



Islamabad POST

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Detailed News On Page-08

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Zverev thrown out of the Mexican Open

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Mass contact campaign from Feb 26

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Mahmood Qureshi on Wednesday said that Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) would start a mass-contact campaign in Sindh through "Sindh Haqooq March" from February 26. "February 26 will be an important day in the history of Sindh. Me and our PTI Sindh leadership are coming to the province and starting a mass contact campaign," Qureshi said in a video message for the people of Sindh with reference to the upcoming "Sindh Haqooq March". - APP

Fawad condoles Malik's demise

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Hussain on Wednesday condole the demise of Senator Rehman Malik and prayed to Allah Almighty to rest his soul in eternal peace. "Rehman Malik passed away - Inna Lillah e Wa Inna Elah-e-Rajaioon . . . May Allah Almighty rest him in peace," the minister expressed his feelings in a tweet. Fawad said though justice was still awaited in that case but late Rehman's probe had exposed the corrupt elements how modern techniques they were applying for the corruption which also stunned the general public.

No-trust move after consensus

LAHORE: PML-N Information Secretary Marriyum Aurangzeb on Wednesday stressed that the timing of the no-confidence motion against the government would be jointly decided by the opposition and the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). The remarks from the PML-N came hours after by Information Minister Fawad dismissed the opposition's attempts at moving a no-trust motion as insignificant and ruled out its chances of success.

Forces kill 10 terrorists during IBO

A "huge cache of arms and ammunition" was also recovered from 'externally-sponsored' terrorists

EU Human Rights envoy calls on COAS



DNA

RAWALPINDI: European Union (EU) Special Representative for Human Rights Eamon Gilmore Wednesday called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa at General Headquarters. According to a statement issued by the military's media wing Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), matters of mutual interest, overall regional security situation including Afghanistan humanitarian situation and bilateral diplomatic relations with

Continued on Page 06

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Security forces gunned down 10 "externally-sponsored terrorists" during an intelligence-based operation in the general area of Hoshab, Balochistan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) announced in a statement. "On February 23, based on information of the presence of terrorists camp and hideout in general area Hoshab, Balochistan, security forces conducted an operation to apprehend externally sponsored enemies of peace in Balochistan," said the ISPR. The military's media wing added that once the troops cordoned off the area, the terrorists opened indiscriminate fire as they tried to flee from their hideout. The move led to a heavy exchange of fire. "Resultantly, 10 terrorists - including terrorist commander Master Asif alias Mukesh - was killed in the exchange of fire. These terrorists were involved in recent firing and attack on security forces incidents in Turbat and Pasi areas," said the ISPR. A "huge cache of arms and ammunition" was also recovered from the hideout of the terrorists, which the ISPR said was "planned for use against security forces". "Operations to eliminate perpetrators of terrorist acts will continue and they will not be allowed to sabotage peace, stability and progress of Balochistan," said the ISPR.

"Opposition's bribe offers shameful"

Fawad says at least three of PTI MNAs offered 'bribe' for changing loyalties

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD, FEB 23 (DNA) - Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Wednesday said the opposition had opted for a foul play by offering 'bribe' to some Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) MPs for their support to a no-trust motion against the Prime Minister. Fawad told the media that at least three of PTI MNAs including a female member and one from minority group, had formal-

ly reported to the Central Executive Committee (CEC) that they were offered 'bribe' for changing their loyalties during no-trust move. Flanked by Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib, he said the matter came under discussion at the CEC meeting which met to take stock of the opposition's planned no-trust move, visit of the prime minister to Russia and the upcoming local government elections. He termed the opposition's bid for bribing the

Continued on Page 06



MOSCOW: Prime Minister Imran Khan being welcomed upon his arrival at Moscow. - DNA

Imran Khan in Russia

The visit to boost multi-billion-dollar gas pipeline project

NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Prime Minister Imran Khan reached Moscow to push for the construction of a long-delayed, multi-billion-dollar gas pipeline to be built in collaboration with Russian companies. Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia welcomed the Prime Minister and his delegation at the airport. The Prime Minister

Continued on Page 06

Afghan aid to be transported through Pak

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan agreed on an exceptional basis to allow the overland transportation of humanitarian assistance of 50,000 MT wheat and lifesaving medicines from India for Afghanistan via Attari-Wagah border up till Torkham. Pakistan has been closely coordinating with all sides to facilitate smooth transit of the humanitarian assistance. The first batch of 41 Afghan trucks, which entered into Pakistan through Torkham is returning to Afghanistan Wednesday after loading the Indian wheat consignment at Attari-Wagah.

PDM agrees on Shehbaz as next PM

Asif Zardari to lead the no trust move; PML Q to play key role

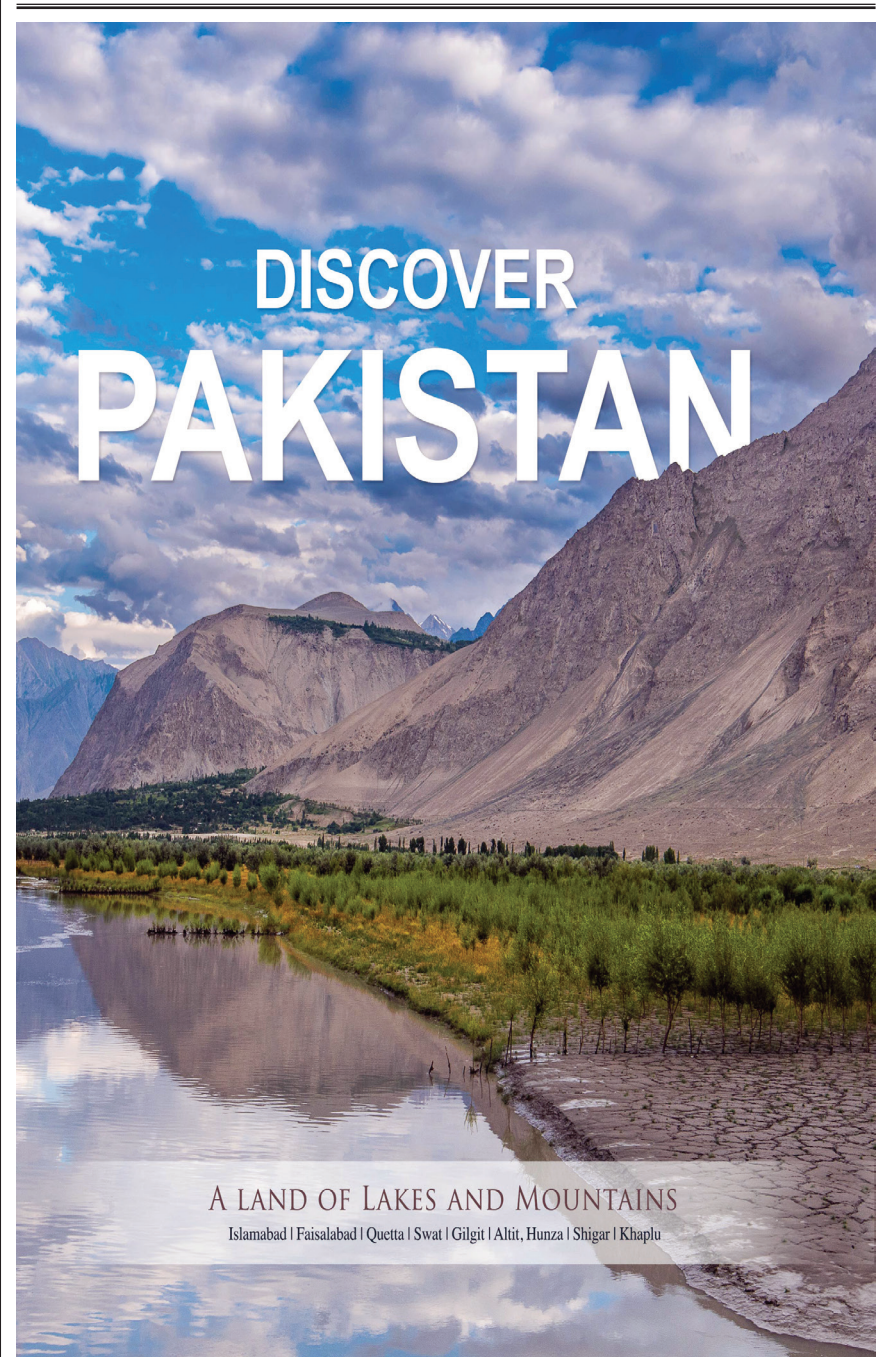


BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) has entrusted PPP Co Chairman

Asif Ali Zardari to oversee arrangements for the proposed no trust move against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. PML Q according to

Continued on Page 06



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Malaysian envoy hosts dinner for humanitarian relief mission - Page 08

China accuses US of raising tensions on Ukraine issue

AGENCIES

BEIJING: China on Wednesday accused the United States of "raising tensions" and "creating panic" over the Ukraine crisis, shortly after Washington announced sanctions against Moscow and said it would continue to supply weapons to Ukraine against a Russian invasion. Beijing has trod a cautious line on Ukraine as Moscow has massed thousands of troops on the borders, and criticised the West for new sanctions after Russia ordered troops into two breakaway Ukrainian regions it now recognises as independent. US President Joe Biden earlier stressed that the penalties were only a "first tranche", adding that more sanctions would come if Russian President Vladimir Putin extended his country's military grip beyond the two territories in the eastern Donbas region. China lashed out at Washington over

Ukraine declares emergency

CENTRELINE REPORT

KYIV: Ukraine's top security official has said the country would impose a state of emergency on all of its territory, apart from the Donetsk and Luhansk regions where it has been in place since 2014. Oleksiy Danilov said on Wednesday the emergency state would last 30 days and could be extended for another 30 days. The security council has approved the

Continued on Page 06

the sanctions on Wednesday and said it was raising tensions by sending weapons to Ukraine. The US actions were "raising tensions, creating panic, and even playing up the schedule of war," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters. "If someone is adding fuel to the fire while blaming others ... then that behaviour is irresponsible and immoral," she added, turning the spotlight on the United States in response to a question on China's role in resolving the situation. She said China had "called on all parties to respect and attach importance to each other's legitimate security concerns, strive to resolve issues through negotiation and consultation, and jointly maintain regional peace and stability." Asked if China would impose sanctions on Russia, Hua added that Beijing believes "sanctions have never been a fundamental and effective way to solve problems".

SBBWUP organizes art & culture festival "Rang Barsay"

Sculptures, handicrafts and other art material by over 60 female artisans across KP are displayed

DNA

PESHAWAR: SBBWUP in collaboration with Parwan e Khanum organized a 2 day Art & Culture Exhibition in 'Sethi Haveli' to provide platform for the female artists of Peshawar to showcase their Art work. Through the joint efforts of Director ORIC, Henna Karamat, CEO Consultreat and main sponsor of the festival, Sanan Sethi & Directress Peshawar Model School & Colleges, Night Mumtaz, The Sethi Haveli has been transformed into an Art Gallery where more than 200 paintings by students of SBBWUP in which different topics were picked showcasing the women empowerment, culture and social issues. Also sculptures, handicrafts and other art material by over 60 female artisans across KP are displayed. Moreover Power 99 Foundation launched a 'Radio Van' which is aimed at promoting and inculcating cultural, art, heritage knowledge among the teenagers of the country. Also promotional song videos depicting deep culture of all the

provinces have been made separately to spread awareness regarding the native foods, architecture and heritage. Mr. Shahram Tarakai, Minister for Elementary and Secondary education KP graced the occasion as chief guest. On the occasion Mr. Tarakai appreciated the massive initiative taken by both the organizations to encourage female artists. He stated that transforming the old heritage into a platform for showcasing the artwork and culture is an impressive idea and it has added more meaning to the objective of this exhibition. He also said that the artwork done by the students and all other females is outclass. He added that the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Razia Sultana has always been a torch bearer for promoting women empowerment through the years and it is not possible to arrange such meaningful and positive events without a strong vision. While addressing the audience, Dr. Sultana stated that the entire team has worked very hard to gather female artisans from all over KP and especially our students who have made such wonderful paintings. She stated that

Peshawar is the land of flowers and colors and it has given birth to many outclass artists and talented people who are well known around the globe. We need to provide more platforms to the youth as they are the future of the country. She added that the university leaves no stone unturned to provide platform for female students of the university and this event is a result of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the university and Parwan e Khanum. She also added that females have great potential and the arrangement of such a mega art gallery is a proof of it. And students of SBBWUP are excelling in all the fields and will continue to do so. Ms. Night Mumtaz, Representative form Parwan e Khanum and Directress, Peshawar Model School said that women of KP are excelling and we will provide all platforms where women empowerment may be ensured. Also she said that success comes when men and women support each other. The Chief Guest along with all the guests and organizers had a visit to the entire art gallery.



RAWALPINDI: President Dr. Arif Alvi talking to a thalassemia patient at PATHWELL Bone Marrow Transplant Centre. – DNA

Bangash lauds PM's vision for growth of IT sector

DNA

PESHAWAR: Chairman District Development Advisory Committee, Kohat, MPA Ziaullah Bangash on Wednesday appreciated a historic reform package and landmark incentives announced by the federal government for development of IT sector in the country. He said that decision made to allow IT companies and freelancers to retain 100% amount of remittances received through proper banking channels will boost IT sector. Appreciating vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan for growth of IT sector and software export, he said that Prime Minister has directed the concerned authorities to develop special technology zones on a fast-track basis in Islamabad as well as all provincial capitals to create hubs of technology innovations.

In the first phase, different sectors in Islamabad would be declared as special technology zones so that IT firms and freelancers could avail of benefits offered by Special Technology Zones Authority. He said that special technology zones being developed all across the country would be home to science and technology parks, manufacturing units, research and development centers of global tech companies and software houses.

46 criminals arrested, contraband seized

FAISALABAD: Police claimed on Wednesday to have arrested 46 criminals and recovered drugs and illegal weapons from their possession in the district during the last 24 hours. According to police, raiding teams nabbed 6 drug pushers and recovered 2.6 Kg hashish and 75 litres liquor from their possession. The police also held 8 gamblers and recovered stake money of Rs. 6,830 from them. In a crackdown against illegal weapons, the police arrested 12 persons and recovered 11 pistols, 2 guns and a number of bullets from them. Meanwhile, city police held 20 kite sellers and recovered 6,180 kites and 17 string rolls from them. – APP

FESCO issues schedule for digital training of staff

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) Board of Directors (BOD) is practically implementing the vision to digitalize the FESCO, so that consumers' complaints could be redressed on priority and they could enjoy the state-of-the-art services at their doorstep. In this connection, on special directives of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) FESCO Engr. Bashir Ahmed a comprehensive training schedule for the all five operation circles including Faisalabad First, Second, Jhang, Mianwali and Sargodha has been issued. During the training, participants would train about the online new connection application, online billing correction, online ERP

system and share point application. According to details, training would be held on 28 February for first circle at Regional Training Center (RTC), on first March for second circle, 2 March at circle training center Jhang for Jhang circle, 3 March at divisional officer Bhakkar for Bhakkar and Darya Khan divisions, on 7 March at circle training center Sargodha for Sargodha circle while on 8 March training would be held at Mianwali circle. During the training detailed training sessions would be arranged for FESCO staff including Technical Officers, Technical Assistants, Head Draftsman, tracers, Line Superintendents and Clerks. The basic aim for the training is to simplify the process or new connection so that consumers belonging to far-flung areas could be facilitated.



18 kanal state land retrieved

KAMRAN GUJAR

JHELUM: On the orders of Ombudsman Punjab Major (r) Sulaiman Khan, Bhakkar, Chichawatni, Mandi Bahauddin and kot addu, 18 kanal government land was retrieved from the illegal occupants. The spokesperson said that as a result of implementing the instructions of the office ombudsman, 10 kanal 16 marla part of the cemetery in Chichawatni has been taken away from the illegal occupants, worth Rupees 1 crore 16 lakh. During the operation two kanal 18 marla part of the cemetery in Kot Adu has been vacated from the illegal occupants. The total value of this area is Rupees 9 lakh.

The spokesperson further said that as a result of the action of the office ombudsman on the complaint of Amir Ahmed, a petitioner of Mandi Bahauddin, four kanal and six marla parts of the cemetery have been recovered from illegal occupation, with a market value of rs. 17 lakh 20,000.

Govt taking steps for welfare of youth: Ali Muhammad

FAISALABAD: State Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan on Wednesday said the government was making the best efforts for welfare of the youth as well as brush up their capabilities.

He was talking to the media after addressing a session on 'Future Youth Leaders and brainstorming' organized under the aegis of The Platform Co-Innovation Space at Koh-e-Noor Plaza here. He said: "Our youth is blessed with the best quality of head and heart and can play a vital role for prosperity and progress of the country." He said the previous government failed to provide the youth a conducive environment and they could not contribute their role in the overall progress of the country.

He said that the youth had innovative and unique ideas, therefore, the PTI government decided to provide them easy loans so that they could start their own businesses by using their abilities and capabilities. The government also launched Kamyab Jawan program under which Rs16 billion were allocated to provide interest-free loans to the youth and they should avail from this facility, he added. Responding to a question, he said the PTI government would complete its constitutional term and it would also emerge a victorious in the next general elections. He said the PTI government had no threat from the opposition. "Prime Minister Imran Khan is a sincere and honest leader. He is not afraid of any opposition leader," he added. – APP

Grievances of party workers to be addressed: Tanvir

This rally is vital to demonstrate unity for Kashmir, and workers of every party must participate in it

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The role of long time workers and founding members in the success and popularity of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in Azad Jammu and Kashmir is unforgettable, said PTI Additional Secretary General and Member National Assembly Amir Kayani during a phone conversation with PTI Azad Kashmir President and Most Senior Minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas. Talking on the phone, he told the party's state president that the party's ideologically old workers are party assets and should be accommodated in the party and at the official level. Sardar Tanvir Ilyas assured Amir Kayani that the grievances of senior and founding workers will be addressed by contacting them and the PTI government will lead the people to prosperity through development projects in deprived and backward areas of Azad Kashmir. Additional Secretary General of PTI Amir



Kayani also said that by extending the scope of Insaf Health Card to Azad Kashmir, the Kashmiri people would be provided health facilities at their doorsteps. Both the leaders expressed satisfaction over the party's work in Azad Jammu Kashmir. Separately, Sardar Tanvir Ilyas urged masses to participate in Thursday's All Parties Kashmir Rally. He said that this rally is vital to demonstrate unity for Kashmir, and workers of every party must participate in it. All Parties Kashmir Rally will take place today (Thursday).

Swat Agri specialisation classes by March

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: In order to ensure the commencement of specialization classes by March this year at University of Agriculture Swat, Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has directed all the quarters concerned for necessary steps to fulfill all the pre-requisites including appointment of teaching staff for the University as per relevant rules & regulations further directing the concerned departments to fulfill their shares of responsibilities well in time so that specialization classes could be started in the University without any delay. The chief minister has also directed the authorities of Communications & Works department to get the revised PC-1 approved from the relevant forum for the second phase of construction of new building for the University so that civil work on the second phase of construction could be started well in time. He was chairing a meeting held here the other day to review progress on the construction of building for Agriculture Uni-

versity Swat. Additional Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Khan, Principal Secretary to CM Amjad Ali Khan, Vice Chancellor Swat University Professor Daud Jan, Vice Chancellor Agriculture University Peshawar Professor Jehan Bakht, administrative secretaries of concerned departments and other officials attended the meeting. The meeting also took a detailed review of academic activities in the Agriculture University Swat. While briefing the meeting about administrative and financial matters and academic activities of the newly established Agriculture University Swat, it was told that four semesters of first batch were successfully completed, and now classes for the fifth semester would be commenced from March this year adding that process has been initiated for hiring the required teaching and administrative staff for the purpose. The chief minister, on the occasion directed the authorities concerned to expedite the recruitment of required staff so that the specialization classes in the University could be started as per stipulated timelines.

Taking law into own hands against Shariah

The religious scholars to educate the people about human rights pertaining to their life and property in the religious broader perspectives

ISLAMABAD: Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) Chairman Dr Qibla Ayaz Wednesday said taking the law into own hands in the wake of blasphemy was against Shariah, Constitution and humanity. Addressing a press conference after chairing the CII's 227th session, he condemned the burgeoning incidents of taking the law into own hands in the wake of blasphemy of the Holy Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him and the Holy Quran. Reading out the communique in the presence of the council's members, Ulama and Mashaikh of various schools of thought, Dr Qibla said the culprits involved in Sialkot and Khanawal incidents should be brought to justice as soon as possible, as it would help build confidence of the people on law enforcement agencies and judicial system. He said the main factor behind such disappointing incidents was delay in the dispensation of justice, adding the courts should expedite the judicial process against the blasphemy's real culprits and those who took the law into their own hands. He also urged the religious scholars to educate the people about human rights pertaining to their life and property in the religious broader perspectives. He said Ulama and Mashaikh should display verses from the Holy Quran and



sayings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad Peace Be Upon Him in their respective mosques, Imam-bargahs, Khanqahs and seminaries regarding the human rights. They had to avoid un-researched material to deliver in the public, he added. Dr Qibla also proposed the media to telecast such programmes that could bring reforms in the social, political and religious spectrum of life of the people. He appreciated the quarter concerned for making Paigham-e-Pakistan on the agenda of the Parliament and also stressed

the need to present this doctrine on the floors of provincial assemblies. He said due to certain national and international sources and reasons, the Eastern culture was being affected and there was a dire need to make efforts to get our past social and cultural glory. He proposed the government to constitute a national commission comprised on the experts of sociology, psychology, law and religion in a bid to devise short term and long term policies to cope with such incidents on permanent basis. The CII's members - Allama Muhammad Husain Akbar, Pir Syed Ziaullah Bukhari, Pir Habib Arfani, Mufti Muhammad Zubair, Dr Umair Mehmood Siddiqui, Pirzada Junaid Ameen, Maulana Hamidul Haq Haqani, Maulana Naseem Ali Shah, Dr Pir Abbul Hassan Muhammad Shah and Sahibzada Muhammad Hassan Haseeb ur Rehman and besides Ulama and Mashaikh from various schools of thought including Maulana Abdul Khair Azad, Allama Ali Raza Bukhari, Allama Arif Hussain Wahidi, Allama Syed Ifitkhar, Hussain Naqvi, Maulana Syed Cheeragh Din Shah, Maulana Muhammad Tayyab Tahiri (Panj Pir) and Senator Professor Sajid Mir attended the meeting.

PAF Air War College delegation visits KP

PESHAWAR: A delegation of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Air War College on visit to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was given a detailed briefing on socio-economic situation, law and order, development projects and other challenges of the province. The delegation was received by Provincial Minister for Law Fazal Shakur, Special Assistant to Chief Minister on Information, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif and Chief Secretary, Dr. Shahzad Bangash here on Wednesday. During the briefing, the PAF Air War College delegation was informed about free medical facility to entire population of the province under Sehat Card program,

flagship project Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) which get international recognition, Swat Motorway which was completed from province's own resources. The delegation was also briefed about other key communication projects including D.I Khan to Peshawar Motorway which will be completed in four years at a cost of Rs 250 billion. – APP

4 motorcycles stolen, rupees 38,000 looted

YOOSUF BHUTTA

GUJRAT: Four motorcycles were stolen and a trader robbed of rupees 38,000 from different places of Gujrat in a single day. According to details motorcycles owned by Mashooq Ali, Akram, Adnan and Asad Ali were stolen from Lalamusa, Chak Lashkari, Dinga and Jinnah Road Gujrat respectively by unidentified persons. Police have separate cases. Rs.38,000 were looted from trader Zain Ali Shah, owner of a mobile shop on gun point by two unidentified robbers near Kidney Center Prince chowk Tuesday evening. Police have lodged an FIR. Teenage girl stole gold, cash worth 6.2 million A teenage girl stole 40 tola gold and a cash of rupees 12 lakh from her house and ran away with her paramour. It is reported that a 16-year old girl Naima daughter of Azhar Iqbal resident of Chak Jaani got up for Fajr Prayers. She was performing Wudhu for Fajr prayers when a car horn blew outside the house. As soon as teenager Naima heard the car horn, she ran out of the house and ran away with unknown persons. When her parents checked the suitcase, it was learnt that she stole 40 tola gold worth five million rupees and a cash of Rupees 12 lakh, Sarai Alamgir police have registered a case.

Commissioner for making Peshawar Drug free

PESHAWAR: A high level meeting was held under the chairmanship of Commissioner Peshawar, Riaz Khan Mehsud to chalk out strategy for making Peshawar free from drugs. The meeting was attended by MPA Asif Khan, Regional Director Anti Narcotics Force (ANF), Brig Abdul Manan, Director Narcotics Control, Salauddin, DG PDA, Shabaz Khan, SSP Operation, Haroon head of Narcotics control department and social workers. In the beginning of the meeting, Commissioner Peshawar apprised participants that Chief Minister KP, Mahmood Khan wanted rehabilitation of drug addicts by taking them from streets to centers. "CM wants to make drug addicts as responsible citizens and active members of society," Commissioner told meeting members. "For chalking out strategy in regard with rehabilitation of drug addicts, the meeting of stakeholders is called," he added. The meeting participants were briefed by Assistant Commissioner Peshawar, Dr. Ehtesham ul Haq regarding measures taken so far for betterment of drug addicts. – APP

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Future of global economies lies in the East: Amb. Tugio

Indonesian Ambassador visits IQRA University

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador Adam M. Tugio paid a visit to IQRA University, Islamabad campus on 22nd February 2022 to have an interactive discussion on global affairs and strengthen the bilateral ties between the two brotherly nations, Indonesia and Pakistan. The session was attended by the Vice President of IQRA University, Dr. Muhammad Islam, Senior Professors Dr. Shehryar Khan, faculty members, and students of the social science department. Ambassador Tugio praised the positive trajectory of bilateral cooperation and identified potential areas for strengthening it further and through institutional cooperation with ASEAN. Speaking about the importance of the east, Ambassador Tugio stated, "Many pundits believe that the future of global economies lies in the East. Despite such strong projections, however, the Asia Pacific area receives less attention from academicians and think tank community in



this capital." He urged that Pakistani academics and think tanks should dedicatedly focus on the economies of East Asia. Ambassador Tugio informed students about the opportunities available through Indonesia's scholarship programs, emphasizing that the majority of the colleges that give

scholarships are among the world's top 500 universities, according to the QS World University Rankings for 2021. He urged Pakistani students to apply for this scholarship program in order to have the opportunity to study in Indonesia. He also lauded the university's brilliant young students, emphasizing that Pakistan's youth have tremendous talent and promise in a variety of sectors. Ambassador Tugio highlighted, "there are many similarities between Indonesia and Pakistan within the realm of history, culture, religion, and education system". He further reminded students that while studying in Indonesia, Pakistani students will not only learn about different cultures but will also be able to find many cousins of Pakistani cuisines in Indonesia, as they share similar taste and ingredients". Dr. Muhammad Islam expressed his gratitude to the Indonesian Ambassador for his visit and expressed his hope that the visit would open more doors to beneficial cooperation with Indonesia, which is the largest country in ASEAN and has the world's largest Muslim population, particularly in the fields of research and business innovation development. Ambassador Tugio also announced a Batik competition with Pakistani design and motifs for students and art enthusiasts in Pakistan will be organized soon to introduce Batik and boost cultural connectivity and people-to-people engagement.

Ch. Fawad condoles Rehman Malik's demise

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Wednesday condoled the demise of Senator Rehman Malik and prayed to Allah Almighty to rest his soul in eternal peace. Rehman Malik had breathed his last yesterday due to coronavirus complications here. "Rehman Malik passed away - Inna Lillah e Wa Inna Elah-e-Rajaioon . . . May Allah Almighty rest him in peace," the minister expressed his feelings in a tweet. Highlighting deceased's role into the investigation of Hudabiya case, Fawad said though justice was still awaited in that case but late Rehman's probe had exposed the corrupt elements how modern techniques they were applying for the corruption which also stunned the general public.

IHC stops FIA from arrests under PECA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday stopped Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to make arrests under section-20 of Prevention of Electronic Crime Act (PECA) and summoned attorney general of Pakistan (AGP) on Wednesday for assistance. Chief Justice AtharMinallah, hearing the case, remarked that there shouldn't be a defamation law for any public figure. The court observed that the FIA had already submitted its SOPs and according to it no one should be arrested on complaint under section-20. The court said that secretary interior ministry and director general FIA would be responsible if the SOPs were not implemented. Even Zimbabwe, Uganda and Congo, too had excluded the defamation from criminal laws, the court remarked. Earlier, the petitioner's lawyer Adil Aziz Qazi adopted the stance that government had amended section-20 of PECA through and Ordinance. The punishment had been increased from three year jail to five year term. He said besides this a new section had also been added in the law. The advocate said that the senate session was prorogued on February 17 while the National Assembly's session was scheduled for February 18, but it was canceled. - APP

Shared Futures holds dialogue on socio-economic cooperation



KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: Pak Mission Society, in collaboration with Kerk in Actie under their Shared Futures project, organized a dialogue session on the concept of "Socio-Economic Cooperation as a Mean of Social Cohesion" on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, at Pearl Continental Hotel, Rawalpindi. Representatives of civil society organizations, religious leaders, media persons, educationists, activists, and government officials participated in the dialogue to promote the concept of Social Cohesion and Socio-Economic cooperation among different sectors. The Panelists of the dialogue session including Mr. Chaudhry Arshad Mehmood, Manager Projects - Akhuwat Islamic Micro-

inance significantly elaborated that the Government of Pakistan is sincerely concerned about minorities and taking initiatives to include minorities in different programs to enhance their skills so that they can contribute to Pakistan's development. Ibrahim Ahmed, Human Resource and Training Manager - National Incubation Center, Islamabad, shared his opinions and defined the opportunities available for the minorities in Pakistan; how they can avail these opportunities and come forward for the development of their people as well. Mrs. Romana Bashir - Founding Executive Director of Peace and Development Foundation defined that "Despite the challenges social cohesion concept is facing in the country, we, as a nation have moved impressively forward to accept minority rights,

and have been working on their national acceptance and provision of equal opportunities to them. "It depends upon peoples' behaviors so we have to change our behaviors to change our socio-economic conditions". - Mrs. Romana Bashir "Although there is discrimination because of lack of faith and trust, therefore, we look forward to activities that can help people gain trust and build relationships. The Christian hearts are very much dedicated towards the betterment of Pakistan in every sector." - Reverent Bishop Tariq "Al Khidmat is taking care of 18000 orphan students around the country and we have no religious quota for serving any orphan or anybody in the country". Al khidmat Representative "We have to ignore the discrimination, change our thoughts and develop the will to contribute in nation-building and observe equality among ourselves" - Chaudhry Arshad Mehmood, Manager Projects - Akhuwat Islamic Microfinance. "This was my suggestion to the government to work in such a way which PMS has been done so far. We have to work together to eradicate discrimination and hatred among the nation. It will surely pave the way to develop our communities and bring them on a single platform". Shrunila Ruth - MNA A healthy discussion was seen where the focus was to become an ally with the government bodies to promote the realization of social cohesion and connect with the government on National Level and provide youth with the opportunities like scholarship programmes, entrepreneurship, and skill development.

CDA conducts operation against illegal constructions

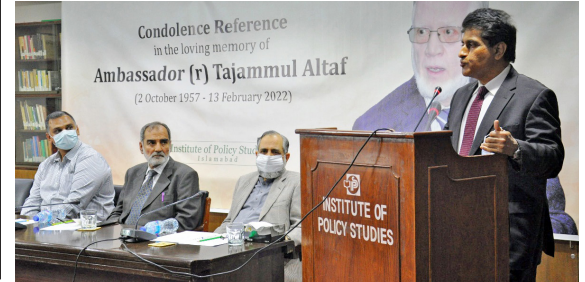
ISLAMABAD: On the direction of the management of the Capital Development Authority, the Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday, with the assistance of the district administration and Islamabad Police, conducted massive operations against encroachments and illegal construction in different areas of Islamabad. During this operation several encroachments and illegal constructions were demolished with the help of heavy machinery and 3 truck of encroachment material were also confiscated. According to the details, these operations were started from Dhok Tahl area of Bari Imam Islamabad. While enforcing the land mafia, the Department of Enforcement demolished 17 illegal rooms, 15 four boundary walls, 4 washrooms, 3 kitchens, 7 doors and 5 DPCs built on government land with the help of heavy machinery. - DNA

FO, IPS colleagues pay homage to Tajammul Altaf

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Rich tributes were paid to late Ambassador (r) Tajammul Altaf, who left for his heavenly abode recently following a brief illness, by his several colleagues at the Foreign Office and the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) during a condolence reference held in his memory here at IPS. The gathering, which Chairman IPS Khalid Rahman presided over, was participated by family, friends, colleagues and

contemporaries of the late diplomat such as Ambassador (r) Shamsad Ahmad Khan, former foreign secretary, Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, IPS' vice chairman, Ambassador (r) Ayaz Wazir, Ambassador (r) Ishtiaq Hussain Andrabi, Ambassador (r) Khalid Mahmood, Ambassador (r) Naila Chohan, Mirza Hamid Hasan, former federal secretary, Brigadier (r) Tughral Yamin, Naufal Shahruckh, IPS' GM Operations, and Sabur Altaf, the son of late Amb Tajammul Altaf.



UNICEF Chief lauds Pak against Polio, Covid

ISLAMABAD: Executive Director of United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) Catherine Russell concluded her three-day tour to Pakistan and lauded the efforts of government against the pandemic of the COVID-19 and eradication of polio from the country. Russell, who selected Pakistan for her first international tour after assuming the office of UNICEF as head, while talking to APP on Wednesday said Pakistan faced a lot of challenges like polio, COVID-19, malnutrition, stunted growth and high number of out of school children. "I want to see myself what is happening in Pakistan as the country is aggressively coping with persistent problems which are worrisome and challenging" she said. Talking about the efforts of Pakistan against polio, she said Pakistan strove hard for the eradication of polio and the role of health workers was commendable that were high in numbers who visited door to door to make sure that no child was left without immunization. "Polio is the disease we know how to prevent, and we are at the last stage to achieve our goal of 'Polio free Pakistan'. Polio in Pakistan is interlinked with Afghanistan and we look towards both the countries together when we talk about the said disease. - APP

#Plant4Pakistan Day

ہریالی کی یہ تصویر

10 بلین ٹری سونامی کی عملی تعبیر

موسم بہار شجرکاری مہم 2022

10 بلین ٹری سونامی پروگرام کا بڑھتا کارواں، منزل کی طرف رواں

شجرکاری مہم کے دوران 54 کروڑ سے پودے لگائے جائیں گے

مہم کے دوران ملک کے تمام ملٹوں میں پودے لگائے جائیں گے

سال 2023 تک 3296 ملین پودے لگائے کا ہدف

سر سبز و شاداب پاکستان کیلئے کوشاں

وزارت موسمیاتی تبدیلی حکومت پاکستان

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Briefs

PNCA to organize woodcut workshop

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) would organize a one-day woodcut workshop on February 24 (Thursday) under the supervision of senior artist Tasneem-Shahzad aiming to provide a platform for emerging artists to get the opportunity by native artists from Peshawar. Tasneem-Shahzad a living legend started painting at a very early age and since then has achieved many awards for his work from world-renowned art galleries.

He has represented his artwork in the US, Japan, Russia and India, China, and France he is a bachelor in fine arts from the University of Peshawar, said a press release issued here.

Woodcut is a relief printing technique in printmaking an artist carves an image into the surface of a block of wood typically with gouges leaving the printing parts level with the surface while removing the non-printing parts. Areas that the artist cuts away carry no ink, while characters or images at surface level carry the ink to produce the print.

The block is cut along the wood grain (unlike wood engraving, where the block is cut in the end-grain). The surface is covered with ink by rolling over the surface with an ink-covered roller (brayer), leaving ink upon the flat surface but not in the non-printing areas. - APP

Pothohari Literary Conference held

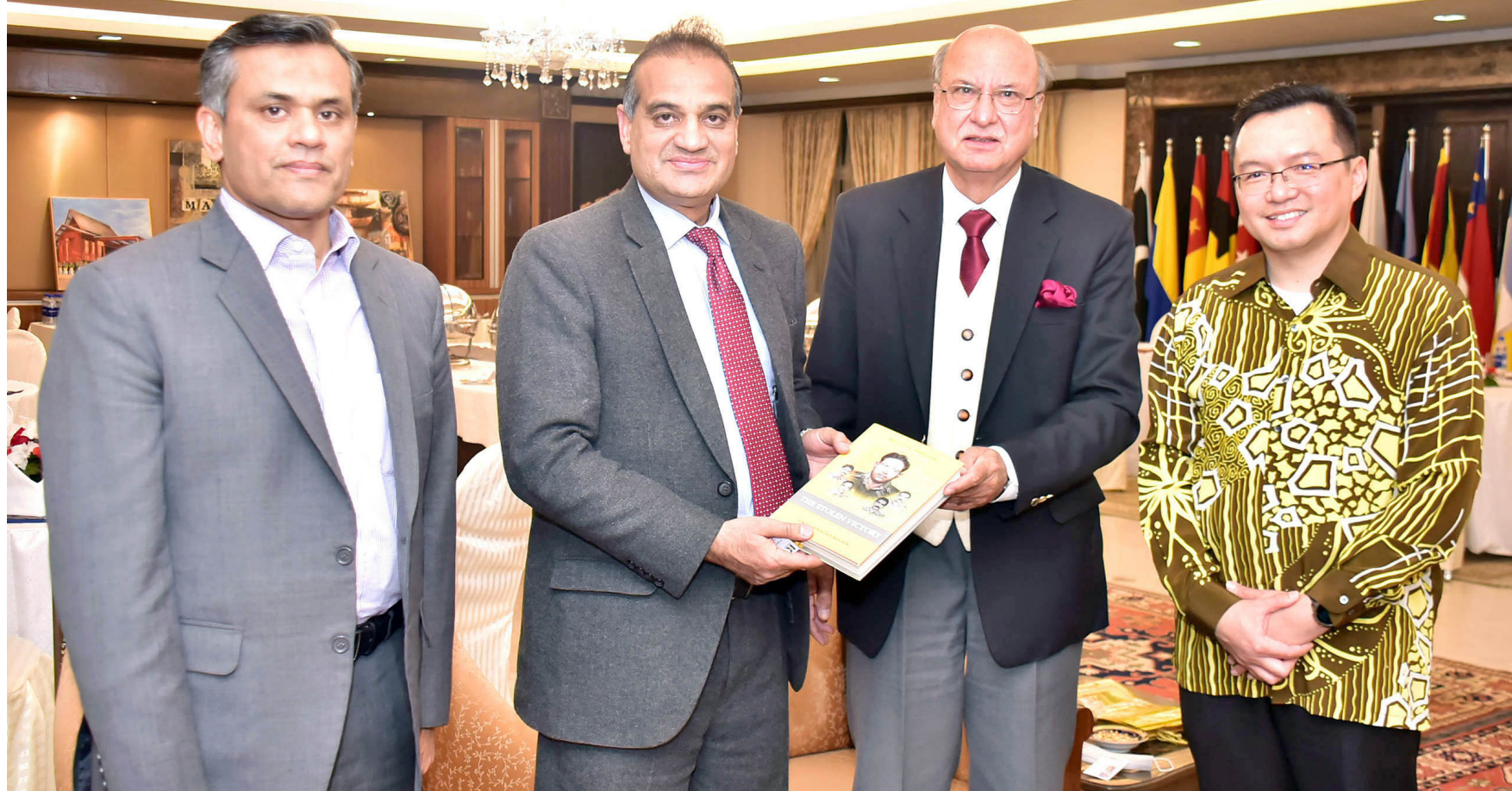
RAWALPINDI: Punjab Arts Council and Pothohari Literary Society jointly organized the 8th Annual 'Pothohari Literary Conference' at the Punjab Arts Council (PAC) here on Wednesday.

The ceremony was presided over by Chairman Pakistan Academy of Letters, Professor Dr Yousuf Khushk while Qazi Shaikat Mehmood, Dr Abdul Wajid Tabassum and Dr Humaira Ashfaq were special guests on the occasion. Chaudhry Raftaq performed the duties of the anchorperson. The Pothohari Literary Conference consisted of four sections, including launching 12 books, distributing awards among eminent personalities, and a Pothohari music and poetry recital. In his presidential address, Prof. Dr Yousuf Khushk said that all mother languages of Pakistan were flowers in a bouquet. He said that the role of literary organizations in promoting the mother language was also commendable. At the end of the ceremony, the guests were thanked by Punjab Arts Council and Pothohari Literary Society. Dr Mansoor Vesio, Hassan Nawaz Shah, Dr Wahid Baksh Buzdar and Dr Sadia Kamal were also present on the occasion. - APP

Pakistan removes PCR condition

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority (PCAA) on Wednesday abolished the pre-boarding negative PCR condition for 'fully vaccinated' inbound travelers against the coronavirus with effect from February 24. However, non-vaccinated individuals over 12 years would require pre-boarding negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR - 72 hours old), the authority said in a tweet while sharing the decisions taken in a meeting of the National Command and Operation Centre (NOC) about revised anti-COVID health and testing protocols. As per the revised inbound policy, the authority said, passengers below 12 years of age were exempted from mandatory vaccination, while travelers between 12-18 years of age had been allowed to travel without mandatory vaccination till March 31, 2022.

It said Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) would be performed on arrival of deportees and non-vaccinated pedestrians at border terminals. The passengers tested COVID positive cases would be home quarantined for ten days, it added. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Lt. Gen Tahir Mahmud Qazi, Adviser to CEO KESTRAL, presenting book on Bangladesh to Editor Islamabad POST/CENTRELINE/DNA, Ansar Mahmood Bhatti, during a function at the Malaysian HC residence. - DNA

Online cab driving income source for females

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Online cab driving becomes another source of income among females in twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi as they need to satisfy their children and family livelihood. A female cab driver Noreen Masood mother of five children said, "Her husband health seriously ill and there was no one in her family to run the house. Noreen said that she joined this driving job a month ago and initially faced many problems with being a female cab driver". "My family lives in Multan, so they don't know what kind of a job I am doing. I have strictly asked my children not to tell any relative during our visit to our hometown," she said. Noreen fears that her relatives would not allow her to continue her job as she believes opting for this job is taboo in her family.

Norwegian embassy, UNODC, FIA inaugurate victim facilitation centre

UNODC believes that the Victim Reception and Facilitation Centre at the Taftan Border will immensely enhance FIA's capacity to protect and assist victims of trafficking and vulnerable smuggled migrants: Milsom

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Norwegian Embassy, UNODC Country Office Pakistan, and Federal Investigation Agency inaugurated the Victim Reception and Facilitation Centre (VRFC) located at Taftan border, Pakistan. The inauguration ceremony of VRFC was held at the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Headquarters in the presence of the Director-General FIA, Dr. Sanullah Abbasi, Deputy Ambassador of the Norwegian Embassy Islamabad, Maha-Noor Khan, and Dr. Jeremy Milsom, the Representative UNODC Country Office Pakistan.

The construction of the VRFC was successfully completed during the third quarter of 2021, and it was handed over in a ceremony on August 31st, 2021, to the FIA in Taftan by UNODC. VRFC is located at Taftan which is a key transit point for irregular migrants from Afghanistan and Pakistan intending to reach Europe. As per the MOU between the FIA and UNODC Country Office Pakistan, FIA provided land for the project while construction was carried out by UNODC with the financial support of the Kingdom of Norway. After the construction, FIA deployed 20 officers at the VRFC as per agreement. Dr. Jeremy Milsom, Representative, UNODC Pakistan, addressed the participants at the inauguration. He said, "UNODC believes that the Victim Reception and Facilitation Centre at the Taftan Border will immensely enhance FIA's



capacity to protect and assist victims of trafficking and vulnerable smuggled migrants along this route. A total of 2857 deportees have already been accommodated at VRFC since the handover in August 2021, according to the data received from FIA Balochistan." He thanked the Kingdom of Norway for their support for the VRFC project expressing his desire to continue a close and enduring relationship in the future. Director-General FIA, Dr. Sanullah

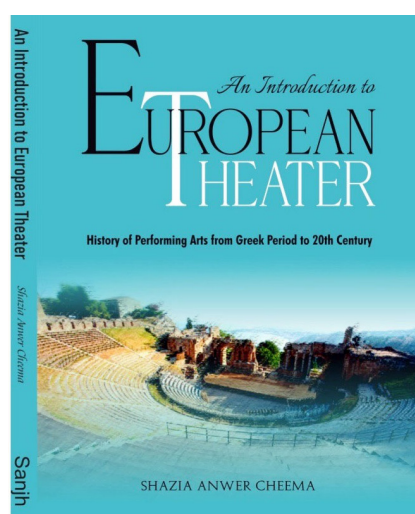
Abbasi remarked, "Pakistan has long been exposed to the wide-ranging consequences of human trafficking and migrant smuggling internally and from neighboring Afghanistan. With the current political situation in Afghanistan, it becomes more important to synergize the efforts in our region, among the regional countries and with international partners such as UNODC." He further added, "Pakistani men and women migrate overseas vol-

untarily, particularly to the Gulf states and Europe, for low-skilled employment such as agriculture, domestic services, driving, and construction work. Traffickers exploit people through false job offers including fake modeling advertisements, sham recruitment agencies, and a high recruitment fee charged by illegal labor agents or sub-agents of licensed Pakistani overseas employment promoters. Innocent citizens are trapped by traffickers in sex trafficking and

bonded labor." Her Excellency Ms. Maha-Noor Khan, Deputy Ambassador, Royal Norwegian Embassy Islamabad, said, "Norway is honored to have been part of the development of this important Reception and Facilitation center in Taftan. Irregular migration to Europe puts these vulnerable people in a dangerous situation. We, therefore, welcome Pakistan's effort to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling. We appreciate the close partnership with

UNODC and look forward to further cooperation with FIA regarding this international and multi-dimensional crime." Speaking about FIA's long partnership with UNODC, Mr. Sardar Zaheer Ahmed, Director Anti-Human Smuggling FIA, stated, "FIA, with the support of UNODC, is strengthening its response against TIP and SOM through the National Action Plan to combat TIP and SOM (2021-25), developed in close assistance with UNODC."

"An Introduction to European Theater – History of Performing Arts from Greek Period to 20th Century"



BOOK REVIEW

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan: A book covering the history of European Theatre from the Greek period to the 20th Century has been published. The title of the book is "An Introduction to European Theater—History of Performing Arts from Greek Period to 20th Century" has been published. The author of the book Shazia Anwer Cheema is a Prague-based columnist, writer, and foreign affairs expert who writes for national and international media. Shazia Anwer did her M.Phil. in Cognitive Semiotics from Aarhus University Denmark and is currently registered as a Ph.D. Scholar of Semiotics and Philosophy of Communication at Charles University Prague. "An Introduction to European Theater—History of Performing Arts from Greek Period to 20th Century" covers the journey of visual and performing Arts as well as philosophical movements spreading over 2500 years. Art is always a mirror of the time giving the absolute justification for the idea that any art form cannot be understood in a vacuum. Ar-

tistic work is an organic process that comes into existence with the help of certain binary forces such as politics, economics, and social fabrics of that time. First in the shape of an idea then it transforms into philosophy and later it gets executed into artistic forms/generes. Sometimes a philosophy provides nurturing ground for artistic genres and other times artistic experimentation creates a philosophical sphere. In both ways, history, politics, and sociology cannot be filtered out from art. To understand, visual, performing, and literary art, the reader's trajectory must be social, and political history of art and artist. So, any book that is written on visual art, performing art, and literary art is equally a book on history, philosophy, and politics thus must be useful for historians, philosophy students, and students of politics (International Relations, Public Diplomacy, Cultural Diplomacy). When asked why did she decide to write this book, the author of the book Shazia Anwer Cheema was explained that while doing her Ph.D. in Semiotics and Philosophy of Communication and when she started researching about theater as an art form, especially European Theatre she came across an overwhelming number of books on almost all aspects of European Theater, alarmingly all books were written by experts for the experts, however, a regular reader, as well as students, could hardly get any substantive information from these books. When asked how could be her book useful for readers, she stated that everyday readers would not find the book laborious hence can quench his/her esthetic thirst also students and researchers would find it useful for clarity of form and content. For instance, it has sociopolitical movements of the twentieth-century tracing back its origin into the politics of antiquity. When did humanity feel suppressed and get the idea of revolt which gave birth to the theatre of revolt, how did the proscenium arch and concept of the fourth wall in the theater change the course of history plus the history of performing art? Why feminism is still an undercooked theory and Queer has become a phenomenon?

Pakistani youth needs personal development: Expert

NA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is said to be young nation. More than 60% of population consists of youth. Youth that has to make their career. Career making requires employment and business. Pakistan's population is more than 220 Million and we are poor developing country. One can easily count how many are 60% of 220 Million. The only solution to adjust this huge population of youth is Start Ups, Entrepreneurship, Small and Medium Enterprises. But unfortunately most of the aspiring youth and their mentors even do not know much about what is Start Up or Entrepreneurship actually? They see it financially only and leave the other important prospects undressed. Reluctantly, finance is spent without sale and profit. Mr. Zechariah Janjua has not only learnt



and experienced the above mentioned sectors but now he is leading it in UK with his own organization Dean Ventures. He has served in this field extensively in UK. He is in Islamabad these days. He is here to observe the sector and provide his services for his home land as well. He hails from a Rajpoot family of Matur village of Kahuta.

He suggests youth of Pakistan to come into Technology Start Ups. He gives example of Amazon that is a technology business of trillion dollar thanks to its technology only. Facebook is another example of technology business that engaged the whole world. The youth needs to develop them personally with their mental conditioning. Starting a new venture is not an easy job. You need to analyze the whole idea of your project with respect to available market. He advocates connection and coordination between academia and industry to promote the entrepreneurship and start ups. He says that universities should develop a culture of entrepreneurship and latest technology. Students should learn how to start a business with latest technology in their syllabus. Industry should guide the academia what are the trends and requirements of the market.



RAWALPINDI: Brig. Salman Nazir, President and Station Commander Rawalpindi chairing meeting of Rawalpindi Cant Board. - DNA

Mother tongues

It is a little known fact that International Mother Language Day, observed on February 21, was inspired by one of the darkest days in Pakistan's history. On that day in 1952, students in Dhaka protesting for the recognition of Bengali/Bangla were shot dead by police. Unesco decided to honour their sacrifice for a language that was being stifled by the state in 1999 by instituting a day to raise awareness about linguistic diversity. The lesson is one we could still use to this day as provincial and regional languages are still in danger of dying out, often with the active involvement of the state. Of the over six thousand languages spoken in the world, nearly half of them are facing a challenge of a bigger language devouring them. According to Unesco, there are thousands of underused languages that will face extinction by the end of this century. One way to keep these languages alive is to make sure they get adequate attention both individually and professionally. People and governments must realise that languages have to be kept alive consciously and with sustained efforts. Language experts say that over 40 percent of languages around the world are endangered and most of them are on the verge of going extinct. As the 21st century progresses in science and technology, only a few hundred languages make their presence felt as part of the education systems across the world. The situation is even more depressing if you look at the increasingly digitised world that makes use of hardly a couple of hundred languages. Most psychologists and child development specialists believe that one of the best ways to improve children's learning abilities is to teach in their mother tongues. The first years in a child's cognitive development play a significant role and early vocabulary that they learn from their parents stays with them for the rest of their lives. Gradually, most mother tongues get replaced by other languages at school. In Pakistan, we have nearly 80 languages from Khunjerab to Karachi and from Gilgit to Gwadar. But hardly a dozen or so languages are likely to survive for another 100 years. English is fast replacing Urdu which is in turn supplanting most other languages. There should not be any stigma attached to someone who prefers to speak in one's own language. The fact is that trying to impose one language on a diverse country does more to feed resentment and alienation than recognising our rich heritage ever would. The federal and provincial governments must make efforts to preserve all languages in the country and for that purpose they must allocate adequate resources.

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State of suspense

The ongoing developments on the political scene in Pakistan are presenting a rather clunky version of cloak-and-dagger manoeuvres. The opposition appears to be gathering forces in an attempt to move a no-confidence motion against the government, or else put together enough people to defeat the PTI in the next polls. However, Prime Minister Imran Khan and his team seem as confident as ever with the prime minister somewhat sarcastically asking the opposition not to panic. But one wonders if the opposition really does need to panic, given recent meetings. For the first time, Shahbaz Sharif has met Jehangir Tareen, the dissident member of the PTI, and discussed matters with him in a meeting the details of which have not been released. However, just the fact that the meeting took place is significant. Meanwhile, the opposition has also said that its members of parliament are being pressurised by calls from various quarters to refrain from voting in any one direction. It seems someone else may be in panic mode than the opposition, especially since in a numbers game it's really only a handful of defections that could topple the government. At the same time, the question is whether the opposition has the will to go about what it is proposing, at least indirectly – and whether it is correct that a number of PTI members would vote against their own party. These questions become all the more pertinent given the repeated failures of opposition in the Senate in the past, despite its strength in terms of numbers, and the way majority votes mysteriously seem to disappear on the day of voting. The PTI has definitely lost popularity, but it would be difficult to say that the opposition has gained much ground. And we have yet to see a solid agenda on how they would change the current scenario the country is stuck in – most of all, the crippling financial situation people are increasingly facing. This is the factor that would most affect the PTI in the next election. An interim government is, of course, always a possibility in Pakistan, given the history of our democracies. But the confidence of the PTI at the moment seems unshattered, despite the increasing number of statements coming through from the opposition, and a sense of panic within the PTI. The coming days promise much political suspense; analysts are already predicting a vote of no-confidence as early as the next few days. Whatever be the case, there is little doubt that the ruling party has painted itself into a rather tight corner and may only be looking at the usual saviours to be bailed out for some breathing space.

Why developing countries should sit out the new cold war

Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg



In the mid-1990s, Ukrainian leaders approached the bloc for possible membership, but Brussels declined and in 2009 instead offered the Eastern Partnership alternative

VISITING Brussels for the second time in a month, one could not fail to notice how the Ukraine crisis is casting a longer shadow over the city and the EU than just a month ago. The EU had been gearing up for competition with China, but the Ukraine crisis has added another twist. There is very little doubt now that we are in the grips of a new global cold war. The devastation caused by the original Cold War, which was suffered mostly by developing countries, should teach them to sit this one out unless they can help defuse the superpower conflict. While EU foreign ministers were convening their monthly meeting on Monday, Russian President Vladimir Putin loomed large as TV screens around the world showed him signing papers declaring Russia's recognition of Donetsk and Luhansk, two breakaway regions of Ukraine, as independent republics. European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen promised tough sanctions against Moscow. The EU has been at the heart of the

Ukraine-Russia conflict for some time. In the mid-1990s, Ukrainian leaders approached the bloc for possible membership, but Brussels declined and in 2009 instead offered the Eastern Partnership alternative. This strengthened EU ties with Ukraine, as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and Moldova – six countries lying between the EU and Russia. Association and free trade agreements were part of the deal. Belarus later pulled out. Russia objected strongly to the partnership policy, which challenged Moscow's historical influence in Eastern Europe. It took exception in particular to the growing ties between the EU and Ukraine and especially to their association agreement. But the EU and Ukraine went ahead and, by 2012, negotiations on the association agreement, including an FTA, were concluded and the text was initialed. The agreement was a key factor in the uprising that overthrew Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich in February 2014. His overthrow and Kyiv's growing ties with the EU, including the signing of the association agreement in March 2014, and NATO contributed to Ukraine's estrangement from Russia. Not since the end of the Cold War has there been foreboding like one feels in Brussels these days. The developments in Ukraine have shaken off the sense of complacency many Europeans and others had felt since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, which signaled the end of the Cold War. With the threat of war from the east receding, European nations mothballed their military hardware and focused on other things. Until now. The Ukraine crisis has added fuel to the already brewing conflict with China. With the new Cold War, we may be on the cusp of a new polarized world order. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday told the Munich Security Conference that the threat to global security is now more complex and probably greater than it was during the Cold War because, back then, "there were mechanisms that enabled the protagonists to calculate risks and use backchannels to prevent crises." He repeated his warning from last September, during the opening week of the UN General Assembly, that the new competition was more dangerous than the old one. Then, he was focused on the China-US rivalry.

The Ukraine crisis threatens to turn into a devastating war. Even if a direct shooting war can be avoided, a new front in the new cold war has certainly opened. During the old Cold War, millions died in the superpowers' proxy wars, mostly in developing countries, while economic and ethnic tensions were at times stoked and exploited. Economic development was often derailed and political and social institutions undermined, leading to social breakdowns and state failures. In Africa, according to a recent study by the African Export-Import Bank, the Cold War claimed millions of African lives and led to "lost decades that precipitated a widening income gap between Africa and the rest of the world." Scars are still fresh and the region "cannot afford a sequel," according to the study, which documented the effects of the new cold war in Africa. More than 20,000 people were killed in local African conflicts in 2020, 10 times the figure of a decade ago. These proxy wars have led to instability and the militarization of some African states, diverting badly needed funds away from development. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, military spending in Africa exceeded \$43 billion in 2020, up from \$15 billion in the 1990s. In some countries, military spending has doubled or tripled over the past decade. In response to the bipolar US-Russia world of the Cold War, most countries tried to stay neutral, even establishing the Non-Aligned Movement to organize their neutrality. However, as hard as they tried, most countries were pulled to one side or the other. Very few remained truly neutral. The question now is how to prevent the new cold war from spreading. Its onset should motivate parties in local conflicts, such as those in Yemen and Somalia, to resolve their differences quickly, either bilaterally or regionally, to avoid getting entangled in superpower rivalry. Conflicts that are difficult to resolve may now become impossible to end if the superpowers find it in their interest for them to continue. Therefore, attempts to internationalize local conflicts should be resisted, except through UN mediation when needed, and only when local efforts fail.

—Courtesy: Arab News

For the Kremlin, war crimes are not mistakes but tactics

Oleksandra Matvychuk

Understandably the world is now focusing on the Russian military build-up on the Ukrainian border, surrounding the country with some 140,000 troops

IN 2014, Izolatsiya, the only contemporary arts centre in the Ukrainian city of Donetsk, was seized by Moscow-backed militants and was transformed into a secret detention centre. The memoirs of Ukrainian journalist Stanislav Aseyev, who spent close to three years at the facility, have recently been published in English and make for harrowing reading. He describes torture, rape and various degrading mistreatment that Ukrainians were subjected to. "I would have signed any confession they put before me. All I wanted was to be shot – such was the depth of my despair," Aseyev wrote. This is what happens when Russia occupies your country: lively public spaces celebrating life and culture become lawless black holes of pain and suffering. For the Kremlin, war crimes are not mistakes but tactics. It gains and retains control of a region by rounding up vocal minorities and exposing them to brutal treatment. This sends a message to the passive majority to stay silent. Anyone that might sound the alarm – usually rights activists – is forced into exile or detained. Try to find any human rights organisations in Kremlin's client entities like Transnistria, South Ossetia or Crimea that do not suffer systematic persecution. You won't find any. Our organisation, Center for Civil Liberties, was forced to stop observation work in the occupied territories in the summer of 2014, as the high risk to our monitors and their interlocutors was too high. Before we halted activities there, our colleagues informed us that the separatists who called themselves "liberators" were very much characters like their commander Igor Strelkov, who took part in the bloody violence in Transnistria and Chechnya in the 1990s. Still, we have spoken to people who were tortured, raped, mutilated and forced into making false confessions in the dungeons of the self-proclaimed "people's republics" of Donetsk and Luhansk. We have also continued to follow the tragic fates of civilians arrested and abused in illegal detention centres. Lyudmila Huseinova, a children's rights advocate suspected of pro-Ukrainian sympathies, is entering her third year of detention in inhumane conditions. Natalia Statsenko, a doctor who has been jailed since 2019 over accusations of espionage, is suffering such acute spinal pain that her parents are worried she will soon die if she does not receive treatment. These are just a few of the estimated 300 political prisoners held in separatist-controlled territories, according to the Ukrainian ombudsman. People who live in grey zones like this have no access to legal mechanisms to defend themselves. The Ukrainian government maintains that even the International Committee of the Red Cross has been denied access to detainees languishing in Donbas prisons. Understandably the world is now focusing on the Russian military build-up on

the Ukrainian border, surrounding the country with some 140,000 troops. But it is important to remember that since 2014 a whole chunk of Ukrainian territory has been cut off from the rest of the country by an iron curtain and run by proxy armed groups bankrolled by Vladimir Putin's regime. What is happening now at Ukraine's border is not about "geopolitics" – it is about defending democracy and stopping an authoritarian model from expanding. Ukraine happens to be at the forefront of this battle and it needs help. If we do not stop Putin now, he will find another target soon, perhaps in the heart of the European Union. In the Donbas, we have witnessed the grim consequences of Russian aggression: health and social services deteriorating, children being taught propaganda in schools, parents languishing in jails, and a permanent state of lawlessness plaguing the civilian population. Moscow does not care for the wellbeing of anyone in these territories, regardless of their "allegiance". The sole purpose of the aggression is to sow division, distract the Ukrainian government and drain its resources until eventually it comes back into the fold. These days Kyiv is a surreal place. We pretend to live a normal life. People go to work, go shopping, go to cinema or the gym and then in the evening they come home, sit for dinner and explain to their kids what to do if Russian bombs start raining down tomorrow. The civil society has also mobilised and started disseminating information about what to do in the event of an evacuation or an internet shutdown. Ukrainians are resilient but they do need help. If Russia does invade, the United States and the EU should immediately impose comprehensive economic sanctions, targeting the Russian financial sector, borrowing capacity, trade in energy and goods. Dialogue is important, even though the Kremlin sees it as a sign of weakness. Ultimately Putin understands only the language of force, so Ukraine's European partners must show their readiness to counter military threats and increase the cost of invasion. One of the aims of the Kremlin's military threats is to destabilise the Ukrainian government. That is why it is essential to provide support for Ukraine's economy, which has already suffered immensely from the Russian aggression threat. Ukraine needs help with its reform agenda as well. After the 2014 Maidan revolution overthrew the kleptocratic President Viktor Yanukovich, the country embarked on a transformation towards a democratic regime based on the rule of law. Putin invaded Ukraine to derail these efforts. He is not concerned about the expansion of NATO; he hates the idea of being surrounded by people free to choose their future and to hold elites accountable. For this reason, it is also important that the Ukrainian government and institutions driving this reform agenda forward receive adequate help and assistance. A well-functioning democracy in Ukraine threatens Putin's regime, as Ukrainian prosperity and wellbeing would inspire Russians to seek the same for themselves. That is why, when in December, Russian human rights group Memorial was shut down and we asked how we could help them, they responded: "Be successful". Russia and Ukraine's fates seem intertwined, but they move at different speeds. The world should not wait for Russia to democratise and abandon Ukraine in the meantime. Our country is already on the right track and should be supported in its efforts to build a successful and thriving democracy.

—Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Oil market concerns shifting away from pandemic

Michael Rothman

The Kingdom and its producer colleagues never received broad accolades for navigating the demand crisis is not the point. The point is that despite a literal horde of market watchers and pundits who knew the producers' action would "fail miserably," global oil inventories were drawn down 660 million barrels since July 2020

FOR the better part of two years, oil market volatility had at its center concerns linked to the coronavirus pandemic and, more specifically, negative impacts on global oil demand growth from isolating and containment measures. And 2020 saw the largest ever retrenchment

in oil usage that eclipsed the previously worse contraction, which occurred in the aftermath of the global credit crisis. Very much to its credit, Saudi Arabia corralled the rest of OPEC and a few key non-OPEC countries to rein in oil production and so avoid a cataclysmic build in oil inventories, which would have plagued oil prices for years. This OPEC+ group achieved a related goal of working down inventories toward a level corresponding with the 2010 to 2014 average with the aim of lifting oil prices to budget-friendly levels. That the Kingdom and its producer colleagues never received broad accolades for navigating the demand crisis is not the point. The point is that despite a literal horde of market watchers and pundits who knew the producers' action would "fail miserably," global oil inventories were drawn down 660 million barrels since July 2020, a draw that stands unparalleled in oil market history. As pandemic effects go, a funny thing has happened since the sharp oil price sell-off after news of the omicron variant of COVID-19 surfaced in November: Market behavior has shifted from pandemic-centric issues to macro-economic concerns. The interest-rate leanings expressed by major central banks has moved center stage and with that the broader concern

about the global economic outlook. In the same vein, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has aggravated angst about the economic climate. The considered opinion, however, is that the oil market has postured defensively around the Ukraine crisis. Russia is the world's second-largest oil exporter after Saudi Arabia. It exports on average 7 million to 7.5 million barrels per day – this includes crude and refined oil products. As to natural gas, Russia ranks first in the world with outflows averaging 22 to 23 billion cubic feet per day. If the oil market was concerned about those volumes being disrupted or dislocated, the price of crude would have shot well above current levels. In fact, at the time of writing, Brent was trading below its current fair value by around \$7 to \$8 per barrel based on global inventory levels. Should the Ukraine situation morph into a broader armed conflict, the odds of Russia's oil (and natural gas) exports becoming embargoed seem close to zero. Its energy exports to the world are irreplaceable, literally. There were similar prognostications about Russia's oil and natural gas being sanctioned when it annexed Crimea and, similar to then, issues are likely to end up centered on broader economic ramifications.

—Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs

Pogacar rises to top in first climb of UAE Tour

PARIS: Tadej Pogacar made an early-season statement when he sprinted away from an elite group on Wednesday to win the first climbing stage of the World Tour season in the UAE Tour. A powerful bunch was still together as the 181-kilometre fourth stage slogged up Jebel Jais, the highest point in the Emirates. Even though the gradient steepened to 7 per cent in the last 200 metres, the Slovenian, led out by two of his UAE team-mates, charged away. Briton Adam Yates of Ineos and Russian Aleksandr Vlasov of Bora gave chase in a frantic uphill sprint, but could not close the gap. —Agencies

Imran Khan in Russia

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was also given guard of honour after which the delegation headed to the hotel. The prime minister's trip to meet President Vladimir Putin and discuss issues including economic cooperation comes hours after a number of Western nations hit Russia with new sanctions for its military deployment into parts of eastern Ukraine. "Both countries are eager to launch the project at the earliest," Pakistan's energy ministry spokesman told Reuters about the Pakistan Stream gas pipeline. He confirmed that Energy Minister Hamad Azhar is accompanying the PM on the visit. The Prime Minister's Office also confirmed that Azhar was accompanying the premier alongside Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry, Planning and Development Minister Asad Umar, Commerce Adviser Abdul Razak Dawood, National Security Adviser Dr Moeed Yusuf and MNA Amir Mahmood Kiani.

PDM agrees on Shehbaz...

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sources is going to play a key role in this regard. Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman requested Chaudhary brothers to support the agenda of PDM. The PDM Chief called on Pakistan Muslim League - Quaid-e-Azam (PML-Q) Chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and Punjab Assembly Speaker Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi on Wednesday. After meeting with Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Co-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari, PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman reached the house of Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain for a meeting where Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi welcomed them. The meeting was attended by Tariq Bashir Cheema, Salik Hussain, Hussain Elahi, Shafi Hussain and Maulana Asad Mahmood, son of Maulana Fazlur Rehman. Meanwhile, Maulana Fazlur Rehman inquired about the well-being of Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain. The meeting also discussed the no-trust motion. During the meeting, the PDM chief requested the Chaudhry brothers to support the PDM's opposition strategy. The PML-Q leader went on to say that PDM has heated up the political front all across the country, in response to which Fazlur Rehman said that the movement would reach a logical conclusion.

EU Human Rights...

FROM PAGE 01
EU were discussed during the meeting. COAS said that Pakistan values its relations with EU countries and we earnestly look forward to enhancing mutually beneficial multi-domain relations based on common interest. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's sincere efforts for bringing peace and stability to the region and pledged to play his role for further improvements in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.



ISLAMABAD: Curator Zara Khan presenting book to Federal Education and Culture Minister Shafqat Mahmood. DG PNCA and Asma Rashid Khan Director Satrang Art Gallery are also seen in the picture. — Photo by Shahid Raju

Alexander Zverev thrown out of Mexican Open

"Due to unsportsmanlike conduct at the conclusion of his doubles match on Tuesday night, Alexander Zverev has been withdrawn from the tournament in Acapulco"

SPORTS DESK

MEXICO CITY: World number three Alexander Zverev has been thrown out of the Mexican Open after "unsportsmanlike conduct" that saw him attack the umpire's chair at the end of a doubles match in Acapulco. Germany's Zverev argued with the umpire during the decisive tie-break as he and Marcelo Melo lost 6-2 4-6 10-6 to Lloyd Glasspool and Harri Heliövaara. Zverev struck the umpire's chair several times with his racket. The 24-year-old later apologised, calling his behaviour "unacceptable". Zverev was the defending champion in the singles event. "Due to unsportsmanlike conduct at the conclusion of his doubles match on Tuesday night, Alexander Zverev has been withdrawn from the tournament in Acapulco," an ATP statement read. His opponent Peter Gojowczyk has been given a walkover into the third round. Zverev wrote on Instagram that he had "privately apologised" to umpire Alessandro Germani and said he was "disappointed in



myself". "As you know, I leave everything on court. Yesterday, I left too much," he wrote. "I am going to take the coming days to reflect - on my actions and how I can ensure that it will not happen again." Zverev believed a ball was incorrectly called out during the tie-break and began yelling at

the umpire, with the crowd taking the official's side. Britain's Glasspool and Finland's Heliövaara then wrapped up the match with an ace on the next point. Zverev hit the chair with his racket three times and came close to hitting the umpire's foot at one point. He continued yelling at

the umpire and took another swing as the umpire moved to climb down from his chair. The ATP defines unsportsmanlike conduct as "any misconduct by a player that is clearly abusive or detrimental to the success of a tournament, ATP and/or the sport". Zverev is being investigated by the ATP over allegations that he was violent towards a former girlfriend. He has repeatedly denied the claims. Sleep deprived, no doubt, after playing singles until nearly 5am the same morning, Zverev still has absolutely no excuse for his abusive, aggressive and menacing behaviour. Umpire Germani and all his colleagues will now be looking towards the ATP for action. The first call belongs to the tournament supervisor. He is likely to decide later today to withhold Zverev's prize money and issue the Olympic champion with a fine. And then the ATP's senior vice-president for rules and competition must decide whether Zverev's behaviour constitutes a 'Player Major Offence'. If Zverev is found guilty under that code, as Nick Kyrgios was in 2019, he would be subject to a heavy fine and even a possible suspension from the tour.

Afif, Mehidy help Bangladesh sink Afghanistan

WEB DESK

CHITTAGONG: Afif Hossain and Mehidy Hasan shared a record 174-run seventh-wicket stand as Bangladesh recovered from a top-order collapse to beat Afghanistan by four wickets in the first one-day international of a three-match series in Chittagong on Wednesday. Afif hit an unbeaten 93 off 115 balls while Mehidy added 81 not out, helping Bangladesh reach 219-6 in 48.5 overs, after Afghanistan left-arm pace bowler Fazalhaq Farooqi's opening-spell burst reduced the hosts to 18-4 inside five overs. Spinners Mujeeb Ur Rahman and Rashid Khan took one wicket apiece to leave Bangladesh struggling at 45-6 before Afif and Mehidy turned the tide. Earlier Mustafizur Rahman took 3-35 with Shoriful Islam (2-38), Shakib Al Hasan (2-50) and Taskin Ahmed (2-55) all making an impact as Bangladesh bowled out Afghanistan for 215 runs. Despite the modest target, Bangladesh were in all sorts of trouble when Farooqi dismissed openers Tamim Iqbal (eight) and Liton Das (one) in the third over before nabbing Mushfiqur Rahim (three) and debutant Yasir Ali (zero) in the next. Things turned worse for Bangladesh after Shakib Al Hasan dragged onto his stumps off Mujeeb Ur Rahman to depart for 10 and Rashid dismissed Mahmudullah for eight to leave Bangladesh in a precarious situation.



But Afif, who hit 11 fours and a six in his career-best knock, and Mehidy ensured there was no further damage. Mehidy struck nine fours in his third ODI fifty, also his personal best innings, which came off 120 balls. Their partnership surpassed Imrul Kayes and Mohammad Saifuddin's 127 seventh-wicket record for Bangladesh, set against Zimbabwe in 2018. "The way the youngsters played, unbelievable, (I am) very happy and proud," said Bangladesh skipper Tamim. "Afghanistan have a great spin attack and the way these two handled (them) was amazing." Farooqi, the most successful Afghanistan bowler, finished with 4-54 playing only his second ODI. "Farooqi bowled well at the top. But I will give credit to their batsmen," said Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah Shahidi.

Hockey match on Saturday

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A hockey match would be played between Pakistan senior and junior teams in a bid to provide financial support to the family of the late Olympian Gold Medalist Mazhar Hussain. The match would be played at the Lt Gen Ashfaq Nadeem (Late) Mari Hockey Stadium, Ayub Park, Rawalpindi on February 26 (Saturday). Addressing a press conference at the Shahnaz Sheikh Hockey Stadium, Rawalpindi, Match Director Raja Shahid Mehmood Rawalpindi, District Hockey Association President Muhammad Yaseen (International) and Nasreen Mazhar, daughter of late Olympian Mazhar Hussain said there would be free entry for the hockey lovers to witness the match. They said the Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Punjab Basharat Raja would be the chief guest of the match. "Mazhar Hussain has valuable services in the field of hockey but his family is facing financial difficulties so this match which is being organized in collaboration with Pakistan Hockey Federation was to support them."

Girls' Cup Karachi: Empowering girls through cricket

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: The Australian High Commission and Jalaluddin Cricket Academy (JCA) today organised the Girls' Cricket Cup in Karachi. "The Australian High Commission has been sponsoring girls' cricket in Pakistan since 2016," Australia's Deputy High Commissioner Joanne Frederiksen said. "We began with a single annual tournament in Islamabad and have expanded to tournaments in Lahore and Karachi." "Our countries share a passion for cricket, so we're very pleased to support this event," Ms Frederiksen said. "Cricket and other sports can help tear down barriers and stereotypes. We hope to provide opportunities for more girls in sport and support gender equality. Every time these girls hit a boundary or make a catch, they are taking a step towards greater equality." The girls attended a five-day coaching clinic in the lead-up to the competition. "We are pleased to have the participation of first-class PCB coaches who helped to build confidence, foster team spirit and encourage the girls," said Ms Frederiksen. She thanked the schools - Nasra Public School, Civil Aviation Authority Model School, Karachi Public School, Dawood Public School and Aga Khan Higher Secondary - for joining the event and paid tribute to the contribution made by JCA and PCB. Leading coach Jalal Uddin, a former national player and now JCA Chairman, congratulated the Australian High Commission on the initiative. "I believe any sports development starts from the grassroots level. The Girls' Cricket Cup is a great initiative from the Australian High Commission, that will boost girls' participation at the grassroots level and provide opportunities for the identification of talent for Pakistan women's cricket," Jalal Uddin said. Australia's Deputy High Commissioner Joanne Frederiksen presented awards to teams competing in the Girls' Cricket Cup Karachi.

Sports goods exports witness 28% increase

ISLAMABAD: Sports goods exports during the first seven months of fiscal year of 2021-22 grew by 28.76 % as compared to the exports of the commodity during the corresponding period of last year. During the period from July-Nov 2021, Sports goods worth US \$ 192,680 exported, as compared to exports of \$149,643 during the same period of last year. According to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, the exports of Footballs increased by 25.25 %, of US \$93,187 as compared to the exports of US \$74,400 of the same period of last year. Meanwhile, Gloves exports also increased by 17.23% as the exports during current fiscal year recorded worth US \$44,561 as compared to the exports during the same period of last year which recorded US \$38,012. During the period under review, others exports increased by 47.54 %, worth US\$ 54,932 in current fiscal year, as compared to the exports of valuing US\$ 37,231 of the same period of last year. — APP

Ukraine declares...

FROM PAGE 01

plan. The measure, which must be formally approved by parliament, requires stepped-up document and vehicle checks, among other measures. Danilov also said Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had not discussed the development of nuclear weapons, something Vladimir Putin has said posed a strategic threat for Russia. Meanwhile, Kiev's foreign ministry has urged Ukrainians to refrain from travelling to Russia, and asked those in that country to leave immediately. It said the growing threat of Russian "aggression" meant that it would be increasingly difficult to provide consular services for Ukrainian citizens in Russia. Separately, Russia has started evacuating personnel from all of its diplomatic facilities in Ukraine. Russia's state news agency on Wednesday reported that the embassy in Kiev confirmed the evacuations have begun.

Opposition's bribe...

FROM PAGE 01

PTI MPs "extremely shameful" and vowed to foil their tactics to once again reactivate "horse-trading" in the politics. Fawad lauded the PTI Members of Parliament (MPs) for reposing confidence in the party leadership. He said the opposition's bid to bribe these PTI MNAs was evident enough to expose the agenda of the meeting of two "big dealers" in Lahore on Tuesday night. It seemed that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) President Shehbaz Sharif and Pakistan People's Party (PPP) co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari discussed the share of each party of bribing for no-trust move, he added. They were apparently in a state of panic and stress due to corruption cases in the courts, he said. He said Shehbaz Sharif was roaming free as his case was not being heard on day-to-day basis and may face consequences once daily case hearing was initiated. Fawad said the two leaders submitted medical certificates in the courts, but ironically, both had a formal meeting in Lahore to discuss arrangements for purchasing the loyalties of MPs. He said it had been a week since the opposition announced to bring no-confidence motion, but they still had to decide its final date. "I challenge them to bring the no-confidence move in the next 24 hours to see what will happen afterwards," he said, adding the opposition did not have the guts to carry out its plan. He said the government was moving in the right direction as the economy was on upward trajectory, despite multiple challenges. He said substantive relief packages would be announced to ensure relief for people due to inflation at world level. As regards the prime minister's visit to Russia, he said in the prevailing global scenario, it had become most significant since the world would be focusing on Moscow - the meeting venue of Russian President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Sultans beat Qalandars in Play-off

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Multan Sultans defeated Lahore Qalandars by 28 runs during the play-off game. Batting first, Multan Sultans posted a total of 163 runs. Rilee Rossouw made an unbeaten 65 runs while captain Rizwan scored 53 runs. Lahore Qalandars' flamboyant batter Fakhar Zaman registered a new record after he scored the most runs in a single Pakistan Super League (PSL) edition. During the Sultans-Qalandar's clash at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, Zaman broke Babar Azam's record, who scored the most runs -554 - during last year's PSL. Zaman scored a sensational 63-run knock, with the help of two fours and four sixes, to reach a total of 584 runs in PSL 7, with Mohammad Rizwan (532) trailing behind. Zaman has also become the sec-



ond-highest run-scorer in PSL, as he has amassed 1,935 runs, but is way behind Babar, who has 2,413 runs to his name. Meanwhile, Former Pakistan cricket captain Mohammad Hafeez gained a unique distinction in his cricket career and achieved the milestone of completing 200 wickets in the T20 format here on Wednesday night at Gaddafi stadium. The veteran all rounder who retired from international cricket after last year's T20 world cup, dismissed Multan Sultans' opener, Shan Masood, in the Pakistan Super League (PSL) qualifier against Lahore Qalandars during second over of the match. After retiring from international cricket Hafeez is showing performance as an all rounder and he is regularly taking part in shortest version of the game (T20) completions and leagues in different parts of the World.

Briefs

Kazakhstan working to produce nuclear energy

NUR-SULTAN: Kazakhstan, which ranks first globally in crude uranium production, is taking steps to produce nuclear energy, a senior official said on Wednesday. Jaslan Kasenov, the head of the Nuclear Energy and Industry Department of the country's Energy Ministry, told journalists in Nur-Sultan that Kazakhstan is currently conducting research in this field, considering the natural and climatic conditions. Noting that his country is actively working to examine the technologies of six global companies that supply reactors, Kasenov said the examinations are carried out in line with safety, reactor reference, capacity, and cost criteria of nuclear plants. He said the country is the world's largest producer of crude uranium and that it possesses all necessary resources to produce nuclear energy. "We have access to uranium isotope enrichment services as well as our own nuclear fuel production," he said, adding that the world and the region are experiencing an electricity crisis, while 31 countries currently operate nuclear power plants. - APP

Pak-Chinese IT enterprises should explore cooperation

BEIJING: Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai, Husain Haider said that it was imperative for ICT enterprises from Pakistan and China to explore different areas of cooperation particularly the outsourcing of ICT services from Pakistan to China. ICT is one of the fastest growing sectors in China and Shanghai is the heart of China when it comes to ICT and digital technology. ICT is also one of the fastest growing sectors in Pakistan as well, he said in his welcome remarks in a webinar on outsourcing ICT talent from Pakistan programme. The Consul General said that in recent years, trade and investment relations between Pakistan and China have developed greatly, especially in 2021 when the bilateral trade volume reached an all-time high. - APP

9,000-year-old ritual complex found in Jordan

AMMAN: Archaeologists deep in the Jordanian desert have discovered a 9,000-year-old ritualistic complex near what is thought to be the earliest known large human-built structure worldwide. The Stone Age shrine site, excavated last year, was used by gazelle hunters and features carved stone figures, an altar and a miniature model of a large-scale hunting trap. The giant game traps the model represents - so-called "desert kites" - were made of long walls that converge to corral running gazelles into enclosures or holes for slaughter. Similar structures of two or more stone walls, some several kilometres (miles) long, have been found in deserts across Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and Kazakhstan. - APP

Kazakhstan business delegation visits ICCI

Ambassador said that the President of Kazakhstan would also visit Pakistan in September this year and a business delegation was also likely to accompany him that would further deepen the business linkages between two countries

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A 10-member business delegation of Kazakhstan led by Daniyar Kalimbetov visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry and held B2B meetings with ICCI members to explore business collaborations in areas of mutual interest. The delegation was representing various sectors including construction material, pharmaceuticals, education, healthcare services & products, agriculture and others. Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Pakistan also accompanied the delegation. The delegation also visited the local industrial units to see the potential of Pakistani products for import. Speaking at the occasion, Daniyar Kalimbetov, Head of delegation said that



it was the very first visit of a business delegation from Kazakhstan to Pakistan and they were very optimistic to explore business partnerships with Pakistani counterparts that would be beneficial for both countries. He thanked ICCI for extending warm welcome and great hospitality to the delegation. Yerzhan Kistafin, Ambassador of Kazakhstan said that Pakistan and Kazakhstan

were enjoying cordial relations, but enough attention was not paid to promote business and economic relations. He said that Kazakh business delegation has come to establish direct links with Pakistani counterparts to strengthen trade relations. He said that a single country exhibition of Pakistan would be organized in May this year in Almaty in

which Sialkot & Sargodha Chambers of Commerce would participate. He invited the ICCI delegation to attend the said exhibition to further enhance business relations between the two countries. He said that both countries have good potential to increase bilateral trade to at least USD 1 billion in near future. He said that the President of Kazakhstan would also

visit Pakistan in September this year and a business delegation was also likely to accompany him that would further deepen the business linkages between the two countries. Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the current volume of bilateral trade of less than USD 100 million between Pakistan and Kazakhstan

was quite low given the economic potential of both countries and stressed that they should focus on developing strong business linkages between their private sectors to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation. He said that Pakistan and Kazakhstan have good potential to cooperate in construction, agriculture, energy, textiles, pharmaceuticals, food items, engineering equipment, machinery, banking & finance and many other sectors for which promoting direct connectivity between the entrepreneurs of both countries was very important. He said that the visit of Kazakhstan's trade delegation was a right step in that direction and stressed that both countries should encourage frequent exchange of business delegations to improve trade and economic ties.

4 die as US Navy helicopter crashes

NEW YORK: Four people died when a US Navy contractor's helicopter crashed on the Hawaii island of Kauai, local media reported on Wednesday. The helicopter crashed at Kauai's Pacific Missile Range Facility while offering retrieval support for a training operation, Hawaii News Now reported. According to Brian Beattie, director of operations for Cromar Corporation that operates the S-61 type helicopter, all four civilian employees on board died in the crash, the outlet added. Meanwhile, the National Transportation Safety Board tweeted that it has launched an investigation into the crash. Neither the US Navy nor the contractor company released the names of those killed, the outlet noted. - APP

Malaysia offers 100 scholarships for Afghan students

KABUL: A Malaysian delegation has offered 100 scholarships for Afghan students during its visit to Afghanistan's capital Kabul, the state-run news agency Bakhtar reported on Wednesday. At a meeting with acting Afghan Minister for Higher Education Abdul Baqir Haqqani, head of the Malaysian delegation Ahmad Azam, who is also the special envoy of the Malaysian Foreign Ministry, promised 100 scholarships for Afghan students in the Malaysian Bukhari University, the agency added. According to the news agency, the Malaysian delegation expressed Malaysia's readiness to help war-torn Afghanistan in the fields of education, humanitarian and health. The Afghan side expressed gratitude for Malaysia's support in all fields, especially in the education sector, saying Kabul wanted more support from Kuala Lumpur. - APP

Iranian businessmen keen for JVs in Pakistan

LAHORE: Iranian business community has seen great trade potential with Pakistan and expressed its desire to initiate working for joint ventures in various sectors of mutual interest. Iranian businessmen expressed their keen interest in strong trade and economic ties with Pakistan during meetings with a 13-member delegation of LCCI (Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry) which is on a week-long visit to Iran under the leadership of LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir, according to a spokesman for LCCI here Wednesday. The delegation visited largest car manufacturing company of Iran Khudroo Car Complex, Isfahan Chamber of Commerce and has meeting with Vice President Bahram Sobhani, visited Soloman Carpet Industrial Production Company, JAY Oil Refinery and has meeting with Mayor of Isfahan Qasim Zadeh. LCCI President Mian Nauman Kabir also inked an MOU with Isfahan Chamber of Commerce.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar and Ambassador of Switzerland attending an event held at the Governor House. - DNA

Military conflict will not benefit anyone, Erdogan tells Putin

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: Türkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has discussed the issue of Russia-Ukraine tensions in a phone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin. According to a statement issued by the Presidency's Directorate of Communications on Wednesday, Erdogan emphasised that the problem was becoming more complex with time and that a military conflict would not benefit anyone. He said Türkiye attaches importance to the continuation of diplomatic contacts and talks. Ankara is ready to do its part to reduce tensions and preserve peace, Erdogan said. Stating that Türkiye does not recognise the steps against Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and that this is a principled stance, Erdogan said it is important to reach a conclusion on the basis of the Minsk Agreements. Reiterating his call for this issue to be resolved through dialogue, President Erdogan noted that it is beneficial to highlight diplomacy and that they maintain a constructive stance within NATO as well. Earlier on Wednesday, Erdogan has said Türkiye hoped that its Black Sea neighbours Russia and Ukraine return to the negotiating table as soon as possible to seek a solution. He said Ankara would not turn its back on either Kiev or Moscow. Putin on Monday announced that Moscow was recognising two eastern Ukrainian breakaway regions as "independent" states, followed quickly by an order sending Russian forces there to "maintain peace". The announcements drew widespread global condemnation, with Western countries announcing new sanctions on Russia. Erdogan called the recognition unacceptable, stressing Türkiye's efforts to help reach a resolution. In 2014, after invading Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, Moscow began to support separatist forces in eastern Ukraine against the central government, a policy that it has maintained for the past seven years. The conflict has taken more than 13,000 lives, according to the UN. Putin's latest moves follow Russia amassing some 100,000 troops and heavy equipment in and around its neighbour, with the US and Western countries accusing it of setting the stage for an invasion. Russia has denied it is preparing an invasion and instead claims Western countries undermined its security through NATO's expansion towards its borders.

Three US cities declare Feb 26 as Khojaly Memorial Day

DNA

BAKU: The mayors of three American cities have declared February 26 as "Khojaly Memorial Day", the State Committee for Work with Diaspora has reported. U.S. cities honor Khojaly victims The declarations signed by Mitch Colvin, Elaine O'Neill, and Jacques Gilbert states that the Azerbaijani community in the cities of Apex, Durham, Fayetteville, and around the world pays tribute to the memory of the Khojaly genocide victims on February 26 with deep sorrow and sadness. The documents emphasize that the Azerbaijani Friendship Organization helps to promote the Azerbaijani language, culture, history, and cultural heritage in these cities. It should be noted that the declarations were adopted at the initiative of Adikalgal, the head of the Azerbaijani Friendship Organization. Khojaly commemoration in Iran Meanwhile, Azerbaijan's ambassador to Iran, Ali Alizada, stated that Armenia's war, crimes against peace and humanity, particularly the Khojaly genocide committed as part of its aggression policy against Azerbaijan, are grave violations of human rights and international law. The ambassador made the remarks during his speech at a commemoration ceremony marking the 30th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide, which was held on February 23, 2022, at the Azerbaijani Embassy in Tehran, Iran. The ambassador stated that the national legislatures of 17 countries, as well as 23 U.S. states, have passed resolutions and decisions condemning

the genocide against civilians in Khojaly as a crime against humanity. "At the same time, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States adopted resolutions and statements strongly condemning the Khojaly genocide," Alizada added. Entire destroyed infrastructure Azerbaijani Deputy Education Minister Firudin Gurbanov stated that all 14 schools that existed in Khojaly before the occupation had been destroyed.

70 elderly people. Simultaneously, 487 civilians were seriously injured, and 1,275 people were kidnapped. The fate of 150 hostages remains unknown. During the genocide, 56 people were killed with extreme cruelty, with their heads peeled off, various limbs severed, eyes removed, and pregnant women's bellies pierced with bayonets. As a result, eight families were utterly destroyed, 25 children lost both parents, and 130 children were orphaned.



"The entire infrastructure of Khojaly was destroyed. Historical monuments, monuments in the cemetery of the city were destroyed. All this clearly demonstrates the true face of the Armenians," Gurbanov added. Armenia committed genocide against the 7,000-person population of Azerbaijan's Khojaly town on February 26, 1992. As a result of the Khojaly genocide, 613 peaceful Azerbaijanis were killed, including 63 children, 106 women, and

Relevant documents adopted by the parliaments of Mexico, Pakistan, the Czech Republic, Peru, Colombia, Panama, Honduras, Sudan, Guatemala and Djibouti recognized the Khojaly massacre as an act of genocide. The parliaments of Romania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Jordan, Slovenia, Scotland, and Paraguay, as well as the executive and legislative bodies of 22 U.S. states have strongly condemned the Khojaly tragedy as a massacre.

UN chief criticizes Russia for breaching Ukraine's sovereignty

UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has stepped up his criticism of Russia's recognition of two separatist-held enclaves as independent, calling it a "violation of the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine." The remarks by Guterres, who cut short an overseas trip to return to UN headquarters in New York because of the Ukraine crisis, were among the strongest criticisms he has made against a major member country since he became the head of the world body in 2017. "Our world is facing the biggest global peace and security crisis in recent years, certainly in my tenure as secretary-general," Guterres, who became sec-

retary general in 2017, told reporters. "We face a moment that I sincerely hoped would not come." Guterres said Russia's action constituted a "death blow" to the Minsk agreements, a peace accord signed in 2014 and 2015 designed to end fighting between Ukrainian forces and Russian-backed militants in eastern Ukraine's Donbas region. "The principles of the UN Charter are not an la carte menu," he said. "They cannot be applied selectively. Member states have accepted them all and they must apply them all." In a strong response to Russian President Vladimir Putin's Monday announcement, in which he ordered Russian forces into the

breakaway territories for "peacekeeping" purposes, Guterres said he was "concerned about the perversion of the concept of peacekeeping." "When troops of one country enter the territory of another country without its consent, they are not impartial peacekeepers," he said. "They are not peacekeepers at all." The secretary-general also called for "an immediate ceasefire and the re-establishment of the rule of law." "We need restraint and reason," he said. "We need de-escalation now. I urge all to refrain from actions and statements that would take this dangerous situation over the brink." "The UN, in line with the relevant Security Council

and General Assembly resolutions, "stands fully behind the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine, within its internationally recognized borders," stated the Secretary-General. He reminded the reporters that the Organization continues to support the people of Ukraine through its humanitarian operations and human rights efforts. "It is high time to return to the path of dialogue and negotiations. We must rally and meet this challenge together for peace, and to save the people of Ukraine and beyond from the scourge of war", Guterres said. "I am fully committed to all efforts to resolve this crisis without further bloodshed." - APP

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Briefs

UAE ministry says to buy Chinese aircraft

AGENCIES

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates said on Wednesday it plans to buy a dozen Chinese L15 aircraft, as it seeks to bolster its defences after a series of attacks by Yemeni rebels. In December, the UAE threatened to scrap its mega-purchase of US F-35 fighter jets, protesting stringent conditions amid Washington's concerns over China. The UAE defence ministry said it intended to sign a contract with China National Aero-Technology Import & Export Corporation (CATIC) to purchase 12 of the L15 training and light combat aircraft, with the option for 36 additional jets of the same type, the official Emirati news agency WAM reported. "We have reached the final stage in our talks with the Chinese side. The final contract will... be signed soon," Tareq Al-Hosani, CEO of Tawazun Economic Council, was quoted as saying. The value of the deal was not disclosed. Tawazun - the Emirates' defence and security acquisitions authority - was seeking to "develop the UAE's defence capabilities and to achieve its strategic priorities," said WAM. The US and UAE have yet to finalise a \$23 billion arms deal that includes F-35 fighter jets. Lawmakers from US President Joe Biden's Democratic Party unsuccessfully sought to stop the sale, pointing in part to the Gulf state's role in the Yemen war.

Cuba calls for US, NATO to address Russian demands

WEB DESK

HAVANA: Cuba on Wednesday urged the United States and NATO to respond "seriously and realistically" to Russian demands for "security guarantees" and called for a diplomatic solution as tensions over Ukraine reach fever pitch. Havana in a statement pointed to what it said was the United States' "determination to impose the progressive expansion of NATO towards the borders of the Russian Federation" which it said constituted "a threat to the national security" of its ally. "We call on the United States and NATO to address seriously and realistically the well-founded demands for security guarantees from the Russian Federation, which has the right to defend itself," the foreign ministry said in a statement. Cuba last week hosted Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Borisov, who had previously visited Venezuela and Nicaragua, two other allies of Russia in Latin America. Vyacheslav Volodin, the speaker of Russia's Duma or lower house of parliament, is to visit Havana later Wednesday. Russia has amassed troops on the border with Ukraine, demanding guarantees that NATO will not expand its alliance eastward.

UK minister says Putin has 'gone full tonto'

WEB DESK

LONDON: Russian President Vladimir Putin has "gone full tonto" by ordering his troops into two rebel-held areas of eastern Ukraine, Britain's defence secretary said Wednesday in unguarded comments to military officials. Ben Wallace made the candid comments suggesting Putin had lost his mind while also comparing the Russian leader to Tsar Nicholas I, who struggled for allies during the Crimean War in the mid-19th century. "We've got a busy adversary now in Putin, who has gone full tonto," Wallace - a former army officer - told serving personnel in a government building in Westminster, Britain's Press Association news agency reported. "Tsar Nicholas I made the same mistake Putin did... he had no friends, no alliances. "The Scots Guards kicked the backside of Tsar Nicholas I in 1853 in Crimea - we can always do it again," Wallace, who served in the same regiment, was overheard saying.

Israeli President confirms Turkey visit

NEWS DESK

TEL AVIV: As the Turkey-Israeli ties seem to be thawing after years of tensions, Israeli President Isaac Herzog confirmed Wednesday that he will visit Turkey, calling the trip part of an attempt to create a regional alliance on climate change. Though his role is largely ceremonial, Herzog has been reinforcing Israeli diplomacy aimed at improving ties with Ankara. "In the coming month, I am due to visit our Mediterranean coast neighbors Greece, Cyprus and Turkey, and meet their leaders," Herzog told a climate conference.

Malaysian envoy hosts dinner for humanitarian relief mission

Venerable Jue Cheng says she was keen to explore cultural and historical heritage of Pak

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Venerable Jue Cheng Deputy Secretary General Southeast Asia of Buddha's Light International Association has said by visiting Pakistan her dream has come true because it was her earnest desire to visit this beautiful country at least once. She had heard a lot about Pakistan and its rich cultural heritage and now had a chance to explore it physically. Venerable Jue Cheng expressed these views while speaking at a dinner hosted by Charge d Affaires of the Malaysian High Commission DEDDY FAISAL AHMAD SALLEH. Mr. Amer Ahmed Atozai Director-General of East Asia Pacific Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lt. General Tahir Mahmud Qazi Former High Commissioner of Pakistan to Malaysia and others also attended the dinner. Venerable Jue Cheng further said, during this trip she, along with her delegation, will have a chance of visiting Afghanistan as well - a country which, like Pakistan also remained at the top of her agenda. She was all praise for Pakistani government for taking care of Buddhist places in Pakistan. Amir Ahmed Atozai, Director General Ministry of Foreign Affairs in his speech welcomed the delegation to Pakistan and suggested them explore more and more cultural and historical sites. He said the relationship between Pakistan and Malaysia has always been outstanding because of unanimity of views on regional as well global issues. This beautiful relationship has been reinvigorated by the recent high level meetings between the leaderships of two countries. He said Malaysia had made tremendous progress in all spheres and Pakistani too feels pride in the fact that our brotherly country is making positive strides towards development and economic growth. He also briefly talked about recently held OIC forum on Afghanistan and termed it a great success. Afghanistan he said is also a brotherly country and Pakistan earnestly wanted peace to prevail there. Afghans have suffered the most and whatever happens in Afghanistan it has a direct impact on Pakistan as well therefore it is essential that peace returns to Afghanistan sooner rather than later. Charge d Affaires of the Malaysian High Commission DEDDY FAISAL AHMAD SALLEH in his extended warmest welcome to all distinguished guests to Rumah Malaysia or Malaysia House for the dinner. He said the dinner was hosted for the Delegation of Malaysia Humanitarian Relief Mission to the People of Afghanistan. While briefing about the delegation he said,



ISLAMABAD: Members of delegation of Buddha's Light International Association (BLIA), posing for a picture at the Malaysian Residence during dinner hosted by the Malaysian Charge d Affaires. (Detailed coverage of the event in the coming issue of CENTRELINE). - DNA

Wisma Putra, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, in collaboration with the private sector - Golden Horses Digital Investment Bank and NGOs including Global Peace Mission and Buddha's Light International Association (BLIA), is undertaking Malaysia's humanitarian relief mission to Afghanistan following the dire humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. "Our Foreign Minister, the Dato' Sri Saifuddin Abdullah this morning sent off the special flight bound for the capital city Kabul, with a night stop-over in the beautiful city of Islamabad. The special flight transported 5 tonnes of winter clothing, jackets, blankets, milk powder and other essentials for the needy people and children of Afghanistan. These items will be distributed by the Global Peace Mission and its Afghan NGO affiliates to

the intended recipients. This token contribution by the people of Malaysia is hoped to ease their suffering during the harsh winter season", he added. Dedy Faisal further said, Malaysian NGOs have been actively involved in improving the lives of communities at home and abroad. NGOs such as GPM, Muslim Volunteer Malaysia (MVM), Muslim Care Malaysia (MCM), MERCY Malaysia and Pertubuhan Ikatan Kekeluargaan Rumpun Nusantara (HaRUM) have been undertaking humanitarian relief missions for the Afghan people. BLIA, to be followed by Malaysian Consultative Council for Islamic Organization (MAPIM), will now also provide much needed assistance to Afghanistan. In addition, the Centre for Economic Policy Research Malaysia is also ready render assistance, especially in establishing Islamic banking

and finance based on the Syariah jurisprudence. Malaysian private sector companies and institutions stand ready to offer their expertise and in-depth knowledge to Afghanistan to help rebuild and reconstruct Afghanistan including in the areas of infrastructure development, health, education, mining of mineral resources, telecommunications, and new energy. In the true spirit of Keluarga Malaysia, the humanitarian relief mission demonstrates the solidarity of the people of Malaysia, of different ethnicities and beliefs coming together to render assistance to the Afghan people during their time of need. He said Malaysia will continue with efforts to have a constructive engagement and extend assistance, as well as capacity building to the brotherly people of Afghanistan.

'Shared resentments' but Russia ties could be 'awkward' for China

MONITORING DESK

BEIJING: As Russia orders troops into eastern Ukraine, close ally China finds itself in a difficult position on the international stage as it tries to balance close ties with Moscow with its own domestic concerns and a desire to retain a working relationship with Europe. At the United Nations Security Council on Monday, China's Representative to the UN Zhang Jun called for restraint as tensions escalated following Moscow's unilateral move to recognise the two breakaway areas in Ukraine's east as independent. Zhang said international disputes should be settled by "peaceful means" - a point China also made during the Munich Security Conference on February 19 and in a recent phone call between President Xi Jinping and French President Emmanuel Macron. Beijing's tone may suggest some backpedalling from recent assertive posturing alongside Russia. After conducting joint military and naval exercises at the end of 2021, the two nations issued a lengthy 5,000-word statement on February 4 against the enlargement of NATO. Both called the security bloc a relic of the Cold War, although it has tried to pivot to more hot-button issues including the security of the Indo-Pacific region - China's backyard. Russia and China also criticised the rise of new US-led blocs like the Quad, an informal alliance of the US, India, Japan and Australia as well as AUKUS, which deepens existing security ties between the US, Australia and the United Kingdom.



ISLAMABAD: European Union Special Representative for Human Rights, Eamon Gilmore called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

US, Pakistan modernize pharma import and export

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), in partnership with the U.S. government, launched an innovative online platform to digitize pharmaceutical imports and exports that will increase efficiency, transparency, and accountability. The system will improve the business environment for the pharmaceutical industry, and support Pakistan's efforts to attract investment in the sector. The new digital system, developed by the U.S. Agency for International

Development's (USAID) Global Health Supply Chain program, expedites the import and export licensing and certification functions of pharmaceutical products. The digital system also generates electronic certificates with a barcode authentication that reduce time, cut costs, and enable pharmaceutical products to move more easily through the supply chain. "I applaud this positive step to develop the pharmaceutical industry and introduce international standards for medicine quality assurance systems," said USAID Mission Director Julie A. Koenen.

Plots for judges, bureaucrats: IHC verdict challenged

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court's February 3 verdict in the case of allotment of plots to top judges, bureaucrats and lawyers on subsidised rates was challenged in the Supreme Court on Wednesday. Government allottees filed a petition in the apex court, pleading with it to set aside the high court's verdict. The petition states that the IHC cancelled allotment of plots after taking "suo motu" notice of the matter despite the fact that the court had no power to do so. Besides, it adds the IHC cannot cancel the plots' allotment. On Feb 3, the Islamabad High Court had announced its verdict on an intra-court appeal in the case of plot allotments to judges, bureaucrats, and government employees in different sectors of the federal capital. A two-judge bench of the IHC comprising Chief Justice Athar Minallah and Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiyani observed that the institutions and persons that are the intended beneficiaries, whether federal government employees or judges, "exist and hold offices solely to serve the actual stake holders i.e the people of Pakistan."

Pak urges UN to hold India accountable

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has called upon the international community, particularly the United Nations and relevant international human rights organizations to hold India accountable for its gross and systematic human rights violations against minorities, especially Muslims. The Foreign Office, in a statement Wednesday, said India must also be compelled to halt its state-sponsored terrorism in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, lift inhuman military siege in the territory and let Kashmiris exercise their right to self-determination as per the relevant UN resolutions. The statement was issued on the occasion of second anniversary of the horrific Delhi Riots Pogrom of 2020 and 31st anniversary of the mass rapes of Kashmiri women in Kunan and Poshpora villages of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in 1991. The Foreign Office said Delhi pogrom, 2020 is one of the most harrowing manifestations of India's systematic campaign to discriminate and dehumanize the Muslim community. The repugnant calls of 'shoot the traitors' by senior BJP leaders during the protests against the discriminatory Citizenship Amendment Act revealed the depth of state-sanctioned hysteria and hatred prevailing in India against the Muslims.

NAB okays 20 inquiries against various persons

Honourable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB said that NAB's faith is corruption free Pakistan. NAB adheres to the policy of "Accountability for All" as per law

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Executive Board Meeting (EBM) of NAB was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB. Zahir Shah, Deputy Chairman NAB, Syed Asghar Haider, Prosecutor General Accountability, Masood Alam Khan, Director General, Operations Division NAB and other senior officers of NAB attended the meeting. It is years long prescribed policy of NAB to inform the people about the details of decisions taken in the EBM. NAB does not want to hurt anyone as all inquiries, investigations were initiated on alleged allegations which are not final. NAB is a human friendly organisation. NAB only decides to go ahead with after knowing the point of view of the accused so that all the requirements of justice are met. The EBM authorised conducting of 20 inquiries against various personalities including against Muhammad

Ashfaq Khan, former director Pakistan Railways, Qaiser Riaz Cheema, Muhammad Azhar, Malik Deen, Muhammad Nawaz Khan, Ahmed Saeed, Shahnawaz Yasin and others, Messers Nawa City Developers/Partners/Directors, Junaid Afzal, Amir Saleem Khan, Bilal Bin Ishaq, Muhammad Abbas, Qasim Shahzad and others, Miss Mahrukh Waheed, owner/director Joint Testing private service limited, Nadeem Iftikhar, Khurram Iftikhar,

Shahzad Iftikhar, Messers Amtex Limited, Messers Shama Exports and others, Waqas Ali, Chief operating officer/director messers Top Notch World Technologies, Lahore and others, Muhammad Junaid, Chief operating officer, Messers Life Style Development, SMC, Private Limited and others, Muhammad Sadaqat Nazir Ali Khan and others, Romana Nasir, Shahab Anwar, Karachi Metropolitan Corporation, Muzaffar Ali Sheikh, Gulam

