



Islamabad POST

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Detailed News On Page-06

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Briefs

Putin win would worsen crisis

GENEVA: If Russian President Vladimir Putin achieves his goal of ousting the government in Kyiv, the humanitarian and rights crises in Ukraine "will only get worse", the top US diplomat warned Tuesday. "If President Putin succeeds in his stated goal of toppling Ukraine's democratically-elected government, the human rights and humanitarian crises will only get worse," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken told the UN Human Rights Council in a video address. - APP

Relief package hard for opp. to digest

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudry Fawad Hussain on Tuesday, questioning the narrative being pushed by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leadership regarding reduction in the fuel prices, said it was hard for them to digest. "Thank you! Khaqan Abbasi Sahab, we have got tired of making you realize that there is inflation in the world, and we will keep explaining as to how we have lowered the prices, but you will never understand as usual," the minister said in a tweet.

Inflation to increase

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said on Tuesday that the inflation would increase by decreasing the power tariff by Rs 5 per unit. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad on Tuesday, he said the prime minister who advice others of not worrying is himself worried. The speeches of Prime Minister Imran Khan didn't mention budget and Pakistan will have to complete IMF program by taking additional loans and the inflation will increase.

We support you; PML-Q tells Imran

PM visits Chaudhry brothers' residence; enquires after the health of Chaudhry Shujaat; discusses Opp. no-confidence motion

ABID RAZA / DNA

LAHORE: Chaudhry brothers have assured Prime Minister Imran Khan of their full support and standing by him through thick and thin. PM Imran Khan paid a visit to the residence of the Chaudhrys and met Chaudry Shujaat Hussain, Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi and other PML-Q leaders in Lahore on Tuesday. The meeting between Prime Minister Imran Khan and the Chaudhry brothers lasted for 40 minutes and they discussed the overall political situation in the country, media reported. Sources said that Chaudhry brothers had termed the no-confidence motion baseless notion. They said that if the no-trust motion did not succeed, the prime minister would be much stronger. They further said that they had told Shehbaz there would be no use in launching a move, which was bound to fail at last. Shehbaz Sharif had called on them (Chaudhry brothers) after the passage of 14 years time, they recalled. Federal Minister and son of Chaudhry Pervaiz Elah Monis Elahi said that the PML-Q will continue supporting the PTI government. The government would complete its five-year term, he added. The prime

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Incentives for industries, overseas Pakistanis

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday emphasised the importance of industrialisation for Pakistan as he announced an industrial package just a day after slashing petrol and power prices as part of relief measures for the public. Addressing a ceremony in Lahore during his day-long visit, the premier reflected on his time in government, saying the first thing his party should have done after coming into power was to encourage industrialisation. "The biggest thing I should have done on the very first day [in office] was announce the package that I have given to the business community today," he said. Incentives for investing in small and medium industries.

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Foreign envoys urge Pakistan to condemn Russia

The joint letter is signed by ambassadors of European and other western states

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The heads of various foreign missions in Pakistan, including Germany and France, have urged Islamabad to condemn Russia's armed hostility against Ukraine in the ongoing special session of the UN General Assembly, which has been convened to vote for a resolution against Russia. In a joint letter written to Pakistan on Tuesday, the envoys - who are stationed in Pakistan - recalled that a draft resolution was presented in the UNSC on Feb 25, which was vetoed by Russia and with three members - China, India and UAE - abstaining, while 11 voted in favour. The foreign dignitaries said the resolution was aimed at reaffirming the commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders and would have deployed in the strongest terms Russia's aggression against Ukraine. "In addition, the resolution called on Russia to immediately, completely

and unconditionally withdraw all its military forces from the territory of Ukraine." The heads of foreign missions to Pakistan pointed out that Russia launched an "unprovoked attack and invaded a peaceful neighbouring country, which posed no threat to it. "This constitutes a clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations and presents a serious risk to global peace and security." The ambassadors stressed that the international community must work in solidarity and support and uphold the rules-based international order "In these extreme times". The letter is jointly signed by the ambassadors of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands, Japan, Norway and Switzerland as well as the head of the Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan. Furthermore, the high commissioners of Canada, the United Kingdom and the Chargé d'Affaires of Australia to Pakistan are also signatories to the letter.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Imran Khan in a meeting with PML-Q leaders Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi. - DNA

Uzbek President due in Islamabad Thursday

The state visit would mark commemoration of 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties



ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: At the invitation of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the President of Uzbekistan H.E. Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, will pay a State Visit to Pakistan from 3-4 March 2022. The President will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, comprising the Foreign Minister, other members of the Cabinet, senior government officials, and business and media personnel. This will be the first visit of President Mirziyoyev to Pakistan since assuming office in 2016. The state visit of President Mirziyoyev would mark historic commemoration of the 30th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. During the visit, the two leaders will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations including cooperation in political, trade and economic, connectivity, education, culture, security and defence domains. They will have wide-ranging exchange of views on major regional and international issues. A number of bilateral Agreements/MoUs will be signed. The Prime Minister will hold one-on-one meeting with the President of Uzbekistan that would be followed by delegation-level talks and Joint Media Stakeout. The Prime

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Zelensky to EU: Prove that you're with us

Zelensky reiterated his call for the EU to grant urgent membership

CENTRELINE REPORT

BRUSSELS: Amid intensifying Russian attacks on Ukraine, the country's president delivered an emotional video address to the European Parliament, telling European Union leaders that his compatriots are dying to achieve freedom and equality. "We are giving our lives for the right to be equal," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky told the special session of the EU's legislature. "Prove that you are with us and will not let us go." Unshaven and clad in a green army T-shirt, seated in front of a blank wall next to a Ukrainian flag, Mr. Zelensky spoke extemporaneously for more than seven minutes and made a point that he wasn't delivering prepared remarks. "I don't read off the sheet because the paper phase in the life of my country has ended," he said, waving a sheet of paper. "We're dealing with killed people, with real life, you know?" Mr. Zelensky reiterated a recent call for the EU to grant Ukraine membership.

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40-mile Russian convoy threatens Kyiv

NEWS DESK

KYIV: A 40-mile convoy of Russian tanks and other vehicles threatened Ukraine's capital on Tuesday, the sixth day of the war. But even as Russia intensified shelling of the country's second-largest city, the Kremlin has found itself increasingly isolated by tough economic sanctions that have sent its currency plummeting. After a first, five-hour session of talks between Ukraine and Russia yielded no stop in the fighting, both sides agreed to another meeting in coming days. Ukraine's embattled president, however, said he believed the stepped-up shelling was designed to force him into concessions. "I believe Russia is trying to put pressure (on Ukraine) with this simple method," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said late on Monday.

Evacuation of Pakistanis FM Qureshi thanks Romanian counterpart

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi had a telephone conversation with the Foreign Minister of Romania, Mr. Bogdan Aurescu. In addition to reviewing bilateral relations, the two Ministers also discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest. Sharing Pakistan's perspective, the Foreign Minister noted that Prime Minister Imran Khan in his recent visit to Moscow had regretted the latest situation between Russia and Ukraine and stressed that

conflict was not in anyone's interest, as they hit developing countries the hardest economically. The Foreign Minister underlined the indispensability of dialogue and diplomacy to resolve disputes. Foreign Minister Qureshi conveyed his appreciation for the assistance rendered by the Romanian side in the evacuation process. He looked forward to continued and swift facilitation in border crossing of the Pakistani students and community members being evacuated. The Romanian Foreign Minister assured of Romania's full support and cooperation in the evacuation process.

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PML-N to do away with all anti-media laws: Shehbaz - Page 06

Malaysia keen to strengthen economic ties with Pakistan - Page 07

'President Mirziyoyev visit to further cement ties' - Page 08

De-escalation: Ukraine seeks proactive Pak role

Ambassador of Ukraine to Pakistan Markian Chuchuk says special arrangement made to safe evacuation of Pakistani students; laments Russians committing war crimes in Ukraine

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Ukraine to Pakistan Markian Chuchuk has said as of 28 February, 352 civilians including 16 children have been killed and thousands were wounded in the Russian invasion of Ukraine adding the figures about civilian and military losses are updating every few hours. Ambassador Chuchuk expressed these views in a media briefing on Tuesday. He further said the residential areas of the Ukrainian largest city of Kharkiv were directly shelled by Russian rocket artillery, with dozens of new victims. Russian troops have destroyed kindergartens and orphanages, thus committing war crimes and violating the Rome Statute. Hospitals and mobile medical aid brigades are also targeted by the Russian shellfire and the sabotage groups. Ukraine has submitted an application

against Russia to the International Court of Justice. Russia uses its best military units to attack Ukraine, but has achieved none of its key goals, he added. He said Ukraine remains an important trade partner of Pakistan. Last year Ukraine has supplied to Pakistan over 1.3 million tons of wheat grain thus contributed into Pakistan's food security. According to international reports, about half a million of refugees have already left Ukraine. The U.N. estimates this number could grow to 5 million. Russian military aggression threatens thousands of foreigners who are staying in Ukraine. "We regret that while they had been warmly welcomed in our country, nowadays Russian invasion put their lives at high risk. We understand the will of foreign citizens to leave the territory of Ukraine for a safer place and we are providing all possible assistance at the border as we do for our citizens".



We do remember in Ukraine sincere support of Pakistan for evacuating Ukrainian citizens from Afghanistan in August 2021. Ukrainian Government does its best to ensure safe and smooth evacuation of Pakistani students. Our Foreign Ministry has requested the relevant agencies of Ukraine to step up

support to all foreign citizens wishing to return to their home countries or move to the third countries. Temporary volunteer assistance points have been set up at the border to provide foreign students with food, cater and other humanitarian needs. Ukrainian and Pakistani foreign ministers remain in touch in resolution of this issue, the ambassador added. "In the final part of my briefing let me say a few words about geopolitics which is not welcomed in some countries of the world, but is an icon in some others. Russian invasion into Ukraine has initiated a watershed moment in global politics and architecture of global security". Ambassador Chuchuk said the red line is clear: which values people and states important enough to fight for them? I believe that human lives and freedom are much more important values than any geopolitical concepts like bipolarity or multi-polarity. Disregarding what geopolitical camp an international

actor prefers, it cannot justify unprovoked massive war and killings of civilian population by ballistic and cruise missiles or vacuum bombs. Otherwise the global security architecture will collapse and the new world war would become inevitable. On the other hand, if somebody condemns Russian aggression against Ukraine it does not mean automatically support of Pax Americana or NATO. It means respect to human life and freedom, commitment to peace and rule based order in international relations. And that is that. It's time for everyone to make a choice. We have seen a choice of the USA and its close allies. Last weekend we have seen a choice of Europe. It was really tectonic shift in Europe's approach to Russia and Ukraine. The EU has imposed a number of heavy sanctions and restrictions against the aggressor while

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PBIT, FCCI to work for the success of PEC

Ahmar Malik said that the PBIT sponsored session would be dedicated for lectures and presentations on joint ventures and special economic zones

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) will work with Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) as official partner for the success of "Pakistan Economic Conference" (PEC) scheduled to be held from 18-20 March, 2022, said Mr. Ahmar Malik Chief Executive Officer (CEO) PBIT. He was finalizing the arrangement of the one full session on the third day of the conference to be sponsored by PBIT. This meeting was represented by Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh, President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), Mr. Azhar Chaudhary of FCCI, Mr. Jilal Hassan Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Sohail Qadri Director Policy and Dr. Sohail Saleem Director Facilitation also participated in this meeting. Mr. Ahmar Malik said that the PBIT sponsored session would be dedicated for lectures and presentations on joint ventures and special economic zones. He said that the experts would

also have interactive sessions with the concerned stakeholders to dispel their reservations and apprehensions. He said that this session would be chaired by Mian Aslam Iqbal, Provincial Minister for Industry & Commerce. "He would also explain in detail the measures taken to gear up the pace of industrialization in this province", said CEO PBIT. He said that the Government has finalized the arrangements for the expeditious colonization of industrial estates. "We would encourage establishment of diversified industry by incentivizing local as well as foreign investors", he said and added that our focus would be on the import substitution industry which would not only play a major role in curtailing our import bill but also ensure supply of raw material to the concerned industries. He said that similarly the Government would also encourage development of value-added industry which could fetch foreign exchange through enhanced exports. He paid best tribute to the President FCCI for arranging this mega event in a well-planned manner. He said that

Federal and Provincial departments would play their supportive role to make this event a total success. Mr. Atif Munir said that around 300 units have been established in industrial estates developed by FIEDMC with foreign collaboration while the same numbers of units are in the pipeline. He said that operation of these industrial units would create thousands of new job opportunities in addition to helping Pakistan to earn precious foreign exchange for the country. He also appreciated the pro-industrial policies of the Government and said that PEC would play a major role in connecting local investors with their foreign counterparts so that they could launch joint ventures. "It would play a key role in technology transfer", he said and added that it would have a trickling effect on the downstream industry. He said that every aspect of the economy would be discussed in this meeting to resolve the procedural bottlenecks and try to facilitate the investors. Later Mian Aslam Iqbal also joined this meeting and endorsed its proceedings.



LALAMUSA: Senior PPP leader and former MPA Tanvir Ashraf Kaira reading daily Islamabad POST. Tanvir Kaira lauded the professional work of management of Islamabad POST and termed the newspaper a good addition to the English press. – DNA

Jiye Tech announces BNPL feature

LAHORE: Jiye Technologies, the fastest growing Agri-Tech platform in Pakistan has announced a first of its kind business-to-business (B2B) buy-now-pay-later (BNPL) feature through a digital financing product for farmers and businesses across Pakistan under its program called 'Jiye Khushhaal Karobar'. The digital financing service will empower farmers, retailers, and businesses with quick, easy, and convenient access to credit to sustainably grow their revenue. The initiative has become possible through the close integration of Jiye Technologies with licensed financing entities to help uplift the Pakistani agricultural sector with added liquidity. Small farmers, retailers would be able to get access to up to 50,000 PKR worth of micro-loans. – DNA

IoBM signs MoU with NBFIs & MAP

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: The Institute of Business Management (IoBM), Karachi, recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NBFIs and Modaraba Association of Pakistan (MAP). The primary objective of this agreement is to create a means of awareness and promote the Islamic mode of Financing, Modarabas and NBFIs (non-bank financial institutions) to the students of IoBM and the general public. The signatories were Mr. Talib S. Karim, President IoBM, and Mr. Raheel Qamar Ahmad, Chairman - NBFIs and Modaraba Association of Pakistan. Among the various points agreed upon, IoBM shall facilitate in creating awareness and image building about Islamic mode of Financing, Modarabas and NBFIs to its students. Sim-



ilarly, NBFIs & Modaraba Association of Pakistan may work jointly with IoBM for the development of Islamic Financial Products, and may collaborate with IoBM for the Capstone project being offered by IoBM on mutually agreed terms among other points accepted as part of the MoU.

PM's relief package highly appreciated

YOOSUF BHUTTA

GUJRAT: A handsome relief in the prices of petroleum and electricity tariff have been widely welcomed by different sections of the society in Gujrat. The people from all walks of life including politicians, traders, small businessmen, laborers, lower-income groups, salaried persons and civil society have highly appreciated the Prime Minister's relief initiatives. They have termed it a 'big' relief and historic initiative. Meanwhile they have expressed gratitude towards the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Government. A number of representatives of industry and commerce, representing their relevant professional organizations, hailed the prime minister's economic relief measures which would, according to them, bring down the prices of petroleum products and electricity for the masses. Prime Minister Imran Khan, in a big initiative to protect the masses from the impact of global inflationary trends, on Monday unveiled a major relief package, including Rs 10 per litre reduction in petroleum prices, Rs 5 per unit cut in electricity tariff and some other measures. "The government has decided not to increase the prices of petrol and diesel as well as electricity tariff till the next budget," Imran Khan said in his televised address to the nation. The prime minister also announced to enhance the cash assistance, provided to eight million families under the government's Ehsaas Programme, from the current Rs 12,000 to 14,000 to help the poor people.

Rickshaw making units banned

PESHAWAR: Following directives of Commissioner Peshawar Division Riaz Khan Mehsud, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Transport Department has notified a ban on rickshaws manufacturing units in Peshawar. The transport department informed on Tuesday that licenses of all rickshaw manufacturing factories have been revoked immediately with the aim to reduce the traffic mess in the city and contain the environmental pollution. A notification to this effect said there will be complete ban on manufacturing of two stroke and four stroke rickshaws, qingqi and loader rickshaws in the capital city. Similarly, the department has also revoked the route permits of existing two and 4-stroke rickshaws and announced that no such permits will be issued in the future. Last week, Commissioner Peshawar at a meeting took this decision to control the chaotic vehicular traffic in the city. A decision was also made to confiscate unregistered vehicles. – APP

DC holds Revenue Awami Khidmat Katchri

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: On the directions of Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar, the Revenue Awami Khidmat Katchri was held at DC Complex and Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad listened the public complaints regarding revenue matters and directed the revenue officers for speedy solution of the applications. Deputy Commissioner said that the delay in the matters of public would not tolerated and responsible revenue officer and staff would be accountable. He said that the Department of Revenue was at the forefront of public service and holding Revenue Awami Khidmat Katchri would not only solve the problems of the people but also increase their confidence. Deputy Commissioner said that the problems of the people's under one roof are being addressed by listening to the problems related to the revenue department. He said that speedy solution of issues and grievances related to the revenue department including issuance of domicile, farad, registry, income tax certificate and other revenue matters are being solved on spot. He said that officers of the revenue department including Assistant commissioners and revenue officers and ADLRs were also directed to ensure attendance in the court. Citizens can approach the concerned Tehsil Office on the first and second working day of every month for resolving revenue related issues. He also went to the applicants and took feedback to them about solution of their complaint. During the Revenue Awami Khidmat Services a total of 79 applicants identified the problems in Tehsil City and Sadar out of which 63 were solved on spot while the remaining applications were directed to be processed and reported within three days.

Need stressed to equip youth with technical skills

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Pakistan could land into a new era of progress and prosperity by equipping its youth with technical skills on a war footing basis, said Engineer Asim Munir Chairman Board of Management (BOD) of the Technical Education & Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) Faisalabad & Chinot. Addressing a meeting, he appreciated the vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, Chief Minister Mr. Usman Buzdar and Chairman TEVTA Ali Salman Siddique to fully exploit this precious asset. He said that Pakistan has abundance of youth of productive age up to 2048 and we must avail this resource to initiate a fully developed hi-tech industry in Pakistan. He said that we have a lot of infrastructure in the secondary school department. "Most of the buildings of these schools remain unutilized in the evening or under-utilized even in the morning session.

Civil Defence Day marked in Faisalabad

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: District Administration and District Civil Defence department jointly arranged an awareness walk to mark the International Civil Defence Day here on Tuesday to highlight the significance and importance of the civil defence. The walk was led by Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad which started from District Council Chowk and culminated at Clock Tower Chowk after passing through the Khaliq Qureshi road, Circular road and Katcheri bazaar. A.D.C.G. Qaiser Abbas Rind, Civil Defence Officer



Rana Abbas, DO Secondary Education Tahir Siddique, Educationalists Muhammad Akhtar Butt, In charge District Control Room Muhammad Sadiq, other officers of different departments, representatives of civil society & NGOs and a large number of volunteers of civil defence participate in the walk. The participants were carrying banners and placards inscribed the slogans relating to the importance of civil defence. Expressing his views, Deputy Commissioner said that the training of civil defence was a huge human service and observance of International Civil Defence Day was to raise the awareness to help

the humanity for which proper training should be imparted to the volunteers. He said that civil defence organization had played its vibrant an important role to save the human lives and properties in case of any calamity and catastrophe like earthquake, flood and other fatal incidents. He said that every citizen should obtain the training of the civil defence for keeping ready to meet any eventuality with skill for minimizing the losses. He underlined the significance of the civil defence and said district administration had strengthened the civil defence organization and the

ample opportunity had been provided to the volunteers for enabling them rendering effective services during the rescue operations. CDO said that number of steps to make the civil defence organization in line with the modern requirements and necessary resources were being provided to equip the civil defence department with advanced technology. He said that volunteers of civil defence department were performing valuable services for maintaining peace and security and helping the law enforcement agencies in this regard. He said that the importance of civil defence has been raised in the recent human development period therefore for self help every citizen has to train with the technique and fun of civil defence. He informed that volunteers had been imparted advance trainings especially for fire fighting and other rescue activities. He said that civil defence organization equipped with the most latest equipments, moreover, awareness camp was set up at Clock tower chowk for the demonstration of civil defence equipments in which bomb disposal remote, bullet proof jackets, bullet proof helmet, folding stature, metal detectors, gas masks, exclusive detectors, electric torches, drills, cutters, life jackets, flame cutters, jumping sheets, life rings, chipping drills, rope throw guns and other security gadgets were included in the camp.



LAHORE: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov in a group photo with Chairman Walled City Lahore Kamran Lashari. – DNA

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

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



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Monal.....	0334-5421812



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Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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DHQ.....	5556311-4
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Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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ISLAMABAD: Zafer Bakhtawri, Former President ICCI & Secretary General United Business Group FPCCI Presenting his Book "Jehan Dost" to Lord Mayor of Birmingham UK. Muhammad Afzal. Shakil Muneer President ICCI & Khalid Iqbal Malik Chairman Founder Group ICCI are also present at the Occasion. DNA

Kazakh business delegation visits Pak Iron Re-rolling Mills

Pak Kazakhstan mutual trade to rise manifold following the visit; Akram Farid says

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Chief Employers Federation of Pakistan (EFP) Islamabad Chapter and renowned industrialist M Akram Farid has said that Kazakhstan can learn from the experience of Pakistan in diversified fields especially in agriculture, steel, milk industry, food items, light engineering, banking and finance, hospitality, mining, precious stones, energy, construction, technical education and health care. He was talking with a 10 members business delegation of Kazakhstan led by Daniyar Kalimbetov. The delegation undertook



a detailed visit of the Industrial area which comprised on I9, I-10. The delegation witnessed the live process of manufacturing industrial goods in steel, marble as well as pharmaceutical and rice outlets. Ambassador

of Kazakhstan to Pakistan Yezhan Kistafin also accompanied the delegation and thanked Pakistani business community for warm welcome and hospitality they showed for whole delegation. He said that Kazakh-

stani delegation gained a lot of product knowledge and manufacturing units while carrying out a visit in the industrial area of Islamabad. President ICCI Muhammad Shakeel Muneer said that there is dire need to

increase the trade volume between the both countries. There are a lot of opportunities lies in private sector in which Kazakhstani businessmen can invest for boosting mutual trade. Senior Vice President (SVP)

ICCI Jamshed Akhter Sheikh also highlighted various areas of investment in which both countries can focus for bilateral trade and mutual cooperation. Former SVP Rafat Farid has said on this occasion that it is right and ripened time for both the countries to enhance bilateral trade and seek for each other's vital experiences. He gave a comprehensive presentation and highlighted features of steel manufacturing and connected units' coordination. The delegation under took a visit of the industrial area and praised the manufacturing process carried out in Fazal steel, Barkat rice, Solar Equipment manufacturing units, Marble industries.

Gross HR violations call for resolution of Kashmir issue

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Dr Vicotria Schofield, historian and commentator on international affairs said that the gross human rights violations in the valley and the suffering of millions of people demanded resolution of the Kashmir issue in the 21st century. She was delivering a talk at the Institute of Regional Studies

(IRS) Islamabad here on Tuesday. She said that it was almost appalling to see that human rights violations of such magnitude could not galvanise the people of the South Asian region to demand an end to such barbarity. When considering resolution of the Kashmir issue, it was imperative to first understand how critically that resolution was related to regional peace, she said. In addition, it was important to realise that geographi-

cally, Kashmir was not such a large part of land. She said that it was ironic that the inhabitants, that is the human lives in the valley had not been accorded the significance that they had, and were treated as mere chattel historically, and as figures and numbers presently. Over the years, military expenditures had heightened in both India and Pakistan, while what should have expanded was a meaningful dialogue process.

Stakeholders urge free and compulsory education Act

ISLAMABAD: Expressing grave concern over the 2.2 million out of school children in the country, parliamentarians and stakeholders have emphasized upon the government to immediately notify the Free and Compulsory Education (Article 25A) in order the 'free and compulsory education for all' goal is achieved to meet the sustainable development goals.

These consensus views were expressed during a national conference on right to education where parliamentarians and other stakeholders organized by the Awaz CDS-Pakistan, Pakistan Development Alliance and VSO Pakistan. The purpose of this conference was to highlight the progress, challenges and way forward viz-a-viz implementation of Article 25-A after 12 years of its inception. The panelists included Chief Executive Officer Awaz CDS, Zia ur Rehman; Chairperson National Commission for Child Rights, Afshan Tehseen; Zahra Arshad, Pakistan Coalition for Education, Areeba Shahid from PYCA, Malik Ibrar Husain, President All Pakistan Private Schools Association; Atif from All Pakistan teachers forum, Dr. Hammad Lannig, Ministry of Human Rights; Nafeesa Khattak. - DNA

Fiscal deficit contained at 2.1pc

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Despite many challenges, the fiscal deficit was contained at 2.1 percent of GDP during the first half (H1) of the current fiscal year whereas the primary balance remained in surplus during the period. "Fiscal deficit is contained at 2.1 percent of GDP during the H1 of current fiscal year. The primary balance, on the other hand, remained in surplus of Rs 81.1 billion during July-December FY2022, compared to Rs 337.2 billion in the previous year," says monthly Economic Update and Outlook for February 2022.

It says, despite significant pressure on the expenditure side due to COVID-19 grants, IPPs circular debt settlement, social sector spending, better expenditure control and effective resource mobilization strategy remained in place for better fiscal outcomes. Furthermore, the cumulative surplus of all the four provinces was higher than the previous year. The report says, the government would continue to follow the same strategy for the rest of the year in order to contain the fiscal deficit within manageable limits. Moreover, on the revenue side, FBR has been able to achieve more than 57.5 percent of its annual target during the first seven months of the ongoing fiscal year, whereas the overall budget achievement for the first seven months during last year stood at 54.7 percent.

وزیر اعظم پاکستان کی جانب سے عوام کیلئے

تاریخ کا سب سے بڑا ریلیف

مہنگائی بھی اب کلین بولڈ

ڈیزل

10

روپے فی لٹر سستی

بجلی

5

روپے فی یونٹ سستی

پٹرول

10

روپے فی لٹر سستی

آئندہ بجٹ تک یہ قیمتیں برقرار رکھی جائیں گی

تمام صنعتکار، ٹرانسپورٹرز، ڈیلرین، ڈسٹری بیوٹرز اور تاجروں کو ریلیف کے فوائد عوام تک پہنچانے میں اپنا کردار ادا کریں

حکومت کسی بھی قسم کے استحصال کو برداشت نہیں کرے گی۔

4 stolen motorcycles recovered during crackdown

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Police have busted three member gang of vehicle lifter and recovered 04 stolen motorcycles and vehicle Suzuki from their possession, informed police spokesman here Tuesday. During course of action, Naseerabad police held the gang identified as Sajid, Arshad and Ali Raza. According to preliminary investigation, the accused have previously been charged on vehicle theft, burglary and robbery cases. City Police Officer CPO Omar Saeed Malik appreciated the performance of police team adding that the criminals who deprive citizens of their valuable assets cannot escape the grip of law. CPO made it clear that it is prime duty of police to protect the lives and properties of people.

850 cops to provide security to polio workers

RAWALPINDI: As many as 850 police personnel have been deployed to provide security to polio workers during five day anti polio drive, informed a police spokesman. Anti-polio campaign is underway in Rawalpindi, while 850 police officers of Rawalpindi police have been deployed for security duty. Rawalpindi Police is always striving for the protection of the citizens and all available resources were being utilized for the purpose, spokesman added. Sharing details of the arrangement for the campaign the DHA CEO Dr Faiza Kanwal said that 4,046 polio teams, 856 area In-charges, 242 medical officers were participating in the campaign. - APP

Briefs

Telecom revenues rise to Rs. 644 bln

ISLAMABAD: The telecom sector of Pakistan remained at the high growth trajectory and generated highest-ever revenue of Rs 644 billion during the financial year 2020-21 as compared to Rs 592 billion in the previous year. As per Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Annual Report 2021 released recently, the sector also attracted US\$ 202 million in the shape of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and contributed Rs 226 billion to the national exchequer.

With successful spectrum auctions and license renewals in Pakistan, and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K) and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) during the period, an amount of US\$ 486 million (FY 2021-till date) has been generated. Broadband services reached a remarkable milestone of 100 million subscribers in March 2021, now standing at 110 million. Around 50% of the country's population has subscribed to broadband, with the bulk (49%) consisting of mobile broadband connections.

Telecom and ICT services have a nationwide spread, covering over 89% of the population with teledensity reaching 87%, and cellular mobile penetration reaching over 86%. - APP

Strict action to accelerate against overloading

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General National Highway and Motorway Police (NHMP) Inam Ghani has said that strict action would be expedited against overloading, HID lights, use of tinted glass and vehicles with unregistered number plates.

Addressing online "Khuli Katchery" (Open Court), IG Motorway Police said that NHMP is working on a plan to suspend the license of those drivers who repeatedly violate traffic laws. The strict measures, he said, would include increased fines and banning vehicles from entering Highways.

He said that on National highways most fatal accidents were happening due to the wrong U-turns mostly by the motorcyclists. He urged the motorcyclists to avoid taking short cut which could be fatal for other motorists also. He said that he was personally monitoring the recruitment process in NHMP. IG Motorway Police said that to facilitate Overseas Pakistanis, the duration between learner license and practical examination had been eliminated. The online open court was viewed by more than 50,000 social media users on official page of National Highway and Motorway Police. - APP

Incubation centres to be opened in more cities

ISLAMABAD: Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication was informed on Tuesday that incubation centres will be opened in Hyderabad, Faisalabad, Multan and Sialkot. "Five incubation centres have been established in Islamabad, Karachi, Peshawar, Lahore, Quetta and planning to open in Hyderabad, Faisalabad Multan and Sialkot in 2022, 2023", the official of the ministry of IT informed the committee.

The committee decided to visit the Islamabad Center to, analyze the working and standards of the Center. IGNITE also funded start-ups and launched the Digs kills project, which provides free online training, in three districts of southern Balochistan including Khuzdar, Turbat, and Gwadar, he said. A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information Technology and Telecommunication was held under the Chairmanship of Senator Kauda Babar. The Committee also discussed the "National Information Technology Board Bill" at length and pointed out some legal ambiguities in it. While discussing the Pass Track application, the Ministry apprised the committee that the application has been developed in coordination with the Ministry of Health and NCOs for record keeping of the travellers coming to Pakistan in times of the Covid-19 pandemic. - APP

ICCI lauds PM's relief for public and industry

President, ICCI said that the general public was facing problems due to high prices of electricity and petroleum products and the cut of Rs.10 per litre in petroleum products and Rs.5 per unit in electricity tariff would provide them relief

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) on Tuesday lauded the relief measures announced by the Prime Minister Imran and termed them very positive steps to mitigate the miseries of the common man and give new confidence to the business community. Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, ICCI said that the general public was facing problems due to high prices of electricity and petroleum products and the cut of Rs.10 per litre in petroleum products and Rs.5 per unit in electricity tariff would provide them good relief in these tough times. He welcomed the PM's announcement for tax exemption to IT companies



and freelancers as well as exempting IT start-ups from capital gain tax as these measures would provide new energy to the IT sector and boost IT exports of the country. He said that skills-based internships for graduates would be helpful in producing skilled man-

power for industry and improving productivity. ICCI President commended the PM's announcement that anyone wishing to set up an industry in Pakistan or invest in the sector would not be asked any questions and termed it a very bold move as it would

attract more investment in the country and spur industrialization. He said that the Prime Minister has hinted at announcing a separate package for industry and urged to provide same incentives package to all industries as were provided

to the construction industry that would bring a new industrial revolution in the country and put Pakistan on the path of sustainable economic growth. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI said

that the economic future of Pakistan was linked with better industrial development and hoped that the Prime Minister would pay priority attention to promoting industrial sector in order to transform Pakistan into an emerging economy of the region.

Sanjrani seeks to bolster ties with African countries under "Engage Africa" policy

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Tuesday stressed the need to resuscitate, reinforce political, economic and defence relations with Zimbabwe and other African countries. "Pakistan desires for remarkable relations with African Countries under 'Engage Africa' Policy", he said while talking to Pakistan's newly-designated Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Murad Baseer, who called on him at Parliament House, said a news release.

The Chairman felicitated the newly-designated Ambassador with best wishes for his future endeavours and assignments. During the call-on, Sanjrani underlined the excellent bilateral linkages with Harare that predates Zimbabwe's Independence. The meeting discussed ways for enriching connections with Zimbabwe and other African Nations.

There are substantial investment opportunities in Pakistan and efforts should be made to draw the attention of the Zimbabwean and African investors through effective diplomacy towards Pakistan's friendly investment policies, he added. Murad Baseer, the newly designated envoy to Zimbabwe thanked Sanjrani for the best wishes and reiterated his commitment to effectively represent Pakistan's soft image at the international fora. While discussing bilateral ties with Zimbabwe, Chairman Senate also highlighted Pakistan's assistance in the establishment of the Zimbabwe Air Force after its independence. Discussing the bilateral trade between the two countries US 18.41 million dollars (2021), Sanjrani urged to encourage B2B (Business-to-Business) interaction for improved bilateral trade. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: President RCCI Nadeem Rauf and President of Commonwealth Chamber exchange documents after signing the MoU. Governor Punjab Ch. Muhammad Sarwar, Sohail Altaf, Khurshid Barlas and others are also seen in the picture. - DNA

Mazari addresses 49th session of UNHRSC

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Human Rights Human Rights Dr. Shrieen M Mazari addressed the 49th session of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Security Council. The Minister said that "Women in Palestine and Kashmir continue to be victim of brutal occupations yet the occupiers are exempt from global scrutiny. She added that State hub sponsored Islamophobia persist while extremist ideologies are on the rise". She added, structural flaws in global economic governance continue to hinder basic Human Rights, she added. The minister said this Council must redouble its efforts to respond meaningfully to these challenges. "We are gravely concerned over deteriorating Human Rights situation in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and constitute willful noncompliance by India of UN Charter and 4th Geneva Convention", Mazari added. The global state of Human Rights today presents a sobering picture, despite treaties, mechanisms and advocacy, for decades powerful states have suppressed Human Rights and trampled fundamental freedoms". She said BJP government is pursuing a Hindutva policy 800,000 Indian troops are resorting to inhumane atrocities to suppress the independence movement. The Indian Army is using rape as a weapon of war, adding that Indian Army enjoys all kinds of immunity for atrocities in Kashmir. The Indian government is not giving access to international media neutral observers in IIOJK despite clear evidence, no action was taken against any Indian soldier. India should give media and international observers access to Kashmir. The minister said that Council should compel India to withdraw its unilateral move of August 5. An independent commission of inquiry should be formed into human rights violations in Kashmir and a fresh report on human rights violations in Kashmir should be published. Mazari said that there are concerns over human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir Occupying forces are changing the proportion of population in IIOJK. She said India has issued domicile to 4 million non-Kashmiris, adding that these steps by India are an attempt to turn Kashmiris into a minority on their soil. - DNA

Plastic material export increases

ISLAMABAD: The export of plastic materials has witnessed an increase of 18.29 percent during the first seven months of the current financial year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. Pakistan exported plastic material worth US \$219.912 million during July-January (2021-22) as compared to the export of \$185.916 million during July-January (2020-21), showing an increase of 18.29 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). In terms of quantity, the plastic materials' export however witnessed a decrease of 29.17 percent from 194,400 metric tons to 137,688 metric tons, the data revealed. Meanwhile, year-on-year basis the plastic export increased by 55.18 percent during the month of January 2022 as compared to the same month of last year. The plastic material exports in January 2022 were recorded at the US \$33.338 million against the export of \$21.484 million in January 2021, the PBS data revealed. - APP

President urges HEC to expand associate degree programme

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday said to avail tremendous opportunities offered by the world in the field of technology and data, the best option for Pakistan was to produce efficient human resource through short-term degree programmes. The president, in this regard, urged the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to expand the scope of two-year associate degree programmes, particularly in information technology, to meet the global demand for qualified and skilled youth. Addressing here at the 13th convocation of COMSATS University, the president said the country's huge youth bulge, if familiarized with information technology through associate degrees, could be turned into a productive workforce in lesser time. The president emphasized bridging the 'technological gap' between the decision-makers and the emerging market needs and called for the formulation of policies in line with the changing era of knowledge. He also stressed the need for hybrid training programmes to ensure bringing more students into the fold of

digitalization. Dr Alvi encouraged the graduates to explore the domain of startups and asked them to take a giant leap to maximum benefit from the venture capitals.

He said the knowledge without empathy for mankind had no significance and called upon the youth to contribute towards Pakistan by practicing positivity with integrity and morality.

Rector COMSATS University Prof Dr Muhammad Tabassum Afzal said, ranked among the country's five best universities, the institution had been recognized as a hub of knowledge and research offering over hundred degree programmes.

He mentioned that the COMSATS had produced around 82,000 graduates so far and soon would be opening up a campus in Quetta, besides others in Kot Addu and Kohat in the pipeline. The president, earlier flanked by Federal Minister for Science and Technology Senator Shibli Faraz, awarded medals to the distinguished graduates for achieving top positions in their respective disciplines. - DNA

Welby's visit portrays soft image of Pakistan

Ashrafi said today, before his departure, the archbishop had expressed complete satisfaction on the adequate measures, taken by the govt of Pakistan for promoting the interfaith harmony in the country

SHUJAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East and Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) Chairman Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi Tuesday said the three-day visit of Canterbury's Archbishop Justin Welby had portrayed the soft image of Pakistan on the globe.

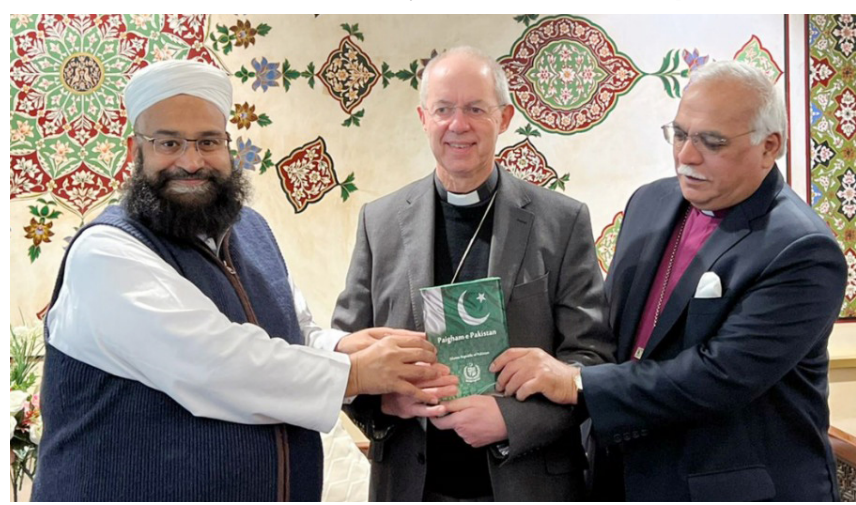
Addressing a presser, he said after holding one on one meeting with state machinery and religious scholars of various schools of thought, the archbishop reached the conclusion that Pakistan firmly believed in interfaith harmony and minorities' rights were equally enshrined in the Constitution.

Ashrafi said today, before his departure, the archbishop had expressed complete satisfaction on the adequate measures, taken by the government of Pakistan for promoting the interfaith harmony in the country. He

quoted Justin Welby as saying that the government and religious scholars were on the same page and heading towards the right direction on the matter of interfaith harmony.

He said he and his co-host Church of Pakistan President Bishop Azad Marshal had decided to invite Pope Francis to visit Pakistan to further stamp that Pakistan was

a land of peace and religious harmony. He lamented that there were certain anti-state elements who tried to steal peace of the country through interfaith chaos from time to time. Taking hand in hand of Bishop Marshal, Ashrafi said Marshal was as custodian of the house as he was and both of them had to foil the nefarious designs of the enemy with collective efforts. He said it was need of the hour to take interfaith harmony and dialogue at the grassroots level in a bid to sensitize the commoners about the significance of co-existence and its role in the development and prosperity of the country. He further informed that under the auspices of PUC, the 'Paigham-e-Pakistan Ulema and Mashaikh Conference' was being organized here at the Convention Center on March 7. He said in the conference, a strategy would be devised for the whole year to deal with various issues pertaining to minorities' rights, burgeoning population and other present day challenges being confronted by the nation.



PTA GSMA sign agreement to reduce gender gap

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has collaborated with GSM Association to reduce digital gender gap in Pakistan. A cooperation agreement was signed between the two organizations at the Mobile World Congress 2022, currently being held in Barcelona, said a news release received here on Tuesday. Through this collaboration, GSMA will facilitate PTA by sharing data/insights/expertise in identifying target-oriented projects to reduce digital gender gap.

These will include initiatives related to digital financial inclusion, accessibility, affordability, online security awareness and digital skills by females in both rural and urban areas. GSMA will also support PTA in designing SMS/WhatsApp/IVR based consumer surveys. Through these surveys, an authentic gender disaggregated data will be captured by PTA on various gender disparity areas such as: SIM & device ownership, internet, social media usage and financial access gap.

GSMA will also share with PTA the best practices/guidelines and internationally recognized data indicators on gender inclusion in ICTs. In addition, GSMA will be providing Mobile Internet Skills Training Toolkit (MISTT) in Urdu language, a set of resources to promote digital literacy, and help people use the internet more safely on their mobile. The collaboration will serve as an initiative for bridging the digital gender divide in Pakistan.

28 new Coronavirus infections in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: As many as 28 more people were tested positive for fatal coronavirus during the last 24 hours, raising the tally of confirmed cases to 46,254 in the Rawalpindi district, while one person lost his battle of life against the deadly disease.

As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here Tuesday, among the new patients, ten belonged to the Rawalpindi Cantonment, seven from Potohar town, four from Rawal town and Taxila, while one of each case has arrived from AJK, Gilgit and Kahuta. "Presently, 20 patients are admitted to four health facilities, including 15 in the Institute of Urology, two in the Fauji Foundation and Benazir Bhutto Hospital, while one was admitted in the Bilal Hospital.

The report updated that one patient was on a ventilator in critical condition, four stable and 15 were on double oxygen support. "As many as 5,532,849 people, including 44,641 health workers, had so far been vaccinated against the fatal disease since the start of the vaccination drive from March 10, 2021", it informed. DHA added that during the last 24 hours, 1,134 samples were collected, out of which 1,106 were declared negative, while the positivity rate was recorded at 2.46 per cent. - APP

Anti-polio campaign in full swing

RAWALPINDI: Over 430,000 children have been administered polio drops till second day of the on going polio campaign in all Tehsils and towns of Rawalpindi district. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Health Dr Faiza Kanwal told APP on Tuesday that 4,046 polio teams, 856 area In-charges, 242 medical officers participated in the five day campaign, observing COVID-19 health guidelines. Dr Faiza said the drive was also being utilized for creating awareness about COVID-19 and anti-dengue preventive measures. "307 fixed centres have been set up while children coming from outside area are being vaccinated at 147 transit points of the district," she added. Meanwhile, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Operations Waseem Riaz Khan tweeted that Rawalpindi Police was passionately working for the good cause to save our little-ones future. He said around 850 cops had been deployed in Rawalpindi district to ensure the security of anti-polio staff performing their duties during the campaign. - APP

EU and Ukraine crisis

THE European Union has approved to provide weapons to Ukraine amidst the growing crisis as hundreds of civilians have been forced to leave the country. Even Pakistanis stranded in Ukraine are facing hard times. The EU decision to send weapons to Ukraine is a belated decision yet will help greatly to boost morale of struggling Ukrainian people. The Ukraine government has provided arms to all and sundry so that they could defend themselves against the adversary. The plan is that in case the Russian forces gatecrash into the main cities then the citizens would fight them back. It is of course a difficult call.

According to the Ukraine ambassador to Pakistan, residential areas of the Ukrainian largest city of Kharkiv were directly shelled by Russian rocket artillery, with dozens of new victims. Russian troops have destroyed kindergartens and orphanages, thus committing war crimes and violating the Rome Statute. Hospitals and mobile medical aid brigades are also targeted by the Russian shellfire and the sabotage groups.

Ukraine has submitted an application against Russia to the International Court of Justice. Russia uses its best military units to attack Ukraine, but has achieved none of its key goals, he added.

He said Ukraine remains an important trade partner of Pakistan. Last year Ukraine supplied to Pakistan over 1.3 million tons of wheat grain thus contributing to Pakistan's food security. According to international reports, about half a million of refugees have already left Ukraine. The U.N. estimates this number could grow to 5 million. Russian military aggression threatens thousands of foreigners who are staying in Ukraine. The situation is indeed very grim and needs immediate world response. The United Nations General Assembly has already been convened. A definite action is the need of the hour in order to avoid any spillover effects of this war. The Russian government announced the use of nuclear weapons in case of any eventuality. If that happens then nobody perhaps can stop global war. All sides therefore need to exercise restraint and should not take any step that may endanger world peace.

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

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Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



Kashmir in the eyes of a scholar

VICTORIA Schofield, an eminent British historian, author, scholar and biographer with a particular interest in South Asia and Kashmir conflict, has said Kashmir conflict is ingrained with numerous constraints and complexities, and it only continues to get more and more compounded as time passes. The conflict demands the international community's attention and arbitration to be resolved for the sake of the millions of lives of the region's inhabitants, and the peace the people of Pakistan and India deserve to progress for the future.

Schofield, who has visited both sides of the disputed territory many times and had opportunities to interview locals from both sides to ascertain their opinion regarding the whole situation, lamented that the people in the Indian occupied territory were still living traumatic lives, there were a number of civilian deaths and arrests every day, and armed soldiers roam the streets.

Schofield also reminded that the Simla Agreement does not bind Pakistan and India to resolve the Kashmir conflict only through 'bilateral means'. She said, the Agreement states that both the countries will try to resolve the issue bilaterally or through any other mutually agreed means. She stressed that this latter clause in the agreement needs to be highlighted to seek international mediation over the issue, which is critical as India's hubris has continued to obstruct an amicable and bilateral resolution to the pain and suffering of the people Kashmir.

Atrocities in Kashmir are increasing day by day. The world needs to take an immediate notice. Both Pakistan and India need to sit together and work out a solution since in the absence of any solution both sides will continue to suffer. As we can see in the case of Ukraine that was only breed destruction and wide spread violence. Therefore war has never been a solution.

People of Kashmir have every right to exercise their will freely and as per the United Nations resolutions. They must be treated as human beings. It is perhaps the high time that both Pakistan and India should hold meaningful talks on Kashmir.

The world is united on Ukraine, divided on America

Marwan Bishara



As the self-appointed "world policeman", the US stands accused or at least is seen to interfere in the internal affairs of other states under different pretexts, including in and around Russia and China

IN terms of a Cold War... you have the vast majority of the rest of the world in total opposition to what [Putin] is doing... It's going to be a cold day for Russia," observed US President Joe Biden at a February 24 press conference shortly after Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine. But in the following few days, international reactions fell short of a universal denunciation of Moscow. The two major Asian nations, China and India did not sharply condemn the Russian attack, nor did large African nations like Nigeria, South Africa, and Egypt. Brazil also wavered until it succumbed to US pressure to vote in favour of the UN Security Council condemning the Russian invasion on February 25. And while 11 out of 15 UN Security Council members did vote in favour of the resolution, many states stopped short of unequivocal condemnation and most just called for the cessation of violence and return to negotiations.

All of which begs the question, why? Why have the economically and strategically unified and dominant Western nations failed to secure unequivocal universal denunciation of what is evidently a blatant violation of international law?

The short answer: it may have less to do with Ukraine and more to do with America. There is fear and suspicion among nations of being dragged into another Cold War showdown between the US and Russia. Kyiv may be the victim and Moscow the aggressor, but in the eyes of many, Washington is not totally innocent in all of this.

As the self-appointed "world policeman", the US stands accused or at least is seen

to interfere in the internal affairs of other states under different pretexts, including in and around Russia and China.

It is also been accused of double standards when it comes to aggression, occupation and international law violations – one for allies and another for the rest, just as was the case during the Cold War.

That war might have been cold in the north, but it was burning hot in the Global South, where Moscow and Washington engaged in proxy conflicts to advance their interests, regardless of the cost.

A second Cold War would be as bad and even worse if today's interconnected and interdependent world becomes deeply polarised between the West and NATO on one side, and Russia and China on the other – not only for individual states, but for humanity at large. Since the end of the Cold War in the late 1980s, most states have diversified their economic and military relations with world powers and prefer not to choose between Russia and the US or between the EU and China. Many countries are also looking out for their own interests amid the geopolitical polarisation, and some are dependent on Russia for wheat, energy, and military hardware or on China for investments, loans and trade.

And yet for decades, the US has repeatedly demanded nations get behind it in crisis times or pay the price. "You are either with us or against us," warned US President George W Bush on the eve of his "global war on terror" following the 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington.

And soon after the US designated Iran, Iraq and North Korea the world's "axis of evil" and prepared to invade Iraq, it demanded that nations take its side or incur its wrath. The following decade, Washington raised pressure on China and demanded of all its trading partners to get behind it or face the consequences.

The Trump administration even went as far as warning members of the United Nations that it was "taking names" of those who voted in favour of a resolution condemning its decision to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

As the US is waning, China rising, and Russia coming back with a vengeance, the US's coercive tone has become rather weird, tired and desperate, prompting nations to keep their options open. No longer are states trusting Washington to help, protect, or defend them, not after its humiliation in Afghanistan and its defeat in Iraq; not after its blunders in Syria, Yemen, Libya and other world hotspots; and certainly, not after inciting Ukraine only to leave it at the mercy of Russian military might.

The world has also lost its innocence over the past decades and no longer buys into Washington's lofty slogans of freedom and democracy, when both are under attack in America itself.

When the invasion of Ukraine started, Biden was quick to assure the American society that they would not have to fight, suffer or even pay more for gas. Or, as one observer commented sardonically, "America is about to fight Russia until the last Ukrainian soldier."

It is too early to tell whether such international scepticism will lead to an initiative similar to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) which was joined by over 100 nations during the Cold War. But what is clear, is that today's global challenges require less polarisation and more cooperation. A second Cold War is sure to hinder the urgent international efforts to combat climate change, hamper critical coordination on dealing with pandemics, and impede critical global cooperation to ensure food security and eradicate poverty and disease. A second Cold War will lead to another arms race, and bring the world closer to a nuclear showdown. Indeed, the nuclear annihilation of humanity is "only one impulsive tantrum away", in the words of a recent Nobel Peace Prize Winner.

In short, a second Cold War will cause terrible human suffering, economic decline, and a global conflict with incalculable consequences.

Yet, as Washington is adamant to punish Russia for its bellicosity and aggression, it is hoping or perhaps planning for Ukraine to become Russia's Afghanistan-like nightmare. Some reckon it is Biden's "Truman moment", to pursue a "strategy of containment" towards Russia, as his predecessor did 75 years ago.

But the way forward in Europe cannot be the way back. And the scenarios before us should not be limited to war: a protracted Cold War or a devastating nuclear war. In fact, as I write these words, Putin has put Russia's nuclear deterrence forces on high alert after a joint NATO statement was deemed threatening. The international community is overwhelmingly in favour of Ukraine recovering its sovereignty, albeit as a buffer state between Russia and NATO countries, and must do all to reach an immediate ceasefire, support the diplomatic process, and ultimately push for a dialogue between the West and Russia over the future security of Europe.

Yes, the Russian invasion requires a tough response, but it should be one that opens the door for peace. The West has no right sacrificing Ukraine at the altar of a new Cold War.

—Courtesy: Al Jazeera

Web 3.0 - Individual in focus

Huma Arshad



If we see in detail the difference between Web 1.0, Web 2.0, and Web 3.0, we got to know that Web 1.0 was the first iteration of the web. Most participants were consumers of content, and the creators were typically developers who build websites that contained information served up mainly in text or image format. Web 1.0 lasted approximately from 1991 to 2004

THE world is rapidly moving from community focus (web 2.0) to individual focus (Web 3.0). Think about how the internet affects your life daily. Consider how society has changed as a result of the internet. Social media platforms, Mobile apps, and now the internet is going through another paradigm shift. The web has evolved a lot over the years, and its applications of it today are almost unrecognizable from its early days. The evolution of the web is often partitioned into three separate stages: Web 1.0, Web 2.0, and Web 3.0. If we see in detail the difference between Web 1.0, Web 2.0, and Web 3.0, we got to know that Web 1.0 was the first iteration of the web. Most participants were consumers of content, and the creators were typically developers who build websites that contained information served up mainly in text or image format. Web 1.0 lasted approximately from 1991 to 2004.

Web 2.0 refers to worldwide websites which highlight user-generated content, usability, and interoperability for end users. Web 2.0 is also called the participative social web. It does not refer to a modification to any technical specification, but to modify the way Web pages are designed and used. The social Web contains several online tools and platforms where people share their perspectives, opinions, thoughts, and experiences. Web 2.0 applications tend to interact much more with the end-user. As such, the end-user is not only a user of the application but also a participant, examples are blogging, podcasting, social media, social networking. Web 3.0 is the third generation of the Internet—a global network that permits intelligent interactions between all its users and devices. Web 3.0 represents a paradigm shift for the internet – towards a decentralized, user-focused, and immersive on-

line experience. Web3.0 enhances the internet as we know it today with a few other added characteristics. For example, it is verifiable, trustless, self-governing, permissionless, distributed, and robust. In Web 3.0 developers do not usually build and deploy applications that run on a single server to store their data in a single database usually hosted on and managed by a single cloud provider. Web 3.0 is being deliberately designed to address the prevalent, potentially problematic issues inherent in today's internet ecosystem. However, there is no centralized authority overseeing the development of this new and open internet. Instead, progress is being made through the efforts of a loosely aligned assortment of private businesses, non-profit organizations, and individuals.

While the various teams and independent developers working on Web 3.0 features vary in strategy and approach, most attempts to create working frameworks or applications for the new internet center on the use of blockchain, whose Distributed Ledger Technology effectively resolves many of the underlying issues inherent in Web 2.0 and can be deployed in a way that augments and connects other cutting-edge technologies. More specifically, blockchain is essential to the formation of Web 3.0 because it is open. Ever since the concept of blockchain was introduced in Satoshi Nakamoto's Bitcoin whitepaper, the technology has been defined by a collaborative, open-source ethos that converts the concepts of accessibility, equitability, and community governance into actual web services and protocols. And, while there may be specific use cases for private blockchains, most blockchain proponents believe that the technology's true potential lies in ubiquitous public blockchains that feature transparent transactions and data records. Secondly, it is trustless. In addition to being transparent, blockchain records are also censorship-resistant and immutable. The rules governing how transactions are executed and stored on a blockchain ledger are dictated by smart contracts and other hard-coded protocols, meaning that users can rely on the validity of the network's performance or output without the need to trust anyone else on the network. As a result, blockchain technology mitigates the risks of operational opacity, selectively enforced rules, and other forms of obfuscation or bias, and provides a decentralized means of securing transactions and data.

Several promising blockchain projects are working towards the establishment of Web 3.0, with Ethereum currently leading the pack in terms of user adoption and breadth of scope. However, since the goal of Web 3.0 is to enable a more decentralized, collaborative internet, the various blockchain projects working to create Web 3.0 should be viewed as a collective endeavor rather than a race in which only one winner will be crowned.

"It could enable an open and interoperable new generation of the web—a Web 3.0 era that secures the privacy and property rights of individuals while ensuring secure and trustworthy interactions and transactions between the human, machine, and virtual economies. This future adds a new dimension to the web. It enables —The Spatial Web."

—Gabriel Rene, *The Spatial Web, How Web 3.0 Will Connect Humans, Machines, and AI to Transform the World*

Plea to KPT chief to fix potholes of 2-Talwar KPT underpass

LETTER TO EDITOR

While it is pleasant to witness the lifeless KPT Underpass getting illustrious LED-lit abstract designs on its sidewalls, it is unfathomable at the same time how the local Government could miss the dangerous potholes during the ongoing [and other previous] renovation works - the should-be priority! Bikes carrying children, mothers, students, and other delivery riders can be seen mercilessly swerving around these

growingly-deep potholes daily in a bid to dodge them, but this has often resulted in serious accidents – toppled cars and smashed rear windows of cars with legs of bikers dangling out.

In most cases, authorities in Karachi employ the basic throw-and-roll repair method to patch potholes. However, this is more or less a half-hearted attempt that only temporarily solves the problem and is mostly done during election seasons for optics and nothing else. Potholes on public roads need a permanent fix. End of story.

What it takes is to dump water-proof asphaltic material into these potholes and then drive a large asphalt roller over it. That is it! Why a task as simple as this not being done?

A plea to the KPT Chief, Mr. Nadir Mumtaz Warraich on behalf of the thousands of helpless motorists to prioritize permanently fixing these life-threatening potholes in KPT Underpass on urgent basis.

—Abdullah Ali Khan
Founder, Clean Green Street
(a for-public community initiative)
Karachi

Briefs

PM not properly briefed over PECA it seems: IHC

COURT REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday issued a notice to the attorney-general of Pakistan over a plea challenging the Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Act ordinance 2022 (PECA). IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah was holding a hearing on the plea filed by former president of Lahore High Court (LHC) Bar, Maqsood Butt.

The challenged law, that has recently been promulgated by President Arif Alvi, has triggered protests from media bodies and civil society who have termed it a "draconian law". At the outset of the hearing, Justice Minallah remarked that the court would surely hear the plea if it is filed by LHC bar's ex-president. The petitioner's counsel, Advocate Hassan Irfan maintained that Maqsood's plea contains two different points from the previously filed petitions against the PECA amendment ordinance. "The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) doesn't have the authority to deal with a matter between two private parties," the lawyer said, adding that the agency can look into cases directly related to the federal government. Referring to Prime Minister Imran Khan's address to the nation on Monday, the IHC chief justice said that it seems like no one told the premier that there are laws for contempt other than PECA. "The law is used against critics here," CJ Minallah remarked.

Uzbek President...

FROM PAGE 01
Minister will also host a State Banquet in his honour. President Mirziyoyev will have separate meeting with the President of Pakistan. The two sides would focus on enhancing political and strategic linkages; fast tracking trade, transit and economic ties; enhancing connectivity; and promoting educational and cultural collaboration. The Trans-Afghan Railway Project, connecting Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan, will be a key area of deliberations. There will also be fruitful interaction with leading businessmen of the two countries. Pakistan and Uzbekistan are linked through common faith, shared history and cultural affinities. The two countries have been closely collaborating at regional and international fora, especially at the UN, OIC, ECO and SCO.

Prior to the President's visit, the two sides are scheduled to hold the 7th Session of Joint Ministerial Commission and 2nd Joint Business Forum in Islamabad on 2 March 2022. Pakistan has enhanced its engagement with Central Asian countries within the framework of "Vision Central Asia" policy, with five key strands: political and diplomatic, trade and investment, energy and connectivity, security and defence, and people-to-people relations. The Pakistan-Uzbekistan relationship has witnessed an upward trajectory over the past few years. Prime Minister Imran Khan visited Uzbekistan in July 2021. The two leaders also met recently in Beijing on the sidelines of Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony on 5 February 2022.

Zelensky to EU: Prove...

FROM PAGE 01
In comments following Mr. Zelensky's address, European Council President Charles Michel—who represents the leaders of the 27 EU countries—said the Ukrainian request to be a candidate for EU membership should be given serious consideration. Officials from the bloc's 27 member states, which would need to approve the candidacy, discussed Ukraine's EU bid on Monday.

PML-N to do away with all anti-media laws: Shehbaz



LAHORE: PML President and Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Mian Shehbaz Sharif has said his party would do away with the controversial laws, which have been enacted to curb freedom of expression. Shehbaz Sharif made this announcement during meeting with the Joint Action Committee that called on him in Lahore. The Opposition leader further said his party had decided to table a resolution in the parliament against the PECA law adding if the parliament votes against the law it will become null and void. He made it clear govt efforts to muzzle press would strongly be opposed.

We feel "Incredibly Safe" Australian team is quite excited

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Australian vice-captain Steve Smith who enjoys Pakistani food has said that Australia feel "incredibly safe" in Pakistan on their first tour of the country in 24 years as the whole team is quite excited and ready to play quality cricket to beat Pakistan.

In a Virtual media talk on Tuesday which supervised by Australian Cricket Team media manager Brian Murgatroyd, Steve Smith expressed his satisfaction over the foolproof security measures made by the authorities during the Australian cricket team's stay in Pakistan. "Despite his teammate Ashton Agar receiving an online threat after landing in the sub-continent nation", Smith said that we feel incredibly safe in Pakistan. The death threat, sent to the Agar's partner on social media, was immediately reported to the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and Cricket Australia (CA). The officials, however, dismissed the threat as it was generated from an unverified source.

We're aware of social media and the unfortunate events that can occur on platforms," Smith said, adding that we have got a lot of people here working with us and we trust our security and everyone involved. "Getting accustomed to the conditions is really important," said Smith, who is a veteran of 82 Test matches and has scored 7,784 runs at a healthy average of 59.87. "It's obviously great



RAWALPINDI: Australian cricket team players during a training session at Rawalpindi cricket stadium. — DNA

to be back here in Pakistan. We know how passionate Pakistanis are about cricket and we're excited to get into it in a few days."

Smith also provided an update about his recovery after suffering a concussion during a T20I match against Sri Lanka on February 13.

"The head has progressed really well the last few days. I am feeling in a good space," he said. "I have done a lot of stuff where I have got my heart rate up to a good rate and brought it back down, that's part of the protocols of getting back to playing." He was also looking forward to facing

the pacers in the nets ahead of the first Pakistan Test, which starts on March 4 in Rawalpindi. "I had a couple of good hits in Melbourne before we came away but today is just about ticking off facing fast bowling and once that's done everything will be fine," he said.

Svitolina says she won't play Russians



PARIS: The top-ranked Ukrainian woman tennis player Elina Svitolina on Monday said she would refuse to play Russian and Belarusian tennis players in tournaments.

She also criticised the governing bodies of tennis, shortly after two of her compatriots aimed a swing at the WTA when they criticised the organisation for not taking a position on the Russian invasion of their country. Svitolina, ranked 15th in the world, is the top seed in the WTA tournament in Monterrey where she is drawn to play Russian Anastasia Potapova in her first match. Two other Russians, Kamilla Rakhimova and Anna Kalinskaya, are also in the draw.

"I want to announce that I will not play in Monterrey, nor any other match, against Russian or Belarusian tennis players until our organizations take the necessary actions," Svitolina wrote on Twitter. — Web Desk

Turks rush aid to Ukraine

ANKARA: The cramped hallway to Ukraine's embassy in Ankara buzzes with volunteers charging back and forth with emergency supplies donated by Turks for Ukrainians under the bombs. Pictures of families fleeing the Russian onslaught have profoundly moved many Turkish people, even though most have no ties with the country on the far side of the Black Sea. Emre Canbulat's only experience of Ukraine is a visit to the western city of Lviv. "But I just felt I had to do something now," he explains.

Turkey has been conducting a delicate balancing act since the Russian invasion of Ukraine last Thursday. Ankara is a member of NATO and an ally of Kyiv's. But while it views Moscow's stance as "unacceptable", it also wants to keep on the powerful Kremlin's good side. — APP

We support you; PML-Q...

FROM PAGE 01
minister enquired after the health of Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain and prayed for his complete recovery. The prime minister told the PML-Q leadership about his visit to Russia. The issues of politics and mutual interests also came under discussion. After the meeting, Imran departed from the residence of Chaudhrys.

Incentives for industries...

FROM PAGE 01
Incentives for restoring, investing in sick units Overseas Pakistanis to get five-year tax holiday when investing in the country Tax rate will be decreased by widening the tax base No questions will be asked for investments in the industrial sector

The prime minister said the previous governments had been against wealth creation and devised policies that were against profit-making, which he termed as a "socialist mindset". Calling overseas Pakistanis the country's "biggest asset", the prime minister said he understood the obstacles they faced in investing in Pakistan. There was a lack of contract enforcement and overseas Pakistanis were "ruined" by courts if they approached them. Overseas Pakistanis would buy land but it would be taken over by land grabbers, he said.

De-escalation: Ukraine...

FROM PAGE 01
provided more assistance and weapons to Ukraine. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has called on the EU to grant Ukraine membership under a special procedure immediately and signed an application for Ukraine's membership in the EU.

President Zelenskiy said: "Europeans are witnessing how our soldiers are fighting, not only for our country, but for all of Europe... for peace, for all of the countries of the European Union... Our goal is to be with all Europeans... I am sure we deserve it". We will see a choice of the world at the ongoing session of the United Nations General Assembly session.

Ambassador said Ukraine was grateful for powerful international support provided by the G-7 states, the EU and many other countries which have joined an anti-war global coalition. "We urge the international community to continue express solidarity with Ukraine and contribute in stopping the war by practical measures, which might include: - stopping Russian propaganda of war in every country of the world- the immediate imposing of massive sanctions against Russia. - Russia's isolation and exclusion from the international fora.- the introduction of a full-flagged trade embargo on Russia.- further closure of airspace for Russian aircrafts and ports for Russian vessels.- supporting Ukraine with finance, weapons, protective equipment, ammunition, fuel, and whatever else necessary to counter the biggest army in the continent". We hope that one day Pakistan will also do some steps in that direction, the ambassador concluded.

Boxing champion Usyk joins Ukrainian army



KYIV: Oleksandr Usyk, the reigning heavyweight boxing champion, has joined reserve forces in Ukraine after returning to his homeland from the UK, according to boxing authorities. The world champion fighter, who last year took the unified heavyweight crown from Anthony Joshua, has travelled back to Ukraine after writing that he was "concerned for my country and for our people". An image of the WBA, WBO and IBF champion dressed in black and holding an assault rifle, side by side with other armed men, was posted online by the Ukrainian Boxing Federation. The federation stated that the boxer had "joined the territorial defence of the capital and Kyiv region", a region also guarded by Vitali and Wladimir Klitschko, the fellow former heavyweight champions who have pledged to take up arms for their homeland. Usyk ordinarily lives in Kyiv with his wife and three children, although he is from Simferopol in Crimea, an area annexed by Russia in 2014. The boxer has previously stated that the peninsula is rightfully part of Ukraine. Vasyl Lomachenko, a fellow countryman and a former world champion boxer, has also enlisted with reserve forces returning to the war-torn nation to defend his own hometown. — Web Desk

Farhan Mehboob wins PSF International Squash Circuit-1

SPORTS REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: After a thrilling final match, Pakistan's Farhan Mehboob defeated emerging player Hamza Khan by 3-2 to win the US\$ 6,000 PSF-International Squash Circuit-1 here at Mushaf Ali Mir Squash Complex Islamabad on Tuesday.

Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) with the collaboration of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) organized four days event where a group of 16 Pakistani players participated in this circuit. Farhan Mehboob won three of the five games. During all five games, Farhan and Hamza scored 11-6, 11-6, 2-11, 1-12 and 11-6 in 27 minutes and won the title.

After defeating the adversary in the first two games, Farhan lost the third and fourth game by losing his tempo but he managed to win the last game by scoring 11-6. Air Marshal Amir Masood, Senior Vice President Pakistan Squash Federation graced the closing ceremony as Chief Guest and awarded trophies & prize money to the finalists while Secretary PSF Wing Commander Armghan Aziz and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.



Earlier in the Semifinals, World No 240 Farhan Mehboob beat World No 157 Waqas Mehboob by 11-5, 11-9 and 11-9 while World No 220 Hamza Khan beat World No 116 Farhan Zaman by 11-7, 11-6, and 11-7 respectively.

Saadia Khan and Children Ski Cup held

DNA

SARDU: Saadia Khan & Children Ski Cup culminated successfully at Naltar Ski Resort. A large number of ski enthusiasts and locals witnessed the thrilling and spectacular competitions. Prominent national skiers from all over the country contested for their place in the salalom and Giant Salalom category of races. Female skiers and young Athletes demonstrated their best skills under freezing temperatures on highly steep slopes. Pakistan



Air Force has developed the resort at par with the world class standards by providing all possible facilities of international caliber. The event is named after a great young skier Miss Saadia Khan who lost her precious life in a tragic car accident at age of 24 years. The tournament is being organized to provide opportunity to female players from all across the country to challenge their mental and physical toughness.

Briefs

NATO
increases
presence in
eastern part

ANKARA: NATO has increased its presence in the eastern flank of the alliance and it is set to deploy its response force for the first time in its history, the alliance chief announced on Tuesday. Speaking at a joint press conference with Polish President Andrzej Duda, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said: "We have increased our presence in eastern part of the alliance and today we are, for the first time in our history, deploying the NATO Response Force. Today French troops are arriving in Romania as the lead elements of this force."

This came as the Russia-Ukraine war entered its sixth day on Tuesday, with the latest reports indicating that Russian troops were heading toward the capital Kyiv. Last week on Thursday, NATO decided to activate its defense plans enabling it to deploy capabilities and forces more easily in NATO territory. Stoltenberg also stressed that the military alliance "is not going to be part of the conflict." "So, NATO is not going to send troops into Ukraine or planes into Ukrainian airspace," he added. So far, at least 136 civilians, including 13 children, have been killed in Ukraine and 400 others, including 26 children, injured, according to UN figures. Around 660,000 people have fled Ukraine to neighboring countries, the UN Refugee Agency said on Tuesday. - APP

Eleven killed
as fire rips
through Syrian
shopping mall

DAMASCUS: Anigh time fire in a shopping center in the Syrian capital Damascus killed at least 11 people, the interior ministry said Tuesday, in one of the deadliest blazes in recent years. Many of those killed were security guards or staff who were on duty overnight in the six-story building, said Ahmad Abbas, the director of civil defence. The cause of the fire was not immediately clear. "Eleven people have died as a result of the fire in the La Mirada mall, and two people have been rescued," the interior ministry said. The fire caused "extensive material damage", it added, ripping through stores that sold clothes, leather goods and cosmetics - many of which were highly flammable. "Investigations are underway to determine the cause of the blaze," the ministry statement read.

Fires in the Syrian capital are relatively frequent, some caused by electrical short-circuits, others by unsafe heating methods. One witness, Hani, 52, who asked to be identified only by his first name, said the fire broke out at around 3:00 am (0100 GMT). - APP

440 civilians
killed in Sudan
clashes: UN

NAIROBI: At least 440 civilians died in brutal fighting between rival factions in southwestern South Sudan over just a few months last year, the United Nations said on Tuesday. The report comes on the heels of a warning by the United Nations last month that the world's youngest country risked a return to war, with bouts of interethnic violence and political infighting threatening to undo even the limited progress made in implementing a stuttering peace process.

"Grave human rights violations and abuses, including hundreds of killings, were committed against civilians during fighting in Tambura County, Western Equatoria State," according to the joint report issued Tuesday by the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) and the UN Human Rights Office. It blamed members of the armed forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and rivals in the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A-IO) of Vice President Riek Machar, and "their respective affiliated militias" for the violence. Between June and September last year, at least 440 civilians were killed in fighting between rival groups in Tamburacounty, 18 injured and 74 abducted, the report found. - APP

Malaysia keen to strengthen
economic ties with Pakistan

The visiting Malaysian envoy appreciated the R&D systems adopted by the FF Steel and showed interest in forthcoming IPO of the company

DNA

PESHAWAR: Malaysia is keenly interested to further strengthen the Pak-Malaysia economic relations which will be beneficial for the peoples of both friendly and brotherly countries, this was stated by Acting Malaysian High Commissioner Mr. Deddy Faisal Ahmad Salleh during his visit to FF Steel Corporate Head Office and Factory at Hayatabad Industrial Estate, Peshawar. The Malaysian Envoy was warmly received by FF

Steel's Chairman Mr. Nauman Wazir Khattak and CEO Mr. Zarak K. Khattak upon arrival. The visiting Malaysian envoy appreciated the R&D systems adopted by the FF Steel and showed interest in forthcoming IPO of the company. He mentioned that industrial development initiatives always enhance the economic growth and bring prosperity to the people. Mr. Deddy Faisal visited the direct rolling plant of Peshawar and witnessed the manufacturing process of premium quality grade 60 steel rebars.



Earlier Chairman Mr. Nauman Wazir Khattak in his opening remarks welcome the visiting Malaysian High Commissioner & his team and hope that this visit will be a door opening for new chapter in Pak-Malaysia Economic Relations and trade, since both countries are facilitating FTA which will be facilitate the trade & industry related activities. Mr. Zarak Khattak, CEO mentioned that we recently launched Garde 80 Steel Bars which will bring revolution in the construction industry and shortly we will be going for IPO which

will be by any commercial organization after two decades from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province to bring investments for growth and development in the province and the country. Besides, FF Steel is also exporting steel to Afghanistan and stepped into the world of Copper business by receiving its first ever consignment of non-ferrous unit. Mr. Fayyaz Ahmad Jaral Group Chief Financial Officer while presenting corporate profile of the FF Steel mentioned that we are serving Steel sector since more than 3 decades proudly.

Ukraine is 'victim'
of US policy:
Iran's Khamenei

TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader on Tuesday said US policies are to blame for Russia's invasion of Ukraine, calling for an end to the war that broke out last week. "The root cause of the Ukraine crisis is the US and the West's policies," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a televised speech marking a Muslim religious anniversary. "The United States regime is a crisis-creating and crisis-living one. It feeds on crisis. In my opinion, today Ukraine is also the victim of such policy. Today, the Ukraine situation is related to this US policy. The US has dragged Ukraine to this point," he added. He accused Washington of meddling in the "internal affairs of the country, setting up demonstrations against the governments, creating velvet revolutions, creating colour coup d'etats". Russian President Vladimir Putin launched an invasion of Ukraine last Thursday. Ukraine says more than 350 civilians have been killed since, and that Moscow is amassing more troops for a possible assault on the capital city Kyiv. Iran's supreme leader said Tehran wants the "war to end", and called for civilians' lives and infrastructure to be spared during the conflict. "We are against war and destruction, anywhere in the world," Khamenei said, adding that "we are against killing people, the destruction of people's infrastructure". The invasion has pushed tensions between Russia and the West to their highest point in decades.

The US, European allies and NATO members have imposed severe sanctions on Moscow and are supplying Ukraine with weapons and defence equipment. Khamenei said that lessons should be drawn from the war, mainly that "Western powers' support of puppet regimes and governments is a mirage, it is not real". Relations between the US and Iran have been severed since April 1980, a year after the fall of the pro-Western shah. This was followed by the occupation of the American embassy in Tehran, and the seizing of hostages in a crisis that lasted for more than a year. The two arch-rivals are currently engaged in indirect negotiations in Vienna to restore a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, from which Washington unilaterally withdrew in 2018. - Agencies



BEIJING: Pakistan ambassador to china Moinul Haq calls on Amb Zhang Ming of China and congratulated on his appointment as the new SCO Secretary General and also assured him of our full support & cooperation for a successful & productive term in the next three years. - DNA

Pak, UAE to boost
cooperation in trade,
religious tourism

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and United Arab Emirates on Tuesday expressed the will to strengthen bilateral cooperation in various fields including trade, investment and religious tourism between both the countries.

According to press statement issued by the finance ministry, Ambassador of United Arab Emirates to Pakistan, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salem Al-Zaabi had a call on meeting with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Shaukat Tarin during which both the dignitaries discussed the

various dimensions of bilateral relations. They shared their contentment over the prevailing stronger relations between the two countries, the statement added. The Finance Minister highlighted the initiatives undertaken by the government for ensuring economic progress and development in the country.

He thanked the ambassador for goodwill and cooperation and hoped to enhance it further in the future. On the occasion, the ambassador said UAE greatly values its bilateral relations with Pakistan. - APP

Oil market
hits 2014
peak on
Ukraine crisis

LONDON: World oil prices jumped Tuesday with WTI crude hitting a fresh 2014 peak, as traders fretted over fallout from key producer Russia's invasion of Ukraine. New York's West Texas Intermediate (WTI) soared as high as \$101.53 per barrel in early afternoon deals. Brent leapt to \$104.60, approaching its 2014 peak of \$105.79 that was struck last Thursday as Russia launched its assault on Ukraine.

"Traders and investors are increasingly worried about the impact of the Ukraine crisis on Russian oil and gas supplies," Interactive Investor analyst Victoria Schuler told AFP. "Brent crude looks as though it could break above last week's high in the coming sessions unless either this is a de-escalation of tensions or there is a global coordinated effort to release reserve supplies to the market." The oil market is meanwhile on tenterhooks on the eve of a crucial output meeting of OPEC and non-member producers including Russia. - APP

Russian artillery
hits Kharkiv's
Freedom Square

KYIV: Russian troops are increasing the use of artillery in the residential areas of Kharkiv, where a Russian reconnaissance group was defeated days earlier. Until Monday, Russian forces used heavy weapons to a limited extent in populated areas but increased their use of artillery north of Kyiv and in the vicinity of Kharkiv and Chernihiv. The use of heavy artillery in densely populated urban areas greatly increases the risk of civilian casualties. Ukrainian authorities in Kharkiv said they expect even more artillery shelling and bombing with the involvement of Russian aircraft. On Tuesday morning, the Russian military fired rockets at the building of the Kharkiv Regional State Administration. Freedom Square in Kharkiv, one of the largest squares in Europe, also came under fire. The city administration building is located there. Video posted on social media showed that the volunteer tent in front of the administration was damaged. "According to preliminary information, there is a hit in the Kharkiv Regional State Administration building, the Opera House, the Philharmonic and part of the residential area," the SESU said in a statement. "The State Emergency Service cannot be involved in the work due to shelling."

At least 10 people were killed and 35 wounded in rockets strikes by Russian forces on the centre of Kharkiv, Interior Ministry adviser Anton Herashchenko said in a post on social media. "The rubble is being cleared and there will be even more victims and wounded," he said. All Kharkiv residents are asked not to leave shelters. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called the attack an act of "undisguised terror." "Nobody will forgive. Nobody will forget," he asserted. Oleg Sinigubov, head of the Kharkiv Regional State Administration, reported that at night there was chaotic shelling in the region in all directions - Lipetsk, Belgorod, Chuguev and others. Sinigubov said Russia launched GRAD and cruise missiles on Kharkiv and was guilty of war crimes. - APP

Putin underestimated Ukrainians, unity of West

DNA

LONDON: Russian President Vladimir Putin underestimated Ukrainians' "passionate desire" to defend their country and the unity of the Western allies, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Tuesday.

Speaking alongside Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki in Warsaw, where he is on a visit, Johnson told a press conference that the "tragedy" playing out in Ukraine is "worse" than many predicted. "There is an unfolding disaster in our European continent," he said, speaking just a few hundred kilometers (miles) from the border with war-torn Ukraine. Johnson said Putin has "fatally underestimated two things."

"The first is the passionate desire of the Ukrainian people to defend and protect their own country, their belief in their sovereign right to defend themselves, and I

pay tribute by the way to the leadership and courage that is being shown by (President) Volodymyr Zelenskyy," he said. "I think that Vladimir Putin has also underestimated the unity and the resolve of the West and of the rest of the world. We will keep up the economic pressure," he added, calling it "probably one of the most powerful packages of sanctions advanced against any country in the last few decades."

"I'm more convinced than ever, as this hideous conflict progresses, that Putin will fail and I believe that Putin must fail, and that we will succeed in preserving and protecting a sovereign and democratic Ukraine. That is our joint objective," said the British premier. Johnson and his Polish counterpart "discussed the talks between Ukraine and Russia and the long-term disinformation that had misled Russian troops."

More than 660,000
people have fled Ukraine

GENEVA: More than 660,000 refugees have fled Ukraine to neighboring countries in the past six days, according to the latest government data compiled by the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR said Tuesday. "At this rate, the situation looks set to become Europe's largest refugee crisis this century, and UNHCR is mobilizing resources to respond as quickly and effectively as possible," said UNHCR spokesperson Shabia Mantoo at a news conference in Geneva. "All neighboring countries have to date commendably kept their borders open for refugees fleeing Ukraine. Most have fled to Poland, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, while others have moved towards various other European countries," she added. Mantoo said the UN is also aware that a sizeable number of people has moved to Russia. - Agencies

They "welcomed EU and Germany's support for defence and humanitarian efforts," a statement from Downing Street said. Later, in a separate speech, Johnson said the UK would take in 200,000 people and "maybe more" as the humanitarian crisis is unfolding in the Ukraine-Russia

war and people have been fleeing to neighboring countries. Responding to a question, Johnson said Putin is already using "barbaric and indiscriminate tactics" in Ukraine, adding that he has seen reports of cluster bombs and thermobaric bombs, but they will "need to be verified."

New Zealand
signs free
trade deal
with Britain

WELLINGTON: New Zealand and Britain signed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on Tuesday that unlocks unprecedented access to the British market and accelerates New Zealand's COVID-19 recovery, said New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. "Virtually all our current trade will be duty-free from entry into force, including duty-free quotas for key products like meat, butter and cheese, helping to accelerate our economic recovery," Ardern said in a statement.

The deal will boost New Zealand's GDP by up to 1 billion NZ dollars (680 million U.S. dollars), supporting business and jobs, Ardern said. This is New Zealand's first bilateral trade agreement to include a specific article on climate change and includes provisions towards eliminating environmentally harmful subsidies, such as harmful fossil fuel subsidies, and prohibiting fisheries subsidies which lead to overfishing, she said. The FTA was signed in London by New Zealand Minister for Trade and Export Growth Damien O'Connor and Britain's Secretary of State for International Trade Anne-Marie Trevelyan. - APP

Pak doctor
became
a senior
member of
IEEE, USA

MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Dr Saddam Aziz, PhD in Engineering, a member of Pakistan Engineering Council Pakistan and Engineers Australia has become Senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, USA on 24 February, 2022. He is currently working as a Talent Researcher (Post-Doctoral Fellow) at the Centre for Advances in Reliability and Safety, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong. In addition, he engaged in delivering a series of lectures on Renewable Energy and Power. The recent delivered lecture was on "Photovoltaic Power Generation Embedded DC-AC Hybrid Grid Optimal Operation" on 1st Feb 2022 at Vellore Institute of Technology, Chennai, India. His upcoming lecture entitled "Anomaly Detection for MTDC-AC Grids Under indeterminate Operation Condition" would be held on 7 March 2022 at Comsats University, Wah Campus, Islamabad.

India reports
6,915 new
Covid cases

NEW DELHI: India's COVID-19 tally rose to 42,931,045 on Tuesday with 6,915 new cases registered during the past 24 hours across the country, showed the health ministry's latest data. Besides, 180 more deaths due to the pandemic since Monday morning took the total death toll to 514,023.

There are currently 92,472 active COVID-19 cases registered in the country, marking a fall of 10,129 in the number during the past 24 hours. This was the 36th consecutive day when the number of active cases declined in the country. A total of 42,324,550 COVID-19 patients have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals so far in the South Asian country, including 16,864 new recoveries recorded during the past 24 hours. - APP

European
stocks sink
on Ukraine

LONDON: European stock markets sank Tuesday in early deals with investors unnerved by Russia's on-going attack on Ukraine, dealers said. In early deals, Frankfurt's DAX index lost 2.1 percent to 14,163.42 points and the Paris CAC 40 slid almost 1.8 percent to 6,542.03. London's FTSE 100 dropped 0.4 percent to 7,430.72, lapsing into negative territory as the morning progressed. "European stocks are once again heading lower with Russia Ukraine headlines continuing to hurt sentiment," City Index analyst Fiona Ciccotta told AFP. "Losses on the FTSE are modest, thanks to a strong performance from resource stocks, as commodity prices rise. - APP

Briefs

Ukraine condemns killing of Indian student

DNA

KYIV: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine strongly condemns the barbaric missile attacks and indiscriminate shelling by the Russian Federation of residential areas and civilian infrastructure across Ukrainian cities. We express our sincere condolences to the families who lost their loved ones because of the devastating war President Putin has unleashed against the Ukrainian people. Ukraine deeply regrets that a student from India has become a victim of the shelling by the Russian armed forces in Kharkiv. The Ministry offers its deepest sympathies to the Government of India and the relatives of the deceased. We stand ready to provide the Indian Embassy with the required assistance in order to repatriate the body of an Indian citizen. The Chinese citizen was also injured in another Ukrainian city because of Russia's deadly attacks. The Ukrainian and foreign citizens have become hostages of the Russian armed aggression against Ukraine. We call on all foreign governments to demand from President Putin that he immediately stops his war in Ukraine. This will allow us to stabilize the situation and focus more on the safety and security of the population, including foreign students. The Ministry wishes to reiterate that there is no discrimination based on the race or nationality, including when it comes to the crossing of the state border by foreign citizens. Given the extreme security conditions, the first come first served approach applies to all nationalities, with certain humanitarian exceptions allowed for women and children.

FS receives Australia's special envoy on Afghanistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood on Tuesday received Australia's Special Representative on Afghanistan Daniel Sloper. Sharing Pakistan's perspective, the foreign secretary reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to a peaceful, stable and connected Afghanistan, and highlighted efforts in support of the goal. He also stressed that the international community's engagement and assistance would be critical in helping the Afghan people address the urgent humanitarian and economic crises, a Ministry of Foreign Affairs press release said. The foreign secretary further emphasized the importance of a common regional approach to advance shared objectives, and highlighted Pakistan's initiatives and contributions in that context. Special Representative Sloper shared Australia's views on various aspects of the situation in Afghanistan. He also appreciated Pakistan's role in facilitating the international evacuation efforts.

UN seeks \$1.7 bn for urgent Ukraine aid

GENEVA: The United Nations launched an emergency appeal Tuesday for \$1.7 billion to provide urgent humanitarian aid to people caught up in the Russian invasion of Ukraine and refugees fleeing the fighting. The UN estimates that 12 million people inside Ukraine will need relief and protection, while it projected that more than four million Ukrainian refugees may need help in neighbouring countries in the coming months. "This is the darkest hour for the people of Ukraine," UN humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said in a statement. "We need to ramp up our response now to protect the lives and dignity of ordinary Ukrainians. We must respond with compassion and solidarity." The UN's flash appeal wants \$1.1 billion to assist six million people inside Ukraine for an initial three months. - Agencies

'President Mirziyoyev visit to further cement ties'

The book launch was attended by approximately 100 participants from Pakistan and Uzbekistan and was moderated by Dr. Fauzia Hadi Ali

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Furqat A. Sidiqov, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan has stated that this Book launch is symbolic and very timely as President of Uzbekistan, His Excellency Shavkat Mirziyoyev is visiting Pakistan. He has made massive democratic and social reforms which are similar to what Pakistan is doing right now. The first initiative by Uzbekistan was that we have an open foreign policy and friendly policy. We have solved all problems with Central Asia and have no problems and issues now. We have opened up all the borders. Tourism in Central Asian countries has increased. In this book the next stage of reforms in Uzbekistan are mentioned. Second part is about regional connectivity which is very significant. He expressed these views on the occasion of Book Launch of "SHAVKAT MIRZIYOYEV: NEW UZBEKISTAN STRATEGY" jointly organized by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting of Islamic Republic of Pakistan Embassy of Republic of Uzbekistan to Islamic



Republic of Pakistan in collaboration with Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS), Islamabad at Pakistan China Friendship Center, Islamabad. Prof. Bakhrom Abdukhalimov - Vice-President of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor explained the different parts of the books. He stated that Uzbekistan is planning to

develop its economy using innovation and technology. First thing mentioned in this book is climate which is very important for Central Asia as the climate is rapidly changing and Uzbekistan must give priority to this issue including water shortage. This book also highlights the significance of participation of Uzbekistan in International relations. Uzbekistan is an open country

and is trying to play an important role in Central Asia. Prof. Dr. Saleem Mazhar, Pro Vice Chancellor, University of the Punjab, Lahore stated that this book is the compilation of articles about the President of Uzbekistan, His Excellency Shavkat Mirziyoyev. This book includes the speeches/addresses by the President at different forums. The important point mentioned in this book is that countries evolve their policies with the passage of time for betterment. This book addresses the strategies for New Uzbekistan that will be adopted by the President. Syed Mubashir Tauqir, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of Pakistan stated that Pakistan and Uzbekistan enjoy cordial relationship. Based on common heritage and religion we look forward to further strengthening our relations through joint collaboration in various sectors including art, film and documentaries. The book launch was attended by approximately 100 participants from Pakistan and Uzbekistan and was moderated by Dr. Fauzia Hadi Ali, Director, Regional Integration Center (RIC), University of the Punjab, Lahore.

Azeri envoy meets Parvez Elahi

DNA

LAHORE: During a meeting with Azerbaijani Ambassador Khazar Farhadov, Punjab Assembly Speaker Ch Parvez Elahi Tuesday said that the objective of his politics was to serve the people. Parvez Elahi also led the Azerbaijani ambassador to different parts of the new Punjab Assembly building the grandeur of which the latter appreciated. On the occasion, Parvez Elahi maintained that there had always been an effort by him and his party to solve basic problems of the common man. Also, Punjab Assembly Speaker Ch Parvez Elahi met the office-bearers of Broadcast Association, Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), and All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS). Nai Baat Media Group chairman Prof Dr Ch Abdur Rehman, Dunya Media Group chairman Mian Amir Mehmood, CPNE deputy secretary general Yusuf Nizami, and APNS member Umar Shami were present in the meeting. (Express Group editor Ayaz Khan, Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors Punjab vice president Irshad Arif, and APNS president Sarmad Ali were also present.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Bin Saeed Al-Malki calling on Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed. DNA

IHC declares marriage under the age 18 illegal

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) has given an important verdict about the wedding age that any marriage under the age of 18 is an illegal contract. IHC Justice Babar Sattar has issued a written decision and declared that a girl under the age of 18 cannot get married independently. The court decision said that even the heirs cannot force any person under the age of 18 to enter into a physical relationship agreement. The court said the age of puberty is biologically 18 years and physical

changes before the age of 18 years are not legal puberty. Justice Babar Sattar also directed in the verdict that the issue of non-clarification in the Muslim Family Laws Ordinance be placed before the Cabinet Division and the Parliament. In the case of underage girl Sawera Falak Sher's marriage, the court ordered Golra Police Station SHO to return her to her mother from Dar ul Amman (Shelter House). A decision was taken on the petition of Mumtaz Bibi filed for the recovery of her daughter last year. Sawera had given a statement in the Court to marry voluntarily.

Russia warns of strikes against facilities in Kyiv

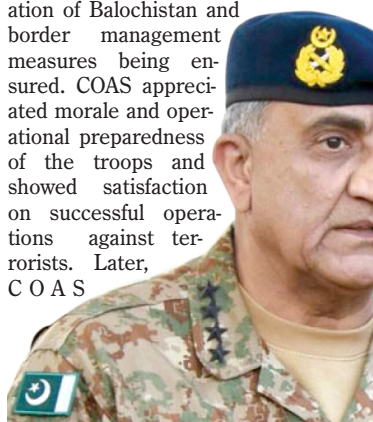
WEB DESK

MOSCOW: The Russian military said Tuesday it will carry out strikes against the facilities in Kyiv, warning civilians living near the areas to leave. The Russians will target the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) and the 72nd Main Center for Information and Psychological Operations (PSO) in Kyiv, the Russian defense ministry said in a statement Tuesday via Russian state news agency TASS. "In order to suppress information attacks against Russia, the technological facilities of the SBU and the 72nd main PSO center in Kyiv will be hit with high-precision weapons," the

statement said, according to TASS. "We call on Ukrainian citizens attracted by Ukrainian nationalists to carry out provocations against Russia, as well as residents of Kyiv living near relay nodes leave their homes." Speaking about the "relay nodes," CNN's Clarissa Ward said, "we understand that to mean communications towers. So large antennas, things of that nature." "This is not a surprise in a sense that people here have been bracing themselves for an uptick in the Russian onslaught. Up until now, most attacks have really been targeting the outskirts of the city. But now it appears that things will move to the center of the capital as so many had feared," Ward said.

COAS encourages Balouch youth

RAWALPINDI: General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), visited Turbat on Tuesday. COAS was given detailed briefing on security situation of Balochistan and border management measures being ensured. COAS appreciated morale and operational preparedness of the troops and showed satisfaction on successful operations against terrorists. Later, C O A S



visited University of Turbat and had a detailed interactive session with a large number of representatives from all segments of society from District Kech including local leaders/notables, tribal elders, students, lawyers and women. COAS said that Balochistan youth is very talented and must capitalize on the available opportunities being created for their education and skill development. COAS also encouraged the youth to join local LEAs and contribute towards the security and stability of the area. Peace and prosperity of Balochistan is the top priority and Pakistan Army will do all to provide peaceful environment for population centric socio - economic projects in Balochistan, COAS reiterated. - DNA

Arabs, Afghans decry 'racist' double standard in Ukraine commentary

AGENCIES

BAGHDAD: The world has been stunned by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but shock quickly gave way to indignation in other strife-torn parts of the world over media commentary many saw as racist against them. "This isn't a place - with all due respect, you know - like Iraq or Afghanistan that has seen conflict raging for decades," said Charlie D'Agata of US network CBS News. "This is a relatively civilised, relatively European - I have to choose those words carefully too - city where you wouldn't expect

that or hope it is going to happen." A day later, after much online furore, D'Agata apologised for his "poor choice of words". This was just one of many remarks on reputable media outlets drawing a line between the conflict unfolding in Ukraine and those in other parts of the world. Many Arabs were quick to point out the double standard, noting that while the toll of war may be similar in the respective conflicts, the media treatment is not. Some also drew a comparison between Europe's welcoming of Ukrainian refugees and the influx of Syrians, Iraqis and Afghans, which was declared a "migrant crisis".

Political scientist Ziad Majed said that, while there was "magnificent solidarity" from the world over the Ukraine conflict, it also revealed a "shocking distinction". The discrepancies in media treatment revealed the "dehumanisation of refugees from the Middle East", said Majed, a professor at the American University of Paris. "We can understand that the Ukrainians are Europeans, and that the majority of war in Europe can revive a lot of emotions," he said. But he stressed that "when we hear some commentators speaking about 'people like us', this suggests that those coming from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan or Africa are not (like them)".

30 YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE #JUSTICEFOR KHOJALY GENOCIDE HAPPENED

26 FEBRUARY 1992

JUSTICE FOR KHOJALY

Armenian armed forces and para-military forces moved into Khojaly - the historic and culture seat of Azerbaijan - on February 26, 1992, razing it to the ground and carrying out occupation of Azerbaijan's territory.

- 613 Azerbaijani civilians were killed, including 106 women, 63 children and 70 elderly people
- 487 civilians were wounded
- 1275 civilians were taken hostage and tortured
- 130 children were orphaned
- 150 civilians remain missing

The Government and people of Azerbaijan demand that the war criminals and perpetrators responsible for the brutal genocide be brought to justice.

TO PLEDGE YOUR SUPPORT, LOG ON TO [HTTPS://JUSTICE FOR KHOJALY.ORG](https://justiceforkhojaly.org)

WE DEMAND JUSTICE FOR KHOJALY