women being** raped every day in India

**News Desk** 

ISLAMABAD: India celebrates National Women's Day every year on February 13 but women are being raped every day and in most of the cases rape incidents go unreported in the country. India is the worst place in the world to be a woman and is world's leading country as far as crime against women is concerned, said a report released, today, by Kashmir Media Service. It said women are usually considered second-class citizens in India.

New Delhi is one of the most unsafe cities for women in India as it has become the world's rape capital, the report said, deploring that crimes against women have been on the rise in India and it uses rape as a weapon of war in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

As per India's National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), nearly 77 rape cases were reported across India on an average every day in 2020. The NCRB data shows, besides rape, there were 85,392 cases of assault to outrage modesty and 3,741 cases of attempt to commit rape. It said, NCRB report revealed number of rape cases stood at 28,046 in 2020. 32,033 in 2019, 33,356 in 2018 and 32,559 in 2017.

One woman is raped every 16 minutes, while one woman is gang-raped every 30 hours in India, it said. The report maintained that increasing rape cases in India was a challenge to the civilized world.

### Macron, not candidate but campaigning for reelection

### MONITORING DESK PARIS: He has a full campaign

team that's fanning out around France, meeting with voters. He makes speeches about his plans for the country in the upcoming years. The problem? French President Emmanuel Macron hasn't officially declared that he's a candidate for April's presidential election yet. Critics say he's unfairly using his taxpayer-funded presidential pulpit to campaign for a second term while dragging out his widely expected announcement as long as possible. Less than two months before April 10s first round, Macron's intention is no mystery. He said last month that he has "the desire" to run for a second term, but he wanted to wait for the COV-ID-19 situation to improve before making a decision. The deadline to formally declare candidacy is March 4. Far-right presidential contender Eric Zemmour accused Macron of trying to use the pandemic argument to make French voters forget about what he con-

siders France's decline. "Is Emmanuel Macron using the health crisis to start campaigning? The answer is yes," Marine Le Pen, the other far-right candidate, charged. Like the U.S. and most European countries. France recently started easing most virus restrictions as the spread of the virus is slowing down. Macron also explained he wanted to focus on the Ukraine-Russia crisis first. On the flight between Moscow and Kyiv last week, he told reporters that he will "think about" declaring his candidacy later. "Everything comes in due time," he said. Yet his recent trips across French regions tend to increasingly look like campaign events.

## Mob lynches man over blasphemy allegation

Dozens of people have been detained and arrested over the lynching, which happened on Saturday evening in Khanewal district of Punjab province

KHANEWAL: A mob has lynched a man in a remote region of Pakistan's Punjab province after he was accused of burning pages of the Quran, the Muslim holy book, the police and officials said. Dozens of people have been detained and arrested over the lynching, which happened on Saturday evening in Khanewal district of Punjab province, according to Tahir Ashrafi, the prime minister's special representative on religious harmony. Law enforcement agencies are also monitoring hundreds of other suspects, he said.

Police in Punjab province said at least 15 primary suspects have been arrested in connection with the case. They added that 85 other accused had been detained and raids were being conducted to arrest more suspects.

Prime Minister Imran Khan ordered action on Sunday against the mob and any police who acted as onlookers to the killing. "The lynching will be dealt with full severity of the law. We have

Saudi FM pays

working visit

to Cyprus

DNA

NICOSIA: The FM of the Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia, Prince Faisal bin Farhan

Al Saud, has a working visit to Cyprus on

Sunday, during which he will discuss with

Foreign Minister, Ioannis Kasoulides,

inter alia, about Cyprus-Saudi Arabia bi-

lateral relations, the Cyprus issue, other

regional developments, as well as other

international issues of common interest.

The President of the Republic, Nicos An-

astasiades will receive the Prince at the

Presidential Palace. Later in the day, the

two ministers will have a meeting, in the

presence of official delegations. "Discus-

sions are expected to focus on the full

range of Cyprus-Saudi Arabia bilateral re-

lations, as well as the prospects for their

further strengthening and deepening.

Incident to be dealt with a mosque on Saturday night after the son of its prayer leader announced full severity of law: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Sunday while reiterating resolve for zero tolerance over mob lynching incidents, said the elements involved in such acts would be dealt with the full severity of law. In a tweet, the prime minister referring to the latest mob lynching incident in Mian Channu, said that they had zero tolerance for anyone taking the law into their hands. The prime minister also directed the IG Punjab to submit a report over action taken against the perpetrators of lynching in Mian Channu and the responsible police personnel who failed to avert the incident. "We have zero tolerance for anyone taking the law into their own hands & mob lynchings will be dealt with full severity of the law. Have asked Punjab IG for a report on action taken against perpetrators of the lynching in Mian Channu & against the police who failed in their duty," he posted on his Twitter handle. Dozens of people have been detained and arrested over the lynching, which happened on Saturday evening in Khanewal district of Punjab province, according to Tahir Ashrafi, the prime minister's special representative on religious harmony. Law enforcement agencies are also monitoring hundreds of other suspects, he said. - DNA

zero tolerance for anyone taking the law into their own hands," he said in a statement. Khan said on Twitter he had asked Punjab officials for a "report on action taken against perpetrators of the lynching... & against the police

who failed in their duty". The killing came just over two months after a Sri Lankan factory manager was beaten to death and set ablaze by a mob over blasphemy in Sialkot city, that he had spotted the man burning pages of the holy book, police official Munawar Hussain told Reuters.

Police arrived to find the man uncon scious and tied to a tree, Hussain said, adding that the mob also attacked the police. "The villagers armed with batons, axes and iron rods killed him and hanged his body from a tree," Hussain said. He said that evidence so far gathered by police suggested the dead man, identified as Muhammad Mushtaq, was in his 50s and appeared to have had mental disabilities. Who could possibly justify the barbaric act of stoning to death a mentally ill person?" Ashrafi, the prime minister's special representative, told a televised press conference in Khanewal district.

"The man's family say that he was mentally ill and his mental health wasn't right for the past 10 to 15 years. "This is not the religion of my Prophet, to kill people under your own interpretation of religion," he said. The country's human rights minister Shireen

### 4 missing Afghan women activists released: UN

MONITORING DESK

KABUL: Four women activists in Afghanistan have been released by the country's "de facto authorities" after going missing weeks ago, the United Nations said Sunday.

"After a long period of uncertainty about their whereabouts and safety, the four 'disappeared' Afghan women activists, as well as their relatives who also went missing, have all been released by the de facto authorities," the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said on Twitter. Tamana Zaryabi Paryani, Parwana Ibrahimkhel, Zahra Mohammadi and Mursal Ayar went missing after participating in an anti-Taliban rally, but Afghanistan's hard-line rulers had consistently denied detaining them.

AFP reported the release of Ibrahimkhel late on Friday. She went missing along with Parvani on January 19, days after taking part in a rally in Kabul calling for women's right to work and education. Weeks later, Mohammadi and Avar went missing.

The Taliban, whose government is still not recognized by any country, have promised a softer version of the harsh rule that characterised their first stint in power from 1996 to 2001.

But since storming back to power in August, they have cracked down on dissent by forcefully dispersing women's rallies, detaining critics and often beating local journalists covering unsanctioned protests.

### Paris police hold 81 over antivaccine convoy

### WEB DESK

PARIS: Paris police said they arrested 97 people who defied a ban on a Canada-style protest convoy over coronavirus regulations to try block traffic in the capital, with 81 still in custody Sunday. Thousands of demonstrators from across France attempted to block traffic in the capital Saturday in a self-proclaimed "freedom convoy" of cars, trucks and campervans. Hundreds of them continued on to Brussels on Sunday.

In Paris, more than 100 vehicles managed to converge on the Champs-Elysees avenue, where police used teargas to disperse protesters in scenes reminiscent of the "yellow vest" riots of 2018-2019. Dozens of people remained on the famous avenue and in the nearby Bois de Boulogne forest park until early Sunday.

Prosecutors said one of those being held was Jerome Rodrigues, a leader of the "yellow vest" protest movement, which engaged in running battles with the police every weekend for several months in late 2018 and early 2019.

The Paris police department also said an internal inquiry has been opened after a video emerged on social media showing an officer striking a demonstrator on the head on the Champs-Elvsees. The protest is one of several worldwide inspired by the truckers' standoff with authorities in Canada.

In France, the demonstrators took aim at the "vaccine pass" required to enter restaurants, cafes and many other public venues implemented as part of President Emmanuel Macron's inoculation drive. "This Covid pass is just the latest in a series of anti-freedom measures in our country - we have freedom of movement in Europe, yet we're being stopped by the police, we don't have the right to be here and carry a flag," Daniel Bravo, 61, told AFP.

Over 400 vehicles camped out at several sites around Paris overnight, and organisers have called for people to head for Brussels for a major demonstration on Monday, a police source said.

However not all are expected to make the trip, the source said.



KABUL: The ambassador of Pakistan to Afghanistan Mansoor Ahmad Khan exchanging views with Dr. Abdullah Abdullah. - DNA

### Punishing the corrupt NAB's priority: Chairman



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Chairman Justice Javed Iqbal said the fight against corruption was the top most priority of (NAB) and the cases of those who looted billions of rupees from the country and the nation, would be brought to the logical conclusion as per law. In a statement, he said that NAB gave top priority to fight against corruption by utilising all its resources. He vowed taking the cases of plunderers of billion of rupee to logical conclusion. He sad that NAB was an anti-corruption institution,

which has no affiliation with any political party, individual or group but state of Pakistan. NAB officers were considering eradication of corruption as their national duty.

He said that NAB had formulated a comprehensive three pronged anti-corruption strategy of awareness, prevention and law enforcement under the policy of "Accountability for All" which was appreciated by the reputable national and international bodies. The Chairman NAB said that accord-

ing to Gilani & Gallup survey, 59 percent of people have shown trust upon NAB. 1,405 accused persons were convicted by different accountability courts throughout the country due to vigorous prosecution of NAB first time in the history recovering Rs 539 billion directly and indirectly during the tenure of present management from Oct 2017 to Dec 2021. No other anti-corruption agency has shown such kind of excellent performance. The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has recovered Rs 821 billion directly and indirectly from 1999 till date. At present 1,237 references worth about Rs. 1353 billion were under trial in various esteemed accountability courts of the country.

## US F-22 jets arrive in United Arab Emirates after Houthi attacks

part of an American defence response to recent missile attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeting the country. The Raptors landed at Al-Dhafra Air Base in Abu Dhabi, which hosts some 2,000 US troops. American soldiers there launched Patriot interceptor missiles in response to the Houthi attacks last month, the first time US troops have fired the system in combat since the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq. American officials declined to say how many F-22s deployed or the number of airmen supporting the aircraft, citing operational security. However, they identified the unit involved as the 1st Fighter Wing, located at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Virginia.

A photo later released by the Air Force showed six F-22s in a line on a taxiway at Al-Dhafra. The Raptors presence will bolster already strong partner nation defences and puts destabilising forces on notice that the US and our partners are committed to enabling peace and stability in the region," Lt. Gen. Greg Guillot, the commander of the US Air Force's Mideast command, said in a statement. The deployment comes after the Iranian-backed Houthis launched three attacks targeting Abu Dhabi last month, including one targeting a fuel depot that killed three people and wounded six.

The attacks coincided with visits by presidents from South Korea and Israel to the country. A shadowy Iraqi group claimed launching a drone attack targeting the Emirates in early February, though authorities say they intercepted them. Though overshadowed by the Ukraine crisis, the missile fire targeting the Emirates has sparked a major US response. The American military has sent the USS Cole on a mission to Abu Dhabi.

The spillover of Yemen's yearslong war into the UAE puts American troops in the crosshairs of the Houthi attacks and raises the risk of a regional escalation at a crucial moment of talks in Vienna to potentially restore Iran's nuclear deal with world powers. - Agencies

## **Biden order on frozen** funds an atrocity: Karzai

**News Desk** 

KABUL: Afghanistan's former president on Sunday called a White House order to unfreeze \$3.5 billion in Afghan assets held in the U.S. for families of 9/11 victims an atrocity against the Afghan people. Former President Hamid Karzai at a packed news conference sought the help of Americans, particularly the families of the thousands killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks, to press President Joe Biden to rescind last week's order. He called it "unjust and unfair," saying Afghans have also been victims of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden. Bin Laden was brought to Afghanistan by Afghan warlords after being expelled from Sudan in 1996. Those same warlords would later ally with the U.S.-led coalition to oust the Taliban in 2001. However, it was Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar who refused to hand over bin Laden to the U.S. after the devastating 9/11 attacks that killed thousands. "The people of Afghanistan share the pain

of the American people, share the pain of the families and loved ones of those who died, who lost their lives in the tragedy of September 11." said Karzai. "We commiserate with them (but) Afghan people are as much victims as those families who lost their lives. ... Withholding money or seizing money from the people of Afghanistan in their name is unjust and unfair and an Biden's order signed last Friday freed \$7 billion in Afghan assets currently held in the United States, to be divided between 9/11 victims and humanitarian aid to Afghans.

Sept. 11 victims and their families have legal claims against the Taliban and the \$7 billion in the U.S. banking system. The \$3.5 billion was set aside for a U.S. court to decide whether it can be used to settle claims by families of 9/11 victims. U.S. courts would also have to sign off before the release of humanitarian assistance money. We "ask the U.S. courts to do the opposite, to return the Afghan money back to the Afghan people," said Karzai. "This money does not belong to any government ", this money belongs to the people of Afghanistan." Meanwhile, Biden's order calls for the \$3.5 billion allocated to humanitarian aid to be put into a trust and be used to assist Afghans, bypassing their Taliban rulers. But Karzai demanded all \$7 billion be returned to Afghanistan's central bank to further its monetary policy. He argued against giving Afghan reserves to international aid organizations to provide humanitarian aid. "You give us our own money so that it can be

spent for those foreigners who come here, to pay their salaries, to give it to (non-governmental organizations)," he said. Afghanistan's economy is teetering on the brink of collapse after international money stopped coming into the country with the arrival in mid-August of the Taliban.

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