



Islamabad POST

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Feel incredible safe in Pakistan, says Pat Cummins

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EU will supply weapons to Kyiv: Ursula

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Third anniversary of Op. Swift Retort

PM, DG ISPR reiterate vow to defend sovereignty

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Director General Inter Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Major General Babar Itikhar on Sunday while commemorating third anniversary of "Operation Swift Retort" said it was not just weapons or numbers but resolve of a nation and operational preparedness of Armed Forces defines success in face of adversity. The ISPR DG in his official Twitter handle wrote, "Today marks 3rd anniversary of "Op. Swift Retort" when Pakistan Armed Forces gave a befitting response to Indian failed misadventure."

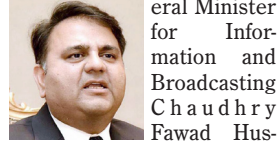


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'Leaderless' Opp. poses no threat

DNA

PIND DADAN KHAN: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Husain on Sunday said the "leaderless" and "aimless" alliance of the Opposition parties posed no serious threat to the democratically elected government of PTL. "We have been hearing for the last 15 to 20 days that the no-trust move was around the corner, but in reality that is beyond their power as they lack the capacity to bring the motion," he said in a media talk here.

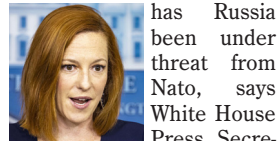


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No threat to Russia from NATO

DNA

WASHINGTON: At no point has Russia been under threat from Nato, says White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki, in response to President Putin putting Russia's nuclear forces on "special alert". Putin blamed Nato leaders for allowing "aggressive statements" to be made against Russia. But Psaki said it was a familiar response from Russia's president.



At no point has Russia been under threat from Nato, says White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki, in response to President Putin putting Russia's nuclear forces on "special alert". Putin blamed Nato leaders for allowing "aggressive statements" to be made against Russia. But Psaki said it was a familiar response from Russia's president.

Qalandars win their 1st PSL trophy

Multan Sultans defeated by 42 runs; Muhammad Hafeez, Shaheen, Wiese shine for Qalandars

SPORTS REPORTER

LAHORE: Lahore Qalandars on Sunday defeated Multan Sultans by 42 runs in the Pakistan Super League Final to win their first ever PSL t20 trophy. The Qalandars' captain, Shaheen Shah Afridi, had opted to bat first after winning the toss. The Sultans were handed a 181-run target at Gaddafi Stadium, with all eyes on Rizwan to take his team to victory. But Multan Sultans could only manage to make 138 runs.

Muhammad Hafeez and Harry Brook boosted team's efforts for getting a big total by scoring 69 and 41* respectively. David Wiese made a short yet useful cameo of 28 runs in just 8 deliveries. For Multan Sultans, Asif Afridi took 3 wickets.

However, Hafeez gave an early setback to the Sultans and the fans watching the match as he dismissed Rizwan in the fourth over. Hafeez bowled Rizwan around his legs and yorked him in the middle, clattering the stumps. After this, the veteran all-rounder jumped with joy as the Sultans' skipper walked back. Multan Sultans never gained any momentum and kept losing wickets one by one. Shan Masood got out on 19 and Rilee Rossouw could only contribute 15 runs. However, Khushdil Shah and Tim David resisted for some time.

From bowling side, skipper Shaheen Afridi grabbed 3 wickets, while Muhammad Hafeez and Zaman Khan took 2 wickets each. Muhammad Hafeez was named the Player of the match for his all round performance. It is Lahore Qalandars first PSL title. Multan Sultans were the defending champions after being crowned in the previous edition.

Feel incredible safe in Pakistan, says Cummins

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Australian Test Skipper Patrick Cummins was brimming with joy on the way the Kangaroos were so well looked after their arrival here, saying we feel really safe in Pakistan which was an incredible cricket playing nation. "We are great to be here and we are really comfortable. We feel incredible safe as we are really well being looked at. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) have lots of security and we are lucky to be surrounded by so many professionals and we can just concentrate on cricket," he said in a presser after his team's arrival here. Patrick Cummins said the Australian team played throughout the summer in the Ashes back home in Australia. "Now the challenge is to try to continue that form. Pakistan is an incredible cricket playing nation and the Pakistan Super League is been very successful. Pakistan came to play in Australia and hopefully we can return the favour," he said. He said the thing makes him more excited was the fans. "When we have come to play in the subcontinent the fans are so passionate and it the first test match (Pak-Australia) here in 24 years. So we hope the fans can enjoy," he said and added the thing we love about Pakistan team was young guys coming forward and shining. "To a question, he said we would go out to the ground and will have a look to see what we want to pick for best 11, two spinners or three quicks.

FM Qureshi underscores 'de-escalation'



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi underscored the "importance of de-escalation" in his conversation with his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba as Kyiv battles a Russian invasion. "Foreign Minister Qureshi shared Pakistan's perspective in detail, reiterating serious concern at the situation, underscoring the importance of de-escalation, and stressing the indispensability of diplomacy," said the Foreign Office spokesperson about Pakistan's top diplomat's telephonic conversation with Ukraine's Kuleba.

According to the spokesperson, Foreign Minister Qureshi informed his Ukrainian counterpart that Prime Minister Imran Khan, during his recent visit to Moscow, "regretted the latest situation between Russia and Ukraine". He added that the Pakistani premier "had hoped diplomacy could avert a military conflict".

"Conflict was not in anyone's interest, and that the developing countries were always hit the hardest economically, in case of conflict," said Qureshi. Islamabad believes that disputes should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy, he added. Pakistan's top diplomat also took up the issue of evacuation of the Pakistani community and students in Ukraine and their safe return to their home country.

PPP kicks off long march with a bang

Entire opposition had decided to send Prime Minister Imran home: Bilawal Bhutto Zardari



KARACHI: Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing a public rally in Karachi. - APP

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Chairperson Pakistan People's Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday addressed a huge, charged crowd in Karachi at the start of the PPP's Awami Long March against the incumbent government. During his address, Bilawal remarked that the people of Karachi had gathered at the Quaid-e-Azam mausoleum to "send the selected, illegitimate and incapable [government] home." Bilawal raising the slogan of "go selected go", said that Karachi is a

Continued on Page 06

Farrukh slams Bilawal for misusing resources

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Sunday slammed Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for using the Sindh government's machinery and resources to hold a long march for political gains. Sharing some pictures on his twitter handle to substantiate the claim, he wrote:

Continued on Page 06

'Nuclear deterrence' forces on alert: Putin

Ukraine says will meet Russia for talks at Ukrainian-Belarusian border as intense fight continues

CENTERLINE REPORT

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered his military command to put nuclear-armed forces on high alert on Sunday as Ukrainian fighters defending the city of Kharkiv said they had repelled an attack by invading Russian troops. On the fourth day of the biggest assault on a European state since World War Two, the Ukrainian president's office said negotiations between Kyiv and Moscow would be held at the Belarusian-Ukrainian border. They would meet without preconditions, it said. The meeting is set to take place near Chernobyl - the site of the world's worst nuclear disaster. Thousands of Ukrainian civilians, mainly women and children, were fleeing from the Russian assault into neighbouring countries. The capital Kyiv was still in Ukrainian government hands, with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy rallying his people despite Russian shelling of civilian infrastructure. But Putin, who has described the invasion as a "special military operation", thrust an

Putin nuclear warning 'dangerous' - Nato

DNA

BRUSSELS: The chief of Nato says Vladimir Putin's order to the Russian military to put its nuclear forces on a higher level of alert is "dangerous" and "irresponsible". It adds to the Russian leader's aggression over Ukraine, Jens Stoltenberg says. "Of course when you combine this rhetoric with what they are doing on the ground in Ukraine - waging war against an independent, sovereign nation, conducting full-fledged invasion of Ukraine - this adds to the seriousness of the situation," he tells CNN. alarming new element into play on Sunday when he ordered Russia's deterrence

Continued on Page 06

GERMAN CHANCELLOR ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT

Vladimir Putin must not underestimate NATO



NEWS DESK

BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Sunday assured Ukraine full solidarity in its war with Russia. "As democrats, as Europeans, we stand by your side - on the right side of history. Germany stands today with Ukraine, our thoughts and our sympathies lie with the victims of the Russian

war of aggression," Scholz said in his government statement during a special session of the German parliament on the Russian attack on Ukraine. He defended the government's decision to supply German arms to Ukraine. "There could be no other answer to (Russian President) Putin's aggression." The German government made a historic shift on Saturday and now wants to deliver weapons from its military stocks to Ukraine. The US, Germany, and other allies also agreed to exclude Russian financial institutions from the SWIFT banking communications network. In the long term, security in Europe is not possible against Russia, said the chancellor, adding: "For the foreseeable future, however, Putin is endangering this security." "Putin will not change course overnight. But very soon the Russian leadership will feel the high price it has to pay. The war is a catastrophe for Ukraine, but it will also prove to be a catastrophe for Russia," Scholz added.

Continued on Page 06



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All the Journalists, Human Rights and Lawyers organizations are openly opposing this Black Law.

Laws should be made to protect the people from the powerful. Not the other way around.

Join this voice before it gets taken away...



Inside...

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Ukrainian army claims regaining control in Kharkiv - Page 07

Serena Hotels host mushaira to mark its 20 years success - Page 08

Usman Buzdar to inaugurate FSB Expo Centre

This function was also participated the Mian Muhammad Adrees, Mian Javed Iqbal, Mr. Arif Ihsan Malik central chairman APBUMA, Engineer Bilal Jamil and Vice President FCCI Rana Fayyaz Ahmad

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Chief Minister Punjab Mr. Usman Buzdar is expected to perform ground breaking ceremony of state-of-the-art Faisalabad Expo Centre in M3 industrial estate between March 13-16, said Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). He was addressing a special meeting organized by the All Pakistan Bedsheets & Upholstery Manufacturers Association (APBUMA) to pay its gratitude to the leadership of National Group for nominating its patron in chief Mr. Imran Mahmood Sheikh as Senior Vice President FCCI. This function was also participated the Mian Muhammad Adrees, Mian Javed Iqbal, Mr. Arif Ihsan Malik central chairman APBUMA, Engineer Bilal Jamil and Vice President FCCI Rana Fayyaz Ahmad. Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh said that FCCI had been demanding since long for the construction of Expo Centre in Faisalabad to organize world class exhibitions and expos in this industrial hub. He said that the Government has finally allowed a go-ahead and the Prime Minister has directed CM Punjab to immediately start work on this mega project which would play a pivotal role in enhancing exports from this city. He said that FIEDMC would be the owner of this Expo Centre while the company already managing the affairs of Lahore and Karachi Expo Centres would look after this new project. However, FCCI and other leading business organizations would be represented in its Board of Directors. He further said that tender for the construction of Faisalabad the Expo Centre is expected to be floated on March 18 and hopefully construction work would be completed by the end of 2024. He further said that the Prime Minister has also approved a new civilian airport for Faisalabad and directed Chief Minister Punjab to allocate land for it on top priority basis. He said that the federal government and other concerned departments would

Bohra community to participate in PEC

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Bohra community on the special directive of its spiritual leader Mufaddal Saifuddin has decided to participate in the "Pakistan Economic Conference" (PEC) and in this connection it has demanded 25, said Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). He said that initially 300 individuals are scheduled to participate in it but due to the unprecedented interest of the concerned stakeholders, we are contemplating to increase the numbers of participants. He said that on Friday (18) March the opening session would be held on Islamic Banking. "It would be chaired by Mufti Dr. Zubair Usmani", he said and added that arrangements would also be made for separate and individual meetings so that businessmen could discuss their personal issues to switch over from traditional to the Islamic banking. He further said that so far Presidents of 60 Chambers of Commerce & Industries, 18 women chambers, 13 Small Chambers of Commerce & Trades, President FPCCI, 9 Federal Ministers or Secretaries and 13-15 foreign ambassadors have so far confirmed their participation in this event, however we are expecting that their numbers would jump to 25 within next week.

complete the required formalities. He further said that the CM office has received our letter and the Prime Minister's directive and the CM office is in touch with FCCI to fulfil the basic requirements and modalities.



LAHORE: Eamon Gilmore EU Special Representative for Human Rights calls on Governor Punjab, Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar along with EU envoy to Pakistan. – DNA

PEDO working on 2000MW electricity generation projects

DNA

PESHAWAR: Secretary Energy and Power Syed Intiaz Hussain Shah has said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was rich in energy resources that could be utilized not only to generate cheap electricity but also to create new employment opportunities by further strengthening the economy of the province. He said the Pakhtunkhwa Energy Development Organization (PEDO), a subsidiary of the Department of Energy and Power, is currently working on projects to generate about 2,000 MW of electricity in the province in collaboration with the government and the private sector. All the workers including the officers of the organization should devote all their energies to make the organization more stable as timely completion of all the ongoing energy projects that is a big challenge. He expressed these views while addressing the swearing in ceremony of newly elected cabinet of PEDO Officers Association at PEDO House Peshawar, said a press release issued here on Sunday. Addressing the function, Chief Executive PEDO Engineer Naem Khan has clearly warned the field officers that timely completion of ongoing energy projects is his top priority and they are always ready to solve the legitimate problems of PEDO employees. He stated that irresponsibility and sluggishness is no more bearable. Earlier, the Secretary Power administered to the newly cabinet of PEDO Officers Association including Chairman Engr. Jawad Haider, President Aziz Ahmed, GS Fazal Rahim and other office bearers.

Goods worth millions looted and stolen in Gujrat

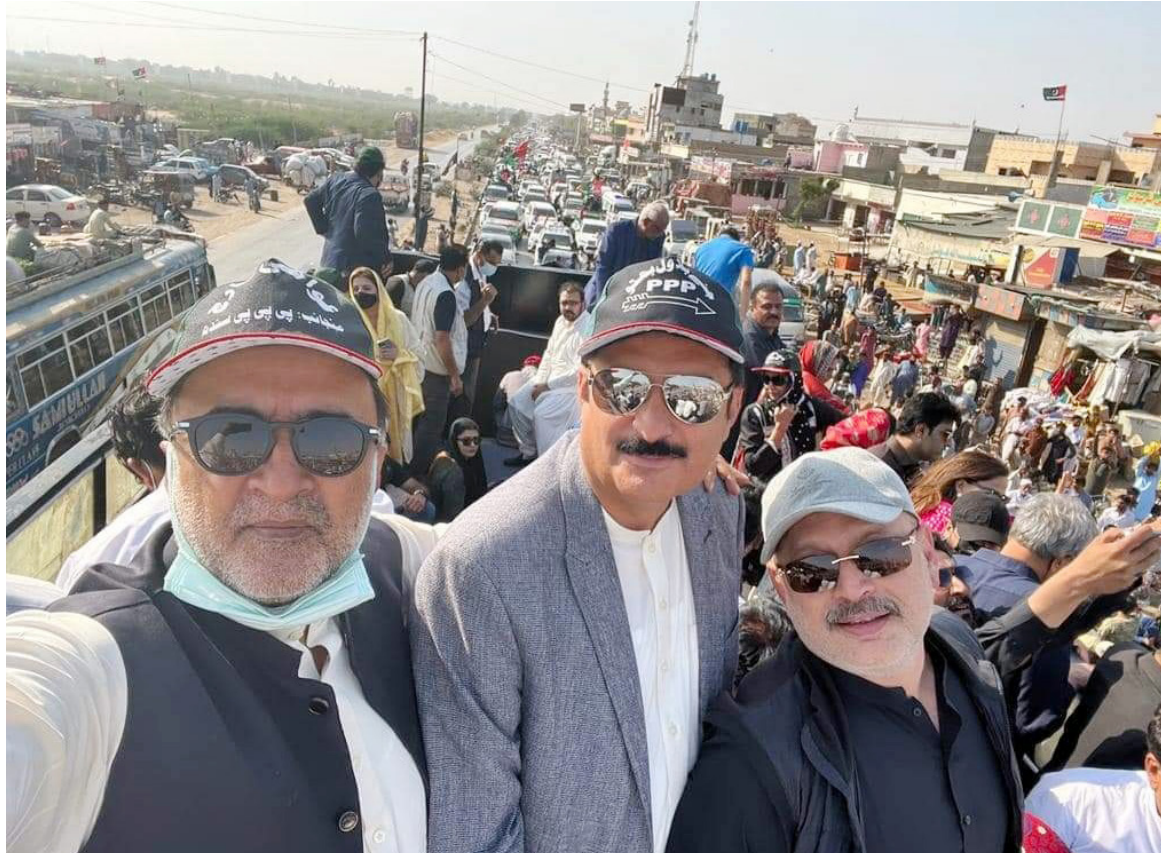
YOUSUF BHUTTA

GUJRAT: Crime rate goes on peak in Gujrat. Goods worth millions of rupees were either stolen or snatched in ten different incidents throughout the district Saturday. In first incident two women residents of Noor Jamal village were travelling on Bega Banian road; two dacoits snatched their jewels on gun point. In second incident one Muhammad Shabbir resident of Shah Takiya village was robbed of his motorcycle by two unidentified dacoits. In third incident one Shahzad Hussain, a goldsmith of Kotla Arab Ali Khan was deprived of 10 tola gold by two unidentified dacoits at his house. In fourth incident twelve ceiling fans, an electric water cooler and a cash of rupees five thousand rupees were stolen by unidentified burglars from an Imam Bargah Qasr-e-Abbas

near Darbar Baba Chanan. In fifth incident an electric transformer was stolen from Kunjah. In sixth incident a motorcycle owned by Naem Ullah resident of Goleke was lifted from outside of a private hospital on Railway Road Gujrat. In seventh incident a motorcycle was of usman Arshad resident of Karyala was stolen. In eighth incident a loader rikshaw owned by Shan Ahmed resident of Faizabad Gujrat city was stolen from his house. In ninth incident 15 tola gold and a cash of rupees six lakh were stolen from the house of one Faisal Iqbal resident of Mohalla Qadirabad Lalumasa. In tenth incident a goat worth fifty thousand rupees was stolen from the Dera of one Muhammad Ansar resident of Kulla Chor. Police have registered separate cases in relevant police stations.

School Teacher died
A female teacher was

killed while a girl student and driver were seriously injured in a road mishap near Qadir Colony BhagowalKalan Saturday morning. It is reported that a Lahore bound passenger bus collided with a school van in BhagowalKalan. A female teacher Ayesha Rehman died on the spot while a female student and driver of school van sustained serious injuries. The father of the deceased teacher has refused to lodge any FIR. **Female student abducted**
A teenage female student of a religious Madrassa was allegedly abducted from Jaura village Saturday. It is reported that one Sadia, aged-19, a student of a local Madrassa went to her institution but did not return home. Her father has filed a complaint with the local police that her daughter has been abducted by some unknown persons. Police have registered a case and started investigation



NAUDERO: PPP leaders Qamar Zaman Kaira, Faisal Karim Kundi and Sharjeel Memon taking part in PPP rally led by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. – DNA

FESCO issues shutdown schedule

FAISALABAD: The Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has issued shutdown schedule for Monday due to necessary repair, maintenance and expansion of electricity lines. According to the schedule issued by the company, power supply from Mochiwala Road, Kathoor and Jhan Road feeders emanating from 132-KV Gojra grid station, Manzoor Park and Nishatabad Mill-1 feeder originating from 132-KV Old Thermal grid station, Bhaiwala, Gatti and Yousuf Abad feeders emanating from 132-KV Nishatabad grid station, 500-KV Gatti feeder originating from 220-KV Nishatabad grid station, NazeerShaheed feeder emanating from 132-KV Scarp Colony grid station, Katchery Road, Ali Pur Bungalow and Al-Habib feeders emanating from 132-KV Jaranwala grid station, Khayaban Garden feeder originating from 132-KV University grid station, Muslim Town, Sardogha Road, Millat Road, Sandal, Crescent Board and Noor Pur feeders emanating from 132-KV Chiniot Road grid station will remain suspended from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Ghousia Colony, Mamonkanjan City, Khuda Yar, al-Awal, Bungalow and Khawaja Habib Ullah Road feeders originating from 132-KV Mamonkanjan grid station, Sheeraza, Ravi, PirSalahud Din, TSML, Zafar Chowk, Sugar Mills, Khiddarwala, Kanjwani and Kallarwala feeders emanating from 132-KV Manjhalabagh grid station will observe shutdown from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Monday (February 28). – APP

Chinese CG assures support to Altamash health facilities

KARACHI: Consul General of China in Karachi Li Bijian has appreciated the meritorious services of Altamash health and medical education facilities in the city; especially for the low income and the poor segments of the society, and assured support in further strengthening the system. Chairman of Altamash Group, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Altamash, his wife Dr. Shaheena Altamash and CEO Altamash General Hospital Dr. ImadAltamash welcomed the Chinese diplomat during his visit to the recently operational building/facility at Altamash General Hospital in Clifton, says AGH statement on Sunday.

On this occasion, Administrator of AGH, Dr. Muneer Ahmed, in his presentation, spoke of state-of-the-art equipment, IT infrastructure, highly proficient and skilled nursing staff, doctors, and other facilities which were fully operational at the new health facility. The Chinese Consul General praised the efforts of Dr. Mohammad Altamash who was largely inclined to serve the masses without discrimination. In the coming years, he said, this hospital would set a paradigm for the entire health sector of Pakistan through its exceptional services. He assured his full support to Dr. Altamash

and his team in developing collaboration with the Chinese government for strengthening Altamash healthcare system, which had been widely recognized. Response to a question on CPEC, Chinese envoy expressed his confidence that CPEC would play a vital role in boosting bilateral ties between China and Pakistan. As a part of the state-to-state cooperation on economic and social fronts, he said Chinese government was taking key measures to provide exceptional healthcare facilities to the people of Balochistan, especially Gwadar, where China had already started a 150-bed hospital along with all other

quality services to facilitate the suffering. Dr. Mohammad Altamash emphasized on the use of modern technology at the health facilities. "At our hospital, we fully comply with all the international standards in terms of delivering better healthcare services and to serve the population of over 22 million people in Karachi," Dr. Altamash added. He said that for the last four decades Altamash Dental Institute and Clinic were providing incomparable medical services to the people in Karachi. Now, with its newly built facility Altamash healthcare system would better service the humanity. – APP

Over 1.3mln children to be administered anti-polio drops

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: As many as 1.36 million children upto age of five years would administered polio drops during the next anti polio campaign which would continue from February 28 to 4th March in the district and 4869 teams would performed duty during the campaign. The anti-polio campaign in district has been inaugurated here on Saturday at Hilal e Ahmar Maternity Hospital. DC Ali Shahzad inaugurated the anti-polio campaign by administered the polio vaccine drops to the children. CEO DHA Dr. Bilal Ahmad and other officers were present on the occasion. Expressing his views, DC said that the anti-polio campaign required deep attention and utmost responsibility to complete eradicate the polio virus from the country. He directed that each and every child of upto five years age should be vaccinated besides approaching the nomads. He said that he would himself check the performance of polio teams by visiting different areas of district. He emphasized upon on continuing wide awareness campaign for the information of the parents.



KARACHI: Tameezuddin Khero, Secretary Training Management & Research Wing Govt of Sindh, while keenly reading a credible Pakistan's first diplomatic Daily "Islamabad Post" here at his office. – DNA

Five held over aerial firing in Jhelum



KAMRAN GUJJAR

JHELMUM: In the light of orders of Rana Tahir Rehman Khan District Police Officer (DPO) Jhelum, police crackdown against anti-social elements continues. 5 suspects arrested in the

wedding ceremony. According to details, Saddar Police Station has arrested five Sulaiman Akhtar, son of Mohammad Yousuf Jada Jhelum, Adnan Khan, son of Akhtar Ahmed of Sarai Alamgir, NaemMahmood, son of Mohammad Liaqatof KohalaSohawa, Imran

Khan, son of KatibKhanaccused for aerial firing at a wedding party and firing on police. According to police sources, when the police reached the spot, the all of them resisted by firing on the police, who arrested them and recovered 2 Kalashnikovs, 1 Rifle.

FSD DCC meeting held

FAISALABAD: The meeting of District Coordination Committee was held at DC office under the chairmanship of District Convener Chairman Standing Committee/MNA Faizullah Kamooka. Punjab Minister for Colonies Mian Khayal Ahmad Kastro, MPAs Ch. Ali Aktar and Firdous Rai were also present. – APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

FEBRUARY	
Feb 04/ Sri Lanka	National Day
Feb 06/ N. Zealand	National Day
Feb 06/ Uganda	Army Day
Feb 11/ Iran	Revolution day
Feb 16/ DPR Korea	National Day
Feb 16/ Lithuania	National Day
Feb 18/ Gambia	National Day
Feb 19/ Nepal	Democracy Day
Feb 23/ Uzbekistan	National Day
Feb 23/ Brunei	National Day
Feb 23/ Guyana	National Day
Feb 23/ Russia	National Army Day
Feb 23/ Tajikistan	Armed Forces Day
Feb 25/ Kuwait	National Day



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Monal.....	0334-5421812



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Emergency

Rescue (Police).....	15
Bomb Disposal.....	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....	1122
& Rescue Services.....	4451122
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RGH.....	9290301-7
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TMA.....	5770886
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Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480



ISLAMABAD: Col @ Misbah ur Rehman and his wife hosted lunch for the former High Commissioner of Maldives Ahmed Saleem who visited Pakistan on a private trip. Seen in the picture, among others, are Defence Attache of Egypt, Defence Attache of Russian Federation, Dr. Abrarul Hasnain, Adnan Aurangzeb and others. – DNA

Pak reiterates resolve to defend territorial integrity

“Pakistan is a proponent for regional peace and stability. At the same time, our desire for peace is accompanied by strong resolve and capability for self-defence”

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Government, armed forces and the people of Pakistan continue to stand firm in their resolve to safeguard the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity against any aggression. “Pakistan is a proponent for regional peace and stability. At the same time, our desire for peace is accompanied by strong resolve and capability for self-defence,” Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release on Sunday, marking the third anniversary of Pakistan's exemplary response to India's ill-conceived military airstrikes inside its territorial airspace on February 27, 2019.

“27 February also serves as a lesson for India that none of its militarism and war-mongering jingoism will go without a befitting response. Besides, India must remain mindful of the consequences of its reckless conduct in February 2019 and refrain from any such misadventure in the future,” the spokesperson said. India, in utter violation of the United Nations Charter and International Law, vio-

Nation ready to give befitting response to aggression: Qureshi

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi Sunday said that the nation was united and ready to give a befitting response to any aggression. In a video message with regard to the Indian botched airstrikes on February 27, 2019, the Foreign Minister said that he wanted to salute the armed forces of the country for achieving success against terrorism and securing the future of every child of the country. He also lauded the unmatched sacrifices and greatness of Shuhada and their families. FM Qureshi, in a veiled reference to recent voting in the UN Security Council over Russia-Ukraine conflict. – DNA

lated Pakistani airspace on February 26, 2019. The botched attempt at infringing Pakistan's sovereignty was swiftly riposted by our valiant armed forces. Not only did Pakistan resolutely safeguarded its sovereignty; it also displayed utmost restraint, it was added. On February 27, 2019, two Indian aircraft transgressed the Pakistani airspace. These two aircraft were shot down by Pakistan Air Force jets. The captured pilot of one of the downed aircraft was later returned to India as a goodwill gesture.

The spokesperson further said, “While we are commemorating this day, we underscore our commitment to peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.” Pakistan also called upon the international community, including the United Nations, to hold India accountable for its gross and systematic human rights violations and crimes against humanity in IOJK, without further delay, it was added.

CDA to use reverseable lens concept for traffic

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) would be diverted on two lanes of Zero Point to Koral Chowk maintain traffic flow Islamabad city. In this regard, in order to maintain the flow of traffic on the Islamabad Expressway, especially during peak hours, a modern traffic management system is being introduced with the help of Islamabad Police so that the citizens do not face any problem like traffic jam. Due to high traffic flow in the peak hours from Koral Chowk to Zero Point, the citizens are facing severe difficulties in comparison to which the traffic in the morning hours from Zero Point to Koral Chowk is relatively less. So CDA is management has decided that with the

assistance of Islamabad Traffic Police, traffic would be diverted on two lanes of Zero Point to Koral Chowk portion of Islamabad Expressway from Koral Chowk to Zero Point to maintain uninterrupted flow of traffic. Currently this is being done on an experimental basis and this concept is called Reverseable Lens which is also being used by different countries of the world to save the citizens from wasting precious time. In the light of the special directions of the Chairman Capital Development Authority, a regular awareness campaign will be launched by the concerned departments on this initiative. Work on the initiative has been started and shall be completed shortly. – DNA

Elimination of land-grabbing Mafia top priority: IGP

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have apprehended 06 land grabbers during its operation against land grabbing mafia in the city, a police spokesman said. He said that, a grand operation against land grabbers is going on following the special directions of IGP Islamabad Muhammad Ahsan Younas. On Saturday, police received a call from a citizen that some land grabbers and their operatives are trying to occupy his land. SP Rural Zia Uddin immediately directed DSP Koral to respond to the scene following which DSP, SHO along with team responded timely and arrested 06 accused. Police team also seized weapons and a Vigo vehicle.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Romania Nicolae Goia met with Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood. Pakistan has requested Romania to facilitate Pakistanis stranded in Ukraine. – DNA

350 wardens deployed Pak-AUS matches

RAWALPINDI: The City Traffic Police (CTP) has finalized a comprehensive plan to ensure smooth flow of traffic on main roads adjoining the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium where Pakistan and Australia teams were scheduled to practice and play first test match from February 27-March 8. As many as 350 traffic police personnel would perform special duties during the practice and match days to divert traffic on alternative routes. Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Naveed Irshad said according to the plan, the Stadium Road from 9th Avenue Chowk to Double Road on both sides would remain completely closed during the match days. However, the traffic coming from Islamabad would be able to use Expressway and Murree Road from Faizabad. While, the traffic coming from 9th Avenue to Double Road would enter Rawalpindi via IJP Road, Pandora Chowk, Katarian, Carriage Factory, Pwadhai Mor, Chak Madad. Traffic from Rawalpindi to Islamabad via Double Road 9th Avenue will be able to enter Islamabad from Faizabad. Traffic from Rawalpindi to Islamabad will be diverted from 6th Road to Saidpur Road. – APP

District admin seals nine shops

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi District Administration conducted 6073 raids in seven tehsils of the district to check profiteering during last week and imposed Rs 658,800 fines on 631 shopkeepers while nine shops were sealed besides logging two FIRs and arresting three violators. According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities concerned on the directives of Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Noor ul Amin Mengal had accelerated their ongoing operations to check profiteering, availability of daily use items and provide relief to the citizens. He informed that the Commissioner had instructed the officers concerned to visit different markets on daily basis and take strict action in accordance with the law against profiteers to provide relief to the citizens. – APP

Man held involved in aerial firing

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested a man on the charges of aerial firing, displaying weapons and uploading its videos on social media, informed police spokesman. An accused Shoaib resorted to aerial firing, displaying his weapons openly and uploading its video on social media. Receiving information, a special team under the supervision of SP Potohar conducted raid at a place in the jurisdiction of Airport Police Station and arrested the accused. Police also recovered arms and weapon used in crime and a case has been registered against him. SP Potohar said that no one would be allowed to violate rule of law adding that those involved in spreading fear and panic among the citizens would deal strictly. – APP

1st meeting of Association of Industry held



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The first meeting of the executive members of Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry was held under the chairmanship of Chairman Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Khursheed Barlas. Saadia Ziai, Shamriz Iqbal,

Amin-ur-Rehman and Rehan Tariq participated. The meeting, under the virtual online zoom, decided the future course of actions. The purpose of the operation is to increase the import and export of Pakistan, trade, industries, SMEs, whatever role the organization can play, the problems facing the organization and their solutions. Sugges-

tions were also discussed. In consultation with all the members and the next course of action was decided. Thanking the Senior Vice Chairman to all the executive members, he said that the association would play a significant role in Pakistan's trade and would play a positive role in increasing Pakistan's imports and exports in the days to come.

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Briefs

February-27 a 'memorable' day in history

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Husain on Sunday said the day of February 27 would be remembered in the country's history for so many good reasons including the arrival of the Australian Men Cricket Team in Pakistan after 23 years, PSL final match and above all, the successful "Operation Swift Retort" against the enemy. The day of February 27 marked the full revival of the international cricket in the country as today not only the Aussie men cricket team had arrived, but also the final match of Pakistan Super League (PSL) would be played in the home ground, said the minister while talking to the media. He said it was also to the present government's credit that all the matches of PSL season-7 were held in the country after a long hiatus. On this day, Fawad said our armed forces and its brave soldiers made it clear to the adversary what would be the consequence of any aggression against Pakistan. India would remember the befitting response given by the armed forces and its soldiers under the leadership of PM Imran Khan for a long time to come. He said the nation should not only feel proud of those events but also extend gratitude to those who made this happen.

PTI completes 29 dams in last two years

ISLAMABAD: PTI government has initiated work on mega-dam projects after coming into power and so far completed 27 dams in last two years in last two years. As many as 27 dams have been completed / laid off, from Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) having storage capacity of 68,939-acre feet in various districts of Balochistan, said official source while talking to APP. The ongoing small, medium, large and delayed action dams at various stages of implementation and will further add storage of 9.016 MAF. After the construction of large reservoirs in the country, the storage capacity of water will increase to several million-acre feet. He said that work was underway on various projects in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh. The federal government was providing funds for construction of various small, medium, large, and delay action/recharge dam projects in the country through Federal Public Sector Development Program (PSDP). These projects aimed at providing water for irrigation / agriculture, and drinking purposes. These projects are being implemented by WAPDA and Irrigation Departments of four provinces besides the Public Health Engineering Department, Balochistan. At present combined storage capacity of Mangla, Tarbela, and Chashma reservoirs is about 14,349 MAF. After the completion of ongoing projects i.e. Mohmand, DiamerBasha, and NaiGaj Dams, the gross storage capacity will be increased to 23,988 MAF. - APP

PHA to plant over 300,000 saplings under spring

RAWALPINDI: Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi would plant over 300,000 saplings under spring plantation drive 2022. Talking to APP, Vice Chairman, PHA, Malik AbidMehmood informed that all available resources would be utilized to plant maximum saplings in different areas of Rawalpindi city, alongside new Islamabad Airport Road, G.T.Road, in parks, govt buildings, open space and Murree. He said that the government's 10 billion Tree Tsunami program is aimed at protecting our future generations. He urged the citizens to actively participate in the tree plantation drive for better future of the next generations, adding, Pakistan has been blessed with the weather conditions which are suitable for every kind of plant. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov witnessing a photo exhibition depicting Khojaly genocide. - DNA

Pakistan PWD engineers threaten to hold protest

The government is not serious about appointing a permanent DG. After the retirement of the DG, if the government appoints a senior chief engineer working in the Pak PWD as the DG, then the Pak PWD can be improved

MUMTAZ AHMED BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan PWD is the oldest and most trusted department in Pakistan. Engineers of this department are rendering services all over Pakistan. This department was functioning even before the partition of India, at that time it was called PWD. After 1947, it was renamed Pak PWD. After partition, no government thought of working for the betterment of this department but

played its role in destroying it. There is no such thing in the world that such a large department has been working for more than six months without a permanent DG. The government is not serious about appointing a permanent DG. After the retirement of the DG, if the government appoints a senior chief engineer working in the Pak PWD as the DG, then the Pak PWD can be improved. The government has advertised in the newspaper for the appointment of DG but no one appreciat-

ed this move of the government but the government is adamant. Due to poor policies of the government, Additional Secretary has been running the Pak PWD department for more than six months as DG Pak PWD. Injustice is happening with Pak PWD engineers. Engineers from all four provinces, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan have been receiving technical allowance for a long time but Pak PWD engineers are waiting for technical allowance. After all, what is the

reason that technical allowance is being given to the engineers of all other departments except Pak PWD? What are the reasons for discriminating against Pak PWD engineers? Is the bureaucracy creating hurdles in this? If it is being argued that providing technical allowance to engineers of Pak PWD department will be a burden on finance then this justification is totally wrong. If giving technical allowances to dozens of departments does not put a burden on finance then why giv-

ing technical allowances only to Pak PWD engineers will put a burden on finances. Inflation is rising day by day The problems of the salaried class are also increasing day by day In these circumstances, it is imperative that the government immediately approves the provision of technical allowance to Pak PWD engineers otherwise, the protest plan of Pak PWD engineers has been prepared. The protests include roadblocks, hunger strikes and dharna on D chowk.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Poland in a meeting with Foreign Secretary. The Foreign Secretary requested the Poland ambassador for facilitation of Pakistanis stranded in Ukraine. - DNA

ICCI calls for resolving Russia-Ukraine conflict

ISLAMABAD: The business community during a meeting at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) expressed great concerns over the Russian-Ukraine conflict that carries great risks to the economies of the world and called for resolving this crisis through talks to save the global economy from its serious consequences. Addressing the meeting, Shakeel Munir, President, ICCI said that the global economy was still struggling to come out of the impact

of Covid-19 pandemic, but this crisis has unleashed new challenges for the world as the oil prices in the int'l market has already started to move up while the global prices of energy, food commodities and many other items would also become more expensive that would give rise to global inflation and make the lives of common man more miserable. ICCI President said that any disruption in the flow of gas, oil and trade in the conflict zone would have a major impact

on almost all countries of the world and add further fuel to the food inflation at global level. He said that the businesses and people in Pakistan have already started to feel the economic fallout of this conflict, just like people elsewhere in the world. He appealed to the United Nations and the world leaders to play a role in finding a peaceful settlement of this conflict through talks and negotiations in order to save the world from its devastating consequences. - DNA

BMP for removal of impediments to avoid delay on hydel projects

ISLAMABAD: The Businessmen Panel (BMP) of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) on Saturday called for early removal of the hindrances to avoid delay, as the execution of major hydel power projects might get delayed if impediments were not addressed immediately. The Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman MianAnjumNisar warned the government of the impediments including land acquisition, financial flows, Covid-19, and emerging security scenario, causing delays and cost escalations to the DiamerBasha and Mohmand Dams, affecting the timeliness set for completion of the projects. Also stressing the need for establishment of renewable projects in the country, he said that the hydel projects initially suffered because of the Covid-19 outbreak in China that affected mobilization and was followed by lockdowns in Pakistan and subsequent standard operating procedures for operations of transport and factories in the country. He reiterated the demand of speedy completion of both projects as early as possible. He said that the resettlement issue was required to be resolved to the satisfaction of the people while the relocation of Karakoram Highway, a part of which was very critical for construction activities. Moreover, the financial flows were also the issue that required to be focused on to ensure that recovery plans to compensate for the lost timelines.

FCCI former president said that renewable energy sources including water, wind and solar were getting key focus on the global level as they were sustainable sources of energy at affordable cost. He said the installed capacity of solar and wind power across the world have witnessed over 5000 percent and over 650 percent increase respectively, but in Pakistan due attention has not been paid to this important source of energy as yet despite the fact that our economy has suffered huge losses due to energy shortage. MianAnjumNisar called upon the government to focus on renewable energy as the country has tremendous potential to generate power through these sources. The renewable energy would bring multiple benefits to the economy as it would reduce cost of doing business, promote industrialization, encourage investment, create plenty of new jobs and enhance exports. He also urged the government to allocate adequate funds for construction of more reservoirs in the upcoming budget, as new dams are needed for Pakistan, not only to generate cheap electricity but also to avert the threat of food security, he said. - DNA

EU HR envoy meets with APBF President

Eamon Gilmore said that the EU wanted to see a bit more rapid implementation of the new laws, as its Parliament had passed two resolutions to review the GSP Plus status

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Special Representative of the European Union for Human Rights Eamon Gilmore has observed that the E.U Parliament wants more monitoring and inspection for implementation of new regulations for all countries which have been availing duty relaxation under GSP Plus status for continuation of this facility. He was talking to All Pakistan Business Forum President Maaz Mahmood in a meeting, which was also attended by the E.U Ambassador in Pakistan Androula Kaminara here today. Androula Kaminara had arranged this one-on-one meeting of the APBF President with the E.U Special Representative on Human Rights to discuss the European Union Parliament's new regulations and their applications to

ensure the continuity of the GSP Plus facility. Eamon Gilmore said that the EU wanted to see a bit more rapid implementation of the new laws, as its Parliament had passed two resolutions to review the GSP Plus status. MaazMahmood, on this occasion, applauded the efforts of the E.U Ambassador to Pakistan and the E.U Special Representative for Human Rights for their full support for GSP Plus continuation. He also thanked the E.U Special Representative for visiting Pakistan and sharing the E.U point of view with business community who is the main stakeholder of this facility and has always taken ILO conventions utmost serious and important. "The All Pakistan Business Forum welcomes the European Union efforts to extend the Generalized System of Preferences-Plus status for Pakistan, with a view to enable



the country to continue to enjoy preferential duties on exports for the next phase of almost 10 years, the APBF President said." He said that continuation of this facility, which has been available to Pakistan since January 2014, will be an award for Pakistan's progress in enacting new laws and developing new institutions for implantation of 27 core conventions of GSP-Plus, especially the National Action Plan for human rights. MaazMahmood called for conduct-

ing awareness programs in this regard and pledged to launch a drive in collaboration with the European Union, especially in economic zones and industrial clusters in Pakistan. MaazMahmood while applauding pak army and people of pak who sacrificed to bring peace and maintain law and order while making businesses and cities safe and secure much better as compared to 10 years earlier and situation is very attractive for investment and expansions of businesses. He said that Pakistan's agenda to create jobs, empower women and pursue a social and economic plan was in line with the GSP Plus scheme. Pakistan was determined to implement the 27 conventions related to GSP plus, he added. He said Pakistan was awaiting the visit of the Monitoring Commission of the European Commission. It was hoped that the legislative and administrative steps taken by Pakistan would prove mutually

beneficial, he noted. Pakistan has been availing tariff concession through GSP-Plus status offered by the European Union for export of its products to its markets. This requires that the applicant country has signed, ratified and is satisfactorily implementing 27 International Conventions pertaining to human rights, labour rights, environment and good governance. The APBF President said that he would like to commend the efforts of the government especially the commerce ministry, which coordinated with other ministries, federal and provincial departments to formulate policies and laws so that 27 conventions related to GSP Plus could be fully implemented. Pakistan's exports to the EU went to \$7.5 billion or 34 percent of total exports of the country in 2021 after getting GSP Plus status since 2014.

AIOU delegation arrives in turkey

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An 11-member delegation of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) led by its Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum has arrived in Turkey on a seven-day official visit. According to AIOU, the delegation will visit various universities in Turkey and the purpose of this visit is to introduce educational programs in various disciplines with Turkish universities and to explore the possibilities of the faculty development/exchange program. AMOU will be signed with IbnKhalidun University, Turkey. Moreover, VC, AIOU, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum will give a special lecture on the new initiatives taken by Open University while the Director, Directorate of International Collaboration and Exchange, Dr. Zahid-Majeed will brief about the University and educational facilities provided to international students. Anadolu University will host the visit in Turkey. During the stay at Anadolu University, there will be meetings between the heads and professors. The delegation will visit the Turkish Youth Foundation, ILKE Foundation and the mausoleum of MaulanaJalaluddin Muhammad Rumi.

SSP pays visit to Police Khadimat Center

RAWALPINDI: Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Investigation Syed Ghazanfar Ali Shah on Sunday paid a visit to Police Khadimat Center set up at Lahore High Court Bar Association Rawalpindi premises. During the visit, the SSP reviewed the facilities being provided to the citizens and directed the police officers stationed at the Center to provide best facilities to the lawyers and all the citizens visiting the Center. He further directed to remove the grievances of the public. The SSP said that provision of service delivery to the citizens was the top most priority adding that negligence would not be tolerated in any case. He made it clear that it was prime duty of police to protect the lives and properties of people without any discrimination. - APP

Five held for possessing illegal weapons

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested five illegal arm holders and recovered weapons and ammunition from their possession during crackdown here Sunday. According to police spokesman, Naserabad police arrested two accused Sajid Mehmood and Ali Raza besides recovering 2 pistols of 30 bore from their possession. Similarly, Gujjar Khan police held two accused Tanveer Ahmed and Ehsanul Haq and recovered 2 pistols of 30 bore from the accused. While, Mandra police nabbed Muhammad Adil and recovered one 09mm pistol from the accused. Police have registered separate cases against all of them and further investigation was in progress. City Police Officer CPO Omar Saeed Malik appreciated the performance of police teams and said that crackdown against illegal arms and aerial firing would continue. - APP

22 more Covid cases in RWP

RAWALPINDI, Feb 27 (APP):As many as 22 more patients were tested positive for the fatal coronavirus during the last 24 hours in the district, with nine belonging to the Rawalpindi Cantonment, five from Potohar town, four from Rawal town, two from Gujjar Khan, while one of each case has arrived from Kallar Syedan, Kahutta and Murree. According to the daily situation report issued by the District Corona Management centre on Sunday, 28 confirmed patients were admitted to three health facilities, including 16 in the Institute of Urology, eight in the Fauji Foundation and four in the Benazir Bhutto Hospital. The report updated that one patient was on a ventilator in critical condition, seven stable and 20 on double oxygen support. - APP

Deficit woes

If a country's imports are flooding in unabated, while exports remain stagnant, its current account deficit is bound to burst the banks. That is exactly what is happening in Pakistan. However, soaring imports are not the only problem here. Declining remittances have also compounded the issue. For a country such as Pakistan, a monthly deficit of over \$2.5 billion is something to seriously worry about. The country is neck-deep in debt and there are no rescues in sight, but we can start coming out of it inch by inch by taking some drastic steps. If we do not receive adequate foreign exchange from exports and remittances, the deficit will continue to mount. Given the situation, our trade deficit, currently hovering around nine percent, will be in double digits before long. The government perhaps needs to fight on multiple fronts to bring it under control, starting off by scaling down import-export disparity. An important step towards ameliorating this situation would be curtailment of imports, or imposition of even more taxes on luxury items. For that to happen, expatriates need more attention and incentives to keep sending remittances year after year – most of all, safety and security of their investment which requires stability, forward-looking governance, and financial management. According to reports, remittances have dropped over 15 percent month-over-month. In addition, the government is still looking for more loans from various sources despite the fact that debt payments more than doubled in October-December 2021. The yawning current account gap has become a major source of concern for the government that was forced to borrow more from bilateral, multilateral, and commercial lenders to finance the budget deficit. Apart from increasing exports, the government also needs to attract more foreign direct investment (FDI), which has remained sluggish since FY2020. Many advanced countries are running current account deficits because of rising fuel costs. Pakistan saw a large current account deficit as its reliance on imports is higher. Oil currently contributes around 18 percent to the total import bill. With every \$10/bbl increase in international oil prices, Pakistan's import bill increases by \$1.5-2 billion. Therefore, Pakistan's current account deficit is energy-cost-driven. It will continue to go up until the energy demand is not met. Measures to reduce energy cost are indispensable. The current account deficit is expected to reach \$18-19 billion in FY2022, according to analysts. The primary reasons are higher oil and commodity prices tagged with machinery imports along with other imports (vaccine). However, the projected deficit raises the question how it's going to be funded. In a rapidly changing global scenario, the Russia-Ukraine crisis is likely to put even more strain on oil prices. In this situation, Pakistan cannot afford any more volatility both domestically and from across the borders. We need to tread with caution in our foreign policy options as the US and EU are our major trading partners, in addition to Saudi Arabia and the UAE from where the bulk of our remittances come. One wrong step could have severe consequences for our economy and trade. Our foreign capital inflows depend on America, Europe, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE – not on Russia. Harsh economic conditions coupled with our dependence on the IMF and FATF in the near future will play a significant role. The situation calls for an approach far more circumspect than what is being practised right now.

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

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Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



A different kind of justice

THE annual Aurat March may be one day for some, but in effect it goes beyond a specific time or date. This is because every day brings with it some new horror story featuring women being killed, raped, threatened, harassed or abused. The smallest excuse, the slightest provocation, any pretext that can be found – and a woman is abused or killed or raped. A woman can be killed on grounds of family 'honour'. She can be killed because she chose to talk to a person of the opposite sex, or wear something deemed improper or marrying of her own choice or wanting to get educated. That so many of their killers go unpunished is not just because family members, often complicit in the crime itself, can forgive the murderers. It is because the authorities themselves may too be sympathetic to the idea of 'honour' killings and punishment of women for behaving outside of the set moral framework. The reality is that legislative efforts – and there have been many – are not met with appropriate policies on the ground. It is estimated that around 70-90 percent of married women in Pakistan suffer from domestic abuse. The damage suffered ranges from emotional to physical. However, even getting laws across the table on this issue has been a major hurdle for various provincial governments. It is in this context that women march on March 8 – the International Day for Women – at Aurat March in many big cities of the country. It is also in this context that the organisers of Aurat March have released their manifesto for this year. Each year, a new theme is taken up as a means to highlight the challenges women face. For this year, the theme is 'Asal Insaaf' – a reimagining of justice. The idea of taking up justice as the slogan is to highlight the manner in which various groups face oppression and how this can be tackled only if the patriarchal structures of society are changed, rather than through individual actions. The manifesto highlights the concerns of those who have suffered not only sexual violence, but also enforced disappearances, abductions, domestic violence, or other abuses of human rights. It calls for justice in order to create a fairer, more equal society for all. The organisers have also said that until justice exists across society for everyone who is marginalised, oppressed, vulnerable, women have little hope of gaining any access to rights or to overcoming the misogyny that has increased over recent years. No doubt, justice lies at the core of societal equality and a respect for rights laid down by the law. And justice goes beyond court hearings and beyond lawyers or bar associations. Real justice – 'Asal Insaaf' – means a space where everyone can feel safe and protected from the brutalities that are often unleashed upon them. The purpose must be to create such a society. We have so far struggled in this mission. Fortunately, younger women are now stepping forward to take the battle further ahead and avoid being pushed back into obscurity and behind walls.

Imaging the day after a Russian Kyiv conquest: Not a pretty sight

James Dorsey

Ukrainians would further benefit from the fact that Kyiv is not Grozny, and Ukraine is not Chechnya, where the world looked the other way in part because Russia was fighting an Islamist and jihadist insurgency. Mr. Putin's assertion that he is fighting neo-Nazis and drug dealers in Kyiv have little int'l currency

IT may be only a matter of time before Russian troops control the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv and topple President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. However, that may not be the end of the story. Russian President Vladimir Putin's troops could find themselves in Ukraine for the long haul depending on whether Ukrainians have the stomach to launch an insurgency. If so, Mr. Putin knows the drill. Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989 after a costly decade-long war in which they battled a US-Pakistani-Saudi-backed Islamic insurgency. Their defeat resembled the humiliation suffered by the United States at the hands of the Vietcong in the 1970s and the Afghan Taliban with last year's US withdrawal from the Central Asian state. As Ukrainians weigh their options for a post-Zelenskyy era, Chechnya, rather than Afghanistan, will likely be on their minds. Russian troops brutally quelled an Islamic insurgency in Chechnya in two wars. They besieged and devastated the Chechen capital of Grozny. Ukrainians may be right to focus on Chechnya. Their country is not Af-

ghanistan. It does not border on a country like Pakistan that would be willing to invite the wrath of Russia.

NATO members Poland, Romania, Hungary, and Slovakia, are unlikely to volunteer as Ukraine's Pakistan. NATO expects its buildup along Russia's European frontiers to deter Mr. Putin from expanding his war beyond Ukraine and is unlikely to want to give the Russian leader a blatant excuse. However, that would not stop NATO members from supporting a Ukrainian insurgency covertly. Ukrainians may also look at Iraq as they consider their options. That could be more problematic for Mr. Putin. Elements of the Iraqi army, granted with the support of Iran and Syria, posed part of the backbone of the costly fight against the US presence in the country following the 2003 US-led invasion.

Mr. Putin may have had that in mind when he this week called on the Ukrainian military to seize power in their country in a bid to avoid an even bloodier battle than the fighting so far, particularly in Kyiv. If Mr. Putin is betting on the fact that the Ukrainian military trained and armed itself to fight a conventional war like the Russian invasion, he may want to think twice. Iraq would suggest otherwise. That is undoubtedly what proponents of a long-drawn-out insurgency believe.

"By combining serving military units with combat veterans, reservists, territorial defense units, and large numbers of volunteers, Ukraine can create tens of thousands of small and highly mobile groups capable of attacking Russian forces. This will make it virtually impossible for the Kremlin to establish any kind of administration over occupied areas or secure its lines of supply," said former Ukraine defense minister Andriy Zagorodnyuk. A poll conducted in December by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology suggested that one in three Ukrainians would be willing to join an armed resistance against Russian forces. Politics scholar Olexy Haran, said after earlier in the day delivering food to defenders of Kyiv near his home, that volunteers led by military and former officers had already established irregular fighting units armed primarily with automatic weapons across the city.

"People are armed. 18,000 Kyivites took up arms. There are volunteer groups all around the city. They pursue any Russian soldier, paratrooper or subversive group that is trying to organize a provocation," Mr. Haran said. Russia scholars Michael Kofman and Jeffrey Edmonds may unwittingly have articulated Mr. Putin's counter-argument and assumption when they argued in a Foreign Affairs article this week that a shift by the Ukrainian military from conventional to partisan warfare "is easier in theory than in practice." Messrs. Kofman and Edmonds reasoned further that partisan tactics would be less effective than past wars, presumably including former Yugoslavia and Iraq. "These tactics would be less effective than in previous wars, thanks to the rise of new technologies, such as drones using thermal cameras and cheap, high-resolution satellite imaging. Today, small groups of fighters may struggle to hide and to win on the battlefield," the two scholars wrote.

The same would be true for insurgents, as evident with Yemen's Houthis.

Ukrainians would further benefit from the fact that Kyiv is not Grozny, and Ukraine is not Chechnya, where the world looked the other way in part because Russia was fighting an Islamist and jihadist insurgency. Mr. Putin's assertion that he is fighting neo-Nazis and drug dealers in Kyiv have little international currency.

Abkhazia, one of two Russian-supported territories that broke away from Georgia in 2008, may be Mr. Putin's best-case scenario. Abkhazia is wracked by political instability rather than insurgency and violence.

Anti-government protesters have demanded a halt to sales of real estate and energy assets to Russian nationals and a notion of a "shared sovereignty" between Abkhazia and Ukraine. They also denounced a proposed Russian-style law that would allow the government to label non-governmental organizations (NGOs), public figures, and media as foreign agents. Abkhazia may be Ukraine's least likely model, at least for the near future. Nevertheless, whatever Ukrainians decide, a Russian occupation of Kyiv and replacement of Mr. Zelenskyy with a more Moscow-friendly figure is likely to be the beginning rather than the end of the story.

Ukraine – a stark reminder of Western unreliability

Faisal J. Abbas

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelinsky has expressed his frustration with his Western allies by saying he has not received the answers he wanted. He feels – and rightly so – that Ukraine has been left alone to fend for itself. Indeed, nobody can blame Kiev for thinking that with...

ON Feb. 17, we ran an interview in Arab News with Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti coinciding with his country's 14th anniversary of independence. Throughout the interview, I repeatedly asked whether he still thought the West – namely the US, NATO and the EU – remained reliable, and whether these entities, should push come to shove, would stand up for Kosovo or abandon it as they did in Afghanistan and, as we are now seeing, in Ukraine. Prime Minister Kurti defended the West and said that he thought America and NATO were there to stay. Kurti, 47, belongs to the same generation as I do. It is a generation that saw the US – under the leadership of George H.W. Bush – rush to help liberate Kuwait in the 1990s with the help of regional allies. Later in the decade, the US – under Bill Clinton – helped end the Balkan War and halt the Serbian massacres in Kosovo and Bosnia. However, in more recent years our generation also saw embarrassing acts by the same superpower not standing up for its own values or acting upon its own redlines. We saw that happen in both Syria and Ukraine. Former US President Barack Obama threatened Syrian dictator Bashar Assad with an imaginary red line if he used chemical weapons in 2012. There was also a similar threat if Russia took over Crimea in 2014. On both occasions, the former president and Nobel Peace Prize winner did absolutely nothing.

Today, we are seeing President Joe Biden follow the same path. Despite the tough talking, he is not really saying much. You can grin and you can frown but as long as what you are essentially saying is, "NATO is not sending troops to Ukraine," then the outcome is the same as not doing anything. Ukraine – a democracy which did everything by the book and hoped to join NATO one day – is paying the price for believing that the US and the West would protect it if it chose a different orbit from that of its next door neighbor, Russia.

All this comes as no surprise to us observers in Saudi Arabia or the wider Arab world. Luckily, we in Saudi Arabia have been investing in our own defense for decades. We have managed to blunt the majority of the Houthi terrorist attacks on our cities and civilian airports. However, what leaves a bitter taste in the mouths of innocent men, women and children on the receiving end of the Iranian-backed Houthis is that the Biden administration reversed a Donald Trump-era designation of them as terrorists. The US will not admit it got it wrong, even when the Houthis continue to brag about crimes against civilians in the Kingdom and, most re-

cently, in the UAE. To add insult to injury, America withdrew Patriot missile batteries – which as we all know is a defensive technology – as the Kingdom's forces remained on high alert to defend its people from these indiscriminate terrorist attacks. One might argue that the US did nothing to protect Ukraine. Indeed, it sent military aid and announced sanctions. Well, it also condemned Houthi attacks against Saudi Arabia and the UAE, but going through the motions is not the same as doing what is necessary for justice to prevail. As it stands, the West itself is even torn on whether or not to go all the way when it comes to sanctions. Economic gains and mutual benefits stand in the way. Needless to say, prices of oil and gas are already extremely high, and are likely to go higher, hurting the pockets of ordinary citizens in Europe and America even more.

Of course, the current energy market situation might have been averted or the blow could have been softened had the Biden administration worked closely and not behaved like a pariah state toward long-standing allies and friends. To go back to the Houthi example, not only would it have cost Washington nothing to admit its mistake and rededicate the Houthis as terrorists, but the admission would be in line with America's own definition and policies against terrorists. (And in case anyone needs reminding, one of the Houthis' official slogans and policies is, "Death to America".) But of course, perhaps some in the current administration might prioritize bickering and reversing decisions of former US President Donald Trump to taking stances that are in line with longstanding American policies and values. Meanwhile, one cannot help but think that observers in Moscow must be laughing at recently announced punitive measures such as barring Russia from competing in the Eurovision Song Contest 2022 or denying St. Petersburg the chance to host a UEFA Champions League final.

Even the more serious measures announced so far such as sanctioning individuals are all likely to be considered acceptable collateral damage when we take into consideration what the Russian government thinks it is fighting for. Let us not forget that while many countries in the world believe Ukraine has been invaded and disagree with Moscow's views on the conflict, several observers believe that – deep inside – Russia has always seen Ukraine as part of its historical motherland. There is also the official Russian narrative, which is that the "peace keeping troops" that went to Ukraine are defending two newly declared independent republics – Luhansk People's Republic (LPR) and Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) – which officially requested Moscow's help.

Understandably, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelinsky has expressed his frustration with his Western allies by saying he has not received the answers he wanted. He feels – and rightly so – that Ukraine has been left alone to fend for itself. Indeed, nobody can blame Kiev for thinking that with friends like these, who needs enemies?

Back to our interview with Kosovo's PM which I referred to at the beginning, perhaps the only thing I can now agree with Kurti on is the other part of his answer to me. Which is that while his country continues to rely on the US and NATO, it also is working on building its own army in the meantime. That is obviously a very wise decision for any country depending on the US and Western powers in general these days.

– Courtesy: Arab News

Afghanistan is a collective failure of international community

Yossi Mekelberg

David Miliband, the former UK foreign secretary and current president and CEO of the International Rescue Committee, has become one of the most vocal and eloquent critics of the West's current policies toward Afghanistan

SIX months on from the Taliban's return to power, Afghanistan presents one of the most complex moral, humanitarian and political challenges the world is currently facing. To put it bluntly, it is the problem of how to remove sanctions that are already inflicting a humanitarian disaster on the Afghan people, without being seen to be rewarding or even strengthening the Taliban regime.

Admittedly, it is impossible – at least in the short term – to resolve this dilemma, and although benefiting an oppressive regime might be an undesirable outcome, it reflects the new reality in Afghanistan, which is one for which the West is responsible to a large

extent. This new reality is that the US and its allies lost the war with the Taliban and the quicker they internalize it, overcome their wounded pride and design a long-term strategy that will prevent a humanitarian disaster in the country without empowering the Taliban, the better. This requires that the West, even if grudgingly, maintain channels of communication with a sworn enemy. David Miliband, the former UK foreign secretary and current president and CEO of the International Rescue Committee, has become one of the most vocal and eloquent critics of the West's current policies toward Afghanistan. During a recent meeting at Chatham House, he did not mince his words, calling what is happening in Afghanistan "not just a catastrophe of choice but a catastrophe of reputation." Afghanistan has endured 40 years of a protracted crisis – first the Soviet occupation, then the first round of the brutal fundamentalist rule of the Taliban, followed by an unnecessary war and 20 years of conflict mixed with development – to the point where hopes have been finally dashed by a rushed and cowardly withdrawal by the West. Each phase has piled more misery onto the Afghan people. The country was poor enough before the events of last summer but it is now on the verge of starvation. According to the International Rescue Committee, nearly 22 million Afghans, nearly half the population, are currently facing hunger and a million children are at risk of dying unless the world wakes up and provides them with immediate treatment for malnutrition.

The extent of the poverty has led to girls as young as eight years old being sold into marriage. Other people sell body parts or their babies to get money to feed themselves and their families. Without exonerating the Taliban for the current situation, and while questioning their suitability to run a modern state, the West needs to take stock of its role in bringing Afghanistan to this low point, and to acknowledge that its sanctions regime is contributing to deepening the suffering of the Afghan people. Without access to food, drinkable water or medical help, without warm clothes during the harsh winter, and with an education system that is once again excluding girls as it teeters on the brink of collapse, what hope is left to a people who have already suffered so much? UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has frankly admitted that the international community is still wrestling with the question of how to work with a Taliban-led government, a movement with a history of brutally suppressing human rights, especially those of women. However, as difficult as this dilemma might be, time is of the essence in rising to the challenge; otherwise the humanitarian catastrophe in Afghanistan will only worsen. There is a wish, better described as wishful thinking, to see the current government in Kabul fail and be blamed for that failure by the people, who consequently might even topple it. This scenario is not only unrealistic but is bound to inflict enormous suffering on the Afghan people, who did not want to see the Taliban return to power.

– Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs

Benzema edges Real Madrid past Rayo

MADRID: Karim Benzema proved the difference again for Real Madrid on Saturday by scoring a late winner against Rayo Vallecano to send his team nine points clear at the top of La Liga. Atletico Madrid then backed up their encouraging performance against Manchester United in the Champions League by beating Celta Vigo 2-0 to go fourth, above Barcelona. Renan Lodi scored twice at the Wanda Metropolitano. Benzema struck in the 83rd minute, his 29th goal of the season enough to seal a scrappy victory at Vallecas but one that could put Madrid almost out of sight if Sevilla fail to beat local rivals Real Betis on Sunday. Betis sit third and have been in excellent form in recent weeks. For an eighth match in a row, Madrid failed to score in the first half and this was their fifth game out of the last six that has seen them unable to score more than once. Their lack of creativity could prove problematic against more testing opponents, with a Champions League second leg against Paris Saint-Germain and then the Clasico against Barcelona both approaching next month. "We knew it would be a difficult game," said Carlo Ancelotti. "We won but I'm not very, very satisfied." Benzema returning to peak fitness and form would certainly help and the Frenchman looked sharp again after recently recovering from a thigh injury. Also encouraging was his combination for the goal with Vinicius Junior, whose scintillating form has faded in recent weeks. "They combine so well," said Ancelotti. "Real Madrid is lucky to have these two players." - APP

'Nuclear deterrence' forces on alert: Putin

FROM PAGE 01
forces - a reference to units which include nuclear arms - onto high alert. He cited aggressive statements by Nato leaders and economic sanctions imposed by the West against Moscow. "As you can see, not only do Western countries take unfriendly measures against our country in the economic dimension - I mean the illegal sanctions that everyone knows about very well - but also the top officials of leading Nato countries allow themselves to make aggressive statements with regards to our country," Putin said on state television. Russian soldiers and armoured vehicles rolled into Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city, and witnesses reported firing and explosions. But city authorities said Ukrainian fighters had repelled the attack. "Control over Kharkiv is completely ours! The armed forces, the police, and the defence forces are working, and the city is being completely cleansed of the enemy," regional Governor Oleh Sinegubov said. Ukrainian forces were also holding off Russian troops advancing on Kyiv. "We have withstood and are successfully repelling enemy attacks. The fighting goes on," Zelenskyy said in a video message from the streets of Kyiv. In other developments, Russian troops blew up a natural gas pipeline in Kharkiv before daybreak, a Ukrainian state agency said, sending a burning cloud up into the darkness.

Farrukh slams Bilawal for misusing resources

FROM PAGE 01
"This is the real story of Bilawal's march. Preparations are being made for the march by using the Sindh government's machinery and resources to save the looted wealth amassed by Asif Ali Zardari in the name of paparwala (snack seller) and faloodehwala (cold dessert seller)." - APP



LAHORE: Lahore Qalandars' skipper Shaheen Shah Afridi along with players celebrating the first PSL title against Quetta Gladiators. - DNA

Bappi for participation of youth in traditional sports



SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHRAN: Traditional Sports and Games Pakistan Association (TSGPA) held an important meeting in connection to the promotion of traditional sports in south Punjab, meeting was presided by President Traditional Sports and Games Pakistan Nawab Furqan Khan. In the meeting President Nawab Furqan Khan official announced that Prime Minister's special advisor for E-Commerce Senator Aun Abbas Bappi as Patron Chief of Traditional Sports and Games Pakistan and Maqsood Hussain Javed as General Secretary Traditional Sports and Games

Punjab. In this regard Nawab Furqan Khan briefed the participants of the meeting in detail about meeting agenda and event being organized by TSGPA. At this time PM's Special advisor to E-Commerce Senator Aun Abbas Bappi said that throughout the platform of TSGPA, a plan of action to encourage participation of youth in traditional sports along with international sports in rural areas especially in South Punjab and in near future such events will be organized which will indulge youth in positive activities, we wish to encourage our youth towards traditional sports positive healthy activities because traditional

sports is the identity of our soil and to keep them alive we will keep on organizing such competitions so that we can introduce our youth to our culture and heritage. At this time Divisional Sports Officer Multan Nadeem Anjum, Divisional Sports Officer Bahawalpur Muhammad Maqsood, Divisional Sports Officer Dera Ghazi Khan M. Atta ur Rehman, Tehsil Sports Officer Kehror Pakka Jamshed Majeed and other notables were there in the meeting. A review meeting on mega projects initiated in South Punjab under PM package was held under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Captain R Saqib Za-

far and Federal Secretary Planning Abdul Aziz here at Secretariat on Saturday. Secretaries of South Punjab attend the meeting including Secretary P&D Shoaib Iqbal Syed, Secretary Specialized Health Nadir Chatha, Secretary Agriculture Saqib Ali Ateel and Secretary Forest, Fisheries and Wildlife Sarfraz Magsi. Progress was reviewed on different schemes and mega projects to be included in the new financial budget were also discussed. Federal Secretary Planning Abdul Aziz while addressing the meeting said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has issued instruction for timely completion of ongoing projects in South Punjab under the Prime Minister's Package and has directed to identify new projects for funding in the budget of next financial year. The welfare projects should be given priority and the projects should be completed well on time, he added. The Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab Capt. R. Saqib Zafar, in his address, said that all projects are being monitored to ensure their completion in a stipulated time frame.

Martinez seizes IBF super flyweight world title

Russell, a 2016 Olympian who is the brother of former WBC featherweight champion Gary Russell Jr, stunned Postol with 29 seconds left in the bout and referee Mike Ortega quickly waved off the fight

LOS ANGELES: Unbeaten Argentinian Fernando Martinez ended Filipino Jerwin Ancajas' long International Boxing Federation super flyweight reign with a 12-round unanimous decision victory in Las Vegas on Saturday. Martinez pressed the action in a lively bout at The Cosmopolitan, consistently outworking the champion to earn the upset victory, with two judges scoring it 118-110 and a third seeing it 117-111 for the 30-year-old challenger. Martinez improved to 14-0 with eight wins inside the distance. Ancajas, who was making his 10th defense of the title he won in 2016, fell to 33-2-2 with 22 knockouts. Ancajas, also 30, said after the fight he would take advantage of his contractual right to a rematch. Meanwhile, his plans to take on Japanese WBO champion Kazuto Ioka in a unification bout later this year were blown. After an 11th round dominated by the aggressive Martinez, Ancajas appeared to need a knockout in the 12th to retain his title. But he couldn't hurt Martinez, who continued to land solid punches to the head and body in the final round. On the same card, super lightweight fighter Gary Antuane Russell improved to 15-0 with 15 knockouts with a 10th-round technical knockout of former world champion Viktor Postol. Russell, a 2016 Olympian who is the brother of former WBC featherweight champion Gary Russell Jr, stunned Postol with 29 seconds left in the bout and referee Mike Ortega quickly waved off the fight. Postol, who held the WBC light welterweight title for nine months in 2015-16, had spoken before the bout of the difficulty of focusing on the task at hand amid the Russian invasion of his homeland. Russell paid tribute to Postol, who fell to 31-4, for carrying on at such an emotional time. "I do take my hat off to him," the American said. - Agencies

Czech FA refuses to play WC qualifier with Russia

PRAGUE: The Czech Republic will not play a potential soccer World Cup qualifier against Russia following their invasion of Ukraine, the Czech FA said on Sunday. The Czech ruling body is the latest to pull out of the play-off matches after Poland and Sweden announced on Saturday they would not contest the qualifiers in March to decide who will go to the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. "The FA executive committee approved unanimously the decision that the Czech national team will under no circumstances play the possible game against Russia's team in the 2022 WC qualification," the Czech FA said. "The executive committee tasked FA chairman Petr Fousek and secretary general Michal Valter to talk to UEFA and FIFA in regards to the decision of the executive committee not to play the possible game against Russia." - APP

Calls grow for Russia ban in sport

BERLIN: Calls for a blanket ban of Russia in sport grew louder on Sunday with Germany's elite athletes' grouping demanding tougher sanctions and the International Paralympic Committee set to discuss Russia ahead of next week's Beijing Paralympics. Germany's Athleten Deutschland said a complete ban of all Russian sports bodies, athletes and officials as well as events in the country was the necessary response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "German representatives in national and international federations, along with like-minded officials from other countries, should urgently use their influence to bring about the swift and complete isolation of Russia and Belarus," it said in a statement. It also said federations should also cut ties with any Russian donor and called on the IOC to soften the financial blow to them. The IPC said it would be discussing Russia at a board meeting on March 2, two days before the start of the March 4-13 Paralympics. "Over the next 24 hours the majority of the IPC Governing Board, in-

cluding the IPC President, are travelling to Beijing for the Paralympic Winter Games," an IPC official told Reuters. "Therefore, nothing will be decided by the IPC until a meeting can be convened between the Board Members." The meeting had been scheduled for March 2 in Beijing. Some 650 athletes from 49 national paralympic committees, including the Russian, will take part. Scores of federations and teams have moved events from Russia or have refused to compete there or against Russian teams in the past four days. The International Olympic Committee urged international sports federations on Friday to either move or cancel events planned in Russia or Belarus. Russian troops entered Ukraine through Belarus when the invasion began on Thursday. Ukrainian forces were holding off Russian troops advancing on the capital Kyiv, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said as the biggest assault on a European state since World War Two entered a fourth day. - APP

Swiatek voices support for Ukraine

DOHA: Newly crowned Qatar Open champion Iga Swiatek lent her support to the people in Ukraine following Russia's invasion, saying she found it hard to picture a conflict so close to her homeland. Poland's Swiatek stormed to a 6-2 6-0 victory in the Doha final, beating fourth seed Anett Kontaveit in 64 minutes on Saturday and ending the Estonian's nine-match win streak. "I want to show my support to all the people who are suffering in Ukraine," an emotional Swiatek, on the verge of tears, said on court following her victory. "Seeing those images is really emotional for me. I wouldn't even imagine stuff like that happening in the country next to me. I hope everybody will be safe in the end." - APP



EU will supply weapons to Kyiv: Ursula

BRUSSELS: The European Union will tighten sanctions on Russia, target Russian ally Belarus with measures and fund weapons for Ukraine to help it defend itself against Russia's invasion, top EU officials said on Sunday. "For the first time ever, the European Union will finance the purchase and delivery of weapons and other equipment to a country that is under attack, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said. She said the European Union would close its airspace to Russian aircraft, including the private jets of Russian oligarchs. The bloc will ban Russian state-owned television network Russia Today and news agency Sputnik. Von der Leyen said this was to render them unable to "spread their lies to justify Putin's war and to sow division in our Union". Russia calls its actions in Ukraine a "special operation" that it says is not designed to occupy territory but to destroy its southern neighbour's military capabilities and capture what it regards as dangerous nationalists. For Russian ally Belarus, the European Union will impose a ban on imports of products from mineral fuels to tobacco, wood and timber, cement, iron and steel. These come on top of a series of sanctions on Russia already unveiled, such as on its energy sector and the exclusion of certain Russian banks from the SWIFT messaging system that dominates global payments. - APP

Nadal downs Norrie to claim Acapulco title

The Spanish world number five has won 15 straight matches since returning from a foot issue that sidelined him for nearly six months last year. He looked in fine form as he fended off a determined Norrie to wrap up the win after an hour 54 minutes in hot, humid conditions

DNA

ACAPULCO: Australian champion Rafa Nadal captured his fourth title in Acapulco on Saturday, continuing his good run with a 6-4 6-4 triumph over Cameron Norrie in the final of the ATP 500 event. Nadal stormed through the Acapulco draw without dropping a set to claim his third straight title of 2022, adding to victories in an Australian Open tune-up event and the hardcourt major in Melbourne last month. The Spanish world number five has won 15 straight matches since returning from a foot issue that sidelined him for nearly six months last year. He looked in fine form as he fended off a determined Norrie to wrap up the win after an hour 54 minutes in hot, humid conditions. "It was a very humid day, very difficult conditions," Nadal said in his on-court interview. "Cameron is a solid player, a very tricky player who makes you feel uncomfortable.



"I went through some difficult moments in the match, but I was able to survive and take advantage when I had opportunities." Norrie was the first to drop his serve in the contest, as a couple of forced errors from the British sixth seed and a perfectly executed passing shot from Nadal gave the Spaniard a 3-2 lead in the first set, which he held onto to take the set. Nadal drew first blood in the second set, breaking Norrie's serve in the opening game. Norrie levelled immediately for 1-1, but Nadal stole his serve again to move 3-2 up with an overhead smash. The Spaniard then broke a third time to take a 5-2 lead. Serving for the match, Nadal gave Norrie too much space, and the 26-year-old pulled a break back, but the Briton's tank was empty and he surrendered the tie a couple of games later. Nadal, who won his first Acapulco title in 2005 and took it again in 2013 and 2020, is now level with compatriot David Ferrer and Austria's Thomas Muster for the most titles in the Mexican tournament.

Briefs

Azerbaijan sends aid to Ukraine

BAKU: The Azerbaijan State Agency for Mandatory Health Insurance and the Management Union of Medical Territorial Units (TABIB) have sent medicines and medical equipment to Ukraine as part of humanitarian assistance upon the instructions of President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev. A plane loaded with medical supplies departed on February 27. The handover document was signed by the Ukrainian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Vladislav Kanevsky and the head for the Management Union of Medical Territorial Units of Azerbaijan (TABIB) Vugar Gurbanov.

The Ukrainian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Vladislav Kanevsky expressed gratitude for the humanitarian aid sent by the Azerbaijani side.

"Ukraine has received very important humanitarian aid from Azerbaijan," Kanevsky tweeted. "The medicine and medical equipment have been supplied for the victims. Thanks to friendly Azerbaijan for supporting Ukraine!" - APP

Iran says studying nuclear draft deal

TEHRAN: Iran is studying a rough draft of a deal to revive a 2015 nuclear agreement with major powers hammered out during talks in Vienna, its foreign minister said Saturday.

All sides have said the talks on bringing the United States back into the agreement after then president Donald Trump's 2018 walk-out have reached a critical stage and Iran's chief negotiator Ali Bagheri has been back in Tehran for consultations. Iran is "seriously reviewing (the) draft of the agreement," Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said on Twitter, adding he had spoken by phone with the European Union's top diplomat Josep Borrell. The EU has been acting as an intermediary between Iranian negotiators and a US delegation in the absence of US participation in face-to-face talks between Tehran and the remaining parties to the 2015 agreement.

We are "all trying to reach a good deal," Amir-Abdollahian added. "Our red lines are made clear to western parties. Ready to immediately conclude a good deal, should they show real will."

The 2015 agreement, known formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, provided Iran with relief from sanctions in return for strict limits to its nuclear activities. Since Trump re-imposed sanctions in 2018, Iran has gradually suspended its compliance with many of the restrictions it agreed to under the deal, something that it is now expected to reverse. Amir-Abdollahian said Wednesday that the talks had reached "a critical and important stage". He said he hoped the remaining "sensitive and important issues" would be resolved in the coming days "with realism from the Western side". - APP

Eighteen missing off Malaysian island rescued

KUALA LUMPUR: Eighteen people missing at sea near the Malaysian holiday island of Langkawi were rescued, officials said Sunday, after their boat capsized due to bad weather.

The coast guard said the 18 were picked up by fishermen late Saturday after their boat vanishing earlier that afternoon had triggered a search. Senior coast guard official Mohamad Zawawi Abdullah said a combined effort by authorities and local fishermen saw the victims safely rescued after their boat capsized due to strong waves. "A fishing vessel came and rescued them. They found them in the area (where they were lost)," he told AFP. He said two of the rescued suffered injuries but were otherwise safe, with all handed over to authorities. Small boats can sometimes find themselves in danger on Malaysia's western coast because of strong waves and bad weather. - APP



ISLAMABAD: A meeting of EU, G7 AND NATO heads of mission in Islamabad was held to express solidarity to Ukrainian ambassador Chuchuk. The participants termed the Russian action a clear threat to global peace. - DNA

Ukrainian army claims regaining control in Kharkiv

Russian military vehicles pushed into Ukraine's second-largest city on Sunday, with explosions rocking oil and gas installations on the fourth day of fighting in the biggest assault on a European state since World War II

AGENCIES

KIEV: Ukraine has restored full control over Kharkiv, Governor Oleg Sinegubov said Sunday, following fierce fighting with the Russian army. "Control over Kharkiv is completely ours! The armed forces, the police, and the defense forces are working, and the city is being completely cleansed of the enemy," Sinegubov said on Facebook. "Russia's enemy is completely demoralized. Directly in Kharkiv, throwing enemy vehicles in the middle of the road." Whole units of five to 10 soldiers had surrendered to

Ukrainian troops, the city's governor said, adding: "As soon as they see at least one representative of the Armed Forces, they surrender." Regarding the situation in the region as of now: Chuhuyv (Chuhuiv) is completely controlled by Ukrainian troops, Ukrainian flags are hung on administrative premises," Sinegubov said. "The offensive of the Russian aggressor continues in the Lipetsk direction, Vovchansky and Belgorod. We fix separate columns of the Russian equipment. The Armed Forces of Ukraine are actively fighting in their positions." Russian military vehicles pushed into Ukraine's sec-

Ukraine will not surrender to Russia

KYIV: Ukraine will not surrender to Russia's invasion of the country, Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said Sunday, as he accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of seeking to increase "pressure" by ordering his nuclear forces on high alert. "We will not surrender, we will not capitulate, we will not give up a single inch of our territory," Kuleba said at a news conference broadcast online. Kuleba also said Russia dropped its preconditions for talks after suffering military setbacks, adding that Ukraine would attend the talks to listen to what Russia had to say. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia had agreed to talks at a venue on the Belarusian border, the first since Russia unleashed a full-scale invasion. - Agencies



ond-largest city on Sunday, with explosions rocking oil and gas installations on the fourth day of fighting in the biggest assault on a European state since World War II. Russian soldiers and armored vehicles were seen in different parts of the northeastern city of Kharkiv and firing could be heard, a witness said. A burning tank was visible in a video posted by the government. Russian troops blew up a natural gas pipeline in Kharkiv before daybreak, a Ukrainian state agency said, sending a burning cloud up into the darkness. "The Russian enemy's light vehicles have broken into Kharkiv, including the city

centre," Sinegubov said. "Ukraine's armed forces are destroying the enemy. We ask civilians not to go out." Ukraine's Western allies ratcheted up their response to Russia's land, sea and air invasion late on Saturday with sanctions to banish major Russian banks from the main global payments system and other measures aimed at limiting Moscow's use of a \$630 million war chest of central bank reserves. Finland and Sweden became the latest European countries to close their airspace to Russian flights, and the European Union could follow suit with a coordinated European-wide ban, an official said.

Turkey to implement Montreux Convention

ANKARA: Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu said Ankara was implementing an international pact on naval passage to the Black Sea. "Turkey will implement all provisions of Montreux Convention in a transparent manner," the minister told a live interview with broadcaster CNN Türk. Under the 1936 Montreux Convention, NATO member Turkey has control over the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits, linking the Mediterranean and Black seas. The pact gives Ankara the power to regulate the transit of naval warships and to close the straits to foreign warships during wartime and when it is threatened. Turkey earlier called Russia's invasion of Ukraine a "war" on Sunday in a rhetorical shift that opened the way for the move. While building close cooperation with Russia on defense and energy, Ankara has also sold sophisticated drones to Ukraine and signed a deal to co-produce more, angering Moscow. Turkish officials noted that the country would continue to support Ukraine's territorial integrity and unity. Turkey opposes Russian policies in Syria and Libya, its annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its 2008 recognition of two Georgian



regions. He also said Turkey was pleased about Ukraine and Russia's decision to meet on Monday. Ukraine agreed to launch peace talks with Russia on Sunday, even as battles raged in key cities and President Vladimir Putin raised the prospect of a nuclear escalation with the West. Delegations from each country are set to meet at the Ukrainian-Belarusian border, the office of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said. There are no conditions to the planned talks at the border, according to the statement. He noted that Turkey is also striving to ensure the safe evacuation of around 6,600 Turkish citizens in Ukraine. The Turkish nationals started to arrive on Sunday morning by land after the Turkish Foreign Ministry arranged their evacuation through Romania and Bulgaria due to the closure of the Ukrainian air space after Russia's attacks on Ukraine. Evacuated Turkish nationals entered Turkey through northwestern Hamzabeyli Border Gate at the Turkish-Bulgarian border and will be transferred to Istanbul by bus. - DNA

UN appeals humanitarian fund for Ukraine crisis

NEW YORK: Secretary-General António Guterres has announced that the UN will launch an appeal to fund its humanitarian operations in Ukraine, amid reports of casualties and people fleeing their homes to seek safety as Russian military operations in the country escalate. According to American media reports, Russian forces bombarded Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, again on Saturday night, after a day of pitched fights around the city. Most of the more than 150,000 Russian troops who had massed around Ukraine are now fighting in the country, U.S. officials said. The Biden administration and key European allies announced on Saturday that they would remove certain Russian banks from the SWIFT financial messaging system, essentially barring them from international transactions. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine tried to rally international support and said in a video that his country's fighters had "withstood and successfully repelled enemy attacks." Russian forces have killed at least 198 people, including three children, and 1,115 people, including 33 children, have been wounded, according to the Ukrainian National Guard, and a U.N. official said more than 150,000 Ukrainian refugees had fled. At the United Nations, a readout issued by a UN spokesperson said that Guterres spoke by phone with President Zelenskyy on Saturday afternoon. "The Secretary-General conveyed to the President the determination of the United Nations to enhance humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine," according to the readout. It added that the UN chief had informed the President that the United Nations would launch on Tuesday an appeal to fund its humanitarian operations in Ukraine. The Secretary-General's phone call and the announcement of a humanitarian appeal follow his decision this past Thursday to release \$20 million from the UN emergency relief fund, known as CERF, to meet urgent needs in Ukraine. - APP

Elon Musk provides Starlink to Ukraine

NEW YORK: SpaceX founder Elon Musk has said his company's satellite internet constellation, the Starlink, has been activated in Ukraine. Tagging Musk, Ukraine's Vice Prime Minister and Digital Transformation Minister Mykhailo Fedorov on Saturday said: "while you try to colonize Mars - Russia try to occupy Ukraine! While your rockets successfully land from space - Russian rockets attack Ukrainian civil people! We ask you to provide Ukraine with Starlink stations and to address sane Russians to stand." on Twitter. "Starlink service is now active in Ukraine. More terminals en route," replied Musk. Starlink provides satellite internet access coverage to most of the world. SpaceX, founded by Musk in 2002, plans to establish a network of 12,000 satellites in earth orbit with Starlink satellites. The project is targeted to be completed in 2027. The company aims to revolutionize space technology, with the ultimate goal of enabling people to live on other planets, according to its website. - APP

Meta restricts Russia from running Facebook ads

NEW YORK: Meta said it is barring Russian state media from running ads or monetising on its platform anywhere in the world, the parent company of social media giant Facebook said on Friday. "We also continue to apply labels to additional Russian state media," its security policy head, Nathaniel Gleicher, said on Twitter. "These changes have already begun rolling out and will continue into the weekend. "We are now prohibiting Russian state media from running ads or monetizing on our platform anywhere in the world," he added. Moscow accused Facebook of censorship of Russian media on Friday and said it would be partially limiting access to the social media platform, the latest in a series of steps against US social media giants and announced a day after Russia invaded Ukraine.

Russia has been trying to exert tighter control over the Internet and Big Tech for years, something critics say threatens individual and corporate freedom, and is part of a wider crackdown against outspoken opponents of the Kremlin. Meta "ordered to stop independent fact-checking" Facebook has been a key platform to voice dissent in Russia, and the move to limit it also comes as police crackdown on anti-war street protests in cities across the country. The Russian state communications regulator said Facebook had ignored its demands to lift restrictions on four Russian media outlets on its platform - RIA news agency, the Defence Ministry's Zvezda TV, and websites gazeta.ru and lenta.ru. - APP

Baku calls for justice over Khojaly genocide

The indiscriminate killings of civilians at Khojaly stemmed from a policy of ethnic hatred and racial discrimination against Azerbaijanis at the state level in Armenia

DNA

BAKU: February 26, 2022 marks the 30th anniversary of the Khojaly genocide committed by the armed forces of Armenia during the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan. One of the gravest crimes committed against the civilian population during the decades of Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan, and the most tragic page of the First Karabakh War, was the destruction of the city of Khojaly and the genocide of its inhabitants. Before the conflict, Khojaly, located in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, was a home to over 7,000 people: men, women, children, families. From October 1991, the town was surrounded by the armed forces of Armenia. Overnight, on 25th

February 1992, following massive artillery bombardment of Khojaly, the armed forces of Armenia, with the help of the former USSR infantry guards regiment No.366 of which the Armenians constituted the majority, forcibly seized control of Khojaly. Invaders destroyed the city and, with particular brutality, brought violence to its peaceful population. 5,379 inhabitants of the city were forcefully expelled. 613 people, including 63 children, 106 women and 70 elderly citizens, were brutally murdered. 1,275 were captured and taken hostage and were tortured, and 487 were injured. The fate of 150 of those captured, including 68 women and 26 children, remains unknown to this day. The actions of the armed forces of Armenia tore families apart. Eight families were left with

no survivors to speak of. 130 children lost a parent, with a further 25 children left with no surviving parent at all. The indiscriminate killings of civilians at Khojaly stemmed from a policy of ethnic hatred and racial discrimination against Azerbaijanis at the state level in Armenia. It led to the killing of innocent people based simply on their ethnicity. The crimes committed at Khojaly were an integral part of Armenia's policy of systematic violence against Azerbaijanis. The Khojaly massacre and other crimes committed by Armenia in the course of its aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan, including war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, constitute serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. These include

violations of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and others. So far, the national legislative bodies of 17 countries, as well as 24 States of the USA, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Organization of Turkic States have adopted a number of resolutions and decisions condemning the massacre of civilians in Khojaly and characterizing it as a crime against humanity and an act of genocide. In its judgment of 22 April 2010, the European Court of Human Rights arrived at an important conclusion with respect to the crimes committed in Khojaly, de-

nouncing the behavior of those carrying out the atrocities as "acts of particular gravity which may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity". Under international law, States have a responsibility to investigate atrocities such as those committed by Armenian forces at Khojaly and prosecute the perpetrators. However, to date none of those responsible for the crimes committed at Khojaly have been prosecuted by Armenia. In a telling admission of culpability, Armenia's then Defence Minister and ex-President, Serzh Sargsyan, was quoted by the British journalist Thomas de Waal, as saying, "before Khojaly, the Azerbaijanis thought that ... the Armenians were people who could not raise their hand against the civilian population."

Briefs

PAF releases national song

This national song is a tribute to the bravery of the valiant sons of Pakistan Air Force

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force (PAF) on Sunday released national song "Dunya Ma Sarbuland" on the occasion of Operation Swift Retort's third anniversary to pay tribute to the heroes who took part in the Operation. The song was sung by renowned singer Sahir Ali Bhagga while it was shot by renowned Pakistani director Zohaib Qazi, said a PAF media release. "This national song is a tribute to the bravery of the valiant sons of Pakistan Air Force who marked a new story of bravery in the air battle against the enemy in 2019 and raised the prestige of the country and the nation," it said.

Sri Lanka relaxes entry requirements for travelers

COLOMBO: Fully Vaccinated travelers do not need to take a PCR or Rapid Antigen test, to determine the COVID status before traveling to Sri Lanka from March, said the country's Health Ministry Sunday. According to the guidelines issued by the ministry, a traveler who has received both doses of a two-dose vaccine, or a recommended combination of them, is considered a fully vaccinated person. Moreover, a person who has taken an approved one dose vaccine, is also considered as fully vaccinated. Children of 18 years and below, who have obtained at least a single dose of a recognized vaccine, will be considered as fully vaccinated if they leave for Sri Lanka two weeks after completion of vaccination, the Health Ministry said. - APP

Pak embassy working to evacuate nationals

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan embassy in Ukraine is making all-out efforts to evacuate the stranded Pakistani nationals at the earliest, amidst the deepening Russian-Ukraine conflict. According to details shared by Pakistan Embassy in Ukraine, the Pakistanis were being evacuated from Ternopil and Lviv to Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Romania and the embassy was coordinating with the respective missions there for the onward facilitation. About 4,000 Pakistani nationals, mostly married to Ukrainians, had already left on the advice of the mission whereas, 3,000 students also left the war zone while the remaining 600-700 students were being evacuated. The mission has established different focal points for facilitation and evacuation of Pakistani citizens, which are: Embassy of Pakistan in Ternopil contact details: 00380636968264, 0 0 9 2 3 3 2 9 1 8 4 3 5 0 , 00380638282984. Focal Point at Kyiv +380681734727, Facilitationdesk.in Lviv +380932197175, +380637019154. The embassy sharing further details about the evacuation process said. - APP

Covid claims 20 more lives in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: Covid-19 has claimed 20 more lives in Pakistan during the last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 30,173, the data released by the NCOCC showed on Sunday. As per details, Pakistan has reported 847 fresh cases of the pandemic during the past 24 hours when 40,127 tests were conducted. The positivity rate remained 2.11 per cent. - DNA

'No more evacuations until situation improves'

KABUL: The Taliban will not allow any more evacuations of Afghans until the situation improves abroad for those who have already left, their spokesman said Sunday. "The govt has the responsibility to protect the people so this will be stopped until we get the assurance that their lives will not be endangered," Zabihullah Mujahid told a news conference. - APP

Poets all praise for Serena Hotels for hosting such a lively event

Serena Hotels host mushaira to mark its 20 years success

CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani assures to make it a regular feature; President Dr. Arif Alvi appreciates participants; distributes bouquets among the poets

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels Islamabad hosted Mushaira Night to celebrate its successful 20 years, featuring 20 renowned poets from across Pakistan. A large number of dignitaries from Corporate, Government and Civil Society attended the event. President of Pakistan Dr Arif Alvi and the First Lady Begum Samina Alvi graced the occasion. The poets in their distinct styles and having the innate ability to catch the attention of the audience with startling couplets and verses, kept the event a lively and entertaining one. Senior versifiers included Anwar Masood, Iftikhar Arif, Kishwar Naheed, Khurshid Rizwi and Amjad Islam Amjad, Abbas Tabish, Wasih Shah to name a few. The event was conducted by Rana Shakeel Jazab in a versatile manner, engaging the poets while keeping the audience joyful and upbeat. CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani, speaking at the occasion, said: "Islamabad Serena Hotel is proudly celebrating its 20th Anniversary and plans to host a number of events for the guests, well-wishers, local community and its Associates on the occasion. He thanked all the guests, customers, well-wishers, Government functionaries including local administration and Serena Hotels committed, hospitable and hardworking staff for their continued support in this successful journey.



Notorious commander Qari Baryak made Governor

Qari Ihsan Ullah become notorious when he either claimed or charged for deadly attack against the French troops in Tagao valley of Kapisa province in 2008

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The Afghan Taliban calling them as Emirate Islami Afghanistan has honoured one of the notorious militant commander with Governor office in recently announced posting and appointments. The decorated militant commander Qari Ihsan Ullah Baryak is one amongst the lucky Taliban commanders and self-styled Ulama whom appointments decree was issued by Taliban supreme leader Mullah Haibat Ullah Akhund. Though some of media organs in previous September reported Mullah Haibat Ullah appearance during a ceremony at Southern Qandahar city of Afghanistan but so far no either confirmed his physical participation in any official meeting or other events. Like of Taliban founding supreme leader, Mullah Muhammad Omar Akhund, Mullah Haibat Ullah avoiding to be either pictured or filmed for media consumptions. Recent media report reveal that Taliban leadership has notified a number of new posting and appointments in

civil administration and security forces for different parts of the country. According to notification Abdul Ghaffar Muhammadi was appointed as Deputy Commander of Al Badar Corps, Maulvi Younas Mukhlis was named as Deputy Governor of Kabul, Mufti Muhammad Idrees was made as Deputy Governor of Parwan Province, Maulvi Aziz Ullah was made Parwan Police Chief and Qari Naeem would command the police force in Baghlan province. It further states that Qari Ihsan Ullah Baryak was named as Governor of his native Kapisa province. Qari Ihsan Ullah Baryak was earlier associated with Hizbe Islami Afghanistan headed by Engineer Gulbuddin Hekmatyar but later switched over to Tehrik Taliban Afghanistan soon after Taliban's embarking on what they called armed offensives against the US led allies or NATO troops in 2004. At once residing along with his family members and close relatives in Shamshato Refugees Camp in outskirts of Peshawar, Qari Ihsan Ullah become notorious when he either claimed or charged for deadly attack against the French troops in Tagao valley of Ka-

pisa province in 2008 last. At least 10 personnel of France armed forces, a component of NATO forces killed in the first ever attack. In the second suicide attack, at least four French troops were killed. The suicide bomber guessed him as woman or wearing Burqa, had also targeted the French convoy in same Tagao valley of Kapisa province, adjacent to Sarobi district of Kabul province, located on main Grand Trunk Road, connecting Kabul with Calcutta India via Peshawar, Lahore and New Delhi. Besides declaring Qari Ihsan Baryak is most notorious militant and putting him on priority in the UN black list, a French court had also started investigation into 2008 deadly attack in Afghanistan. The court reaffirmed of continuing the investigation after another suicide attack against the French troops on June 9th 2012 last. "A French judge is to continue his probe into the deaths of 10 French soldiers in an ambush in Afghanistan in 2008, following an appeals court ruling Monday. The families of the victims claim the soldiers were ill-equipped at the time of the attack.

NAB efforts fruitful as 1405 corrupt persons convicted

STAFF REPORT



ISLAMABAD: The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) Chairman Justice Javed Iqbal said that due to vigorous prosecution of NAB, 1,405 corrupt persons were convicted which is testament to NAB's outstanding performance for the last more than 4 years as compared to previous years as per law. He said NAB has filed corruption references based on solid evidence against the big fish allegedly involved in money laundering in the esteemed accountability courts. Those who are claiming their innocence in the media should apply for day to day hearings of their cases in the relevant accountability courts where the esteemed

accountability courts will decide the cases in accordance with the law. The NAB will continue to carry out its national duty to bring the big fish to justice in accordance with law without resorting to baseless propaganda against the institution. He said that NAB was committed to bring white collar cases of mega corruption to a logical conclusion as per law. NAB has introduced a Combine Investigation Team (CIT) system in order to benefit from the experienced and collective wisdom of senior supervisory officers, not only for the effective follow-up of NAB over the last more than 4 years, but also for the effective accountability of the courts, the Honorable Accountability Courts has convicted 1405 accused. Which is a clear proof of the excellent performance of the NAB. NAB is the focal institution of Pakistan under the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the chairman of Saarc Anti-Corruption Forum. NAB is considered a role model for the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) countries for its efforts in eradicating corruption. NAB had recovered Rs. 584 billion from corrupt elements directly and indirectly from Oct 2017 to Dec 2021 which is record success. It reflects the commitment of the officers to fulfill their national duty to eradicate corruption from the country.

Murad Saeed serves legal notice on Reham Khan



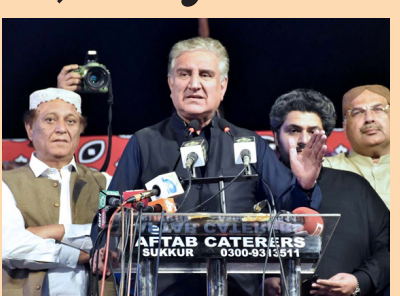
STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed has served a legal notice to Prime Minister Imran Khan's former wife Reham Khan for hurling allegations at him in her book. Murad Saeed in his legal no-

tice served to Reham Khan said his ministry was given best performing ministry award purely on merit, but the matter was made controversial with the reference of the content of your book, the legal notice read. Saeed further said that the reference of the book was used for malicious propaganda against him and you [Reham] has not yet contradicted the content of the book being attributed to you. Reham has been asked to give an explanation within 14 days and seek an unconditional apology, else a defamation suit worth Rs1 billion would be filed against her. It may be noted that on February 10, PM Imran Khan distributed certificates among his best performing ministries with Minister for Communication and Postal Services Murad Saeed remaining on the top.

People of Sindh are fed up with PPP's rule, says FM Qureshi

ISLAMABAD: Vice Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi Sunday said that people of Sindh were fed up with the PPP's rule in Sindh and they were looking for an alternate leadership. In a press statement, Qureshi said that PTI's 'Huqooq-e-Sindh' march had reached Sukkur from Ghotki after passing through different areas. The masses on its way had warmly welcomed the march as they had been the democratic people and followers of the democratic norms. If the PPP leadership had the right to present their viewpoint in Punjab province, then the PTI leadership had the same right to visit Sindh province.



the PTI stalwart further added. PTI's vice chairman said that he had come to Sindh to ask the residents what the PPP government had done for them during the last fifteen years of its rule. He said

the PPP government was blocking the health cards facility to the Sindh people. People in Thar had been given the facility, but he wanted to ask the provincial government as to why it was depriving other areas of the province, he said. The PTI government had stabilized the country's economy which was left in shatters by the previous rulers and now, put it on the path of strength, he added. Referring to PPP's long march towards Islamabad, Qureshi claimed that they had been giving Rs30,00 to each participant. "It is no more a party of late Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, but a party of 'zar' (money) and Zardari. Imran Khan's caravan is confronting this clique," he opined. - APP