



# Islamabad POST

Friday, April 01, 2022

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

### Turkey ready to host Putin-Zelensky bilateral meeting

Detailed News On Page-07

### NATO sees no Russian pullback

Detailed News On Page-07



### No trust motion filed by local stooges: Farrukh

Detailed News On Page-08

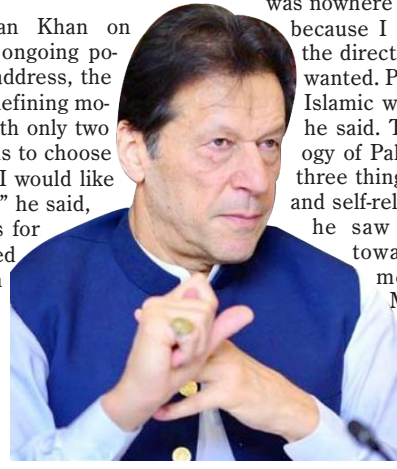


## PM Khan says US behind his ouster

### PM names US in his address, then retracts; Says this is a defining moment in Pakistan's history

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday addressed the nation amid ongoing political crisis. At the beginning of his address, the premier said Pakistan has reached a "defining moment" in its history where it is left with only two options, adding that the nation now has to choose which path to take. "But before that, I would like to tell the nation why I joined politics," he said, as he went on to provide the reasons for his career choice. "I already enjoyed fame and had money due to my faith in Allah, and I was part of a generation that was born to an independent state, unlike my parents," he said. "My parents used to tell me to be thankful as I was born into an independent state and did not have to witness the rule of the British." The premier said that the



founding fathers of Pakistan had envisaged a welfare state, based on the model of Riasat-e-Madina, but the country was nowhere near that model. "...I came into politics because I realised that Pakistan cannot move in the direction that Allama Iqbal and Quaid-e-Azam wanted. Pakistan's real reason was to establish an Islamic welfare state, just like Riasat-e-Madina," he said. The premier said in line with the ideology of Pakistan, he started politics and included three things in his manifesto - justice, humanity, and self-reliance. He said that during his youth, he saw that the country was progressing toward the path of success and development. "People from South Korea, the Middle East, and Malaysia used to come to Pakistan to study at universities here," he said. "But because of the corruption of political leaders, it started witnessing a decline.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Opposition leader Shahbaz Sharif and PPP Chairman Bilawal Zardari talking to the NA secretary after the deputy speaker adjourned the session till April 3. - DNA

### PM Khan delivers 'farewell' speech

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: The Prime Minister Imran Khan in his speech on the national hook-up on Thursday appeared to be his last address to the nation as his body language suggested that he had foreseen the results of Sunday's voting on the no-trust motion. On many occasions during the speech, the prime minister said he would not sit idle after removal from the office. The interesting feature of the speech was when he mistakenly mentioned as the country that was responsible for the so called letter and threat to his government. He then realized his faux pas and tried to cover up the matter but perhaps it was too late. The media immediately picked up his words and started airing his statement as breaking news. Anyhow, it does make any difference as everybody knew that it was the USA, which was being referred to as the country that reportedly had hurled threats to the PTI government through the then Pakistan ambassador to the US Asad Majeed. There was nothing new in his speech except his assertions that he had to face wrath of the super power because of his inclination towards Russia. Realistically speaking it may be an aspect but not the whole truth. There are certain others factors as well that contributed towards his removal. Those factors are so strong that despite being a bold and audacious person, he could not mention them in his speech. He is all set to be a strong opposition leader. There is a common view about him that he is much more effective as the opposition leader.

## NA session delayed Opp. says PM must resign or face NA

### -Bilawal asks PM to step down, give Shehbaz chance to seek vote of confidence

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif Thursday said that the NA Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri once again failed to follow the constitutional procedure by calling the debate session on the no-confidence motion off. Addressing a press conference flanked by other joint Opposition leaders, including PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari, Shehbaz said that when the deputy speaker saw that the members of the Parliament wanted to vote against the premier, "he ran away." He further said that the entire nation saw that 172 Opposition members were present in the house, however, the deputy speaker did not allow the voting. "The whole country is shocked, including the judiciary," he maintained.

### Opp. moot 'satisfied' over required number

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A session of the leaders of the parties in joint opposition on Thursday expressed their satisfaction over more MNAs than required for the no-confidence motion. The leadership of the joint opposition consulted over the political situation and the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan in a meeting at the residence of the Leader of Opposition Shehbaz Sharif. The opposition session was also attended by 172 MNAs of the joint opposition.

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

### Briefs

#### Cold war mentality must not revive

DNA

BEIJING: China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi has said that they could not allow Cold War mentality to be revived and camp confrontation to be repeated in Asia. The remarks from the Wang Yi came after he met his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi in China. "Small & medium-sized countries shall not become tools or even victims of the great power game," the Chinese foreign minister said. It is pertinent to mention here that renowned journalist Nasim Zehra has claimed that a United States (US) official conveyed to Pakistan's Ambassador in Washington Dr Asad that relations with the country cannot improve until Imran Khan remains the prime minister.

#### Steps ongoing to normalize ties with KSA

DNA

ANKARA: Important steps are ongoing to normalize relations with Saudi Arabia, Turkey's foreign minister said on Thursday. "We didn't have a negative attitude towards Saudi Arabia in terms of normalizing relations, either commercially, economically, or politically," Mevlut Cavusoglu told Turkish news broadcaster A Haber in a televised interview. Underlining that steps are being taken to revive ties between the two countries, he said.

#### MQM-P, PPP to change Sindh's fate

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui Thursday said to change the situation of Sindh, MQM-P will stand the side of the provincial government. Khalid Maqbool said that for 50 years, Sindh's masses have been left to fight, according to the plan.

## NSC decides strong demarche to US' letter

### National Security Adviser Dr Moeed Yusuf briefed the committee



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The National Security Committee (NSC) Thursday decided Pakistan would issue a strong demarche to the country whose official communicated the "threat". "The Committee decided that Pakistan will issue a strong demarche to the country in question both in Islamabad and in the country's capital through proper channel in keeping with diplomatic norms," a statement issued from the PM Office said. The 37th meeting of NSC took place at the PM Office with PM Imran Khan in the chair, where National Security Adviser Dr Moeed Yusuf briefed the committee on the formal communication of a senior official of a foreign country to Pakistan's ambassador in the said country in a formal meeting. The Pakistani ambassador "duly conveyed" the message of the foreign official to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the statement said.

Continued on Page 06

## US denies involvement in no-trust motion

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The US government categorically rejected any kind of involvement in the no-trust motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan, saying the allegations of US involvement are baseless, media reported Thursday. The US government reacted strongly as Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday brandished a letter during a power show at D-chowk saying that it contains evidence of a foreign plot hatched against him and the Opposition's no-trust motion is also a part of this foreign conspiracy to topple his government. On Wednesday, the premier's gist of

Continued on Page 06

## China's Xi strongly backs Afghanistan at conference

### China has all along respected Afghanistan's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity

FOREIGN DESK

TUNXI: Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Thursday issued strong backing for Afghanistan at a regional conference. Xi pledged China's support in a message to a gathering of representatives from Afghanistan, China, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan in a central Chinese city that spotlights Beijing's aspirations to play a leading role in Afghanistan following the withdrawal of US forces last August. A "peaceful, stable, developed and prosperous Afghanistan" is what Afghans aspire to, which "serves the common interests of regional countries and the international community," Xi said. "China has all along

### Afghan clerics call to reopen girls' schools

NEWS DESK

KABUL: Islamic scholars at an Ulama gathering in Kabul on Thursday called on the Islamic Emirate to reopen schools for girls in grades 7-12. According to the clerics, there is no sharia justification for banning girls from education and girls can go to school while respecting the Islamic Hijab. "If the female schools teach

Continued on Page 06

respected Afghanistan's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and is committed to supporting Afghanistan's peaceful and stable development," Xi said in his message to the gathering in Tunxi, a center of the tourism industry in Anhui province. Xi gave no specifics, although China has already shipped emergency aid to Afghanistan and is seeking to develop copper mining there. China follows what it calls a strict policy of "non-intervention" in other countries' internal affairs, including opposing those staged for humanitarian purposes unless sanctioned by the United Nations. Special envoys for Afghanistan from China, the United States and Russia, a group known as the "Extended Troika", were also meeting concurrently in Tunxi.

The Smooth Moving Connection

## freeline MOVERS

PACKING, SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING

### Our Services

- Packing
- Shipping
- Freight Forwarding
- Land, Sea & Air Freight
- Custom Clearance
- Relocations
- Office Removals
- Pine Art Handling
- Project Management
- Pet Relocation
- Warehousing
- Storage

**Head Office**  
3rd Floor, Yasin Plaza, 74-West, Blue Area, Islamabad.  
Tel: (+92 51) 2822471, 2274221, 2878029, 2272273, 2822711, 2874289 - Fax: (+92 51) 2825132, 2274227.  
E-mail: moving@freelinemovers.com - Website: www.freelinemovers.com

**Branch Offices:**

<b>Karachi</b> Room No. 14, 8/5, 3rd Floor, Kalkashan Mall, Main Tariq Road, 172-1 Block 2, P.E.C.H.S, Karachi. Tel: (+92 21) 34530626, 34310478. Fax: (+92 21) 34531177. E-mail: karachi@freelinemovers.com	<b>Lahore</b> F-4, Gulberg Centre, Main Boulevard, Lahore. Tel: (+92 42) 35738881, 35761085. Fax: (+92 42) 35711420. E-mail: lahore@freelinemovers.com	<b>Peshawar</b> Office No. C-8, 2nd Floor, Zaher Plaza, Lall Abad, Ring Road, Peshawar. Tel: (+92 91) 2522778. Fax: (+92 91) 2522888. E-mail: peshawar@freelinemovers.com	<b>Kabul</b> House # 4, Street # 4, Chirani Anarai Road, Shah-e-Naw, Kabul - Afghanistan. Tel: +93 79927 778. Fax: 797955 838, 83 778489 288. E-mail: kabul@freelinemovers.com
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Chairman Senate, Mirza Muhammad Afridi addressing as chief guest at the closing ceremony of Peshawar international property expo. – DNA

## Tajik envoy, KCCI identify lack of connectivity

“We have Tajik businessmen who are interested in doing business with Pakistani counterparts but this was not happening due to lack of information about each other which is another issue hindering trade”

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Ambassador of Tajikistan to Pakistan Ismatullo Nasredin and President Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry Muhammad Idrees, while identifying lack of connectivity between Pakistan and Tajikistan as one of most serious hurdles hindering trade, stressed the need to commence direct flights between Pakistan and Tajikistan which would drastically reduce the travel time to just ‘one hour and twenty minutes’ from 22 hours as currently, the travelers take connecting flights either from Dubai or Istanbul to reach Dushanbe. Exchanging views at a meeting held at the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), Tajik Envoy and President KCCI noted that despite being geographically close to each other and having huge potential to improve trade and economic, trade volume remains very limited due to lack of connectivity which was the most serious obstacle, disallowing the two countries

to be more closer to each other.” Honorary Consul General of Tajikistan Irshad Kassim Ali, President KCCI Muhammad Idrees, Vice President KCCI Qazi Zahid Hussain, Former President KCCI Abdullah Zaki, Chairman Diplomatic Missions & Embassies Liaison Subcommittee Ziaul Arfeen, Former Vice President KCCI Shamsul Islam Khan and KCCI Managing Committee Members attended the meeting. Tajik Ambassador, who was on his second visit to Karachi, informed that he will be holding a meeting with Pakistan’s Civil Aviation Authority next week and subsequently discuss this issue with Tajik Civil Aviation Authority as well so that this pressing problem could be sorted out as it was not feasible for businessmen to travel for 22 hours to reach Dushanbe which was less than one-and-a-half away from Pakistan. He further mentioned that although Pakistan and Tajikistan share excellent relation and Pakistan is a reliable partner of Tajikistan in terms of political relations, security, economic and cultural cooperation but still “there are a lot of problems

that we both need to overcome.” Commenting on declining trade volume between the two countries, the Envoy said that the peak time was 2013 when trade between Tajikistan and Pakistan touched US\$94 million but it has been constantly declining since then and dropped to US\$25 million in 2020. He said, “In addition to 22 documents signed during last year’s Tajikistan President’s visit to Pakistan in June and Pakistan Prime Minister’s visit to Tajikistan in September, a total of 77 bilateral documents have been signed by both countries during the last 30 years, of which more than 50 documents are related to economic field but unfortunately, only 10 percent of these documents remain effective while the rest of 90 percent of the documents are on papers only.” “We have Tajik businessmen who are interested in doing business with Pakistani counterparts but this was not happening due to lack of information about each other which is another issue hindering trade”, he added. He said that for the landlocked Tajikistan, Karachi Port was ideal for trade as it was just 2200 kilometers away from Dushanbe and very cost effective.



## Wasa changes water timing for Ramzan

FAISALABAD: The Water & Sanitation Agency (WASA) has changed timing of high-pressure water supply to facilitate the residents of Faisalabad city during the holy month of Ramzan. A spokesman said here on Thursday that WASA would provide the first supply of potable water from 2:30a.m. to 5a.m., whereas the evening water supply would be made from 4p.m. to 7p.m. He also requested consumers to store water for emergency and avoid sucking water by installing direct motors on water supply lines as it caused mixing of sewerage with potable water. – Agencies

## Business community to set up company for undertaking development projects

FAISALABAD: The business men of Faisalabad have decided to set up a dedicated company to undertake infrastructure related mega commercial projects for the sustained, comprehensive, organized and inclusive development of Faisalabad. In this connection, Faisalabad Development Legend Fund (FDLF) has been proposed that would also play a key role in improving the overall image of Faisalabad at global level as a leading, progressive, dynamic and vibrant metropolis of central Punjab. Addressing a meeting Mian Mohammad Idrees former President Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), said that this city has bestowed us with respect, honor, dignity and wealth and now it is time to repay it by undertaking uplift

projects which must change the entire landscape of this city. He mentioned the Sialkot model and said that on the same pattern we would also undertake ventures including a dedicated airport, international level hospital, hotel, theme park and many more to cater to its future needs. He said that these schemes could be initiated on Public, Private Partnership (PPP) mode and profit earned from these commercial ventures could be used to undertake new schemes to ensure basic amenities of life to its inhabitants. He said that although the name for this company has initially been proposed as FDLF, it could be changed or amended in accordance with the wishes of its founding members. He paid best tribute to Engineer

Rizwan Ashraf who had played an instrumental role in launching direct international flights from Faisalabad. He said that it was a turning point which not only enhanced our global connectivity but also had an impact on the downstream industry linked with the aviation sector. Atif Munir Sheikh, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) said that the local business community is known across the country for its generosity, philanthropy and charity but it is a pity that we are dependent on JICA for the provision of potable water. He said that being President of the FCCI, he has the privilege to take up the major civic issues of Faisalabad at the highest forums. – DNA

## Rs. 87 crores approved for Lakhnawal Hospital

YOUSUF BHUTTA

GUJRAT: A tender of Rs. 87 crores have been approved for the construction of Lakhnawal Hospital. According to details, a 100-bed hospital will be constructed at a

cost of Rs. 87 crores in Lakhnawal, a large village in Gujrat district, which will benefit a large population of the area. The people of the area are very happy with the approval of the hospital and it is being said that this hospital will prove to be a milestone in providing health facilities to the people.

## LPP holds free eye camp in Lodhran

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHRAN: A two-days Free Eye Camp was organized by Lodhran Pilot Project (LPP) in Galewal District Lodhran with the special support from Mr. Jahangir Khan Tareen. During the two-days eye camp from 30th to 31st March 2022, free check-ups and medicines have been provided to more than 688 patients in the free eye camp, while free surgeries have been performed on about 162 patients including men, women and trans community members. The patients getting treatment at the camp offered many prayers to Mr. Jahangir Tareen for understanding the pain of the vulnerable

and people in need on grassroots level, and also paid tribute to the LPP administration for the excellent arrangements. While visiting the camp, Dr. Muhammad Abdul Sabur, Chief Executive Officer of Lodhran Pilot Project, said that 70,000 patients have so far received free treatment in organized 41 free eye camps by Mr. Jahangir Tareen in Lodhran. While 10,000 patients have been operated on free of cost. Our goal is to provide free medical care to the poor and deserving. This social service will be continued by Mr. Jahangir Tareen. Assistant Commissioner Lodhran Mr. Farhan Mujtaba also visited the camp and reviewed the facilities provided to the patients and appreciated the efforts of Lodhran Pilot Project.



## PTI Sindh to hold “Karvan-e-Wafa” rally

KARACHI: Pakistan Tahreeke-Insaf Sindh to bring out “Karvan-e-Wafa” rally on Friday to express solidarity with Prime Minister Imran Khan and support to his independent and sovereign foreign policy approach for Pakistan. The Karvan-e-Wafa will start from Mazar-e-Quaid and culminate at Teen Talwar after marching through different roads of the Metropolitan, it was decided in a meeting of PTI parliamentary party held here at Sindh Assembly Building with Leader of the opposition in Assembly, Haleem Adil Sheikh in chair. The meeting was attended

by PTI parliamentary leader in Sindh Assembly Khuram Sher Zaman, president PTI Karachi Bilal Abdul Gaffar, Saeed Afridi, Jamal Siddiqui, Shehzad Qureshi, Shah Nawaz Jadoon, Ribstan Khan, Adebba Hassan and other members of Sindh Assembly. Haleem Adil Sheikh while addressing a press conference said that it is battle of national honour and sovereignty of Pakistan and entire nation is joining the journey of Prime Minister Imran Khan which begun from ‘absolutely not’, ‘People of Pakistan has realized that it is time to throw

away chains of slavery and stand with cause of sovereign and independent Pakistan, he stated adding that the true faces of opposition parties had been exposed before the nation who always run state affairs on dictation from abroad. Pakistan is created in the name of KalmaTayyaba and now Allah has blessed the country with the courageous leader like Imran Khan who refused to accept dictation of foreign powers which in past had been involved in power games, drone attacks and bomb blasts in the country, Haleem maintained. – APP

## Progress of development projects reviewed

PESHAWAR: A high-level meeting on development and administrative matters of Charsadda district was held under the chairmanship of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Law Minister Fazal Shakur Khan. Deputy Commissioner Charsadda Saadat Hassan, Executive Engineer Allah Nawaz and other senior district administrative officers were also present on the occasion. During the meeting, the provincial law minister said that the provincial government would soon release funds for all development schemes and directed the authorities concerned to provide details and recommendations for the remaining projects so that their funding issues could also be resolved at earliest. – APP

## Italian investors visit Peshawar Museum

PESHAWAR: A delegation of investors from Italy Thursday visited Peshawar Museum and witnessed artifacts of Ghandhara period being displayed for visitors. The delegation members included Lainati Alberto and Bottone Ernesto, said a statement received. The delegation was accompanied by CEO Board of Investment KP, Hassan Daud But. CEO Pak Steel Mills and other relevant officials. Italian delegation members appreciated measures taken for protection and preservation of highly valuable and rare artifacts of Buddhist regime. General Manager Culture and Tourism Authority, M Ali Syed and officials of Archeology Department presented briefing to the visiting guests. – DNA

## CHANGE OF NAME

We have renamed our residential colony from Iqbal Garden, Mohallah Azam Nagar to Naseer Garden Lalamusa. It is published for the information of all and sundry. The colony shall be called and known as Naseer Garden, from now onwards.

**PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE NASEER GARDEN COMMITTEE**

## 19 Ramadan bazaars functional in Faisalabad district

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Secretary Archeology Punjab / Incharge Ramadan Bazaar Arrangements Faisalabad District SaqibManan visited Faisalabad and was briefed on the arrangements for Ramadan Bazaar in the district. Additional Deputy Commissioner Revenue Fazal Rabi Cheema, Assistant Commissioners Sahibzada Muhammad Yousuf, Ghulam Mustafa Jatt, Khawar Bashir, DO Industries Shahbaz Khan, Additional Director Livestock Dr. Haider Ali Khan, EADA Muhammad Usman and other officers were also

present. While briefing the Archaeological Secretary Punjab, it was informed that there are 19 bazaars functional in the district where 13 basic necessities are available at the Agriculture Fair Price Shops at a lower price than the normal

market. The meeting was further informed that essential commodities are also available at 518 fair price shops in the general market at controlled prices. Similarly, MadaniDastarkhans have also been set up with the help of philanthropists.



Price app is also functional for checking the implementation of prices. Secretary Punjab visited Ramadan bazaars and checked the availability, quality and prices of essential commodities. He visited RiazShahid-Chowk Islam Nagar, Faizan-MadinaChowk Susan Road, Sasta Model Bazaar Jhang Road and other Ramadan bazaars and checked the availability of groceries at the stalls. He also asked the customers about the importance of Ramadan bazaars and said that Ramadan bazaars have been made functional before the month of Ramadan to provide relief to the consumers.

## Islamabad POST Available in following cities

ISLAMABAD  
Qamar News Agency  
03105460372

RAWALPINDI  
Asim News Agency  
03435802610

KARACHI  
Nazir Siyal  
03337554016

PESHAWAR  
Zarbagh News Agency  
03005412069

FAISALABAD  
Ishfaq Mughal  
03007689850

GUJRAT  
M. Yousuf Bhutta  
03338436820

JHELUM  
Iqrash News Agency  
03005412069

KHARIAN  
Ijaz News Agency  
03068863870

LALAMUSA  
Gulzar Ahmed Noshi  
03359494788

SARA-I-ALMAGIR  
0300 5428178

## National Days and Armed Forces Days

### MARCH

March 01/ <b>Bosnia</b>	National Day
March 03/ <b>Bulgaria</b>	National Day
March 06/ <b>Ghana</b>	Independence Day
March 12/ <b>Mauritius</b>	National Day
March 17/ <b>Ireland</b>	St. Patrick's Day
March 20/ <b>Tunisia</b>	Independence Day
March 21/ <b>Namibia</b>	National Day
March 25/ <b>Greece</b>	National Day
March 26/ <b>Bangladesh</b>	National Day
March 27/ <b>Myanmar</b>	Armed Forces Day



### Hotels & Restaurants

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



### Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
-----------------------	---------



### Emergency

Rescue (Police).....	15
Bomb Disposal.....	15
Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....	1122 & 16
Emergency Ambulance.....	1122
& Rescue Services.....	4451122
Motorway Police.....	9266044
Motorway Police.....	9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....	9222596
Rawalpindi.....	9270601-20



### Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....	115
PIA Flight Info.....	114
PIA Cargo.....	9280979
Railway Inquiry.....	117
Railway Exchange.....	9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....	5555489
CAA.....	9281092



### Hospitals

CMH.....	5611111
MH.....	5611116
Cantt Hospital.....	9270907-11
DHQ.....	5556311-4
RGH.....	9290301-7
Holy Family.....	9290322-7
PIMS.....	9261170-79
Polyclinic.....	9218300-09
Shifa International.....	4603666



### Departments

CDA.....	9221334-43
CDA.....	9208301-04
Met Office.....	9250360-6
RDA.....	5555864
TMA.....	5770886
Cantonment Board.....	9270151-3

### Islamabad Metropolitan

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

### Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
----------------	--------------



ISLAMABAD: Ladies taking interest in flower arrangements on the occasion of Teaching Demo PICTORIAL NATURE by Farhat Zaman held at Islamabad Serena Hotel. – DNA

## FTO to resolve issues of taxpayers promptly

President, ICCI highlighted various tax related issues of the business community that needed the cooperation of FTO for their better solution

### STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Sarwat Tahira Habib, Senior Advisor to the Federal Tax Ombudsman said that the business community was the backbone of the economy and the FTO would play a role for resolving their key issues to facilitate them in development of business and economic activities. She said that FTO was enhancing its outreach to the business community by visiting various chambers of commerce & industry of the country to know about the key issues of taxpayers so that they could be taken up with FBR for redress. She said this while interacting with the representatives of traders and industrialists during her visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI).

Mrs. Sarwat Tahira Habib



said that due to the efforts of the FTO, many cases were settled in favour of taxpayers, which showed its important role for the facilitation of the business community. She said that FTO was working to investigate, diagnose, redress and rectify maladministration of tax functionaries and taxpayers

should bring maximum cases to FTO so that efforts could be made for their resolution. She informed the participants that the Hon'ble FTO provided complete assurance for the complainants' safety against any reaction by the tax authorities or reopening of their cases. She gave a detailed

account of some of the bigger cases and prompt action taken by Hon'ble FTO Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah, i.e. sales tax on booking of cars, cases of Telenor, Shahkam Industry and Ajwa Foods. She said that ICCI should send a copy of its budget proposals to FTO that would be forwarded to FBR for consid-

eration during the budget making process. Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry highlighted various tax related issues of the business community that needed the cooperation of FTO for their better solution. He

said that high tax rates were not conducive to promote tax culture and stressed that the government should reduce tax rates to broaden tax base and improve tax revenue. He said that various tax rates in services in federation and provinces like 16 percent sales tax in Islamabad and 5 percent ST in Punjab on the same service were creating tax disparities and emphasized that the government should introduce uniform tax rates across the country to address such tax anomalies. Jamsheed Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI said that high taxes always promoted tax evasion and the government should rationalize tax rates to make them affordable for taxpayers that would also increase tax revenue of the country.

## PAL announces awards for writers, poets

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) has announced Kamal-e-Fun Award for the years 2020. Prominent / renowned writer/ Poet Mustansar Hussain Tarar & Ashoo Lala Faqeerhas been nominated for the Kamal-e-Fun Award 2020. The panel of judges consisted on well-known writers and scholars; Kishwar Naheed, Dr. Anwar Ahmad, Dr. Rauf Parekh, Mahmood Sham, Asghar Nadeem Syed, Parveen Malik, Muhammad Izhar ul Haq, Dr. Riaz Majeed, Hafeez Khan, Muhammad Hameed Shahid, Dr. Abaseen Yousufzai, Nasir Ali Syed, Dr. Abdul Razaq Sabir, Dr. Zulfikar Sial, Taj Joyo, Dr. Zia ul Hasan, Dr. Rubina Shaheen, Dr. Qasim Naseem, Haris Khaliq and Dr. Wahid Bux Buzdarmet here today on March 31, 2022 in the office of Pakistan Academy of Letters, Islamabad. Kishwar Naheed presided over the meeting. Kamal-e-Fun Award is the highest literary award in the field of literature for recognition of lifetime's achievement in creative and research work. The amount of this award is Rs. 1,000,000/- Dr. Yousuf Khushk, Chairman, PAL has also announced the National Literary Awards for the year 2020, given on the best literary books written during the year 2020 in Urdu and other Pakistani languages in a Press Conference. According to the decision of the panel, for Urdu Prose (Creative Literature) Saadat Hasan Manto Award is given to Neelofar Iqbal on her Book "Siah Sona" and to Shaheen Abbasson his Book "Paare Shumare", for Urdu Prose (Criticism & Research) Baba-Urdu Molvi Abdul Haq Award is given to Dr. Bibi Ameena on her book "Urdu Lughat (Tareekhi Asool Par) Tah-queeqi Aur Tanqueedi Mutaliala", for Urdu Poetry, Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal Award is given to Qamar Raza Shahzadon his book "Bargah", for Punjabi Poetry Syed Waris Shah Award is given to Bashir Natiq on his book "Tauheed Da Chan", for Punjabi Prose Afzal Ahsan Randhawa Award is given to Dr. Karamat Mughal on his book "Professor", for Sindhi Poetry Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai Award is given to Ishaq Samejo on his book "Mor Nagar Te Meenhan" for Sindhi Prose Mirza Qaleech Baig Award is given to Mumtaz Bukhari on his book "Sindhi Navel Jo Safar", for Pushto Poetry Khushhal Khan Khattak Award is given to Afgaar Bukhari on his book "Afgaar", for Pushto Prose Muhammad Ajmal Khan Khattak Award. – APP

## Imran always did politics for dignity of country: Gill

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant on Political Communications Dr. Shahbaz Gill on Thursday said Prime Minister Imran Khan has always done politics for honour and dignity of the country. Responding to PML-N leader Maryam Aurangzeb's statement, Gill said Imran Khan's agenda has always been to keep the country's dignity first. Referring to PML-N leaders, he said in the past they have used their power just to run their own businesses and now they are engaged in giving baseless statements against the government.

## ISD 2022 to unveil debate focusing int'l cooperation

ISLAMABAD, MAR 31 (DNA) – National Security Adviser (NSA) Dr Moeed Yusuf on Thursday said, the Islamabad Security Dialogue 2022 would unveil an intellectual debate focusing on international cooperation amid fluid world order. Dr Moeed in an introductory video message regarding the second round of Islamabad Security Dialogue (ISD 2022) said, "The theme of Islamabad Security Dialogue for this year is centered on international cooperation. At a time when the world is going through acute contestation; great power competition is accentuating". The NSA said it was critical for the country to contemplate on how its vision of economic security and geo-economics can benefit from international cooperation. The country should also consider possibilities for a dialogue with other countries and partners intellectually, in terms of policy and a way forward to cooperate for a brighter future for the Asian continent. "We look forward to welcoming you at the Islamabad Security Dialogue taking place on April 1st and 2nd in Islamabad", he said. The flagship Islamabad Security Dialogue organised by the National Security Division will open robust debate on "Comprehensive Security" with focus on re-validating international cooperation and welcome policy makers, legislators, academia and experts to unveil discourse on key issues. – DNA

## US helps improve water services in KP and Sindh

Spanning 75 years, the US-Pakistan partnership has benefited the lives and well-being of both Americans and Pakistanis

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United States, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), in partnership with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), today launched a four-year water and sanitation initiative that will provide safe drinking water to 70,000 residents in two districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Sindh provinces. This new initiative will reduce water-borne diseases by using an innovative approach to improving access to water and sanitation services in health clinics, schools, and underserved communities in the districts of Tank (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) and Umerkot (Sindh). This holistic approach to water management will build infrastructure, increase the capacity of water service utilities, and engage local communities to understand their needs. "As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of



U.S.-Pakistan relations, USAID is helping Pakistan provide reliable access to water and sanitation services and to properly

manage its water resources. These investments will have a dramatic impact on the health and well-being of the people and on

economic growth, prosperity, and stability," said Acting USAID Mission Director David Young at the project launch in Islamabad. Speaking at the event, UNOPS Pakistan Country Manager Marysia Zapsnik said, "Access to clean water and sanitation is a basic human right. With generous support from USAID, we are delighted to assist the Governments of Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in providing people in Pakistan with increased access to clean drinking water and sanitation, improving their quality of life." Spanning 75 years, the U.S.-Pakistan partnership has benefited the lives and well-being of both Americans and Pakistanis. Together, we have built dams and schools, responded to humanitarian emergencies caused by floods and earthquakes, provided vaccines to people in need, and furnished tools and training to help Pakistan's development. The United States is committed to working with Pakistan to combat the challenges that affect us all.

## IG lauds Police over Pak-Australia matches

RAWALPINDI: Inspector General of Punjab Police (IG) Rao Sardar Ali Khan on Thursday visited Regional Police Office and held meeting with District Police Officers of Rawalpindi Region. The IG Punjab appreciated the best security arrangements ensured during Pak-Australia Cricket Match series in Rawalpindi.

The meeting was attended by RPO Rawalpindi Region Ashfaq Ahmed Khan, CPO Rawalpindi, DPOs of Attock, Jhelum, Chakwal, CTO and Divisional SPs, said the Rawalpindi Police spokesperson. Rawalpindi Region Police Officers gave detailed briefing to IG Punjab on overall crime situation and progress in the important cases. On the occasion, IGP Rao Sardar Ali Khan said the Police officers should take concrete steps by adopting effective strategies against criminal elements.

He added that strict action should be taken against organized groups involved in the heinous drug smuggling. He directed the Police teams that patrolling should be increased at night to curb street crime whereas the supervisory officers should join the patrolling teams in the field.

IGP Khan said the Police should ensure implementation of zero tolerance policy against encroachment mafia. The criminals involved in cases of abuse and violence against women and children do not deserve any concessions, the IG Punjab said. He also directed the Police officials to ensure timely measures to control kite flying and aerial firing. – APP

## Woman stabs her 3 children to death

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: A woman stabbed her three children to death and then attempted suicide by stabbing herself with a knife in Shehzad Town police precincts, Islamabad on Thursday.

According to police, the woman identified as Zeba killed her children and also injured herself in an attempt to take her own life to allegedly over some domestic issue. "A heated argument and a brawl took place between Zeba and her husband which angered the former as she stabbed her three children to death and also injured herself with a knife," police said. "Ayan (7), Muskan (4), and Noor (3) are among the deceased. Their bodies have been shifted to Pims Hospital. The woman is also being treated at the hospital," police added.

## Works of autistic children to be showcased

### DNA

ISLAMABAD: Various organisations will conduct events on Saturday to raise awareness on autism and commemorate its acceptance in society on April 2, which is celebrated as World Autism Day.

ICT Administration has joined hands with Islamabad Cycling Association for a cycling event planned by the latter in the evening at Beverly Centre. Other partners to this athletic activity include Islamabad Territory Police, Islamabad Running Club and Zam Zam Autism Centre among others.

Representative ICA Haroon said, "The one-day function will feature stalls of artwork and baked goodies made by the students from the Zam Zam Autism Centre" adding that the idea is to show people how they can be integrated into regular activities. On the same day, the ICA will also conduct a "Balance Bike Competition" for kids 5 years and under. This cycle race will commence from 5 p.m. at the same venue, where the participants can be registered. Happiness Bazaar will hold its monthly cause-driven retail gala on Saturday here to spread awareness regarding Autism, besides some pre-Ramzan retail therapy for families.

## Briefs

EPA imposes  
Rs 210,000  
fines

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Environment Protection Agency (EPA) has imposed Rs 210,000 fines to shopkeepers and confiscated up to 200 kg plastic bags during the ongoing year. The EPA was determined to make the federal capital a plastic-bag free city as the regulator authority issued Rs 70,000 fine during the month of March, said EPA Deputy Director Sadiq Munawar. Talking to APP on Thursday, she said there were four teams in the field to pay surprise visit at various markets in the capital city and issuing penalties to violators.

"The EPA strive every nerve to make Islamabad a plastic bags free city as we seized thousands of plastic bags and imposed fines of Rs 560,000 to the violators in 2021," she noted. No mercy would be shown for culprits who sell or used plastic bags including citizen she told while divulging details of the campaign and added that a ticket of Rs 10,000 would be charged to a shopkeeper who sell goods in plastic bags and 100,000 would be fined to plastic bags manufacturer and this amount would be doubled if the same shopkeeper and manufacturer caught second time.

"Campaign of plastic bags free city is not limited to shopkeepers and manufacturers only as EPA has decided to impose fines on citizens. Rs 5000 would be charge to a person if the authority finds him with a plastic bag" she warned the dwellers of Islamabad.

Highlighting the drastic ramifications of plastic bags, she said that polythene and plastic bags really hazardous to eco system as it took thousands of years to degrade in soil which was dangerous to human and animals and also caused choked drains that prompted urban flooding. - APP

SAP aims  
to improve  
businesses

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Leading digital solutions provider, SAP organized an exclusive Blue Ribbon Event "Meet the Acceleration of Change", engaging industry leaders from all across the country to discuss and analyze the best practices to drive change and enable growth through digitalization. The event was aimed at promoting and accelerating the progress of digital transformation in order to achieve the vision of a digital Pakistan. The event shed light on the latest and upcoming technologies in the digital arena and also discussed the key areas and technologies that SAP aims to work on in the upcoming years to accelerate digitalization in the country. The session also proved to be a great initiative for the clients to engage and share their experience with SAP amongst themselves. The panel "Innovate Together to Accelerate Business Transformations" had a line-up of distinguished personalities from the industry, including Hafeez-ul-Hassan Shah, Head of IT Operations & ERP, ICI Pakistan, Yasir Siddique Sheikh, CFO, Descon and Kamal Saroop Khan, COO, Mitchell's Food.

## Devcom awards eight professionals 2nd PAMPA

Munir Ahmed said, Devcom-Pakistan's PAPMA is tribute to the living legends for their lifelong services to promote sustainable mountain development and conservation practices, adventure tourism, mountaineering, community development, and cultural promotion

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Eight dedicated professionals serving the mountain communities and putting their best efforts into the conservation and development of mountain ecosystems were awarded with 2nd Pakistan Mountains Pride Awards (PAMPA) on Thursday. Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) organized the awards ceremony as the last event of 11th Pakistan Mountain Festival (PMF), globally known as the world's largest festival of mountains and its communities. This year the festival was supported by the National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), Oil and Gas Development Company Ltd (OGDCL) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme, Fatima Jinnah Women University Rawalpindi, Punjab Arts Council Rawalpindi, Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) and the Westminster Academy Islamabad.



The guests of honour included Rural Support Programme Network (RSPN) chairman Shoaib Sultan Khan who in the guru of rural community development regime in Pakistan. Well-known biodiversity experts, mountain communities and students from universities

and colleges participated in the ceremony. Speaking on the occasion, Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director and founder PAMPA Munir Ahmed said: "Pakistan Mountains Pride Awards were launched in 2019 to recognize the services par excellence of the individuals who have

rendered their services to mountain conservation and uplift the communities over the decades. We don't had any system of recognition and encouragement to the marvelous people of mountains. The PAMPA was launched to fill the void, initially with five categories. They are Agostino Da Po-

lenza Mountain Conservation Award, Zahid Baig Mirza (National) and Khwaja Lashkar Hussain Azad from AJK (Regional) were the winners for mountain ecosystems conservation. Shoaib Sultan Khan Community Development Award encourages grassroots development. Bibi Hussan

(Gulmit) and Hasina Haider (Shiger) won this year for their services to mountain women development and empowerment. Nazir Sabir Mountaineering Award promotes and mainstream adventure tourism and hardcore mountaineering in Pakistan's high mountains. Pakistan young mountaineer Sirbaz Khan was chosen by the committee headed by Nazir Sabir. Sirbaz has scaled eight highest peaks of thirteen. Muhammad Iqbal, having 45 years of services to mountaineering and adventure trekking in Pakistan, won the Ashraf Aman Sustainable Mountain Tourism Award. The winners of the Ustad Jan Ali Mountain Music Award will be announced soon."

Munir Ahmed said, Devcom-Pakistan's PAPMA is tribute to the living legends for their lifelong services to promote sustainable mountain development and conservation practices, adventure tourism, mountaineering, community development, and cultural promotion.

Supernet  
set to raise  
475 million

ISLAMABAD: Supernet Limited has planned to raise Rs.475 million through the Initial Offering of its 18.81 percent of post-offering share capital.

The capital being raised by listing the firm on the GEM Board of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) will consist of fresh equity of Rs275 million in Supernet and 'Offer for Sale' by Telectrad Limited of Rs200 million. Supernet is the first technology company to be listed on the GEM Board of PSX, said a news release issued here on Thursday. The issue consists of 21,111,121 Ordinary Shares, representing 18.81 percent of the total post-offering paid-up capital of Supernet of the face value of Rs10 each.

The entire issue will be offered through Book Building on April 12-13 for which registration will start from April 7 at a floor price of Rs22.50 per share, including a premium of Rs12.50 per share. The upper limit of the price band will not be more than 40 percent of the Floor Price. SuperNet is being offered at Financial Year 22 PE of 6.7 vs Avg. IT sector PE of 22X, offering significant value to the investors. Out of the total issue, 8,888,889 shares are being offered as Offer for Sale by Telectrad and 12,222,232 shares are being offered as fresh equity. - APP

Satrang  
Art Gallery  
celebrates  
anniversary

ISLAMABAD: Satrang Art Gallery Thursday celebrated its ten years anniversary with the participation of more than 500 artists from all over the country, as well as international artists.

Talking to APP, the curator's said, "We are delighted and proud to welcome all to "A DECADE" Satrang Gallery's ten year anniversary exhibition". A DECADE exhibits the work of 500 of our artists, chosen by our entire team, past and present assistant curators. Honouring the artists we have worked with, the show highlights the transformation and change these artists have undergone, professionally, personally, and the evolution they have witnessed, within them or around them, over the last 10 years. A decade is a long and abundant time, Satrang has grown over the last 10 years, and so have each of us.

It has been a privilege for me to have been the lead curator of Satrang gallery since its inception and work with extraordinary artists and exceptional colleagues with whom we have built strong relationships. - APP

Cabinet approves  
Ehsaas Tahafuz

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal Cabinet has approved the Ehsaas Catastrophic Health Expenditure Policy and Ehsaas Tahafuz through circulation. Through this policy, Ehsaas Tahafuz, has been approved, which is a fund-based health financing system. Ehsaas Tahafuz

will complement the insurance-based Sehat-Sahulat programme to ensure the universal health coverage and protect people from Catastrophic Health Expenditure. Extensive two-year-long work has been done on Ehsaas Tahafuz which is country's first shock-oriented precision safety net.

Ehsaas Tahafuz is primarily premised on coverage principles to complement government's existing Sehat Sahulat programme and plug in any gaps. The programme has been built keeping in mind five key principles including provision of universal access; catering to only catastrophic expenditures; complementing existing insurance programs; coverage of all essential treatments; and promotion of accountability and improvement. "Given the current landscape and the importance of protecting the vulnerable, there was a need for a programme to act as a complementary initiative to the health insurance programme, which addresses the gaps to ensure no one falls into poverty due to healthcare expenses. To address this, Ehsaas Tahafuz has been introduced to provide coverage specifically against catastrophic health expenditures to vulnerable communities", said Dr. Sania Nishtar while chairing the review meeting of Ehsaas Tahafuz today at Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division.

PIMS gets penalized for  
environmental laws' violation

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) has been penalized a hundred thousand rupees for continued violations of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act 1997 and poor hospital waste management system. The Islamabad High Court's Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kiani in his judgment on Thursday ruled in the light of the reports and evidence provided by the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) convicted the PIMS administration for poorly

handling highly infectious hospital waste, an official of the EPA told APP. The PIMS administration had challenged the penalty imposed by the Environmental Protection Tribunal after receiving complaints of repeated violations of the Pakistan Environmental Protection Act (PEPA) 1997 rules. The first complaint received by the Tribunal was lodged on September 21, 2010, whereby the Tribunal directed the Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) to initiate proper inspection of the hospital to ascertain the facts. On the inspection of the Pak-EPA a score of

violations were observed on the part of PIMS Hospital, and in the light of the facts, the learned Tribunal passed the impugned order on January 23, 2018. However, the PIMS administration being the appellant contested the decision as misinterpretation of the provisions of PEPA 1997 rules while passing the impugned order and imposing the fine upon the appellant. The Pak-EPA officials informed the Court that Environmental Monitoring Team had visited the PIMS Hospital in compliance of the order of the Court on November 15, 2021.

DC seeks  
traders  
co-op for  
price fixation

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Commissioner, Islamabad, Muhammad Hamza Shafiqat has asked the traders to fix prices of essential commodities to provide relief to masses during the month of Ramadan. "The district administration will strictly enforce the officially fixed prices of essential commodities in the federal capital," he said while chairing a meeting with traders held the other day. Assistant commissioners, price magistrates and representatives of traders community was present on the occasion. During the meeting, the current market prices of some essential commodities and fluctuations in their availability rates were reviewed. The DC said that the price control magistrates across the city were conducting regular inspections of the markets and bazaars so that the shopkeepers should continue their co-operation. - APP

CDA made highest  
expenditure on  
development  
in 2021-22

DNA

ISLAMABAD: CDA board meeting was held at CDA headquarters on Thursday. Amongst the agenda was presentation on CDA receipts and expenditures for 2022-23. Under section 43 of CDA ordinance this is required to be submitted in February each year. The same stands submitted today.

This is first ever budget of CDA that is not based on auction receipts. Auctions have only been proposed to maintain constant supply of commercial space in the city. However, this is the first time in history of CDA that a statement of income and receipts are not reliant on auctions. Traditionally it has often been said that CDA sells plots and pays salary. However for first time the trend is being changed. The revised estimates for 2021-22 are still closing with a surplus of nearly Rs. 68 billion. Meanwhile for 2022-23 the estimates are 308 billion. Primary source are revenue generating projects of CDA. In 2021-22 CDA made highest expenditure on development and proposed plan is for near 80% development vs 20% on recurring. This is complete reversal from inefficient trends historically associated with budget heavily tilted towards non development. It is expected that 2022-23 receipts will give 100 billion surplus. Board also observed that the authority should give back to society and residents. One example is recommendations to make travel in Islamabad bus service free for female passengers. F/A was advised to identify more initiatives to benefit residents. Other agenda items included relief to cda employees.

Impact of technical sales  
in IT sector of PakistanJALAL AHMAD &  
MANSOOR ISHTIAQ

TECHNICAL sale is the knowledge of scientific and technological products and the person who have specialized in and have that knowledge is called Technical sale executive. They are concentrate on the products, services and clients and try to getting the company products to the potential customer's. The technical sale executive role is to sell and promote the company product by the technical functions of the product as well as benefit's. Technical sales has a huge impact and it's very important for the IT Sector.

New technology are rapidly changing the sale's industry. New impactful ways to reach to get the customer's data and to Target them easily and efficiently. In this era a sales person can reach out to more leads, with much knowledge about those leads with the excellent way of communicating with them. In Pakistan the technical sale's has a huge impact. Because of the technical sale's IT sector has improved a lot. The technical sales executives know about the product, they know how to use it, they are truly better aware of the products and they strongly affect IT Sectors. In Pakistan back some years ago a lot of new modern technology product's were

available but no one had any knowledge of the products, they were not expert in that products also they were not good in selling them but with the time this technical sales has change everything. Now they knows about the products and they are so good in selling them. ERP Systems in Pakistan has change every industry. ERP is managing thousands of businesses in all type of industries. A huge impact on IT industry, this software had done a lot of work easier, at lower cost, Lower operational costs, enhanced collaboration, Improved efficiency. Because of the technical sale the IT sector of Pakistan has improved a lot because they know about the

IT, they know how to used it and they know about the products. This affecting a lot and also improve the new technology products. Basically in Pakistan there is not much demand or we can say not famous in Pakistan and because of that this sector has not improved a lot. But with the passage of time the technical sales skill's has improved and this had change the IT sector. Learning has improved, these technical sales executives now know how to attract customer's, they are well aware of information technology and they know how to use it, so they are very well reaching to the customer's and selling their product's.

Writers are students



ISLAMABAD: CDA continues beautification of Federal Capital. - DNA

## 2 years of NCOC

PAKISTAN'S Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Asad Umar, on Thursday announced the closure of National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) operations amid all-time low Covid-19 indicators and high levels of vaccination across the country. Addressing a press conference with Dr Faisal Sultan, Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health, Umar said that in light of the lowest level of the pandemic expansion and the highest level of vaccination across the country, the government had decided to close down the Centre - passing on the baton to the health ministry. The minister, who was also Chairman of the NCOC, said: "Today is the last day of NCOC as we have now learned to live along with the pandemic. He added that chairing the NCOC during the last 2 years, and working with the most dedicated team had been the greatest privilege and honour of his life. The minister said the government's management of the pandemic has been lauded by global leaders and institutions. He specifically thanked the nation for cooperating with the government by acting upon the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by the government to control the pandemic. He also thanked all the stakeholders involved in this whole operation, including the federal and provincial health departments, Pakistan Army, the NDMA team for providing logistics to the hospitals, the civil bureaucracy, judiciary, media, religious scholars, and the business community. Pakistan on Tuesday reported only one death from Covid-19, despite a recent rise in cases linked to the Omicron variant. According to the latest figures issued by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), 269 persons were tested positive while 1 death were reported in the past 24 hours. Pakistan's COVID death toll remained at 30,347. Pakistan imposed new restrictions to curb the fast-spreading Omicron variant, hence, the positivity rate now stands at 0.99%. While the cumulative tally of the country has now climbed to 1,524,355. As many as 1,485,473 patients have recovered from the disease. March 23 was the first day without any recorded deaths in Pakistan since the pandemic took hold in 2020. Official death figures are typically lower at weekends and holidays because of a lag in reporting.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 278

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



## Cold War comes back

LAST week's summit of the leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization member countries highlighted the Cold War mentality that has hijacked reason in the West. In what was described as "an extraordinary NATO summit in an extraordinary security situation" amid the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, NATO leaders condemned Russia, pledged more support to Ukraine and vowed to strengthen their long-term "defense posture" on Thursday. With such an outcome, the only thing that was extraordinary about the summit was the degree to which the European allies' desire for security autonomy has been throttled. Needless to say, it is the United States that has turned out to be the biggest, if not the only, beneficiary from the conflict in Ukraine. Both the NATO summit and other two summits US President Joe Biden had with European leaders last week failed to give credence to the possibility of a negotiated settlement to the crisis. To ramp up the pressure NATO has been exerting on Russia, four new NATO battle groups are to be formed in Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia, to supplement the four already established in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. At the same time, the US is staking the opportunity to sell arms to European countries. Germany, for instance, has already announced it will buy 35 US-made F-35A fighter jets. And, of course, the military assistance promoted by the US is not an unconditional "gift", there are political strings attached in the form of US leadership in European security affairs. In this way, Washington can shape the objectives of the European security process to its liking. With the US breathing fresh life into NATO, it is clear that the Cold War military confrontation thinking of the last century will gain even more traction in the West. Although NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said, "We have a responsibility to ensure that the war does not escalate beyond Ukraine", as "this would cause even more death and even more destruction", it is clear that only applies to the US and its allies. Other countries should beware getting sucked into their geopolitical games, lest they should be viewed as useful like Ukraine. They should take heed that while it is the US playing the role of a ringmaster in the conflict, it is European countries, Ukraine in particular, that are picking up the tab.

## Time for OIC to become more active in international politics

Ajmal Shams



Last week's OIC event touched on all issues relevant to the Islamic world, including international terrorism, political instability and economic troubles. The declaration of the conference, which was timely and encompassed all significant issues...

THE Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Council of Foreign Ministers held its 48th session in Islamabad last week. It was another significant opportunity for the member states to come together within the framework of an important international platform. For the approximately 2 billion adherents of Islam worldwide, who make up about 25 percent of the global population, such events raise hopes of a better future by addressing their most serious concerns. The entire Islamic world has been facing multiple challenges on the security, political and economic fronts, together with the im-

pacts of COVID-19, which has hit some of them the hardest.

The OIC event brought into the spotlight some of the most pressing issues faced by the international Islamic community. Caught in the middle of regional and international rivalries and geopolitical tensions, many OIC member states find it hard to steer toward lasting peace, security and prosperity while maintaining their Islamic identity and specific national interests. Muslims have traditionally blamed others for their own faults in terms of missed opportunities and misguided policies. However, this does not mean that others may not be responsible for the misfortunes of Muslims. But first and foremost, we need to hold our own past and present leaders accountable for our troubles before pointing fingers at others. Today's world is more complicated, given that nation states increasingly strive to advance their own national agendas while being limited by the realities of the interdependent global architecture.

The OIC theme of "Partnering for Unity, Justice and Development" conveyed a strong message to the entire Muslim world. Disunity among Muslim states, obstacles in development, and injustices within Muslim societies are major areas that call for governments' attention.

The situation in my home country, Afghanistan, is a good case in point. In December 2021, a special OIC session was convened by Saudi Arabia and hosted by Pakistan to discuss the evolving situation in the wake of the Kabul government's collapse last August and the emerging humanitarian crisis. The conference concluded with the establishment of a special fund for Afghanistan. If the initiative gains ground, there will be a need to ensure that valuable resources are diverted to the most deserving segments of Afghanistan and the critical sectors that not only provide urgent humanitarian relief but also help stimulate the stagnant economy. It will also be critical to use genuine implementing partners that have heart and not just commercial interests in mind, as has been typical of past interventions in Afghanistan.

In its declaration, the OIC expressed its soli-

arity with the people of Afghanistan and asked for the upholding of human rights, including those of women and children. The OIC, with its representative present in the country, has an added advantage in persuading the Taliban administration not to close the doors to education on Afghan girls. Presenting its excuse of dress code by not allowing girls beyond grade six to attend schools has little rationale. Girls' uniform in Afghanistan is already one of the most modest and compliant with Islamic principles. Muslim countries lag behind the rest of the world in science, education and other indicators of human development. Not allowing girls - who make up half of the country's population - into school only harms the OIC's vision for the Islamic world.

Last week's OIC event touched on all issues relevant to the Islamic world, including international terrorism, political instability and economic troubles. The declaration of the conference, which was timely and encompassed all significant issues facing the global Muslim community, presented a highly ambitious agenda when it comes to the realization of the goals to be achieved. It is time for the OIC to become more robust and active in international politics. It must act as a catalyst by raising its voice and helping to address some of the most pressing problems affecting Muslims around the world, from Afghanistan and Myanmar to Bosnia-Herzegovina. It must focus on issues like Islamophobia in non-Muslim countries and promoting religious tolerance and peaceful coexistence in Islamic states.

It is also important that the OIC is better linked with other regional and international cooperation platforms that are already in place, complementing them to synergize where common objectives are to be achieved. The organization will not make progress in isolation, but rather through better connectivity with the rest of the world. At the end of the day, the OIC will be judged by Muslims around the world and the entire human community through its achievements and performance.

- Courtesy: Arab News

## Covid continues to highlight our vulnerability

Mohamed Chebaro

Germany, Italy, France and Poland will lift all restrictions despite a clear upsurge in cases, with only Austria deciding to strengthen its measures as a response to the omicron BA.2 variant, requiring the use of face masks in indoor public settings

RECORD numbers of COVID-19 cases were registered in the UK last week, two years after the country's first lockdown began. The Office for National Statistics said this rise was due to the highly transmissible omicron BA.2 variant. Thankfully, the high number of cases has not (so far) translated into significantly increased levels of hospital admissions or deaths. The rise in cases comes as the UK prepares to end widespread free testing, which many experts are warning might make the disease harder to track, allowing it to spread into uncharted territories without our knowledge. Luckily, the vaccines and boosters, improved treatment and less-than-severe nature of the omicron variant have all conspired to make the infections less life-threatening, limiting the number of those needing critical care and hospital admission.

Despite that, I am still against abandoning our vigilance. One would hope that free testing would continue as a second line of defense that is necessary beyond our continued compliance with the first basic line of defense, which is based on our common sense: Keeping our distance, maintaining our hygiene and wearing face masks in crowded places, even if this is no longer mandatory. Governments worldwide have been keen to abandon all the restrictions that were designed to suppress the spread of infection in the hope of restarting their economies. Like the UK, many governments in Europe have, it seems, chosen to ignore the volume of infections and to focus on monitoring hospitalization levels and overall deaths due to COVID-19 as guiding factors in their decision-making. Germany, Italy, France and Poland will lift all restrictions despite a clear upsurge in cases, with only Austria deciding to strengthen its measures as a response to the omicron BA.2 variant, requiring the use of face masks in indoor public settings. Government decision-making in most countries has been based on experts' assessments that, despite omicron BA.2's tremendous contagiousness, it has been running out of

people to infect, at least in countries with high vaccination levels. This might expose other nations with lower vaccine uptake, such as the US, making an upsurge and possible mutation likely, with unknown repercussions.

Though the World Health Organization had originally forecast a long period of tranquility in the pandemic's development in Europe, it now believes that the current surge in cases is due to the brutal sweeping away of all restrictions, as well as the fact that people have stopped wearing masks and have been socializing more.

Keeping in mind that not all nations have crossed the threshold of adequate vaccination to afford their citizens the needed protection, coupled with the widespread return of international travel, communities will remain vulnerable to infections, upsurges in cases and maybe mutations. Until more countries cross the threshold of two-thirds of citizens being vaccinated, we cannot be certain that COVID-19 is retreating worldwide. The pandemic has changed our world for good, yet it seems to have taught humanity nothing. The total lifting of restrictions could be partly responsible for the surge in cases witnessed in European countries. There is a fine line between declaring victory, while congratulating ourselves for the return of our freedoms, and keeping hold of a safety net that could mitigate the impact of this dangerous disease. Without sufficient global vaccination, enough good ventilation, the wearing of masks, the availability of free testing, the ability to isolate when infected, and investment in public health and research, the world will still have to live with the disease, its disruptions and, unfortunately, the illnesses and deaths it causes.

Two years on from the start of the pandemic, the jury is still out as we grapple to understand how best to deal with this disease and any future pandemics, as many say that such outbreaks are likely to become more frequent due to the world becoming more crowded and our environment more polluted. Was herd immunity a valid route to take? Or was test and trace necessary to curb the spread of infection? What about the draconian lockdowns seen in many countries until we put all our eggs in the basket of vaccines and Big Pharma? Maybe we will not know for many years.

Looking back at the past 24 months of a world gripped by COVID-19, I am grateful for the arrival of the vaccines, despite all the conspiracy theories that have polluted minds and souls. The pandemic has demonstrated our vulnerability, as the world can be brought to a standstill by a mere virus. One would have hoped that it would refocus people's hearts and minds, as well as governments everywhere, about the interdependence of our existence. Sadly, all one could see was the short fuse of impatience everywhere, as the world has failed to take a break from violent conflicts and has even started new ones.

- Courtesy: Arab News

## The Russia-Ukraine crisis is a bitter pill for ASEAN

Nik Luqman

Compared with the European Union and other Western countries, ASEAN member states expressed concern at the state level to various degrees

THE conflict shows that the regional order, particularly around the South China Sea, may not be sustainable if agreements are viewed as "mere words" on a piece of paper. As the Ukraine-Russia conflict unfolds and war looms over Europe, the consequences are far-reaching, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region is not spared. As ASEAN is invariably touted as the most successful regional project after the European Union, its reaction to crises is more often than not under international scrutiny. Compared with the European Union and other Western countries, ASEAN member states expressed concern at the state level to various degrees. Likewise, the United Nations General Assembly vote, during an emergency session condemning Russia's aggression, demonstrated divisions among ASEAN countries. Only Vietnam and Laos abstained, while others supported the resolution. The first joint ASEAN

statement highlights the importance of the foundations of international law, peace and security, which remain crucial to the state's sovereignty. Released a few days after the start of Russia's operation in Ukraine, it reads: "We call on all relevant parties to exercise maximum restraint and make the utmost effort to pursue dialogue through all channels, including diplomatic means, to contain the situation, to de-escalate tensions, and to seek peaceful resolution in accordance with the international laws, the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia." It is worth analysing the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC), which is one of the bloc's recipes for peace, with the fundamental principles being "settlement of differences or disputes by peaceful means" and the "renunciation of the threat or use of force."

In hindsight, the threat of external intervention had always been the primary concern of ASEAN member states. ASEAN itself was established in 1967 at the peak of communism and was committed to projecting the Southeast Asia region as a neutral zone. Even today, in a period of heightened competition between the United States and China, ASEAN has consistently maintained that the bloc remains neutral. The TAC, thus far, has enabled countries to keep conflicts under control and reduce mutual distrust. Since the TAC has been in place, the region is yet to see any severe incident threatening regional peace and stability. This explains, in part, East Asia peace, which denotes the experience of an extraordinary period of peace that the region has enjoyed since the 1980s.

This is also why the TAC template is seen as an appropriate tool to be employed in governing ASEAN relations with extra-regional countries, either as dialogue partners such as Russia, development partners or observers.

In fact, the most recent upcoming admissions, Denmark, Greece, the Netherlands, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, also need to sign the TAC. While the TAC has laid the foundation for peace, which has steered the ASEAN region towards peace and stability over the years, the Russia-Ukraine conflict shows the limits of sustaining regional or extra-regional orders based on - what are considered by some states to be - mere words on a piece of paper. China, for one, continues its militarisation efforts that have transformed artificial islands into military-sized runways, anti-missile weapons and other platforms. Not to mention the frequent presence of maritime militia by the claimants, along with vessel clashes and recurring encroachments in the disputed waterway. Despite long-standing discussions on the Code of Conduct, otherwise known as COC, an upgraded version of the DOC with a set of norms, rules and responsibilities for conduct in the South China Sea, which was due to be concluded last year, is still stalled, due to the pandemic. In other words, the possibility of conflict that could escalate still looms large despite the existence of numerous declarations, statements, and a codified ASEAN charter. Indeed, while ASEAN continues to reap the peace dividends, the bloc is wary of the potential spillover effects of the Russia-Ukraine crisis.

- Courtesy: TRT World

## Briefs

PM Khan says  
US behind  
his ouster

FROM PAGE 01

"[To steer the country out of that decline], I want the children of this country to follow the footsteps of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)."

Moving on, PM Imran Khan said that despite Pakistan's participation and sacrifices it made for the United States' "war on terror", Islamabad never received appreciation. The premier noted that when the country's northern areas were bombed by US drones, he was the "only politician" who staged sit-ins against it. "None of the senior politicians raised their voice against it as they were afraid that it might draw United States' ire. PM Imran Khan said Pakistanis suffered due to the "war on terror". Therefore, the premier said when he came into power, he aspired for an independent foreign policy.

"...our policy was not anti-US, Europe, or even India [...] it became anti-Indian after New Delhi revoked the special status of Kashmir and broke international law in August 2019," the premier said. The United States, he said in a "slip of the tongue" and then moved on and stated that "a foreign country" had sent a "threatening memo" which was against the Pakistani nation.

Afghan  
clerics call  
to reopen...

FROM PAGE 01

Lessons with observation of Hijab, Islamic Sharia, and in a certain time shift, Inshallah, it will not be in contrast with Islamic regulation and the Quran," said Sheikh Mohammad Anwar Ibrahim. "The prophet Mohammad (PBUH) allocated Wednesday for women's education based on women's demands," Sheikh Mawlawi Abdul Mateen said. Previously, the Islamic Emirate told female students over grade six to remain home until the next decision is announced.

The Islamic scholars at the Kabul gathering called education an Islamic and human right of every Muslim and said there is no obstacle against women's education in Islam. The participants in a resolution urged the supreme leader of the Islamic Emirate, Mawlawi Hebatullah Akhundzada, to allow girls above grade six to attend their schools.

"When women's education is under the Islamic structure, with Islamic Hijab and the males and females are not mixed—if such an environment is ensured by an Islamic government, then no one is forbidden," said Sheikh Mawlawi Fazal Rahman. "So, in our beloved country, if your supreme leader is considering such a condition, it will be better to allow the education of girls." The closing of grades 7-12 for girls has faced strong reactions on a national and international level.

NSC decides  
strong  
demarche...

FROM PAGE 01

Federal ministers of defence, energy, information and broadcasting, interior, finance, human rights, planning, development and special initiatives, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, Services Chiefs, NSA, and senior officers attended the meeting, the statement read. The NSC expressed grave concern at the communication, terming the language used by the foreign official as undiplomatic. The committee concluded that the communication amounted to blatant interference in the internal affairs of Pakistan by the country in question, which was unacceptable under any circumstances.

The participants also endorsed the federal cabinet's decision in the special cabinet meeting held a day earlier, under the prime minister's chairmanship to take the parliament into confidence through an in-camera briefing of the National Security Committee of the Parliament. In his March 27 address to a PTI rally, the PM had revealed that "foreign elements" are involved in the attempts to topple his government and said, "some of our own people" are being used for this.



ISLAMABAD: Malaysian girls basketball team left for Kuala Lumpur from Islamabad. They played 3 match series against Pakistan. Pakistan won by 3-0. They were seen off by ARIF Shehzad chairman Islamabad baseball Association at Islamabad Airport. — DNA

## Turkey ready to host Putin-Zelenskyy meeting: Erdogan

"The route Israel considers for energy exports is unfavorable given the cost. I mean, building pipelines from Israel to Greece under the sea, distribution (of oil) to Europe (through that route), this surely is not feasible," he said

## FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday said he was determined to hold talks with Ukrainian and Russian leaders and bring them together to put an end to the bloodshed. The Turkish leader's remarks came before his flight to Turkey from Uzbekistan, where he held a two-day visit to boost bilateral ties. Erdogan spoke about the Russia-Ukraine war, Turkey's position, and mediation efforts for lasting peace, as well as energy ties with Israel.

"I believe the meetings held by the Russian and Ukrainian delegations in Istanbul helped the peace process gain meaningful momentum. The Russian decision to significantly reduce mili-

tary operations in Kyiv and Chernihiv is truly an important step," Erdogan said. Stressing that he was resolute to hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, he said he would tell his counterparts that the ultimate goal of Turkey was now to bring them together.

"We are ready to host a meeting at the presidential level. However, it is of great importance to ensure a temporary cease-fire," Erdogan said, adding that Ankara's active diplomacy and balanced approach enabled it to host negotiations in Turkey. Erdogan also stressed Turkey's possible role as one of the guarantor states for Ukrainian security, saying Ankara was open to becoming a guarantor coun-

try, while the details should be clarified.

Turkiye continues opposition to sanctioning Russia, instead prioritizes standing against Russia's military moves and continuing the dialogue, Erdogan added.

"This dialogue is important, necessary, not only in the context of Ukraine but also in many other geographies concerning us closely, such as Syria, Libya, the South Caucasus," Erdogan said. Another point Erdogan stressed was the participation of Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich in the Russian and Ukrainian delegations' meetings in Istanbul. "Abramovich, on the other hand, participated in the negotiations as a member of the Russian delegation. ... If Russia and Putin preferred to include Abramovich in their

own delegation, then (they) believed, trusted him. We greeted him as we did with everyone else at the meeting. I wish success to all the members of the delegation participating in these efforts. I hope we will see the results of these efforts as soon as possible," he said. Turkey's peace-favoring approach to the Ukraine-Russia war and balanced foreign policy have gained the appreciation of the international community, Erdogan said, and noted that NATO members had a positive approach towards Turkey, as he witnessed during the recent Extraordinary Leaders' Summit of the alliance. He further noted that many leaders at the summit acknowledged Turkey's responsibility and mediation efforts to resolve the war

through peaceful means, while several NATO and EU leaders, especially following the talks in Istanbul, adopted a different view of his country. Russia's war against Ukraine, which started on Feb. 24, has met international outrage, with the EU, US, and UK, among others, implementing tough financial sanctions on Moscow. At least 1,232 civilians have been killed in Ukraine and 1,935 injured, according to UN estimates, with the true figure feared to be far higher. More than 4 million Ukrainians have also fled to neighboring countries, with millions more displaced inside the country, according to the UN refugee agency. He also talked about Turkish-Israeli collaboration in the energy field, voicing hope for Israel's energy

exports going through Turkey, and said he will hold talks with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett to take immediate steps.

One of the main topics Erdogan and his Israeli counterpart Isaac Herzog tackled during the latter's visit to Turkey on March 9 was the collaboration in the field of energy, and both countries were once close to reaching a deal in this regard during the rule of the former premier, Benjamin Netanyahu, however, things turned upside down all of a sudden, according to the Turkish president.

"The route Israel considers for energy exports is unfavorable given the cost. I mean, building pipelines from Israel to Greece under the sea, distribution (of oil) to Europe (through that route), this surely is not feasible," he said.

Book launched on Buddhist  
heritage in Pakistan

## DNA

KATMANDU: The Embassy of Pakistan in Nepal organized the launching ceremony of a book on Pakistan's Buddhist heritage titled "Buddhism and Buddhist Heritage in Pakistan" authored by eminent author Mr. Om Charan Amatya. Honourable Mr. Prem-Bahadur Ale, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil

Aviation of Nepal, graced the occasion. Mr. Bidya Sundar Shaky, Mayor of Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) presided the event. Special Guests at the occasion included H.E. Mr. Esala Ruwan Weerakoon, Secretary General SAARC Secretariat, Kathmandu; H.E. Ms. Himalee Arunatilaka, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to Nepal; H.E. Vossita Vorasaph, Ambassador of Thailand to Nepal; H.E.

Mr. Sein Oo, Ambassador of Myanmar to Nepal; and Prof Dr. Haridaya Ratna Bajracharya, Vice Chancellor, Lumbini Buddhist University, Lumbini besides venerable monks and Buddhist scholars. Addressing the occasion, Honourable Mr. Bidya Sundar Shaky, Mayor of Kathmandu Metropolitan City highlighted the significance of cultural heritage as an important facet of

people-to-people contacts. He termed the Buddhist heritage as a joint legacy of both the countries. H.E. Syed Haider Shah, Ambassador of Pakistan to Nepal highlighted the significance of cultural and historical linkages in strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Nepal. He commended the author for his meticulous work. Kathmandu 31 March 2022.

UoL wins  
Inter varsity  
Rugby C'ship

LAHORE: University of Lahore beat University of Central Punjab by 28-0 in the final of HEC Intervarsity Rugby tournament and won the title. According to information provided by Syed Moazzam Ali Shah PRU Representative, the HEC Intervarsity rugby sevens tournament was organized by UMT at Punjab university Rugby ground here in Lahore. Universities from all over Punjab participated in this in which Superior University, FFCU, LGU, UVAS, GCU, LUMS, UOL, UMT, IUB and Punjab University teams are among the teams. In this one day event in first match Superior university beat FFCU by 24-5, in 2nd game LGU beat UVAS by 20-0, LUMS got by against GCU, UOL beat UMT by 22-7 and IUB beat superior by 21-0 and UCP beat LGU by 19-5, Punjab university beat LUMS by 38-0. After league games 4 best teams play semifinals.

In the first semifinal University of Lahore (UOL) beat Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) by 39-0 and in the 2nd semifinal University of Central Punjab (UCP) beat Punjab University (PU) by 29-5. Before the final 3rd and 4th position match played in which IUB beat PU by 20-0 and claimed 3rd position. In the main final of the event witnessed by all university teams and a big number of Punjab university students because they are the host. Team University of Lahore dominated all match and beat University of Central Punjab by 38-5 and won the HEC Intervarsity Rugby Tournament. In the concluding ceremony Development head of PRU Shakeel Ahmed Malik distributed trophies and souvenirs to players. He said that PRU investment in grassroots level from the last 3 years is very fruitful. We see all Pakistan's big universities play rugby. Students got Rugby scholarships and it is a great success for PRU and all rugby families. — Agencies

US denies  
involvement  
in no-trust  
motion

FROM PAGE 01

the "threat letter" was also shared with senior journalists. Meanwhile, PTI leader Faisal Vawda had claimed that a "plot is being hatched to assassinate Prime Minister Imran Khan." Responding to a question asked by a private news channel regarding the "threat letter", the US State Department categorically rejected any kind of involvement in the no-confidence motion against PM Imran Khan. "Allegations of US involvement in the no-trust motion and 'threat letter' to PM Imran Khan are baseless," said the State Department.

The US government is monitoring the political situation of Pakistan, however and supports the rule of law in Pakistan, the State Department said. Regarding the question of a no-trust motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan, the US State Department said that they respect the constitutional process in Pakistan.

Opp. says  
PM must  
resign or  
face NA

FROM PAGE 01

The Opposition leader further added that he, along with Bilawal, went to the NA secretary after the deputy speaker adjourned the session till April 3.

"The secretary informed us that the decision regarding not holding the debate related to the no-confidence motion was taken by the deputy speaker," Shehbaz said. He said the speaker has written his name in history in the black. He warned Imran not to force them tell his secrets.

Shehbaz said they can't resort to the third class tactics like Imran Khan. He said the nation knows that the corruption is in the house of Imran Khan. He said the united opposition has succeeded in front of the nation today. He said the alleged "threat letter" has not been produced before the parliament yet and claimed that the letter was a fake and a fraud. He said today the PTI's prime minister has been defeated.

Talking to the media, Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said on Thursday that Prime Minister Imran Khan should step down and let Leader of Opposition in National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif get a chance to seek vote of confidence.

Responding their questions, he said that there is no safe passage, NRO, amnesty or backdoor passage for Imran Khan. Only Imran Khan's resignation is the honourable exit for him. I suggest him to do so.

Opp. moot  
'satisfied'  
over...

FROM PAGE 01

required for approval of the no-trust motion against the prime minister. "The opposition will not offer any NRO to Imran Niazi," the opposition announced in a statement. "The misleading reports could not change our decision," according to the statement. "The joint opposition, with the no-confidence motion will set new democratic and constitutional traditions and will initiate a new democratic journey after quitting undemocratic attitudes and behaviours," opposition parties stated.

"Imran Khan has lost his majority in the parliament and holding unconstitutionally occupying the office of the Prime Minister," the opposition claimed in its joint declaration. The extraordinary session of the National Assembly with the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan on the agenda will resume this evening.

The Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Shehbaz Sharif will resume debate over the no-confidence motion with resumption of the session, scheduled at 4:00pm. After him other members of the house will express their views over the agenda. The speaker will announce voting after conclusion of the debate on the motion. The no-confidence resolution against the prime minister was tabled by the Leader of the Opposition Shehbaz Sharif on Monday, March 28 and it was approved for debate.

## Babar, Imam star as Pakistan beat Australia

The partnership saw the Aussies sailing away with perfect momentum they gained from the previous game. Head, who scored his second hundred in 1st ODI, went on to scoring 89 off 70 laced with 6 boundaries and 5 maximums this time around

## DNA

LAHORE: Sensational centuries from Imam-ul-Haq (106) and Babar Azam (114), while late and crucial power hitting from Khushdil Shah (27) in the 2nd ODI against Australia helped Pakistan record their highest ever ODI run chase by six wickets to level the series here at the Gaddafi Stadium. Australia, while batting first, Ben McDermott played the innings of his career, scoring 104 runs off 108 balls to help Australia post a mammoth 348-8 in 50 overs at a handsome run-rate of 6.96 against Pakistan in second ODI. After being asked to bat first again,

Australia lost their skipper Aaron Finch earlier, thanks to Shaheen Shah Afridi's first-over-first-wicket trend. But Travis Head and McDermott filled up the gap so well, putting up 162 off 144 together. The partnership saw the Aussies sailing away with perfect momentum they gained from the previous game. Head, who scored his second hundred in first ODI, went on to scoring 89 off 70 laced with six boundaries and five maximums this time around. His aggressive spirit was highly impressed by McDermott who smashed 10 boundaries and four sixes. Marnus Labuschagne, who wasn't too impressive in the Test series, gained rhythm this time by scoring 59 runs in-

cluding five boundaries. Marcus Stoinis just fell a run short of his fifty. His innings included five boundaries and a six. Shaheen, who started off strongly for Pakistan - taking first wicket in first over, unfortunately, left with no support from the other end. He bagged four wickets followed by Wasim Jr with two wickets and Zahid Mahmood and Khushdil Shah with a wicket each. Pakistan won the toss and elected to bowl first against Australia in a must-win second ODI match of the historic Pakistan-Australia series here at the Gaddafi Stadium. After losing the historic Pakistan-Australia Test series, the hosts suffered another setback in the opening ODI match here on Tuesday.



## Briefs

Shusha  
named  
cultural  
capital of  
Turkic World  
in 2023

BAKU: Shusha has been named the Turkic World Cultural Capital for 2023. The decision was made at a meeting of the Permanent Council of Ministers of Culture of the International Organization of Turkic Culture (TURKSOY) member states held in Bursa, Turkey. Culture Minister AnarKarimov represented Azerbaijan at the meeting. Azerbaijani ambassador to Turkey Rashad Mammadov was among the delegation members. A video presentation about Shusha which highlighted the city's rich culture, history, geographical location as well as reconstruction was held as well. The Azerbaijani delegation led by Culture Minister AnarKarimov attended various events held in Turkey. The delegation attended the inauguration ceremony of the Bursa 2002 Cultural Capital of the Turkic World. TURKSOY Secretary-General DusenKaseinov, Secretary-General of the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic Speaking Countries (TURKPA) Mehmet Sureyya Er, International Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation President GunayAfandiyeva, the culture ministers, the heads of diplomatic missions of TURKSOY member countries and other officials attended the event. The artistic part of the event was held in the central square. The colorful parade was held as part of the celebration. The actors of the Azerbaijani State Song and Dance joined the parade. The Turkish national anthem was performed at the event. The dance group of the cultural center of Bursa performed with a concert program. - APP

Pakpavilion  
gets silver  
award at  
Expo2020

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan got Silver Award for the interior design out of 192 pavilions set in Dubai Expo 2020, Commerce Ministry said here Thursday. "An international jury was called to select the best Pavilion at Expo 2020 and Pakistan got Silver Award for interior design out of 192 Pavilions," the ministry said in a statement. According to the statement, the Pakistani pavilion received overwhelming response and crossed 1 million visitors mark which exceeded the expectations of organizers. "We would like to thank our Creative team especially Ms. Noor Jahan for (Interior) and Mr. Rashid Rana for (Exterior) for their creativity in showing actual Pakistan to a broader audience," the statement added. It also appreciated team of Ministry of Commerce, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Pakistan Embassy in United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Ambassador for making such a great show. - APP

German  
doctors on  
strike for  
better wages

## AGENCIES

BERLIN: German hospital doctors went on a day-long strike on Thursday for better pay and working conditions. The doctors' union Marburger Bund said the strike is taking place at 460 hospitals across the country, but emergency services will be maintained in these hospitals during the day. Most planned operations and outpatient appointments were canceled. The union, which represents around 55,000 doctors, is demanding a 5.5% pay raise, as well as changes to long shifts and on-call working arrangements. Dr. Susanne Johna, head of the Marburger Bund, told local media that exhaustion and stressful working conditions have become unbearable for many doctors. "In some hospitals, working conditions are so bad that some doctors are quitting their jobs, starting their own medical practices, or working as an employee at medical care centers," she told Redaktionsnetzwerk Deutschland (RND).

Chinese power giant  
promotes green plan

Sungrow also launched two significant products: the ultra-powerful SG350HX and the brand-new generation three-phase C&I inverter SG125CX onsite, which can better explore Pakistan's tremendous potential to generate power from renewable sources

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chinese solar power giant helped a lot promoting green transformation during Solar Pakistan Expo 2022. says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday. On March 28, Sungrow Power Supply Co., Ltd., the global leading inverter solution supplier for renewable energy, showcased the latest PV and energy storage product solutions at the Expo in Lahore. Besides, there was the solar power giant a 100MW contract with its reliable

partner Energy, furthering its commitment to renewable energy and fueling the national transition to a low carbon economy. Sungrow also launched two significant products: the ultra-powerful SG350HX and the brand-new generation three-phase C&I inverter SG125CX onsite, which can better explore Pakistan's tremendous potential to generate power from renewable sources. Pakistan is a perfect place to develop solar power due to its high levels of solar irradiation, and the government also enacts Indicative Generation Capacity Expansion

Plan 2021-2030 to facilitate the renewable energy transition. Up to now, 60 percent of Pakistan's electricity comes from expensive imported fossil fuels and coal. Expanding renewable energy can help Pakistan save about US\$ 5 billion in the next two decades. Beyond that, the development of the PV industry has excellent natural conditions in Pakistan, for instance, solar irradiance in Pakistan is 5.3 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/day, which means inexhaustible resource for PV power generation. "To help meet Pakistan's targets of clean and green energy, Sungrow expands

its cooperation capacity with local distributors to better empower small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as well as the emerging residential users. The upcoming 100MW sales contract helps provide more clean power for local users in Pakistan," said Howard Fu, Country Director of Sungrow Pakistan, in an interview with Gwadar Pro. Since entering the Pakistan market in 2015, Sungrow has made great contributions to the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. It provided inverters for the Zonergy 900MW Solar

Power Project, as well as Pakistan's largest cement plant and first plant energy storage system. In 2020, Sungrow won the bid for the photovoltaic construction project of the Presidential Palace of Pakistan to install PV products for the presidential office. At present, it has established a good cooperative relationship with the Pakistani government and many local power enterprises. Sungrow will spare no effort to contribute to CPEC. Considering both the development of the enterprise and the actual situation in Pakistan, the high local

electricity price and the wide distribution of small roofs are the prerequisites for vigorously developing the photovoltaic industry, Fu emphasized. "As a pivotal player taking the first place in market share in Pakistan, we keep bringing forth innovations that address diverse applications with lower leveled cost of energy (LCOE)," Howard Fu told Gwadar Pro, "at the same time, if we can build PV power stations next to factories with high electricity consumption such as steel mills and cement plants, LCOE will be greatly reduced."

Ukrainian  
FM meets  
with Dutch  
President

WARSAW: Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba and Polish President Andrzej Duda at a meeting in Warsaw discussed the defense and support of Ukraine. The Ukrainian foreign minister wrote this on his Twitter account, Ukrinform reports "In development of their active dialogue with President Volodymyr Zelensky, Polish President Andrzej Duda received me in Warsaw today," he wrote. Kuleba added that Ukraine highly values Poland's strong support for Ukraine and hospitality towards Ukrainians, noting "free and strong Ukraine means free and strong Poland and Europe." In turn, the Chancellery of the Polish President wrote on Twitter that the conversation between Kuleba and Duda focused on the situation in Ukraine, the state of Ukraine's defense against Russian aggression and the support Poland provides to its eastern neighbor. - APP

UK slaps new  
sanctions  
on Russian  
media

## FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: A new round of sanctions on Russia, announced by UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss on Thursday, will target Russian state funded TV-Novosti, which runs RT, and RossiyaSegodnya, which operates Sputnik News. The embargoes were imposed against what London described as "Russian propagandists and state media who spread lies and deceit about Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine." The UK authorities offered no evidence to back up this assertion. Earlier in March, British media regulator Ofcom stripped broadcasting licenses from Russian media outlets, claiming that they weren't in a position to cover the Ukraine crisis. London's own state-controlled BBC has covered all conflicts involving the UK in living memory, including the illegal 2003 invasion of Iraq.

Joint statement of the third  
foreign ministers' meeting

## DNA

BEIJING: The third Foreign Ministers' Meeting among the Neighboring Countries of Afghanistan was held in Tuxi, Anhui Province in China on 31 March 2022. Foreign Ministers or senior representatives of seven countries, namely China, Iran, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, attended the meeting. President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China sent a congratulatory message to the meeting. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres delivered remarks via video link. In a candid and pragmatic atmosphere of mutual understanding, the parties had comprehensive, in-depth and constructive discussions on the situation in Afghanistan and on cooperation regarding Afghanistan, and declared the following: I. Political and diplomatic

fields Reaffirmed respect for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, support for the Afghan people in independently deciding the future of their country, and support for the basic principle of "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned". Urged the countries mainly responsible for the current predicament in Afghanistan to earnestly fulfill commitments on the economic recovery and future development of Afghanistan. Stressed that a peaceful, stable and prosperous Afghanistan serves the common interests of regional countries and Afghanistan, and expressed readiness to jointly play a constructive role to this end. Noted the importance to achieve national reconciliation in Afghanistan through dialogue and negotiation, and to establish a broad-based and inclusive political structure, adopt moderate and sound domestic and foreign

policies, and grow friendly relations with all countries, especially its neighbors, and emphasized the necessity for all sides to strengthen dialogue and communication with Afghanistan for the above purposes. Noted the importance of taking necessary continuing steps in Afghanistan on ensuring women's rights and children's education, among others, and called for further actions to be taken to improve people's livelihood, safeguard the fundamental rights of all Afghans, including ethnic groups, women and children. Reaffirmed opposition to attempts at politicizing humanitarian assistance, and reiterated respect and support for the central role of Afghanistan in distributing and using humanitarian assistance to be rendered by international community and international organizations to the people of Afghanistan. II. Economic and humanitarian fields Expressed deep concern

over the humanitarian situation, economic and livelihood plight in Afghanistan and announced readiness to provide further humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan. Expressed appreciation of and support for the key role of the UN in providing humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, and called on the international community in particular the UN agencies and relevant members of the UN Security Council to step up emergency humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan. Followed with concern the spread of COVID-19 and shortages of medicine and medical equipment in Afghanistan, and expressed readiness to help Afghanistan enhance capacity in health care and COVID-19 containment. Expressed support for Afghanistan's efforts toward self-generated development, and undertook to support the economic recovery of Afghanistan at both bilateral and multilateral levels, open up ports

further, and strengthen exchanges and cooperation with Afghanistan in such fields as trade and economy, energy, agriculture, finance, connectivity and infrastructure, to help Afghanistan build capacity for self-generated development. Reaffirmed commitment to deepen cooperation within such frameworks as the Belt and Road Initiative, as well as regional cooperation organizations, and to include Afghanistan in the regional connectivity, energy and transport networks, economic and trade systems, in order to help Afghanistan unleash its geographical advantages and economic potential. III. Counter-terrorism and security Noted commitments and pledges made by Afghanistan to the international community that the territory of Afghanistan will not pose any threats to the neighboring countries and no place will be given to terrorist groups on the Afghan territory.

NATO sees no Russian  
pull-back in Ukraine,  
expects more offensives

## DNA

BRUSSELS: NATO is not seeing a pull-back of Russian forces in Ukraine and expects "additional offensive actions," the alliance's chief Jens Stoltenberg said on Thursday. "According to our intelligence, Russian units are not withdrawing but repositioning. Russia is trying to regroup, resupply and reinforce its offensive in the Donbas region" in eastern Ukraine, Stoltenberg told a media conference. "At the same time, Russia maintains pressure on Kyiv and other cities. So, we can expect additional offensive actions, bringing even more suffering." The NATO assessment contradicted a pledge by Russian negotiators, made after talks in Turkey this week, to "radically" reduce Moscow's military activity in northern Ukraine, including near the capital Kyiv. "We have heard the recent statements that Russia will scale down military operations around Kyiv and in northern Ukraine. But Russia has repeatedly lied about its intentions. So we can only judge Russia on its actions, not on its words," Stoltenberg said. "It is obvious that we have seen little willingness from the Russian side to find a political solution," he said. "We see continued shelling of cities and we see that Russia is re-positioning some of the troops, moving some of them around, most likely to reinforce their efforts in the Donbas region." Stoltenberg added: "There is a close link between what is going on on the battlefield and what is going on around the negotiating table, and they do allow us to provide support Ukraine, to also strengthen their position at the negotiating table."

Moody's  
concerned  
over no-  
confidence  
motion

ISLAMABAD: The Moody's, a credit rating agency has raised concerns over No Confidence Motion tabled by the opposition parties in Pakistan against Prime Minister Imran Khan, saying that it would put significant pressure on the country's economy. "We view the no-confidence motion as credit negative because it raises significant uncertainty over policy continuity, as well as the government's ability to continue to implement reforms to increase productivity growth and secure external financing, including from the International Monetary Fund (IMF)," Moody's said in a statement. Khan's ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party officially controls 155 seats out of 342 in the National Assembly (lower house of parliament), and has a majority of 179 once allied regional parties are included. - APP

More interaction needed to increase  
Pakistani carpets' presence in China

## DNA

SHANGHAI: More interaction is needed to increase Pakistani carpets' presence in China, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday. According to the report, "Pakistan is famous all over the world for its hand-made carpets. Pakistan has the ability to produce high-quality carpets according to the taste of global importers, whether in terms of design, color, size, and so on," Akhtar Nazir Khan Cooki, Chairman of Pakistan Carpets Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA), said at a webinar. "The types of carpets that are manufactured in Pakistan include Super Kazzak/Yakash Kazzak, Chobi, Khurjeen, etc. And carpets can be transported from Pakistan to China by sea, air, and land. Pakistan's carpets industry values the opportunity of export to China," he added. The webinar on the export of carpets from Pakistan to China was held by the Consulate General of

Pakistan in Shanghai in collaboration with the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) and Pakistan Carpets Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PCMEA) on Wednesday. In his opening remarks, Mr. Hussain Haider, Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai, underlined that China is continuing to liberalize its trade and investment regime and paying more attention to expanding domestic demand and consumption, which creates space for importing high-quality goods from Pakistan. "During the financial year 2020-21, Pakistan's export of carpet worldwide was \$74 million. However, Pakistani carpets have a very low presence in the Chinese market," he said, adding that the China-Pakistan Free Trade Agreement provides zero-tariff benefits for carpets trade, and more interaction is needed to increase the presence of Pakistani carpets in China. Mr. Khurram Ikram, Deputy Director, TDAP added that the carpet manufacturing industry employs a large

number of workers, creating production activities and skills for low-income groups. He reaffirmed that building matchmaking and interaction platforms would lay a very important foundation for the development of the industry. The webinar was attended by around 25 companies from Pakistan and China. Representatives from different carpet manufacturing industries in Pakistan introduced their products. The Chinese participants also advised Pakistani companies on the appropriate communication and marketing strategies to penetrate the Chinese market. They also expressed interests in cooperation with carpet manufacturers and exporters from Pakistan. During the interactive session, Chinese participants asked many questions about Pakistan's carpet industry, particularly about how to distinguish hand-made carpets from machine-made carpets and whether the exclusive brand agency can be granted. These questions were answered by PCMEA.

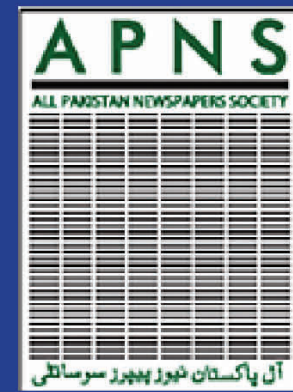
## Thank You



Sarmad Ali  
President / Jang Group



Nazafreen Saigol  
Secy General / Dawn Group



Is indebted to All Pakistan Newspapers  
Society for electing CENTRELINE as  
Member of the Executive Committee

www.centreline.com.pk / www.islambadpost.com.pk

**Briefs**

**Australia to slap sanctions on Russia, Belarus**

**NEWS DESK**

CANBERRA: Australia on Thursday announced that it would impose an additional 35% tariff on imports from Russia and Belarus as part of the country's sanctions over the war in Ukraine. Canberra will also withdraw the Most-Favored-Nation status of Russia starting Friday, Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Foreign Minister Marise Payne said in a joint statement. "On 1 April 2022, Australia will issue a formal notification withdrawing entitlement to the Most-Favored-Nation (MFN) tariff treatment and applying an additional tariff of 35 per cent to all imports from Russia and Belarus. This will take effect from 25 April 2022 and will be in addition to general duty rates that currently apply," said Morrison. He added that his government was also providing \$91 million as military assistance to Ukraine as part of their solidarity with Kyiv against the Russian attack. Morrison added: "To support the people of Ukraine, we are providing \$65 million in humanitarian assistance, 70,000 tonnes (77,160 US tons) of thermal coal to support Ukraine's energy security, as well as temporary protection visas and assistance to Ukrainian community groups in Australia."

**Turkey develops new-gen cruise missile**

**WEB DESK**

ANKARA: The Turkish defense contractor Roketsan Thursday announced it had developed a new generation cruise missile that can be launched from land, sea and air platforms. The cruise missile, named Çakir, will be a new force multiplier for the armed forces with its state-of-the-art features and effective warhead, the company said in a statement. It is still in the design phase, and its first tests are scheduled for later this year, with platform integration to take place in 2023. It will be test-fired from the country's landmark unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) Akinci, the most advanced and sophisticated drone built by Turkey. With a range of over 150 kilometers (93 miles), the cruise missile will be launchable from fixed and rotary-wing aircraft, assault drones, tactical land vehicles and naval platforms. It will be equipped with the KJT1750 turbo-jet engine developed by Kale Arge. It also provides operational versatility against targets above the ground or sea, as well as those in caves.

**'No trust motion filed by local stooges'**

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib Thursday said, threat to regime change is a proven fact through some local stooges who filed "No Confidence Motion" to complete that agenda. Talking to media Farrukh Habib said the government had not named any country but all the evidence was available. "No country has the right to interfere in Pakistan's internal affairs", Farrukh Habib said. He said that unfortunately some people were making fun of threats, Prime Minister Imran Khan will take the nation into confidence on the issue. He said that Parliament's National Security Committee meeting would also discuss the issue. The whole nation stands with Prime Minister Imran Khan, he said adding "The last 5 overs of the game are remaining and PM Imran Khan will fight till the last ball".

# Azerbaijan remembers 1918 Baku massacres

The genocide carried out against the Azerbaijanis along with Baku covered also Shamakhi, Guba, Iravan, Zangezur, Karabakh, Nakhchivan and Kars regions

**DNA**

BAKU: March 31 is the Day of Genocide of Azerbaijanis, commemorating the victims of the bloody massacre perpetrated by Armenians against Azerbaijanis. In March-April 1918, massacres were committed with utmost cruelty in the city of Baku, as well as other towns and districts of the Baku Province by the dashnak-bolshevik armed groups operating under the mandate of the Baku Council (Baku Soviet), and tens of thousands of civilians were killed only for their ethnic and religious affiliation. We commemorate the victims of these events and consider it important to preserve this memory in order to prevent similar tragedies in the future. Ethnic Armenian Stepan Shaumian, the Commissar Extraordinary for the Caucasus, admitted that 6,000 armed soldiers of the Baku Soviet and 4,000 from the Dashnak-sutyun party participated in the massacres against the Azerbaijani people. The genocide carried out against the Azerbaijanis along with Baku covered also Sham-

akhi, Guba, Iravan, Zangezur, Karabakh, Nakhchivan and Kars regions. During the first five months of 1918, more than 16,000 people were murdered with utmost cruelty in Guba province alone; a total of 167 villages were destroyed. Mass graves discovered in Guba region in 2007 constitute clear evidence of the inhumane acts committed by Armenians. March massacres of 1918 were well prepared and ruthlessly implemented act by radical nationalist Armenians against Azerbaijanis on the grounds of racial discrimination and ethnic cleansing. The Government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic established in 1918 the Extraordinary Investigation Commission in order to investigate the serious crimes perpetrated by Armenians and has taken a number of measures to preserve the true facts revealed by the Commission in the memory of the people and to inform the world community about these atrocities. The Extraordinary Investigation Commission which was comprised of the best lawyers of that time representing different nationalities - Russians, Jewish, Polish, Georgians and

even Armenians, based on the evidences launched criminal cases against 194 individuals accused of different crimes against the peaceful population; 24 individuals in Baku and about 100 individuals in Shamakhi had been arrested for perpetrated crimes. However, this process had been suspended after the demise of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, a full investigation of the events and its political-legal assessment had been prevented. Only after 80 years - on March 26, 1998 the adequate political assessment was given to these horrific events by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On the Genocide of Azerbaijanis", signed by National Leader Heydar Aliyev and 31 March was declared the Day of Genocide of Azerbaijanis. The commemoration of the Day of Genocide of Azerbaijanis plays an important role in informing the world community about the massacre and ethnic cleansing of Azerbaijanis in the past and present. Through the policy of military aggression against Azerbaijan, which lasted for almost 30 years, Armenia continued to com-

mit crimes against Azerbaijanis on ethnic grounds. One million Azerbaijanis fell victim to ethnic cleansing in Armenia and in occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Armenia also committed numerous war crimes, crimes against humanity, and acts of genocide, including the Khojaly Genocide of February 1992. During the 44-day war, the Armenian armed forces deliberately targeted peaceful population of Ganja, Barda, Tartar and other cities of Azerbaijan with missile attacks. In doing so, Armenia has brought back the memories of a century ago March Massacre. We strongly condemn the deliberate policy pursued by Armenia, based on genocide, crimes against humanity, racial discrimination and ethnic cleansing, committed so far against the Azerbaijani people, and we emphasize the importance of ceasing Armenia's impunity in order to prevent the recurrence of these inhumane crimes in the future. Azerbaijan from its side will take all necessary legal measures to ensure peace and end impunity. We commemorate the innocent victims of the March massacre with grief and mercy.

**Asif Zardari terms PM's 'threat letter' fake**

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Former president Asif Ali Zardari on Thursday reached the Parliament House where he, to a question of a journalist, maintained that the prime minister's threat letter was fake, those [the government] were also fake, and the government's mandate was also fake. It was reported by a private news channel that the former president arrived in the Parliament to attend the National Assembly session for a debate and voting on the no-confidence motion against the prime minister. Upon his arrival in the Parliament, a journalist asked him: "Will you attend the meeting of the parliamentary committee on national security that is to review the alleged threat letter?" The former president answered: "Whether we ourselves review the letter or not, this letter is fake. These [the government] are also fake. The government's mandate is also fake." Earlier, the united opposition had demanded that the government bring the alleged threat letter to Parliament for a debate. The opposition parties also decided not to attend the meeting of the parliamentary committee on national security called by National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser.

**Russia sets deadline for rouble gas payments**

**AGENCIES**

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin is demanding foreign buyers pay for Russian gas in roubles from Friday or else have their supplies cut, a move European capitals rejected and which Berlin said amounted to "blackmail". Putin's move, via a decree signed on Thursday, leaves Europe facing the prospect of losing more than a third of its gas supply. Germany, the most heavily reliant on Russia, has already activated an emergency plan that could lead to rationing in Europe's biggest economy. Energy exports are Putin's most powerful lever as he tries to hit back against sweeping Western sanctions imposed on Russian banks, companies, businessmen and associates of the Kremlin in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Moscow calls its Ukraine action a "special military operation".



TUNXI: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in a meeting with Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi. - DNA

**Pakistani pavilion gets silver award at Expo 2020**

**DNA**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan got Silver Award for the interior design out of 192 pavilions set in Dubai Expo 2020, Commerce Ministry said here on Thursday. "An international jury was called to select the best Pavilion at Expo 2020 and Pakistan got Silver Award for interior design out of 192 Pavilions," the ministry said in a statement. According to the statement, the Pakistani pavilion received overwhelming response and crossed 1 million visitors mark which exceeded the expectations of organizers. "We would like to thank our Creative team especially Ms. Noor Jahan for (Interior) and Mr. Rashid Rana for (Exterior) for their creativity in showing actual Pakistan to a broader audience," the statement added. It also appreciated team of Ministry of Commerce, Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), Pakistan Embassy in United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Ambassador for making such a great show.

**HIGHEST INT'L PARTICIPATION EVER**

Expo 2020 Dubai has lived up to its claim of being the mother of all expositions by garnering the biggest international participation ever, a top Expo official has said. Maha Al Gargawi, Senior Vice President of Political Affairs at Expo 2020, said the six-month-long world fair that opened on October 1, 2021, garnered around 200 million virtual visits and 200 plus participating countries and organisations. "It is the highest number of international participants in the history of world expos. It has been quite an achievement and I think it really showcases what the United Arab Emirates is really capable of doing," she said in an interview with Khaleej Times. Expo 2020 Dubai, held under the theme Connecting Minds, Creating the future' also brought together world leaders, organisations, businesses, thought leaders, academics and NGOs to address the pressing global challenges that need collective action. Gargawi said Expo 2020 has cemented the UAE's position as a global power and shows the strong bilateral relations the emirates enjoy with world nations. "It (Expo) has reaffirmed Dubai's and the United Arab Emirates' position on the global map today. It really showcases what is possible and the transformation that happened in only 50 years. I think it also sets the tone with our partners, with the 192 nations, for the next 50 years," Gargawi said.

**UN warns of Ukraine refugee 'humanitarian crisis'**

GENEVA: The United Nations said on Thursday the refugee exodus from Ukraine was a "massive humanitarian crisis" that was growing by the second, after another 40,000 fled the country in 24 hours. The flow of people fleeing across the western borders to escape the Russian assault on Ukraine has settled at around 40,000 a day over the past week. UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, said 4,059,105 Ukrainians had fled across the country's borders since the February 24 invasion - a figure up 39,818 on Wednesday's numbers, which saw the four million mark surpassed. "We are confronted with the realities of a massive humanitarian crisis that is growing by the second," UNHCR said, noting also the millions dis-

placed withing Ukraine and the 13 million estimated to be stranded in affected areas or unable to leave. Women and children account for 90 percent of those who have fled. Half of those are children. Ukrainian men aged 18 to 60 are eligible for military call-up and cannot leave. UNICEF, the UN children's agency, says more than half of the country's estimated 7.5 million children have been displaced - 2.5 million internally and two million abroad. "As the number of children fleeing their homes continues to climb, we must remember that every single one of them needs protection, education, safety and support," said UNICEF head Catherine Russell. The UN's International Organization

for Migration (IOM) said that in addition to Ukrainian refugees, more than 204,000 non-Ukrainians living, studying or working in the country have also left. UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said it was vital to extend a welcome "to all who have fled, without discrimination". And as of March 16, some 6.48 million people were estimated to be internally displaced within Ukraine, an IOM survey showed. "They are more than statistics. They are people whose lives have been upended by the war," the IOM said. Before the Russian invasion five weeks ago, Ukraine had a population of 37 million in the regions under government control, excluding Russia-annexed Crimea and the pro-Russian separatist regions in the east.

**Zelensky: Peace to come from strength, not talks**

KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelensky warned of more fighting and no early end to Ukraine's war with Russia, saying only Ukrainian success on battlefields, and not negotiation can bring peace. The Ukrainian leader made the remarks in an evening address to the nation on March 30. "We need peace, but it will come only when we will have a strong position on the battlefield. Our spirit is strong, we are sufficiently decisive, but we need help now," Zelensky said, in a renewed appeal to NATO states to provide Ukraine heavy weapons. Zelensky and other senior officials have repeatedly acknowledged the debt Ukraine owes western states led by the US for delivering to Kyiv light weapons including anti-tank missiles and small arms ammunition, which have helped Ukraine Armed Forces (UAF) units fight Russian Federation (RF) forces to a standstill, and at scattered localities even launch counter-attacks. Zelensky said that, despite recent

reports of possible progress in ceasefire talks in Istanbul, the Kremlin fully intends to launch new offensives aimed at destroying the Ukrainian state, and that Ukrainians will fight to the last. "RF force levels in the Donbas are rising to support new attacks. We are ready for them. We don't believe in pretty words and statements. There is only the real situation on the battlefield. This is the main thing. We will give away nothing. And we will fight for every meter of our land, and for every one of our people," he said. Expressing frustration common among Ukrainians with European unwillingness to give Ukraine tanks, combat jets, artillery and other heavy weapons, purportedly because Ukrainians don't really need such weapons, Zelensky said: "If someone wants to act like they can they can teach our UAF how to fight, the best way for them to do that, is to go to the battlefield themselves." Former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko in comments to western media last week said the present level of western arms support to Ukraine - consisting primarily of anti-tank weapons, light anti-aircraft missiles and small arms and ammunition - is a recipe for a bloody stalemate in Ukraine's war with Russia, because it would leave the Kremlin unable to capture Ukraine's major cities or overcome the UAF in the field, and Kyiv unable to inflict military defeats serious enough to compel Moscow to seek peace. - Agencies

**Pakistan Navy inducts fast-track missile craft**

Naval chief underlined that commissioning of PNS HAIBAT ushers a new chapter in indigenous design and construction that has been further matured with time

**BUREAU REPORT**

KARACHI: A ceremony to induct Pakistan Navy's indigenously designed and constructed Fast Attack Craft Missile Fan (M) PNS HAIBAT and third 16 Ton Bollard Pull Tug PNT GOGA was held at Karachi. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Ni-azi attended the event as chief guest. The ceremony was attended by foreign dignitaries, officials from federal and provincial governments Pakistan Navy and KS&EW. PNS HAIBAT is

the first landmark project indigenously designed by Maritime Technologies Complex and constructed by KS&EW without any foreign technical assistance. DGPR Navy said in a statement. Speaking on the occasion, the naval chief underlined that commissioning of PNS HAIBAT ushers a new chapter in indigenous design and construction that has been further matured with time. He emphasized that in context of overall security paradigm of the region, PNS HAIBAT will strengthen Pakistan Navy's capabilities to respond maritime challenges to ensure

seaward defence and maintain peace & stability in Indian Ocean Region. Chief of the Naval Staff commended the concerted efforts put in by KS&EW, MTC and Pakistan Navy for the land mark achievement. Earlier Managing Director KS&EW, Rear Admiral Athar Saleem underscored that Missile Craft PNS HAIBAT being a multi mission capable platform will bolster Pakistan Navy's maritime defence capabilities. He added that induction of PNT GOGA is also a milestone which will strengthen the indigenous ship construction capabilities.

**NOW IN PAKISTAN**

**Invisible Braces Dental Implants**

**Dr. Abrar & Associates**  
DENTAL SURGEONS

House # 6-A, Ismail Zabeeh Road, (Service Road Parallel to Faisal Avenue) F-8/3, Islamabad.  
e-mail: abrar\_associates@yahoo.com | www.drabrarassociates.com  
Ph: +92 51 228 7691 / +92 51 228 7692 | Fax: +92 51 228 7693