

Samana

Thursday, March 03, 2022

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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Azerbaijan vows to further contribute to international peace

Detailed News On Page-07

Bilawal vows to fulfil Benazir's promises

Detailed News On Page-08



Babar Azam retains top spot in T20 ranking

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Coalition parties are with PT

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Wednesday has clarified

that coalition parties are supporting Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government. In a statement, the foreign minister told that Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leaders Chaudhry Perveiz Elahi and Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain have pledged to stand with Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan. All the conspiracies of opposition parties have failed, he added. FM Qureshi further criticized PPP Chairman Bilawal and said that his political training needs more time.

Fuel price reduction upsets opp.

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hus-

Wednesday said the opposition and some of its like-minded in media were extremely disturbed over the relief given to the masses in the fuel and electricity prices despite the global inflation. "It is strange that the opposition and its sympathizers in the media are furious over the reduction of petrol and electricity prices," he said in a tweet. The minister said it was a welcoming sign that the inflation in Pakistan was witnessing a significant decline contrary to the prevailing trends in the international market. - APP

Pak embassy in Algeria's social media hacked



Office Wednesday said the somedia accounts of Pakistan's

embassy in Algeria had been hacked and the posts did not belong to the mission. "The Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram accounts of the Embassy of Pakistan in Algeria have been hacked," the FO spokesperson said on twitter. The tweet mentioned that all messages being posted through these accounts were not from Pakistan Embassy in Algeria. - APP

Inside..

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Lord Mayor of

Birmingham for

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police station in G-7

'Wolfowitz Doctrine'

and Ukraine

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President Shavkat arrives today

Pak-Uzbek PTA to boost mutual trade

It will be historic step; as per the PTA many Pakistani products will have duty free access to the Uzbekistan markets and vice versa



Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Uzbekistan are set to sign historic Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) during the visit of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev who will arrive today (Thursday) on a two-day visit. It will be his first-ever visit to Pakistan after taking charge as the President of Uzbekistan.

Both sides will ink PTA in order to further promote and increase trade activity between the two countries. The development indeed a major development with regard

to bilateral relations given the fact that Uzbekistan has signed PTA with only some countries and Pakistan will be among those countries. As per the PTA many Pakistani products will have duty free access to the Uzbekistan markets and vice versa.

Both sides are also expected to solidify coop-

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

eration in the aviation field as well. Uzbek air used to fly from Lahore to Tashkent directly however due to the pandemic the flight was halted. Now both sides have agreed to resumes these flights. Frequency may also be increased depending upon the load. Prime Minister Imran Khan in July 2021 visited Uzbekistan and singed a number of MoU. It was agreed during that meeting that the Uzbek President will visit Pakistan. Both countries are expected to give final touches to the railway line from Termez to Kabul and then Peshawar. Once completed, this project ostensibly would usher in a new era of progress in the region. Pakistan and

Continued on Page 06

Pakistan wants peaceful, close ties with neighbours

Gen Qamar Bajwa expressed these views in a meeting with Iranian air chief

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa said on Wednesday that Pakistan wanted peaceful and close ties with its neighbours, the military said. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the COAS expressed these

PM, mily brass discuss security

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan and top military brass on Wednesday sat together to mull over strategy in the wake of regional

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ISLAMABAD: US Embassy building illuminated with colors of Ukraine flag to show solidarity with Ukraine govt and people of Ukraine. - DNA

Muhammad Sarwar 1,000,000/ ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan distributing cheques among the beneficiaries of Kamyab Pakistan Interest Free Loans at Faisal Mosque. - APP

PM starts Rs 407bn loans programme

Loans would be interest-free; would contribute towards making low-income groups self-reliant

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday launched the country's mega interest-free loan programme worth Rs 407 billion, saying the step would contribute towards making low-income groups financially self-reliant. He was addressing a large number of people belonging to low-income group here at the Faisal Mosque, gathered for the launch of interest-free loans under Kamyab Pakistan Programme.

Under Kamyab Pakistan Programme - a component of the prime minister's vision for poverty alleviation, the loans will be disbursed among the youth, women, farmers and for the construction of low-income houses during the next two years. The prime minister said 4.5 million families would benefit from the interest-free loans to start small performance

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD, Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday said the robust revenue growth of 28.5 percent by the Federal Bureau of Revenue (FBR) had enabled the government to subsidize petrol and electricity. "Because of this performance of FBR we are able to subsidize petrol, diesel and electricity and give relief to our people," he said in a tweet. The prime minister mentioned the revenue collection of February that surpassed the target of Rs441 billion. FBR has successfully knocked down February revenue target of Rs441 billion.

PM lauds FBR businesses, construction of homes, farming and learn technical education farming and learn technical education. PM Khan said so far Rs 2.5 billion had been disbursed among the low-income groups in various welfare schemes and mentioned that the banks had also given loans of Rs 55 billion after the government encouraged them to facilitate common man. He said Pakistan country in line with the golden principles of Islam's first State of Medina. He, however, regretted that deviation

from this ideology led the country facing several challenges regarding the well-being of common man. The prime minister said following the glowing teachings of Prophet Muham-

mad (Peace be upon him) regarding caring for the rights of people was the righteous pathway for a nation to adopt. He said the national health

Continued on Page 06

US embassy projects colors of Ukraine flag

The European missions in Islamabad sent a signed letter to the Government asking it to condemn Russian aggression

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad projects the colors of the Ukrainian flag to demonstrate solidarity with the Ukrainian people and government. The US embassy building was illuminated with the Ukraine flag. It may be mentioned here that a few days ago the European and American

Continued on Page 06

3 cops martyred, 25 injured in Quetta blast

DNA

QUETTA: Three policemen were martyred while 25 people were injured in a blast near a police van at Quetta's Fatima Jinnah Road, officials said on Wednesday. Quetta Civil Hospital Spokesperson Dr Waseem Baig confirmed the casualties, adding that the injured were being transported to the hospital for medical treatment.

TV footage showed rescue workers dousing tall flames at the site of the blast. The nature of the blast has not vet been ascertained.

Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo, in a statement, strongly condemned the incident. He also directed hospitals to impose an emergency and for all doctors and

paramedical staff to ensure their presence. "Cowardly terrorists targeted innocent citizens in a terrorist attack," he said. "Efforts are being made to disrupt peace in Quetta and the province under a planned and well-thought-out conspiracy."

The chief minister said terrorists and their sponsors were receiving "external support", directing the IG to submit a detailed report of the incident.

"All resources should be utilised to bring those responsible for the incident to justice," the chief minister said in his directives, also telling officials to make security arrangements in the city more effective. Meanwhile, Karachi Administrator Murtaza Wahab prayed for those killed and injured in the incident. "Terrible news coming from Quetta," he said on Twitter.

Russia to continue talks amid intense fighting

Russian forces landed in Ukraine's second-biggest city and triggered clashes in the streets of Kharkiv

CENTRELINE REPORT

MOSCOW: The Kremlin said on Wednesday that a Russian delegation was ready to continue peace talks with Ukraine as Moscow's invasion of the pro-Western country entered its seventh day. "Our delegation will be ready to continue talks," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, adding that Moscow's delegation expected the talks to resume on Wednesday evening.

Pakistan, Australia to He said that President Vladimir Pulock horns for Benaudtin's aide Vladimir Medinsky remained Qadir Trophy Russia's top negotiator on Ukraine but – Page 06 did not say where the next round of Azerbaijan to talks would take place. A first round of further contribute to talks between Russian and Ukrainian int'l peace delegations took place on the Ukrain- Page 07 ian-Belarusian border, but brought no results. Meanwhile, Russian forces Ukraine war landed in Ukraine's second-biggest hearings at UN court

city and triggered immediate clashes next week - Page 08 Continued on Page 06

Russia will not let Ukraine obtain nuclear weapons

News Desk

MOSCOW: Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said Moscow will not allow Ukraine to obtain nuclear weapons, according

to a report by the country's TASS news agency. Lavrov's reported remarks came a day after he alleged at a Geneva disarmament meeting that Kyiv has been seeking to acquire nuclear weapons. "Ukraine still has Soviet technologies and the means of delivery of such weapons," he told the Conference on Disarmament in a pre-recorded address. "We cannot fail to respond to this real danger." Lavrov delivered his speech to a thin crowd after diplomats from many countries staged a

walk-out to protest against Russia's invasion. Moscow has moved to put its own nuclear forces on high alert in recent days. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that if a third World War were to take place, it would involve nuclear weapons and be destructive, the RIA news agency reported. Lavrov has said that Russia, which launched what it calls a special military operation against Ukraine last week, would face a "real danger" if Kyiv acquired nuclear weapons.

UNGA adopts resolution to deplore Russian invasion

DNA

WASHINGTON: The United Nations General Assembly adopted on Wednesday a resolution rebuking the Russian invasion of Ukraine and calling Moscow to immediately withdraw all forces from Ukraine, a move that aimed to politically isolate Russia. The resolution, which won support from 141 of the 193-member body, came at the end of a rare emergency session of General Assembly called by the Security Council and as Russian forces pounded Ukraine's cities with air strikes and bombardments, forcing hundreds of thousands of people to flee. Meanwhile, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) says 874,026 people have left Ukraine since Russia launched its invasion last Thursday. Poland has received more than half that total, it says.

The UNHCR has appealed for nearly \$2bn (£1.5bn) for its relief operation – but says its original prediction that up to four million Ukrainians could end up fleeing the country might be an underestimate. In Biden's first State of the Union address, he hailed the resolve of the Western alliance and voiced solidarity with Ukraine as lawmakers in the US Congress gave a standing ovation to the Ukrainian people. Since Russian troops rolled into Ukraine last week to achieve Putin's mission of overthrowing the pro-Western government of President Volodymyr Zelensky, hundreds of civilians have been reported killed.

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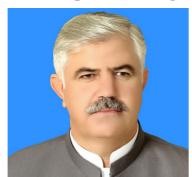
CM KP announces treatment of more diseases under SCPS

Mahmood Khan said this scheme was started on limited scales during the last tenure of PTI provincial government and in 2018

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: In order to make Sehat Card Plus Scheme a comprehensive program of free treatment, the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has announced to include treatment of more diseases in the scheme including free coverage of OPD services and said that treatment of critical diseases like cancer and kidney transplant had already been covered whereas now free liver transplant has been included in the scheme and in the near future, treatment of other expensive diseases would also be included in the scheme. Terming the Sehat Card Plus as a great gift and an imitative step of the provincial government, the chief minister said that this flagship project had been recognized and appreciated at national and international level as well adding that now the other provinces were also launching health cards in imitation of the provincial government.

This he said while addressing a ceremony held here on Wednesday to mark the first anniversary of Sehat Card Plus Scheme of the provincial government. Provincial Cabinet Members Taimoor Salim Jhagra, Kamran Khan Bangash, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif, Members of Provincial Assembly Fakhar Jehan, Sultan Khan and other relevant officials attended the ceremony. The chief minister has termed the Sehat Card Plus as an important step towards accomplishment



of Prime Minister's vision regarding establishment of a welfare state and said that Sehat Card Plus was not only a program of free treatments but it has been proved to be a complete package of social protection which was also helping to reduce poverty and to raise the standard of the life of common man.

Mahmood Khan said this scheme was started on limited scales during the last tenure of PTI provincial government and in 2018, when incumbent government came into power, he decided to extend this facility to the cent percent population of the province which was undoubtedly a difficult task but with the cooperation of Prime Minister Imran Khan, it has been extended successfully to the cent percent population of the province. Touching upon the relief announced by the Prime Minister for general public, Mahmood Khan said that despite the

difficult financial situation, Prime Minister has given a great and unprecedented relief to the people adding that the provincial government would also extend its all-out support to this effect. On this occasion, the chief minister formally launched inclusion of liver transplant in Sehat Card Plus Scheme and provision of Sehat Cards to all the households of the province. The purpose behind the launching of Sehat Cards was to reassure the people that in case of any ailment, they would have the facility to get free treatment up to Rs. 1.0 million per household per annum. On this occasion, the participants were informed that during the last one year, 6.5 lac people received free treatment facilities under the scheme with cumulative cost of Rs. 11.5 Billion. It was also informed that so far, a total of 9 lac and 53 thousand people have received the free treatment facilities since the launching of Sehat Card Scheme. Similarly, on monthly basis, about 65 lac people are getting free treatment facilities under the program. According to a survey, 97 percent people are satisfied with the treatment facilities provided under the program. It was further told that over 5 thousand cardiac patients have been treated so far under the scheme with a total cost of Rs. 5bn. Similarly, 64 kidney transplants and over one lac kidney dialyses have also been carried out whereas now the free facility of liver transplant would also be available for liver patients costing Rs. 5mn each.

LALAMUSA: A vendor prepares PPP flag for the upcoming long march, at the office of the former information minister Qamar Zaman Kaira, who is personally looking after the long march arrangements. PPP Chairman Bilawal Zardari is expected to reach Lalamusa on March 7.-DNA

Chairman **PCMEA** hails PM's vision

KHALID MAHMOOD WAZIRABAD: In the first Engineering Healthcare Expo Exhibition Lahore 2022, 8 big brands of City of Cutlery Wazirabad set up their magnificent stalls. On this occasion, the Chairman of Pakistan Cutlery Manufacturers and Exporters Association Wazirabad Muhammad Khalid Mughal visited the exhibition and saw stalls of other products including cutlery. Expressing satisfaction over the vision of the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Federal Adviser on Trade, Razzaq Dawood, Federal Secretary Commerce, Trade Development Authority Government of Pakistan and concerned officials, he termed the exhibition as a welcome step towards industrial development. On this occasion, hundreds of business men from all over the world, including African countries, visited the Cutlery Pavilion. He highly appreciated the product

quality of Made in Pakistan

Wazirabad and expressed

special interest and de-

sire in purchasing them.

Representatives of cutlery

companies present at the

exhibition briefed the for-

eign delegations about the

culture and industries of

Wazirabad city. On the occasion MR.Shakeel Azam, Mohammad Tahir Mughal, Mirza Amanullah, Rahat Nazar, Amir Naseer, Sajjad Farooq, Abu Bakar Mughal, Hassam Shakeel Bhatta, Mehr Mohammad Usman, Hafiz Mohammad Saleem and Faisal Zaman, Cutlery Development Officer of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan Briefing the delegations, he said that local industrialists of Wazirabad have started exporting cutlery through e-commerce to become the biggest suppliers of daggers, knives and swords on Amazon. The world is fast becoming an opportunity to learn. This will boost the cutlery industry. Talking to media on the occasion, Mohammad Khalid Mughal said that the government's announcement to take important steps in trade policy 2022 to increase exports of cutlery products is welcome.

OGRA holds public hearing at FCCI

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: OGRA's Public Hearing was held at Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Fasialabad, which was attended by more than 150 people.

OGRA Public hearing was attended by more then 150 people in Fasialabad, Senior Management of SNGPL Faisalabad, domestic, commercial, industrial as well as large number of business community, executive members of FCCI and its office bearers were also present at the hearing.

The president of Faisal abad Chamber of Comand Industry merce (FCCI) Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh welcomed the OGRA officers and SNG-

PL team. The public hearing was facilitated by FCCI. At the hearing consumers raised the issues of Cogeneration and industrial connections, dedicated gas line connections, excessive billing, meter connections, meter tempering, new gas connections and projects, usage of natural gas for industry and not for households, meter replacement policy, SME sector challeng-

es, uplifting of ban on new connections, additional security issues, need of more advance metering systems, issues pertaining to contractual load. OGRA team comprised of Mr. Imran Ghaznavi, Senior Executive Director (Corporate & Media Affairs), Mr. Shahzad Iqbal, Senior Executive Director (Consumers Affairs De-

partment), Ms. Misbah Yagub, Senior Executive Director (Gas), Dr. Abdul Basit Qureshi (Registrar) and relevant DO's.

OGRA assured the complainants that their genuine issues shall be addressed and SNGPL has been directed to take remedial measures under intimation to the Authority. It is worth mentioning that more than 60 complaints, as written applications were submitted with the OGRA Officers.

Participants appreciated the good behaviour of GM SNGPL Faisalabad. Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh president FCCI also raised various issues faced by the industry. The President and the general public appreciated OGRA and pointed out that this exercise is beneficial to resolve the problems of natural gas consumers with speedy resolution

World civil defense day celebrates in Jhelum

KAMRAN GUJJAR

JHELUM: The international civil defense day was celebrated all over the world. The purpose of celebrating it is to highlight the importance of achieving the security and freedom of the country.

The department of civil defense is a mirror of the greatness of the same purpose. Its main purpose is to protect the lives and property of citizens in any emergency in

peace and war. To highlight this purpose in the public and school students, a rally organized by civil defense office which ended at Government College for Women Civil Line Jhelum. In which the Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Muttahar Amin Hayat Watto, SP investigation, Anam Faryal, Principal College Madam, Arifa and civil defense officer Jhelum Mohammad Bota participated along with large number of students.

At the beginning of the seminar, the students gave



with reference to civic defense. Anam Faryal appreciated the performance of the students. He also raised the issues facing the college with the district administration and appealed for their review. On which Mutahir Wattoo assured to solve all the problems.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner announced certificates for the students and encouraged them saving that instead of wasting our time we should spend it for the betterment of the society so that our future could be better than ours today. At the end of the seminar, certificates of appreciation were also distributed among the officials of Civil Defense.

prove a milestone

YOOSUF BHUTTA

2nd Phase

of SIE will

GUJRAT: "The second phase of the Small Industries Estate (SIE) in Gujrat will prove a milestone towards the industrial development and prosperity of the region. The industrialists here will enjoy all the facilities of international standards to give their utmost output." This was stated by the president of GTCCI Mr. Muhammad Naeem Imtiaz Gondal, senior vice presint Mr. Choudhary Nadeem Malhi and vice president Mr. Kashif Manzoor Butt in a joint statement. They said, "The said Industrial Estate will create a large number of new jobs which will positively affect our national economy in the long run." They reiterated their determination to invest their best potential and resources for the sake of the industrial revolution in the Gujrat district.

Women employability summit starts

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Two Days Women Employability Summit started at SBBWUP. Mr. Abdul kareem, Special Assistant to CM for industries and Commerce KP graced the inaugural ceremony as Chief Guest. The objective of this summit is to provide a platform to the graduates of SBBWUP along with students of its Affiliated Colleges to interact with different reputed employers including industry leaders and inspirational speakers where they may get the placement and internship opportunities and hence building the gap between industry and academia.

COURT NOTICE

In the court of miss Misbah Hussain sahiba family Judge Jhelum Title of case: MADIHA NASREEN VS JUNAID QADIR HUSSAIN

Respondent: Junaid Hussain Qadir Aashiq Hussain r/o Kotli Allaha'yaar Tehsil & Distt Jhelum present address 0566 Fjellgata Norwav

Claim: Dissolatin of marriage

each case, respondent are informed through advertisement. As there is not possible to call the respondent through Summon in the instant case so proclamation through in Newspaper, you are directed to appear or legal advisor in the court on 04-03-2022 at 9:00AM, otherwise exparte proceedings will be

Naval Chief visits forward naval posts



NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi visited Pakistan Navy units at Sea, Coastal and forward post in Creeks Areas to witness the operational readiness and preparedness of deployed troops in Major Maritime Exercise SEASPARK 2022.

Upon arrival at Jinnah Naval Base at Ormara, a comprehensive brief was presented on operational situation and deployment of PN Fleet assets in Area of Operations. Subsequently, Naval Chief boarded PN Ships TARIQ & TUGHRIL at sea and interacted with officers and men involved in various evolutions of the exercise. Chief of the Naval Staff commended

professional competence of officers and men performing valiantly at sea. Later, Admiral visited Security Station at Coastal area that ensures vigilance and defence across the coast. During visit to Forward Post at Creeks Area, the Naval Chief was briefed on prevailing threat environment and combat readiness for defence of Creeks Area. Naval Chief also visited HQ Creeks Bde and interacted with marine officers/ troops and appreciated their commitment and devotion in defence of the country. Chief of the Naval Staff expressed full satisfaction over operational readiness of PN units and professional excellence of officers and men. He appreciated the dedication and high morale of troops in ensuring impregnable defence of motherland in the prevailing challenging environment.

Fesco introduces net metering for tube wells

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has introduced state of the art net metering for its tubewell consumers. In this connection, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) FESCO Engr. Bashir Ahmed told, that tubewell consumers could install the net metering after fixing the solar panel at their connections and now there is no need of NEPRA approval for up to 25 Kilowatt net metering. Thus tubewell consumers can significantly reduce their electricity bills through providing electricity to FESCO after the installation of net metering. He said that during months when electricity consumption is low, net metering consumers could increase their revenue by selling surplus electricity to FESCO because maintenance cost of net metering is negligible.

He further said that procedure for the obtaining new connection has also been simplified. Tubewell consumers would submit their applications in their respective sub divisions after completing the all formalities while competent authority would approve the connection after comprehensive technical review of the application. Afterwards, FESCO and consumers would sign an agreement and then demand notice would be issued. After payment of demand notice FESCO would install and hand over the net metering connection to consumers.

Religious extremism is on rise: Farhatullah Minorities Unity and Solidarity Conference

ISLAMABAD: To mark the 11th anniversary of former Federal Minister Shaheed Shahbaz Bhatti, the Minority Alliance Pakistan (MAP) held a Minority Unity and Solidarity Conference here at a local hotel on Wednesday.

Speaking on the occasion, PPP Central Leader and former Senator Farhatullah Babar said Shaheed Benazir Bhutto introduced me to Shahbaz and the relationship with him lasted till his martyrdom. "Shahbaz Bhatti was a bridge build-

er and is one of the people who are a national heritage of the country. When he raised his voice, Bhatti knew that the road was dangerous but he did not care. We have to keep the candles lit by Shahbaz Bhatti. We cannot go without unity and solidarity. Practical steps will have to be taken for unity. Pakistan was built on this foundation. Rights of minorities will be protected.'

"Quaid-e-Azam's first cabinet is our guiding principle. There were minorities in this cabinet Pakistan's first Army Chief was a Christian, A change came after the martyrdom of Shahbaz Bhatti and Salman Taseer. Religious

extremism has been on the rise since then. If it is not stopped, it will have dire consequences. The constitution says that all citizens are equal while the same constitution says that no non-Muslim can be the prime minister or president." Our Quaid-e-Azam and his ideas are disappearing. The structure of the state is being changed. You must raise your voice

against it."

Leader Sikh community, Sardar Ram Singh said Akmal Bhatti was carrying the commission of Shaheed Shahbaz Bhatti. "The face of

Shahbaz Bhatti can be seen in Akmal Bhatti." Syed Sibt Ul Haider Bukhari, in-charge Central Secretariat Islamabad said Shahbaz Bhatti was the name of a movement. "He will be remembered in golden words. I do not discriminate between minority and majority. I have said many times in the party that we are all equal citizens of this country. It is not written in any book that human rights should be violated. Be part of our long march to get rid of this tyrannical government.' Romana Bashir, Executive Director,

Interfaith Harmony, said that Shahbaz Bhatti was alive in all its forms. "Difficult hours come in the life of nations. Shahbaz Bhatti has given his life for Pakistan not for minorities. There are 60 reserved seats in the women's assembly. Minority women are not represented in them. We want to make Pakistan a country where there is justice and rights. The situation of minorities is getting worse instead of better," said Bishop Samuel Ezraya

Akmal Bhatti Central Chairman MAP said the forces which had martyred Shahbaz Bhatti and thought that they would stop his progress and voice for the rights of minorities has been lost forever. "Let's say that we have followed the same vision of Shahbaz Bhatti. Under the constitution we are all equal citizens but at the same time the next clause in the constitution is discriminatory. Yes, we cannot appear in the Federal Shariah Court. In view of the current situation, a new constitution should be written. Blended with us in the 2017 census. We demand from the government to provide accurate statistics of our population and to provide seats in the Provincial, National Assembly and Senate according to our population.

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National Days and **Armed Forces Days**

FEBRURAY 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

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



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



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



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$C\Delta\Delta$	9281099



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



Departments

CDA	
CDA	
Met Office	9250360-6
RDA	5555864
TMA	
Cantonment Boa	rd 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Potohar Town......9209224 RawalTown......5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Lord Mayor of Birmingham for utilizing trade potential

Lt. Gen. (R) M Afzal, former Chairman NDMA said that Pakistan's IT sector as the potential to enhance IT exports from US\$ 100 to 200 billion, which should be realized to improve the financial and economic sovereignty of the country

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Lord Mayor of Birmingham Councillor Muhammad Afzal said that Pakistan and UK have great potential to promote bilateral trade and the Pakistani private sector should step up efforts to capitalize on this unrealized potential for achieving beneficial outcomes.

He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry. Lt. Gen. (Retd) Muhammad Afzal, former Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) also accompanied him.

Lord Mayor of Birmingham said that after Brexit, the UK was interested in promoting trade relations with various countries including Pakistan. He said that Birmingham was the 2nd largest city of the UK with a GDP equal to that of Portugal, which showed its economic potential for Pakistan. He said that a strong Pakistani community of around 0.3 million people was living in Birmingham who could play a role in strengthening Pak-UK trade relations. He said that construction was a booming industry in Birmingham, which offered



good scope of cooperation to Pakistan. He assured that he would encourage close cooperation of ICCI with Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce (GBCC) for improving business linkages between the private sectors of both countries.

Lt. Gen. (Retd) Muhammad Afzal, former Chairman NDMA said that Pakistan's IT sector as the potential to enhance IT ex-

ports from US\$ 100 to 200 billion, which should be realized to improve the financial and economic sovereignty of the country. He stressed that the business community should develop its strong internal systems for sustainable growth instead

of looking towards the public sector. He

also shared his experiences of developing financial models to support CPEC and develop FWO into a strong business entity. Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry appreciated the services of Lord Mayor of Birmingham Councillor Muhammad Afzal for the Pakistani community and Pakistan.

He said that Pakistan offered great opportunities to foreign investors in CPEC and in many other sectors of its economy and emphasized that the Lord Mayor of Birmingham should encourage investors from the UK to explore JVs and investment in Pakistan. He also lauded the services of Lt. Gen. (Retd) Muhammad Afzal former Chairman NDMA and said that ICCI would like to take benefit from his experiences for promoting SMEs.

Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik Chairman Founder Group, Zafar Bakhtawari, Ejaz Abbasi, Malik Sohail Hussain, Fatma Azim, Muhammad Naveed Malik and others also paid tributes to the services of Lord Mayor of Birmingham and former Chairman NDMA.

increase in gas prices

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) has increased the average gas prices by up to 16.37 per cent for Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGC) and Sui Northern Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) consumers.

In two separate decisions on the petitions regarding the review of its estimated revenue requirement for the fiscal year 2021-22, filed by the state-owned gas companies SNGPL and SSGC, the regulator has jacked up the prescribed gas prices by 16.37 percent or Rs. 94/ mmBtu for the consumers of SNGPL and 6.32 percent or Rs. 50/mmBtu for the consumers of SSGC.

According to the notification, the average price of gas for the SNGPL consumers has been fixed at Rs670.37/mmBtu, while the per mmBtu price for SSGC consumers has been fixed at Rs829.48 after an increase of Rs50. The new prices will come into effect from July 1, 2022, after the approval from the federal government, the OGRA said.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Aviation Ghulam Sarwer Khan meeting with Zafer Bakhtawri & Ijaz Abbasi Former Presidents of ICCI at his office regarding Direct Air links of Pakistan to the World. - DNA

Direct flights to Central Asia soon

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Civil Aviation Ghulam Sarwar Khan has said that a series of direct flights From Pakistan to Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan will start in March, followed by Britain, France, Denmark, Norway and the United States. Direct flights to Spain and Italy will also be started, he said during a meeting with former presidents of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Indus-

tries Zafar Bakhtawari and Ijaz Abbasi in his office. Zafar Bakhtawari and Ejaz Abbasi urged the Federal Minister that Pakistan Airlines as well as other countries should be provided facilities for direct flights to Pakistan. They said that direct flights are of utmost importance for development and progress in the modern world. Federal Minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan said that direct flights would also be launched to Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Egypt, Nigeria and South Africa. He invited the ICCI to start its own airline like Sialkot Chamber and take the work forward on its own. - DNA

Murad slams opposition over negative reaction

Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed on Wednesday said that the mega relief package announced by the Prime Minister has put the opposition in a fix as they have made a practice of criticizing the people friendly government for the sake of criticism. Addressing press conference regarding Pakistan People's Party long march and current political situation, he said that government had

relief package for the poor despite inflation at the global level. The minister said that soon after announcement of the relief, the implementation process was started. The minister said he was quite surprised on statements of opposition which was criticizing the government on reduction in oil and electricity prices instead of commending the initiative. He said that there was difference in the prior-

ran Khan and Opposition, adding that PM Khan has been focusing on facilitating the poor while the agenda of the opposition was to safeguard their money earned through unfair means.

He said that there was increase in the petrol prices at the global level but the government decided to slash the prices by Rs 10 with sole objective to accommodate and provide relief to the masses. - DNA

Pakistan Envoy in Niger calls on CG COMSTECH

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The head of the mission of high commission of Pakistan in Niger, H. E. Mr. Ahmed Ali Sirohey called on Coordinator General COMSTECH Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary on Tuesday at COMSTECH Secretariat, in Islamabad. Both the dignitaries discussed recently held COMSTECH eye camps in Niger and Gambia and further elaborated on neuroscience activities for Niger. Mr. Sirohey appreciated the COMSTECH programme for Africa. COMSTECH programme for Africa includes research grants for young scientist, research fellowships programme, technicians training program, technical cooperation, eye camps, and training in ophthalmology. COMSTECH in collaboration with LRBT and IsDB recently organized two eye camps in The Gambia and Niger and conducted more than 500 cataract surgeries, maintained medical equipment and conducted training workshops which were highly appreciated by the governments of both countries. Mr. Sirohey also discussed the sustainability and expansion of the current initiatives of the government of Pakistan in Niger. They discussed the increase of initiatives by Pakistan in the African region to further enhance the diplomatic presence of Pakistan in Africa.



Officials review security plan for series

RAWALPINDI: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Rao Sardar Ali Khan and Chief Secretary Kamran Ali Afzal Wednesday visited Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium to review security arrangements made for Pak-Australia cricket series where a high-level meeting was held to take stock of the measures. On the occasion, the RPO and CPO Rawalpindi briefed the IG Punjab and Chief Secretary on the security arrangements, said a news release. The IG Punjab issued important directives for ensuring peaceful conduct of cricket matches during the series. "The security of cricket fans should be taken into consideration along with the players and match officials," IGP Rao Sardar Ali Khan added. He also directed the Police officials that an effective traffic management plan should be formulated for the convenience of the citizens and uninterrupted flow of traffic during the scheduled matches.

"Senior Police officers should

regularly go out into the field to monitor security and traf-

fic arrangements." he said while directing the Police officials. The IG mentioned that

revival of international crick-

et matches in Pakistan was very welcoming step, and the

Puniab Police would provide

the best security in the style of PSL arrangements. - APP



▶ کامیابکاروبار بروزگارافرادكيك 5لاكوروي تك كابلاسود قرضه

▶ کامیابکسان

پایاکستانسستاگهرسکیم بگرفاندانوں کیلے 27لاکھ دوپے تک کاآسان قرضہ

▶ کامیابہنرمند

نوجوانوں کو کنونشنل ہنراور جدید کنیکی تربیت کی مفت فراہمی ▲ صحتمندباکستان

صحت مند پاکتان کے تحت قُرْضے کے حصول کیلئے صحت انصاف کارڈ کا ہونا ضرور کی ہے اگر آپ کے علاقے میں میسر ہے

تاحال ہزاروں لوگوں کواربوں روپے کے بلاسود قرضہ جاہیے کا اجراء روال مالی سال مزید 100 ارب روی کے قرضے تص

بلاسود قرضہ کیلئے اپنی اہلیت جاننے کیلئے اپنا قومی شناختی کارڈنمبر



Thursday, March 03, 2022

WPC for

empowering women

ISLAMABAD: Women Par-

liamentary Caucus (WPC) has recently taken various

productive steps for the upbringing of women's devel-

opment and empowerment

to be able to live in the society with dignity.

Talking to APP, Chairperson WPC Munaza Hassan

said," The role of women in

democratic governance and

sustainable development

is critical in all process-

es and at all levels. In this

regard, the Women Parlia-

mentary Caucus (WPC) is

a cross-party forum and a

nerve center for women

parliamentarians, and can

The role of women in dem-

ocratic governance and

sustainable development is

critical in all processes and

at all levels. In this regard,

the Women's Parliamentary

Caucus (WPC) is a cross-par-

ty forum and a nerve center

for women parliamentarians

and can contribute tremen-

dously. She said in Septem-

ber 2018 the WPC entered

its third tenure, in which we

hope to make this non-par-

tisan forum more vibrant,

strategic, and beneficial for

She said the WPC will work

to enable women parliamen-

tarians to optimally perform

substantive and effective

roles in the sustainable de-

velopment of our beautiful

nation. Through this forum,

regardless of our political

affiliations, we would like to

join hands to give voice to

our disadvantaged women,

address their issues, and

empower them economical-

ly, socially, and politically

at all levels. For this pur-

pose, we shall reinforce our

partnership with provincial

women's caucuses to work

together as representatives

of these women. - APP

the women of Pakistan.

contribute tremendously".

Briefs

TikTok launches awareness campaign

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Short-form video app TikTok has launched a safety awareness campaign that aims to reinforce understanding towards the potential dangers associated with digital platforms.

The initiative consists of a video series, featuring a selection of Pakistan's most popular celebrities that shed light on the challenges of the digital world, and the importance of positively and safety using the internet. says a news release issued here on Wednesday.

As part of safety month awareness initiatives and efforts announced by Tik-Tok for February, which included signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Zindagi Trust for digital safety awareness, the campaign targets users of the digital platform, spanning various ages and backgrounds, focusing especially on the youth.

It mostly focuses on the foundations of safely surfing websites and social media platforms, and the ways to navigate potential dangers on those platforms. - APP

Scientific report on archaeological excavations published

ISLAMABAD: A scientific research report on the latest archaeological excavations and conservation at Amluk Dara, a buddhist site at Swat Valley has been published by Directorate of Archaeology & Museums (DOAM), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Wednesday.

The report aimed to highlight the rich heritage and new discoveries through scientific publication. Amluk-Dara stupa is part of Gandhara civilization located in Swat valley. The stuna is believed to have been built in the third century.

The latest discoveries are the outcome of an ongoing excavation in the region. A unique part of a previously-discovered site of Amluk-Dara has been uncovered jointly by Italian Archaeological Mission in Pakistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's (KP) Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, said a press re-

The stupa is an ancient relic two kilometres from the main road which travels from Barikot to Buner and stands with ancient majesty and can be seen from the surrounding mountains.

lease issued here.

Directorate of Archaeology & Museums, KP has also started scientific excavations of Baho Buddhist site at Swabi. The site was visited and partially excavated by the British officers of Guide Mess in 1900. About a century later, the Directorate has started the proper systematic excavation of the site in June 2021 which is still continuing. - APP

IRSA releases 78881

cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Wednesday released 78881 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 54213 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, Water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 16300 and 16300 cusecs respectively.

The water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1097.60 feet, which was 47.06 feet higher than its dead level of 1050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded a 20332 and 45000 cusecs respectively.

The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 22720 , 22589 and 35024 cusecs

respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River a total of 3500 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and14081 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. - APP

ICT police inaugurates a women police station in G-7

The women police station has also inducted female psychologists to provide assistance to complainants with greater efficiency and sensitivity

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Capital Police on Wednesday inaugurated a Women Police Station in G-7 - an initiative of the police described as a necessary and proactive move in the right direction to ensure gender and child sensitive policing services - with the support of Group Development Pakistan and a partner donor.

The Women Police Station situated in G-7 is a specialized facility dedicated to exclusively handle cases related to gender violence, domestic and child abuse, and harassment.It will also welcome women in conflict or in contact with the law. The staff at the women police station is comprised of trained female officers to make it easier for women to lodge their complaints.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony at the women police station in the federal capital, SP Operation Amna Baig highlighted that these efforts to setup a ded-



icated women police station help serve marginalized segments of the population and results from a trustworthy partnership with CSOs and foreign missions. The

women police station has also inducted female psychologists to provide assistance to complainants with greater efficiency and sensitivity. Moreover,a dedicated space for children has been created with toys, books, games and swings to make them more comfortable.

ASP Beenish Fatima Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) stated that "Our female police officers are trained on how to engage with the victimsin a professional manner."She also mentioned that this initiative will help in increasing the reporting of the casesand also facilitate women for complaint registration and redress of their genuine issues.

Speaking at the event Executive Director of GDP Saima Qadeer stated that 'Steps taken by the ICT Police will enhance public trust on police and also remove barriers to reporting complaints" The aim of these measures is to make access to justice easy for women and children, provide them with an environment which is conducive to their needs, and which impedes secondary victimization and trauma. It directly contributes to achieving SDGs 5 and 16.2.

Street libraries attracting youth amid

ISLAMABAD: The concept of 'street libraries' has become center of attraction among book lovers that were opened at various places of Islamabad and Rawalpindi aimed at promoting book culture among people. Talking to APP here on Wednesday, an official of Department of Islamabad Library Mehmood Raza said, in order to promote the role and services of libraries the Department of Libraries, ICT, in collaboration with Pakistan Information Literacy and Library Movement had organized many events to promote reading books among young generation those who were not aware of history of Pakistan. Department of Libraries is committed to provide advance technical and reader services to the community of the capital, he said. He said eight libraries under the department were also enabled to provide an online service to their users and the users can search the author, title, subject and publisher on an online catalog; the users can search their desired reading material from any part of the world. He added that this facility will provide quick and easy access to library material and improve the reading habit. A student of Islamic University Asjad Hussain said, "This initiative would lead to productive results in a way that he or she could easily visit any street library by passing their way could help them



RAWALPINDI: Chief Secretary Punjab Kamran Ali Afzal visiting Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. – DNA

NHMP to organize online 'Darbar' DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Highway and Motorway Police (NHMP) would organize an online "Darbar" (general meeting) on every third week of the month for immediate redressal of problems faced by its oflicers and employees.

The initiative was taken on the special directives of Inspector General National Highway and Motorway Police Inam Ghani.

According to NHMP announcement. E-Darbar would be attended by DIG Operations NHMP, DIG Establishment and DIG Headquarter NHMP.

The senior officers would listen to the problems of officers and employees through telephone calls and necessary instructions would be issued to redress their grievances. "Online Darbar was the best way to remain in direct contact with officers and employees from across the country" said a statement issued here.

FBR Prize

scheme grows

more popular

in tax payers

ISLAMABAD: The Point

of Sale System (POS) on

verified invoices shot up as

Fedral Board of Revenues (

FBR's) Prize scheme grows

more popular in tax payers.

Amongst various innova-

tive digital interventions

made by FBR to maximize

tax compliance through au-

tomation of its operations

and facilitation of taxpayers,

Point of Sale System is one key initiative which aims to

monitor sales made by Tier-

PTA blocks 26.03 mln PNCA hosts wood fake mobile devices

of Device Identification Registration and Blocking System (DIRBS), the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has blocked about 26.03 million fake and replica mobile devices. As per Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) Annual Report 2021 released recently, 175,000 international mobile equipment identity (IMI) devices reported stolen also blocked. About 880,780 IMEI devices identified as cloned, duplicated against 5.28 million MISDN banned on network.

As per report, 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. 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-Bal-

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%. Similarly, the number of cellular subscribers rose to 188 million, taking the total telecom subscriber base to 191 million. With the expansion of 3G and 4G services, in tandem with the impact of COVID-19, broadband data usage increased by 52% during FY 2021. PTA has so far issued mobile device manufacturing authorizations to 30 companies, attracting investments to the tune of US\$120 million, producing 10.1 million smartphone in 2021 and creating 2,000 jobs. - DNA

The workshop was a huge success and was attended by more than 50 participants from twin cities Islamabad and Rawalpindi including students of

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan

National Council of the

Arts hosted a one-day

wood cut workshop by a

master print maker Mr.

Tasneem Shahzad on 2nd

Mr. Tasneem is a living

legend in the field of Fine

Arts. He works between

the US and Pakistan.

of March 2022.

different art colleges and schools. This workshop was an incredible opportunity for the youth to learn from the master in the field. Mr. Tasneem is a native from Peshawar is a graduate in Fine arts from the University of Peshawar started printmaking at a very early age and since then he has achieved numerous awards nationally and internationally. He has presented his artworks in the US, Japan, China, Russia, India,

cut workshop by

l'asneem Shahzad

Italy and France. PNCA is dedicated to promote Pakistani Art at local and international scale.

programs present the traditional and contemporary art practices reflected upon the excellence and cultural diversity of Pakistan as well as support professional development

Our elevated and unique

PNCA is committed to promote significant aspects of the country and encourage community participation in gallery activities, fostering curatorial practice. PNCA has maintained a range of regionally focused visual arts exhibitions featuring both nationally and internationally recognised artists.

Govt approves over Rs 40 bln for Kamyab Jawan Loans

ISLAMABAD: The government has approved over Rs 40 billion for Kamyab Jawan Business Loans (KJBL) to benefit over 27,000 youth who have qualified for the soft loans under the Kamyab Jawan Programme (KJP). According to official source, over Rs 34 billion were disbursed so far among the youth under the flagship of KJP on purely merit basis. Through the KJP loan scheme, around 50,000 youth have been provided employment opportunity in agriculture, manufacturing and services sectors. Under the KJP, loans upto Rs 3 billion were being disbursed every month among the youth for establishing their own businesses. The disbursement of business loans under the KJP has been accelerated to facilitate maximum number of youth in the country. Under the 'Skills for All' programme, scholarships were being provided to over 100,000 youth to acquire technical education in modern and traditional fields at a cost of Rs 5 billion. In the third phase of "Skills for All" programme, around 60,000 youth would be impart training free of cost in various courses in traditional and high-teach trades. Kamyab Jawan Sports Drive being launched to revive sports culture in Pakistan by providing access to thousands of youth to grounds. - APP

President IIUI assures all out support for faculties

Dr. Aroosa Kanwal, In-Charge Department of English, apprised the president of the various awards and accolades earned by the faculty members of the FLL while emphasizing the fact that it had attracted a record number of new admissions in recent years, despite covid-related constraints

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Dr Hathal Homoud Alotaibi on Tuesday assured his support for the academic and professional growth of all faculties of the university. He was addressing the annual get-together at the Faculty of Languages and Literature (FLL) where he also shared his plans and vision for the university. On the occasion, he expressed his delight on meeting the faculty and stated that the university was a home to all and that the FLL ought to launch interesting new programs in line with the university's Strategic Plan.

He added that his team of Vice Presidents and Deans was there to ensure that the university grew

exponentially and numerous proiects had been set in place for this reason. Dr. Hathal emphasized that with the shift towards technology, the IIUI's ODL program remained a vital tool for disseminating education far and wide and expressed his desire for the FLL to initiate degree programs via the ODL particularly since the HEC had also disseminated

its distance education policy. He also emphasized that improvements had been made as regards promotion policies and assured that the departments would be granted more freedom to initiate innovative programs that were in line with the needs of the future. Earlier, on his arrival, the President IIU was welcomed by the

Dean FLL Prof. Dr. Najeeba Arif

and the Chairpersons of the Departments of English, Urdu, Persian and CLT.

In her welcome address, Dr. Najeeba Arif expressed her gratitude to the president and highlighted that this event aimed to bring into focus the services of the faculty members and the administrative staff who were extremely essential to running the faculty smoothly.

Dr. Aroosa Kanwal, In-Charge Department of English, apprised the president of the various awards and accolades earned by the faculty members of the FLL while emphasizing the fact that it had attracted a record number of new admissions in recent years, despite covid-related constraints. Later, the president, Vice President Academics Prof. Dr. Ayyaz Afsar, Vice President Research & Enterprise, Prof. Dr. Ahmed Shuja and Vice President Administration & Finance Prof. Dr. N.B. Jumani distributed shields among the administrative staff members who had earned the Best Employee of the year award. The award winners included Mahmood Iqbal, Muhammad Ishaq Khan, Asma Nazir, Farah Riaz, Ali Asghar, Nazli Masood and Yasir Ali.

Retailers across Pakistan. Adding value to this critically important sector and plug revenue leakages, FBR has launched an aggressive awareness campaign on the mainstream national media to educate and engage consumers to ensure that tax In the introduction to the event, collected from them at the point of sale is deposited into state exchequer and not pocketed by the retailers themselves.

Furthermore, the campaign also encompasses a prize scheme worth Rs.53 million to be disbursed among 1007 lucky winners through a transparent computerized ballot to be held on 15th of every month at FBR Headquarters, Islamabad. This is truly an unprecedented example of involving citizens in tax compliance and raise their awareness about their national responsibility to not pay their due tax but also safeguard the same from being stolen on its way to national exchequer. - APP

Foreign envoys write letter to govt

N a rare development the ambassadors and high commissioners based in Islamabad have send a letter to the Government of Pakistan asking it to condemn the Russian aggression against Ukraine. This is indeed a significant move and hardly has any precedent in the history of diplomatic relations. The letter was posted on the Twitter account of the European Union in Pakistan. While the Pakistan government is yet to respond to the letter, the move seeks to create a sort of bad blood between Pakistan and the European countries.

There is no denying the fact that Pakistan is taking too much time in giving its reaction. The situation on ground in Ukraine has gone from bad to worse with hundreds of people killed and thousands displaced so far. Even the Ukraine ambassador in Pakistan had politely conveyed to Pakistan in his two recent press briefings that Kiev was expecting a positive reaction from Pakistan. Even when Prime Minister Imran Khan visited Russian, Ukraine hoped he will take up the issue with the Russian President.

The EU countries statement 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 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 ambassadors stressed that the international community must work in solidarity and support and uphold the rules-based international order "In these extreme times". They informed that the UN General Assembly will now meet in an "Emergency Special Session", where the UNGA is expected to vote for a resolution to stop Russia's aggression.

The letter was 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.

Pakistan need to respond to this letter sooner rather than later in order to clarify its position that it is not taking sides.

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Uzbek President visit to Pakistan

T 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 Minister will also host a State Banquet in his honour. President Mirziyoyev will have separate meeting with the President of Pakistan.

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. 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.

Pakistan and Uzbekistan have many areas in which both countries can strengthen their cooperation. Energy, textile, machinery and tourism are a few to mention. Uzbekistan cotton industry is one of the best in the world. Many countries are using Uzbek machinery to increase their cotton production. Pakistan can surely benefit from Uzbek expertise in this particular filed. Religious tourism is yet another field where both countries can cooperate with each other. Uzbek and Pakistani religious sites have a lot to offer to tourists from both countries. It is expected that during the visit of the Uzbek President some MoUs shall be signed in this field as well.

'Wolfowitz Doctrine' and Ukraine

Dr M Ali Hamza



Real question is 'why Western powers are keen to make Ukraine a member of NATO, even on the cost of war?

N 1992 Mr. Paul Wolfowitz; the then US Secretary of Defense, produced a policy paper that was unofficially called 'Wolfowitz doctrine', and later labeled as 'Bush doctrine'. Not intended for public release, but got leaked to the New York Times in the same year. This document when leaked faced a lot of criticism and sparked a public controversy about US foreign and defense policy. Edward Kennedy; an American lawyer and politician who served as a US senator from Massachusetts for almost 47 years, from 1962 until his death in 2009, categorically declared the document as "a call for 21st century American imperialism that no other nation can or should accept". Other critiques called the policy a reflection of 'Imperialist mindset'. The document outlined a policy of 'Unilateralism' and preventive military action to suppress perceived potential threats from other nations and discourage countries from rising to superpower status.

The main points of the document were; I) 'US is the world's only superpower and proclaims its main objective to be retaining that status bypreventing the re-emergence of a new rival'. Put it simply, US will not allow any country to challenge it. II) 'US will lead the new world order and will shape the future'. To put it straight, US will remain super power and will help its allies to remain superior by using US arms. III) 'US have a right to intervene when and where it believed necessary'. This point of the policy shows US declaring a self-imposed claim, not as a leader but a lord of the post-cold war world.IV) 'In the Middle East and Southwest Asia, our overall objective is to remain the predominant outside power in the region and preserve US and Western access to the region's oil'. So US hegemony was the wish, therefore controlling black gold is a main point in defense policy. V) 'US continue to recognize that collectively the conventional forces of the states formerly comprising the Soviet Union retain the most military potential in all of Eurasia; and we do not dismiss the risks to stability in Europe from a nationalist backlash in Russia or efforts to reincorporate into Russia the newly independent republics of Ukraine, Belarus, and possibly others.US must, however, be mindful that democratic change in Russia is not irreversible, and that despite its current travails, Russia will remain the strongest military power in Eurasia and the only power in the world with the capability of destroying the United States'. In a simplest words, keep an eye on Russia and use newly emerged states against it. This point of the policy relates to the present conditions in Ukraine.

Examining last three decades can help anyone to easily understand that since the fall of USSR in 1991, US and its western allies: NATO, are engaged in creating chaos and

disorder in most of the eastern regions of the globe. The design for political instability, and disorder in the Middle East, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan is just to gain few objectives like i) selling US weapons; sadly in transaction of human blood, ii) maintaining financial supremacy through funding in name of support and help; as happening in Ukraine now, iii) and keep a closer eye on

the most possible threat; Russia. As the geographical control of US has shrink significantly in last few years, considering the case of Middle East, and Afghanistan. US plan for Syria is obstructed by Russia. US manipulation has decreased in Pakistan. US ability of close surveillance and deployment of weapons become difficult, thuswhat could be a better option than engaging Ukraine to serve the purpose and the purpose is to maintain the status of a super-power. Putting sanctions on Russia, and donating 2 billion USD to support Ukraine showcases western frustration to not let Russia rise again. Or maybe not let East dominate the world.

Real question is 'why Western powers are keen to make Ukraine a member of NATO, even on the cost of war?

It is evident that 'Wolfowitz doctrine' is still in the bloodline of US defense policy, and such a policy can never unite the world. Such an imperialist mindset can never be a binding force. History has repeatedly shown that self-centered and egocentric powers never survived long.

Such inconsiderate powers can damage for their interest but at the end get damaged by their own decisions. On a lighter but profound note, US have frozen Russian assets because RussiainvadedUkraine and at the same time US has frozen Afghan assets because the US invaded Afghanistan. Look at the irony and what an anomaly.

Ukraine: Middle Eastern states eye cost of hedging bets

James M. Dorsey

Recent protests in Jordan and Tunisia and the fact that the 2010s were bookended by protest and the toppling of leaders in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, and Yemen in 2011 and Lebanon, Iraq, Algeria, and Sudan in 2019/2020, illustrates the point

MIRATIS celebrated their failure to condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine in the United Nations Security Council as the end of an era in which the Gulf state took its foreign policy cues from the United States. However, the Emiratis may be celebrating prematurely.

As the UAE took over from Russia this month as chairman of the Council, Abdulkhaleq Abdulla, a political scientist whose views often reflect thinking in official Emirati circles, said the UAE's abstention in the UN votes "was consistent with the new UAE foreign policy activism, which stems from being confident of its decisions and its approach to

global and regional politics.' Mr. Abdulla went on to say that "finally we are independent enough, competent enough to take this kind of position, which is consistent with our own way of doing things. Maybe it doesn't resonate too well in Washington, but that's the way things are going to be from now on." Time will tell. It wouldn't be the first time that the UAE has made risky geopolitical bets that have backfired, such as its interventions in Yemen alongside Saudi Arabia and Libya. The interventions were part of a broader regional effort to roll back the achievements of the 2011 popular Arab revolts that toppled four autocrats, and to counter Islamists. The Ukraine crisis could force Middle Eastern countries like the UAE to rethink their newly found positions in a twist of irony. The crisis is likely to demonstrate that they can only hedge so much to compensate for a perceived lessening of the United States' commitment to their security and because of their significant economic ties to China. In a double whammy, the Ukraine crisis potentially could spark tough security and alliance choices and another round of popular protest in what would be the second decade of defiance and dissent, sparked in part by grain shortages and rising food prices.

Even if protest in the UAE, one of the region's wealthiest countries, is unlikely, Middle Eastern autocrats could well discover that like Ukrainians putting their lives on the line to stop the Russians, Middle Easterners can only be intimidated that much. Recent protests in Jordan and Tunisia and the fact that the 2010s were bookended by protest and the toppling of leaders in Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, and Yemen in 2011 and Lebanon, Iraq, Algeria, and Sudan in 2019/2020, illustrates the point.

Drought and reduced agricultural output that persuaded people to move from the countryside into cities is believed to be

part of the fuel that drove anti-government protests in Syria in 2011, which sucked the country into a decade-long devastating and bloody war. Rising grain prices provoked riots in Egypt as far back as 1977. The Ukraine crisis could force Egypt to again risk a hike in bread prices. Countries like Syria, Libya, Turkey, Lebanon, and Egypt, the world's largest wheat buyer, rely on Russia and Ukraine for at least half of their wheat imports. However, those imports have been jeopardized by the closure of Ukrainian ports and the harsh sanctions imposed by the United States, Europe, and others on Russia.

on the back of last year's 27 per cent increase caused by supply chain problems and poor weather that has hit domestic crops in Iran, Syria, Turkey, and Egypt. In contrast to the United States, the UAE and Russia may see eye to eye on their perceived need to prevent or roll back popular uprisings like the Arab revolts or colored revolutions in Ukraine and elsewhere in the former communist world. Yet, that will not do much for the UAE's regional security needs if the Gulf state and the United States increas-

Wheat prices rose this week to their

highest levels since 2009. The hike came

ingly go different ways. To be sure, strains in the US-UAE relationship have been evident for some time. For example, the UAE in December suspended talks on the acquisition of US-built F-35 jets, widely seen as the world's most advanced fighter plane.

Last month, the UAE announced that it was buying a dozen Chinese L15 training and light combat aircraft almost to the day that Russian troops crossed into Ukraine. As the United States and Europe tighten the noose around Moscow's neck, the UAE may find that diversifying economic relations is one thing, diversifying alliances another.

If Russian armed forces emerged a winner from propping up Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime, they've already wasted that reputation in Ukraine in less than a week of fighting. That is unlikely to change irrespective of the outcome of a battle for the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, particularly if Russia is dragged into fighting a long-drawn-out insurgency. In addition, Russian military planning in Ukraine miscalculated, and advances were bogged down not only by Ukrainian resistance but also by equip-

The UAE may pride itself on its courage to chart its course. The question is whether it can afford to stray too far away from what has become a problematic ally, the United States, given that the alternatives are Russia, a poorly performing international pariah, or China, a reluctant bear that is not yet up to the task of playing security guarantor and will ultimately demand its pound of flesh. "If there is this post-American world, post-America Gulf, correspondingly there will be more of China. Less of America probably translates into also more of China, in the region and throughout, by the way," said Mr. Abdulla, the political scientist.

Ultimately, he may be right. The UAE abstention in the Security Council ensured that Russia did not veto the extension of a Yemen arms embargo to include the Houthi rebels.

Even so, the issue of a rebalancing of global power is an issue of timing, of when rather than if. It's not today, that's for sure. But it's today that the UAE and other Middle Eastern states need to hedge their bets in ways that help them fend off immediate threats.

World must prove that might does not make right

Josep Borrell



We see a humanitarian catastrophe developing. For months, we pursued unparalleled efforts to achieve a diplomatic solution

T this dark hour, when we see Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine, massive disinformation campaigns and information manipulation, it is essential to separate lies – invented to justify what cannot be justified – from facts. The facts are that Russia, a major nuclear power, has attacked and invaded a peaceful and democratic neighboring country, which neither posed any threat to it nor provoked it. Moreover, the Russian president is threatening reprisals on any other state that may come to the rescue of the people of Ukraine. Such use of force and coercion has no place in the 21st century.

With his choice to bring war back to Europe, we see the return of the "law of the jungle," where might makes right. The target is not only Ukraine, but the security of Europe and the whole international rules-based order, based on the UN system and international law. We see a humanitarian catastrophe developing. For months, we pursued unparalleled efforts to achieve a diplomatic solution. Instead, Russia opted for a full-scale invasion, a full-fledged war. Russia must cease its military operations immediately and unconditionally withdraw from the entire territory of Ukraine. The same goes for Belarus, which has to immediately stop its involvement in this aggression and respect its international obligations. The EU is united in offering its strong support to Ukraine and its people. This is a matter of life and death. I am preparing an emergency package to support the Ukrainian armed forces in their fight.

The international community will now, in response, opt for a full-scale isolation of Russia. We are sanctioning those who finance the war, crippling the Russian banking system and its access to international reserves.

The EU and its partners have already imposed massive sanctions on Russia that target its leaders and elites and strategic sectors of the Kremlin-run economy. The aim is not to harm the Russian people, but to weaken the Kremlin's ability to finance this unjust war. In doing this, we are closely aligned with our partners and allies – the US, Canada, the UK, Japan, South Korea and Australia. We also see many countries from around the world rallying to protect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. We stand together on the right side of history.

The Kremlin and its supporters have also engaged in a massive disinformation campaign, which started weeks ago. We have seen Russian state media and their ecosystem peddling untruths on social media networks with the aim to deceive and manipulate.

The Kremlin propagandists call the invasion "a special operation," but this cynical euphemism cannot hide the fact that we are witnessing a full-fledged invasion of Ukraine, with the aim of crushing its freedom, legitimate government and democratic structures. Calling the Kyiv government "neo-Nazi" and "Russophobic" is nonsense; all manifestations of Nazism are banned in Ukraine. In modern Ukraine, extreme right-wing candidates are a fringe phenomenon with minimal support, without passing the barrier to enter the parliament. The Ukrainian government did not cut the Donbas off and it has not prohibited the use of Russian language and culture.

We know this – and many Russians know this. There have been courageous protests in cities across Russia since the invasion started. We hear their voices and recognize their courage in speaking out, and we also see many prominent public figures in Russia protesting this senseless invasion.

The people of the Arab world unfortunately know too well what war is. They have experienced the suffering of innocent civilians and know why it is so important to fight for freedom. On Monday, we celebrated the 31st anniversary of the 1991 liberation of Kuwait. In this particular context, I assume that the people of the Gulf understand very well what the people of Ukraine are going through and why international solidarity against unjustified and unprovoked attacks is essential.

With this war on Ukraine, the world will never be the same again. It is now, more than ever, the time for societies and alliances to come together to build our future on trust, justice and freedom. It is the moment to stand up and to speak out. Might does not make right. Never did. Never will.

ropean Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, is Vice President of the European Commission for a Stronger Europe in the World.) -Courtesv: Arab News

(Iosep Borrell, High Representative of the Eu-

Thursday, March 03, 2022

Pak-Uzbek

PTA to...

From Page 01

Uzbekistan are linked through common faith.

shared history and cultural affinities. The two countries

have been closely collaborat-

ing at regional and international fora, especially at the UN, OIC, ECO and SCO. Pakistan has enhanced its

engagement with Central Asian countries within

the framework of "Vision

Central Asia" policy, with

five key strands: politi-

cal and diplomatic, trade

and investment, energy

and connectivity, securi-

ty and defence, and peo-

Pakistan

wants...

From Page 01

views during a meeting with

Commander Islamic Repub-

lic of Iran Air Force Briga-

dier General Pilot Hamid

Vahedi at GHQ in Rawalpin-

di. During the meeting, the

military's media wing said,

matters of mutual interest,

regional security situation

and bilateral cooperation

between the two countries

The army chief said that

Pakistan wanted peaceful

and close ties with its neigh-

bours and stressed on the

need for collective efforts

towards regional stability.

Both sides, according to

ISPR, agreed to enhance

cooperation in the defence

According to the state-

ment, the visiting dignitary

acknowledged the profes-

sionalism of Pakistan's

armed forces and vowed to

enhance cooperation in var-

He also appreciated Paki-

stan's role in the Afghan sit-

uation and effective border

Earlier this month, the

army chief termed the Pa-

kistan-Iran frontier as a bor-

der of peace and friendship

in a meeting with the Irani-

According to ISPR, Iranian

Interior Minister Ahmad Va-

hidi along with a delegation

visited the General Head-

quarters in Rawalpindi and

discussed bilateral matters

PM, mily

brass...

From Page 01

developments, media re-

ported. According to sourc-

es privy to the matter,

Prime Minister Imran Khan

chaired a security-related

meeting attended by top

military brass and federal

ministers where matters

related to security issues

were discussed."The meet-

ing mulled over national

security and strategy at the

global level in the wake of

the regional situation," they

said. – DNA

including security issues.

an interior minister.

management measures.

and security fields.

ious fields.

were discussed.

ple-to-people relations.

Briefs

Russian **K**vyat criticises **'unfair'** sports bans

News Desk

PARIS: Former Russian Formula One driver Daniil Kvyat said Tuesday that "sports should remain outside politics" and decried the banning of Russian athletes from the competition as "unfair" after his country's invasion of Ukraine.

Russia have been thrown out of the 2022 FIFA World Cup and all its national teams and clubs banned from international football competitions.

The decision by FIFA and UEFA, as well as similar suspensions announced by other sports, including athletics and ice skating, came after the International Olympic Committee urged sports federations to impose bans on Russia and Belarus.

Formula One's Russian Grand Prix scheduled for September 25 was cancelled on Friday.

The FIA also announced Tuesday that Russian drivers would not be able to compete under their coun try's flag and that the Russian national anthem will no longer be played in F1.

"Sports federations across the world including the IOC should remain outside politics," Kvyat said in a social media post. "Disallowing Russian athletes and teams from participating in world competitions is an unfair solution. "Who else if not us sports people will help glue together nations in the upcoming times."

Kvyat, who drove for Red Bull and Toro Rosso in F1, said he hopes "for a peaceful solution in Ukraine".

"Hopefully all parties can find a solution by sitting together and through a respectful dialogue," he said. "It horrifies me to see two brotherhood nations in a conflict. I don't want military actions or wars to influence the future of humanity, I want my daughter and all children to enjoy this beautiful world.

US embassy projects...

From Page 01 heads of missions had expressed solidarity with the Ambassador of Ukraine when they gathered at the residence of the Canadian High Commissioner to

convey a message that they

were all behind Ukraine in

its war against Russia.

Quite recently all heads of the European missions in Islamabad sent a signed letter to the Government of Pakistan asking it to condemn Russian aggression.

PM starts Rs 407bn...

From Page 01

insurance programme launched by the government would help expansion of medical set up in public and private sector across the country.

Providing free medical treatment worth Rs one million to every household annually was a proud step taken by his government, he added. Prime Minister Khan said that all the tax money collected by the government would be spent on the welfare of general public.

Finance Minister Shaukat Tarin in his video message said the programme was in line with the vision of a socio-welfare state to facilitate the common man.

He said interest-free loans besides the technical training would enable the low-income group to earn their livelihood.

Chairman Akhuwat Foundation Dr Amjad Saqib said his organization had been disbursing interest-free loans to deserving for last 22 years

He said in collaboration with the government, Akhuwat Foundation on the occasion would provide interest-free loans worth Rs one billion to 7,000 households and expressed confidence that the programme would contribute to poverty alleviation. During the said period, the

government will provide a subsidy of Rs 56 billion for

the purpose. The key objective of the Pakistan Pro-Kamyab gramme is to provide relief to the low-income group and increase economic growth.



ISLAMABAD: People holding play cards during a demonstration in solidarity with Ukraine near foreign ministry of Pakistan. - DNA

Pakistan, Australia to lock horns for Benaud-Qadir Trophy

The trophy has been named after the legendary spinners from Australia - Richie Benaud and Pakistan - Abdul Qadir. They have been two spinning legends on the cricketing ground

AFZAL JAVED

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and Cricket Australia (CA) introduce the Benaud-Qadir Trophy for the test series between Pakistan and Australia starting from Friday (Tomorrow) here at Pindi Cricket Stadium.

The trophy has been named after the legendary spinners from Australia - Richie Benaud - and Pakistan - Abdul Qadir. They have been two spinning legends on the cricketing ground and on the occasion of Australia's tour of Pakistan after 24 years, the cricket boards of the two countries have decided to honour the duo by naming the series after them.

'This will be a perpetual Trophy and will be presented at the end of each men's Test series played between the Pakistan and Australia cricket teams". Pakistan Cricket Board said in a statement.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam and Australia captain Pat Cummins on Wednesday unveiled the Benaud-Qadir Trophy. The Benaud-Qadir Trophy will be presented to the winning side at the headquarters of Pakistan cricket in Lahore, where the three-Test series will culminate.

Benaud and Qadir were two skilful, distinguished and immensely respected crick-

WEB DESK

MEXICO CITY: Dressed in

Ukraine's blue and gold col-

ours, a fired-up Elina Svitolina

thrashed the Russian Anasta-

sia Potapova in Mexico on

Tuesday and said it was her



eters of different eras, who served the game with honour, pride and distinction. Benaud got wrist-spin bowling noticed and recognised as an attacking and wicket-taking option, an art that was subsequently taken to the next level by Qadir with some incredible performances against high-quality batters at a time when express fast bowlers were ruling the roost. Benaud captained Australia on the team's first full tour to Pakistan in 1959 and won

Ukraine's Elina Svitolina

thrashes Russia's Potapova

In Lyon, fellow Ukrainian Dayana Yastremska

collapsed in a heap on court after her victory over

Romanian Ana Bogdan at the WTA 250 tournament

their countries.

the series 2-0, while Qadir played in 11 Tests against Australia in which he took 45 wickets, including 33 wickets in two three-Test series in 1982 and 1988 against Kim Hughes and Allan Border's sides, respectively.

Individually, in 63 Tests from 1952 to 1964. Benaud took 248 wickets, whereas Qadir took to Test cricket in 1977 and finished in 1990 with 236 wickets in 67 Tests. For their respective heroics, achievements and accomplishments, Benaud was inducted in the

ICC Hall of Fame in 2009, while Qadir was included in the PCB Hall of Fame in 2021.

"There can be no better way to celebrate and mark the revival of Pakistan-Australia test rivalry in Pakistan by launching the trophy in the names of two absolute legends and icons of this great game - Richie Benaud and Abdul Qadir" PCB Chief Executive Officer Faisal Hasnain said, adding that these two gentlemen remain a flavour of all eras and ages as their contributions towards cricket in general and wrist-spin bowling in particular are second to none.

"The launch of the Benaud-Qadir Trophy will add further context and spice to Pakistan-Australia Test series, which historically have been well-contested and hard-fought", Faisal said, adding that I am confident that players from either side will draw further inspiration from this initiative and would want to be the first to put a hand on the trophy. Meanwhile, Pakistan cricket fans are looking forward to the opportunity of seeing two outstanding sides it battling out on the field in a bid to win the inaugural Benaud-Qadir Trophy.

"The launch of Benaud-Qadir Trophy is a joint-initiative of the PCB and CA that clearly demonstrates the strong and cordial relationship between the two cricket boards. The PCB looks forward to working very closely with the CA in the years to come.

Russians to take

MOSCOW: Jailed Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny has called on Russians to take to the streets and demand to "stop the war" against Ukraine, calling President Vladimir Putin an "obviously insane czar." "We must, gritting our teeth and overcoming fear, come out and demand an end to the war," Navalny tweeted



via a spokesperson to his 2.6 million followers Wednesday. Navalny said Russians must fight to regain the values of peace, which he says were shared by Soviet citizens and which he claims have been taken away by Putin.

"Let's at least not become a nation of frightened silent people. Of cowards who pretend not to notice the aggressive war against Ukraine unleashed by our obviously insane czar," Navalny wrote. Navalny's comments come seven days after Putin ordered Russian troops over the border with Ukraine in a full-scale invasion of its western neighbor. Authorities have since cracked down on dissent, blocking independent news channels Ekho Moskvy and Dozhd TV and detaining over 6,000 anti-war protesters. "If in order to stop the war we have to fill prisons and paddy wagons with ourselves, we will fill prisons and paddy wagons with ourselves," Navalny wrote.

"Everything has a price, and now, in the spring of 2022, we must pay this price. There's no one to do it for us. Let's not 'be against the war.' Let's fight against the war." A fierce critic of Putin and Russia's most symbolic opposition figure, Navalny is currently serving a 2.5-year prison sentence after surviving a poisoning attack that he blames on the Kremlin. He is currently on trial for new charges that could extend his prison term by up to 15 years. - Agencies

Navalny calls on to the streets

continue...

Russia to

From Page 01 in the streets of Kharkiv.

the military said, following Moscow's relentless air assault across the ex-Soviet state. The airborne operation came as US President Joe Biden branded Vladimir Putin a "dictator", warning the sanction campaign to cripple Russia's economy would escalate and its oligarchs were being targeted.

In Biden's first State of the Union address, he hailed the resolve of the Western alliance and voiced solidarity with Ukraine as lawmakers in the US Congress gave a standing ovation to the Ukrainian people. "A Russian dictator, invading a foreign country, has costs around the world," Biden told lawmakers in his annual State of the Union address, promising "robust action to make sure the pain of our sanctions is targeted at Russia's economy". But as he spoke a Russian escalation was reported to be underway in Kharkiv, an apparent bid by Moscow to capture its first major Ukrainian city of the invasion. Since Russian troops rolled into Ukraine last week to achieve Putin's mission of overthrowing the pro-Western government of President Volodymyr Zelensky, hundreds of civilians have been reported killed. Russian forces have car-

ried out a massive bombing campaign and encircled urban centres, but Ukraine insists no major city has yet been overtaken.



world behind her country fol-

Svitolina had initially refused

to play her opening match

against Potapova at the Mon-

terrev Open but went ahead

after tennis authorities decid-

ed to ban Russian and Belaru-

sian players from competing

under the name and flag of

lowing Russia's invasion.

for my country and doing my "I think it's my mission to best using my platform and unite our tennis community using my resources to introto stand with Ukraine, to help duce that and try to invite Ukraine because what we're people to support Ukraine."

going through is a horrible Svitolina, who has said she thing for all Ukrainians," the would donate her prize monformer world No 3 said after ey from the tournament to her victory. "That's why I'm Ukraine's army, defeated Pohere. That's why I'm playing tapova 6-2, 6-1, thumping her chest repeatedly on court. "For me, playing the match here, I'm not playing only for myself," said Svitolina. "I'm playing for my country, I'm playing for the help of the Ukrainian army and people

> very special.' In Lyon, fellow Ukrainian Dayana Yastremska collapsed in a heap on court after her victory over Romanian Ana Bogdan at the WTA 250 tournament. The 21-year-old and her younger sister had spent two nights in an underground car park last week before their parents sent them out of Ukraine by boat to Romania

in need. Every victory that

I'm going to get is going to be

Babar, Rizwan retain top positions in T201

Babar broke the record of Paul Stirling (748) and ended the year with 939 runs in 26 innings, while Muhammad Rizwan surpassed him during the year and ended up with 1326 runs in 26 innings, the first one to cross the 1000-run mark in T20Is

SPORTS DESK

LAHORE: Pakistan all-format captain Babar Azam and wicketkeeper batter Muhammad Rizwan have retained their top two spots in the updated ICC T20I Rankings.

The opening pair of Pakistan had a prolific 2021 as they broke the previous record of most runs in a calendar year.

Babar broke the record of Paul Stirling (748) and ended the year with 939 runs in 26 innings, while Muhammad Rizwan surpassed him during the year and ended up with 1326 runs in 26 innings, the first one to cross the 1000-run mark in T20Is. Rizwan and Babar also received the ICC T20I & ODI Cricketer of the

Babar Azam leads the chart with 806 Rating points, while Muhammad Rizwan is right behind him

with 798 Rating points. Meanwhile, India's Shreyas Iyer jumped a massive 27 spots in the latest Rankings. Iyer scored three unbeaten half-centuries during India's 3-0 win against Sri Lanka in February, with the 27-year-old amassing an impressive 204 runs at a strike rate of 174.

His efforts helped him jump 27 places to 18th on the latest batter rankings, while team-mate Bhuvneshwar Kumar jumped three spots to 17th on the bowler rankings. Sri Lanka's Pathum Nissanka scored an impressive 75 in the second game of the series, and he was rewarded

rankings, while former India captain Virat Kohli - who was rested for the series - fell out of the top 10 after dropping five places to 15th. The other big mover with the bat

with a six-spot rise to ninth on the

in T20I cricket this week is Mu-



hammad Waseem of the UAE. His unbeaten century against Ireland in the final of ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier A, helped him reach the 12th position with the bat. That is the highest T20I ranking by any UAE batter, surpassing Shaiman Anwar's 13th place achieved in 2017. Sri Lanka's Lahiru Kumara's five wickets in the series with India have lifted him into the top 40 bowlers for the first time.

Other bowlers who enjoyed a successful time at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Qualifier A include Zahoor Khan of UAE (up 17 places to joint-42nd) and Ireland's Josh Little

(up 27 places to join-49th) Rohan Mustafa's successes with bat and ball have enabled him to move

achieved in February 2020. The biggest mover on the Test rank-

up to 6th place among all-rounders,

just one place below his best of fifth

ings was South African quick Kagiso Rabada, who shot up three places to third following his impressive display against hosts New Zealand. Rabada managed 10 wickets during the two-match series, with his magnificent haul of 5/60 in the first innings of the second Test helping the Proteas on their way to an important 198-run triumph.

The kiwi duo Kyle Iamieson (drops two spots to fifth) and Tim Southee (drops one spot to sixth) lose ground in the bowler rankings, with Australia captain Pat Cummins and India veteran Ravi Ashwin still leading the way.

Business / World



Briefs

Zelensky assassination plot foiled

KYIV: An assassination attempt against Ukraine's president has been prevented, a government official claimed early Wednesday, the Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported on its website. The attempt on Volodymyr Zelenskyy's life was planned by members of the elite unit of the Kadyrovtsy (Kadyrov followers), the report said, quoting Oleksiy Danilov, Secretary of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, as saying on the air on the Ukraine 24 TV channel.

"The special operation that was to be carried out direct ly by Kadyrovtsy to eliminate our president is fully known to us today. I can say that we received information from representatives of the FSB (Russia's Federal Security Service) who have no desire to take part in this bloody war. Thanks to this, the Kadyrov elite group that came here to liquidate our president was killed,' Danilov told Ukraine 24.

The Kadyrovtsy is a paramilitary organization in Chechnya that serves as the protection of Ramzan Kadvrov, head of the Chechen Republic. - **Agencies**

Kyiv preparing for defense: Klitschko

KYIV: Mayor of Kyiv Vitaly Klitschko spoke about this on the air of Ukraine 24 TV, Ukrin form reports.

The situation is tense. As we're preparing, a large number of tanks are coming in from the east, from Belarus. Our guys are also preparing to defend us... can say that I'm proud to be Ukrainian and these efforts undertaken of our guys are the efforts of strong will, showing our Ukrainian character. Our guys are performing astonishingly in repelling the attacks on Kyiv. Today, the Russian's target is our

capital," Klitschko said. He added that he had inspected the checkpoints that are now preparing to face the enemy. "And I am surprised that people who have never carried a weap on in their lives, doctors, theater actors, now do so and say that we will defend our homes and defend our country and our city. I have never seen such a patriotic rise in any country," Klitschko said. - APP

Over 2,000 Ukrainians killed by Russian invasion

WEB DESK

KYIV: Since the beginning of the armed Russian aggression, more than 2,000 Ukrainians have been killed apart from defenders.

"For more than 160 hours. Ukraine and the Ukrainian people have been defending themselves against the insidious and cynical attack of Russia and Belarus. Every hour is the lost lives of our children, women, and defenders. For seven days of the war," the State Emergency Service posted on Facebook.

Over this period, Russia has destroyed hundreds of transport infrastructure facilities, residential houses, hospitals, and kindergar tens in Ukraine. "Over this period, more than 2.000 Ukrainians have been killed. apart from our defenders,' the statement reads.

"Today, the main efforts of rescuers are aimed at saving people. The lives of more than 150 people have been saved, more than 400 fires have been put out after the enemy attacks, more than 500 people have been evacuated. Pyrotechnicians have defused 416 explosive devices," the SES reports. As noted, 10 rescuers have been killed and 13 more have been injured while per-

On February 24, Russian president Vladimir Putin announced the beginning of the invasion of Ukraine. Russian troops have been shelling and destroying key infrastructure facilities, conducting massive attacks on residential districts of Ukrainian cities and villages using artillery, multiple rocket launchers, and ballistic missiles.

forming their job.

Martial law was imposed in Ukraine and general mobilization was announced.



ISLAMABAD: Models wearing national dresses of Uzbekistan during 'Uzbekistan National Dress and Fabric Exhibition' being held at Pak-China Friendship Centre. – DNA

Azerbaijan to further contribute to int'l peace

"In order to make a valuable contribution to the achievement of the goals enshrined in the UN Charter, Azerbaijan actively participates in the activities of UN in all three areas, namely: peace and security, sustainable development

News Desk

BAKU: Azerbaijan has pledged to remain a reliable UN partner and make every effort to further contribute to international peace and security. The Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry said this in a statement made on the 30th anniversary of the country's membership in the UN. "Azerbaijan, as a defender of international law, will continue to be a reliable partner of the UN, and will make every effort to further contribute to international peace and security,"

the statement said. The ministry noted that over the past three decades, Azerbaijan has established itself as a responsible member of the UN. "In order to make a valuable contribution to the achievement of the goals and principles enshrined in the UN Charter, Azerbaijan actively participates in the activities of the organization in all three areas, namely: peace and security, sustainable development and protection of human rights," the ministry said.

Furthermore, the statement emphasized that during the first years of mem-

with a period of armed aggression against the country, the organization expressed strong support for Azerbaijan's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and inviolability of its borders. "During this difficult period, the UN also provided significant support to Azerbaijan in eliminating the serious humanitarian consequences of the occupation," the statement added.

According to the ministry, almost 30 years later, based on the UN Charter, Azerbaijan liberated its territories from Armenian occupation in the 2020 second Karabbership, which coincided akh war, and large-scale restoration work is currently underway on these lands. The ministry also stated that Azerbaijan will continue to work with the UN, including in the field of mine clearance, to ensure the right of internally displaced people to return safely.

The statement drew attention to Azerbaijan's valuable contribution to UN peacekeeping operations, including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goals, international activities to protect and promote human rights, and combating traditional and emerging global risks and threats.

"It is no coincidence that Azerbaijan was elected a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2012-2013 with the support of the absolute majority of UN member states in 2011," the min-

istry said. Concerning the COVID-19 pandemic, the ministry stated that Azerbaijan, as the chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, has taken significant global initiatives that promote shared responsibility, strengthen solidarity, and international cooperation in the fight against the pandemic since its inception.

Non-Aligned operation in this sphere

bership on March 2, 2022.

"Special session of the UN General Assembly dedicated to the fight against COV-ID-19, held at the initiative of the president of Azerbaijan as the Chairman of the Movement, the resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly in 2021, and other initiatives on global recovery after the pandemic indicate that Azerbaijan has played an important and exemplary role in international cothe ministry pointed out. Azerbaijan marks the 30th anniversary of its UN mem-

New **Zealand** anti-covid protesters set fires

WELLINGTON: Thick black smoke billowed across the grounds of New Zealand's Parliament and sirens blared on Wednesday as retreating protesters against coronavirus vaccine mandates set fire to tents, mattresses and chairs.

It appeared to be a final act of defiance as police broke up the camp that protesters first set up more than three weeks ago. Police retook control of the Parliament grounds although dozens of protesters remained in nearby streets, some hurling objects at officers. Parliament's once carefully manicured grounds were left scarred, a children's

slide in ruins. New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said that in planning the operation, police had expected hostility, resistance and violence - but it was another thing entirely to witness it.

"I was both angry and also deeply saddened. To see the Parliament - your Parliament, our Parliament – desecrated in that way, and a children's playground destroyed, by a small group of illegal protesters," Ardern said. "But, as I say, it's not something that will define New Zealand's response to this pandemic."

Earlier, police wearing riot gear and using pepper spray had moved in on hundreds of people who had been occupying the grounds and surrounding streets. Police efforts in the morning focused on the periphery of the protest before turning to the main camp in the afternoon.

It was the most significant use of force to date by authorities against the demonstrators. As they retreated in the afternoon, they tossed objects onto several fires, which police doused with water hoses.

Protesters said in a statement they were united in wanting mandates dropped and to make their own informed choices regarding their health, free from coercion and punishment. They said the vast majority of protesters had been well-behaved and had chosen to camp as a last resort after other options for dialogue were quashed. - Agencies

EU approves new sanctions against Belarus

BRUSSELS: Apple has paused product sales in Russia while limiting Apple Pay and other services in the country due to the war on Ukraine. According to a statement from the company Tuesday, Russian state-run media RT News and Sputnik News' mobile apps are no longer available for download from the App Store outside Russia.

"We are deeply concerned about the Russian invasion of Ukraine and stand with all of the people who are suffering as a result of the violence," it noted.

The company underscored its support for humanitarian efforts, providing aid for the unfolding refugee crisis. Last week, it had stopped all exports into its sales channel in Russia. "And we have disabled both traffic and live incidents in Apple Maps in Ukraine as a safety and precautionary measure for Ukrainian citizens," it added. - APP

UNHCR commends efforts of Uzbekistan

TASHKENT: Celebrating the 30th anniversary of Uzbekistan and other Central Asian states' membership of the United Nations UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, commends their progress towards eradicating statelessness. In 2021, over 46,000 stateless persons acquired a nationality in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan or Uzbekistan. "The UN Refugee Agency appreciates the tremendous efforts made by the Governments, authorities, civil society, and people of Central Asia in addressing problems of statelessness. This constitutes tangible progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - leaving no one behind. The prevention of statelessness and the protection of stateless persons greatly contribute to international peace, security, development, and the prevention of forced displacement," said Mr. Hans Friedrich Schodder, UNHCR Representative for Central Asia.In 2021, Uzbekistan, the country with the largest known statelessness population in Central Asia, reduced statelessness almost by half, granting or confirming citizenship to 33,000 out of 70,000 registered stateless person. This became possible thanks to provisions of the new Citizenship Law adopted in 2020, and further amendments to it, enacted in 2021. Turkmenistan enacted Statelessness Determination Procedures (SDPs) which allow stateless persons to obtain legal status and thus access to basic human rights. Through enaction of SDPs Turkmenistan fulfilled one of the pledges formulated at the High-Level Segment on Statelessness in 2019. As a result of activities implemented by Tajikistan in 2021 to reduce statelessness, over 4,000 persons received identity documents. Additionally, almost 4,000 stateis persons were identified to be provided with legal assistance. Since the autumn of 2020, Kazakhstan has been running a national statelessness identification campaign aimed at mapping and resolving cases of statelessness. By end 2021, as a result of this campaign, close to 7,300 persons with undetermined nationality were identified, of whom more than 4,100 were assisted to confirm the nationality of Kazakhstan, while close to 2,000 were documented as de jure stateless. UNHCR continues supporting Government of Kyrgyzstan efforts to implement the four pledges it contributed to the 2019 High Level Segment, consolidating the success of the Kyrgyz Republic in resolving all known cases of statelessness in 2019. The UN Refugee Agency also supports the considerations of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan to join Turkmenistan and a growing number of states world-wide in becoming parties to both Statelessness Conventions. Since 2014, when the #IBelong campaign to eradicate statelessness globally by 2024 was launched, more than 163,000 cases of statelessness have been resolved in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. As of 31 December 2021, over 56,000 stateless persons are known in Central Asia, still requiring a nationality, though the actual extent of statelessness is believed to be higher. - Agencies

Ukraine to receive more missiles, Turkish drones

ANKARA: Ukraine is set to receive Stinger and Javelin missiles from abroad, as well as another shipment of Turkish drones, the country's defense minister, Oleksii Reznikov, said on Wednesday. Several Western countries have pledged to supply Ukraine with weapons to fend off a Russian invasion. Turkey-made drones have been very efficient in Ukraine's battle against invading Russian forces, Kyiv's ambassador to Ankara, VasylBodnar, said Sunday. More than half a million Ukrainians have fled the fighting since Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a full-scale invasion of his southern neighbor nearly a week ago. Turkey has sold Kyiv several batches of drone magnate Baykar-developed Bayraktar TB2s, which it had in the past deployed against Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine. The battle-tested unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) have already proven their capabilities in Libya, Syria and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Ankara and Kyiv earlier this last month agreed on a deal aimed at expanding drone production in Ukraine. In addition to Ukraine, the Bayraktar TB2 has also been used by Qatar, Azerbaijan and Poland, which in May last year became the first European Union and NATO member state to acquire drones from Turkey. Many other nations have also hinted at buying the UAVs. The Bayraktar TB2 - with its electronics, software, aerodynamics, design and submain systems fully designed and developed nationally stands out among the world's most advanced UAV systems in its class with its flight automation and performance. - APP

US – NATO have never been sanctioned for starting wars. Why?

ROBERT V. BRIDGE

HE reaction to Russia's attack on Ukraine, no matter what you think about it, has exposed the West's double standards Robert Bridge is an American writer and journalist. He is the author of 'Midnight in the American Empire,' How Corporations and Their Political Servants are Destroying the American Dream.

The West has taken an extreme stance against Russia over its invasion in Ukraine. This reaction exposes a high degree of hypocrisy considering that US-led wars abroad never received the punitive response they deserved.

If the current events in Ukraine have proven anything, it's that the United States and its transatlantic partners are able to run roughshod across a shellshocked planet - in Afghanistan, Iraq. Libya, and Syria, to name a few of the hotspots - with almost total impunity. Meanwhile, Russia and Vladimir Putin are being portrayed in nearly every mainstream media publication today as the second coming of Nazi Germany for their actions in Ukraine.

First, let's be clear about something. Hypocrisy and double standards alone do not provide justification for the opening of

hostilities by any country. In other words, just because NATO-bloc countries have been tearing a path of wanton destruction around the globe since 2001 without serious consequences, this does not give Russia, or any country, moral license to behave in a similar manner. There must be a convincing reason for a country to authorize the use of force, thereby committing itself to what could be considered 'a just war'. Thus, the question: Can Russia's actions today be considered 'just' or, at the very least, understandable? I will leave that answer up to the reader's better judgment, but it would be idle not to consider some important details.

Only to the consumers of mainstream media fast food would it come as a surprise that Moscow has been warning on NATO expansion for well over a decade. In his now-famous speech to the Munich Security Conference in 2007, Vladimir Putin poignantly asked the assembled global powerbrokers point blank, "why is it necessary to put military infrastructure on our borders during this [NATO] expansion? Can someone answer this question?" Later in the speech, he said that expanding military assets smack up to the Russian border "is not connected in any way with the democratic choices of individual states.

Not only were the Russian leader's con-

cerns met with the predictable amount of disregard amid the deafening sound of crickets, NATO has gone on to bestow membership on four more countries since that day (Albania, Croatia, Montenegro, and North Macedonia). As a thought experiment that even a dolt could conduct, imagine Washington's reaction if Moscow were building a continuously expanding military bloc in South America, for example. The real cause for Moscow's alarm, however, came when the US and NATO began flooding neighboring Ukraine with a dazzling array of sophisticated weaponry amid calls for membership in the military bloc. What on earth could go wrong? In Moscow's mind, Ukraine was beginning to pose an

existential threat to Russia. In December, Moscow, quickly nearing the end of its patience, delivered draft treaties to the US and NATO, demanding they halt any further military expansion eastwards, including by the accession of Ukraine or any other states. It included the explicit statement that NATO "shall not conduct any military activity on the territory of Ukraine or other states of Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia." Once again, Russia's proposals were met with arrogance and indifference by Western leaders.

US & NATO won't accept Russia's secu-

rity demands, so what next? While people will have varying opinions as to the shocking actions that Moscow took next, nobody can say they were not warned. After all, it's not like Russia woke up on February 24 and suddenly decided it was a wonderful day to start a military operation on the territory of Ukraine. So yes, an argument could be made that Russia had concern for its own security as a justification for its actions. Unfortunately, the same thing may be more difficult to say for the United States and its NATO minions with regards to their belligerent behavior over the course of the last two decades.

Consider the most notorious example, the 2003 invasion of Iraq. This disastrous war, which the Western media hacks have chalked up as an unfortunate 'intelligence failure', represents one of the most egregious acts of unprovoked aggression in recent memory. Without delving too deep into the murky details, the United States, having just suffered the attacks of 9/11, accused Saddam Hussein of Iraq of harboring weapons of mass destruction. Yet, instead of working in close cooperation with the UN weapons inspectors, who were on the ground in Iraq attempting to verify the claims, the US, together with the UK, Australia, and Poland, launched a 'shock

and-awe' bombing campaign against Iraq on March 19, 2003. In a flash, over a million innocent Iragis suffered death. injury, or displacement by this flagrant violation of international law. The Center for Public Integrity reported that the Bush administration, in its effort to bolster public support for the impending carnage, made over 900 false statements between 2001 and 2003 about Iraq's alleged threat to the US and its allies. Yet somehow the Western media, which has become the most rabid proliferator for military aggression bar none, failed to find any flaw in the argument for war that is, until after the boots and blood were on the ground, of course.

It might be expected, in a more perfect world, that the US and its allies were subjected to some stiff sanctions in the wake of this protracted eight-year 'mistake' against innocents. In fact, there were sanctions, just not against the United States. Ironically, the only sanctions that resulted from this crazy military adventure were against France, a NATO member that had declined the invitation. together with Germany, to participate in the Iraqi bloodbath. The global hyper-power is not used to such rejection, especially from its purported friends.

- Writer is an American writer and journalist



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Briefs

IMF to review PM's relief package this week

WEB DESK

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are meeting this week to review the relief package Prime Minister Imran Khan announced to lower POL and electricity prices in the face of a difficult international environment. Both sides will talk about the benefits of the package, media reported. The IMF team will kickstart virtual parleys with Pakistani authorities on March 4, 2022, and these talks will continue for two weeks for the completion of the 7th Review under the \$6 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) program. When contacted about the relief package announced by

PM Imran Khan, the IMF's Resident Chief in Pakistan, Esther Perez Ruiz, said that Pakistani authorities and the IMF would discuss during the upcoming 7th review of the EFF the merits of the recently-adopted relief package and other measures to promote macroeconomic stability amidst a challenging external environment.

Ukraine crisis: Arab refugees see double standards

MONITORING DESK

SIDON: Syrian refugee Ahmad al-Hariri, who fled the war in his country for neighbouring Lebanon 10 years ago, spent the last decade hoping in vain to escape to a new life in Europe. Watching European nations oper their arms to hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians in less than a week, the father of three can't help but compare their fates. "We are wondering, why were Ukrainians welcome in all countries while we, Syrian refugees, are still in tents and remain under the snow, facing death, and no one is looking to us?" he told Reuters in a refugee centre where 25 families are sheltered on the edge of the Mediterranean city of Sidon. In the Arab world, where 12 million Syrians have been uprooted by war, critics ranging from Hariri to activists and cartoonists contrast the Western reaction to the refugee crisis triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine with the way Europe sought to hold back Syrian and other refugees in 2015. Some recalled images of refugees walking for days in harsh weather, or losing lives in perilous sea crossings as they tried to breach Europe's borders.

China will not join sanctions

BEIJING: China will not join in sanctions on Russia that have been led by the West, the country's banking regulator said on Wednesday, adding that he believed the impact of the measures on China would be limited. China, which has refused to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine, has repeatedly criticised what it calls illegal and unilateral sanctions.

"As far as financial sanctions are concerned, we do not approve of these, especially the unilaterally launched sanctions because they do not work well and have no legal grounds," Guo Shuqing, chairperson of the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission, told a news conference.

"We will not participate in such sanctions. We will continue to maintain normal economic and trade exchanges with relevant parties," he said. China and Russia have grown increasingly close in recent years, including as trading partners. Total trade between the two jumped 35.9 per cent last year to a record \$146.9 billion, according to Chinese customs data, with Russia serving as a major source of oil, gas, coal and agriculture commodities, running a trade surplus with China. - APP

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhary Fawad Hussain and Sardor Umurzakov, Deputy Prime-Minister, Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade - Government of Uzbekistan inaugurating an exhibition 'Uzbekistan National Dress and Fabric" being held at Pak-China Friendship Centre. - DNA

Ukraine war hearings at UN court next week

The US trusts "the Court is taking into consideration the dire circumstances and rapidly unfolding events," the State Department said in a statement Tuesday

Ukraine refugees given right

to live in EU for 3 years

AGENCIES

THE HAGUE: The International Court of Justice said Tuesday it would hold genocide hearings on March 7 and 8 over the war in Ukraine, as fighting intensifies. The Hague-based ICJ, the United Nations' top court, will open the public hearings after Ukraine lodged a complaint with the court to order Russia to stop its invasion.

quest for the indication of provisional measures submitted by Ukraine," the court said in a statement. More than 660,000 people have already fled abroad. the UN refugee agency said, estimating that a million people are displaced within ex-Soviet Ukraine, which has a population of 44 million. The UN estimates that up to four million refugees may need help in the coming months and 12 million more will need assistance within the country.

The ICJ, which is based in the Netherlands' seat of government in The Hague,

Journalist

associations

challenge PECA ordinance in IHC

KARACHI: Pakistan Broadcasters Asso

ciation (PBA), All Pakistan News Papers

Society (APNS), Council of Pakistan News-

paper Editors (CPNE) and Association of

Electronic Media Editors and News Direc-

tors (AEMEND) has filed a writ petition

in Islamabad High Court challenging the

Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amend-

ment) Ordinance 2022. The petition states

that the Impugned Ordinance under the

pretence and disguise of fighting fake news

and disinformation will in reality shutter

discussion and comment on the working

of public figures, officials and institutions

which discussion and comment is vital to

good governance and a functioning democ-

racy. Parliament lacks legislative competen-

cy to shutter such discussion and comment

and as such the Impugned Ordinance is col-

ourable legislation liable to be struck down.

That the Sections 2 and 3 of the Impugned

Ordinance curtail the right to information

and is against the fundamental rights as pro-

vided by Article 19-A of the Constitution.

The petition is filed through Mr. Muneer A

Malik, Senior Advocate Supreme Court and

Barrister Rabi Bin Tariq. - DNA

BRUSSELS: Ukrainian refugees will have the right to live and work in the Europe-"The hearings will be devoted to the rean Union for up to three years, under an emergency plan in response to what is becoming Europe's biggest refugee crisis this century. Nearly 836,000 people have fled Ukraine since Russia launched its brutal attack less than a week ago, according to the UN refugee agency, which has warned that 4 million could leave the

does not have a mandate to bring criminal charges against individual Russian leaders behind the invasion. But it is

country in the coming weeks and months.

More than half (454,000) have fled

WEB DESK

to Poland, while 116,000 have gone to Hungary, 67,000 to Slovakia, 38,000 to Romania and 65,000 to non-EU Moldova, Europe's poorest country. The EU plan, which is expected to be approved on Thursday by the bloc's 27 member states, would grant Ukrainian nationals and permanent residents the right to live, work, access healthcare, housing education immediately for up to one year, without the requirement to go through lengthy asylum procedures. If the conflict continues, or refugees cannot return safely, that status could be extended for a further two years.

the world's top court for resolving legal complaints between states over alleged breaches of international law. InternaKhan had already announced he was launching an investigation on the "situation in Ukraine" following Russia's invasion. "I am satisfied that there is a reasonable basis to believe that both alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity have been committed in Ukraine" since 2014, Khan said in a statement Monday. Russia has defied international bans, boycotts and sanctions to press ahead with an offensive it says is aimed at defending Ukraine's Russian speakers and toppling the leadership. The United States trusts "the Court is taking into consideration the dire circumstances and rapidly un folding events," the State Department said in a statement Tuesday. Spokesman Ned Price said Washington hopes the court "will act with utmost urgency on Ukraine's request for provisional measures" in the hearing. "Each day that Russia is unconstrained in its aggression is a day that brings more violence, suffering, death, and destruction in Ukraine," he said.

tional Criminal Court prosecutor Karim



LAHORE: Ambassador of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov presenting a piece of art to Speaker Punjab Assembly Ch Pervaiz Elahi. - DNA

US renews Lincoln Corner Partnership with IMS

"The Lincoln Corner Peshawar partnership is aimed at improving educational standards and access to international resources for the youth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, enabling them to gain skills and confidence by taking part in different skill development programs," said Consul General Riley

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The United States Consul General Richard H. Riley and the Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences) Joint Director, Dr. Usman Ghani, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to renew the partnership of overseeing the Lincoln Corner Peshawar (LCP) for another two years from March 2022 to March 2024. The representatives signed the MOU during a virtual ceremony in the presence of students, faculty, and diplomats from the U.S. Mission to Pakistan. Established in 2014, LCP is a partnership between the U.S. Consulate General Peshawar and IMSciences. "The Lincoln Corner Peshawar partnership is aimed at improving educational standards and access to international resources for the youth in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, enabling them to gain skills and confidence by tak-



ing part in different skill development programs," said Consul General Riley. LCP is equipped with Maker Space technology including a 3D printer and STEM education kits for visitors to explore high tech tools and develop entrepreneurial and innovative skills. In the near future, LCP will be equipped with a state-of-the-art digital studio for tech entrepreneurs. The Corner also hosts a variety of programs on English language learning, career development, higher education, and American culture and history. The U.S. Mission to Pakistan operates 18 Lincoln Corners across Pakistan, and the Lincoln Corners are part of a network of more than 600 American Spaces across the world. Lincoln Corners are resource centers and event spaces hosted in partnership with Pakistani institutions - in public libraries, universities, and cultural centers Visitors can access a large collection of databases, scholarly journals, e-books, newspaper articles, and multimedia content.

Fawad seeks clear **SCBA** stance on PECA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Wednesday rejected the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA)'s criticism on the Pakistan Electronic Crime Act (PECA), saving its demands were contradictory and it must come up with a clear stance on the legislation.

The minister, in a tweet, said the SCBA wanted to have an action against those running sham social media campaigns and on the other hand they were against the existence of this law. "Let's clearly decide what we want,' Fawad invited the SCBA.

Bilawal vows to fulfil Benazir's promises

DNA

GHOTKI: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Wednesday addressed the people of Ghotki and said that he would fulfil the promises which his late mother Benazir Bhutto made during her lifetime. The PPP chairman's statement came during a public rally in Ghotki on the fourth day of PPP's long march against the incumbent government. Bilawal thanked the citizens of the city and said that Prime Minister Imran Khan faced defeat because they stood against him. "The PM promised us a change but only brought an economic crisis in the country," he said. Talking about the current situation in the country, the chairman said that there is a lack of jobs as people are going through the worst economic situation.

The chairman said that the nation will have to fight for its right and for the future of the upcoming generation, adding that "he will fulfil the promises made by late Benazir Bhutto.'

He reiterated that the Opposition will topple the government following democratic tactics and that "it's time to bring about a no-confidence motion against PM Imran Khan as his time is over".

Pressure grows in India to condemn Russia's

NEW DELHI: India's opposition on Wednesday stepped up pressure on the government to condemn the Russian invasion of Ukraine, a day after an Indian student died during shelling in the eastern city of Kharkiv. India is yet to criticise long-standing arms supplier Russia publicly, instead urging both sides to cease hostilities, causing frustration among its other allies including the United States. Thousands of Indian students remain trapped in Ukraine, leading to calls for the government to step up pressure on Russia to assist evacuation efforts.

'The government of India should stop its verbal balancing act and sternly demand that Russia stop immediately the bombing of key cities in Ukraine," said P. Chidambaram, a lawmaker from the opposition Congress party, in a tweet. India abstained in a United Nations Security Council vote condemning the invasion last week, though in recent days it has subtly shifted tone. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi "stressed upon the importance of respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations" during a call with Polish president Andrzej Duda, a statement by India's foreign ministry said late on Tuesday. In addition, India has taken a critical stand privately with Russian president Vladimir Putin, an Indian foreign ministry source said. Russia has long supported India internationally on critical issues including IIOJK, as well as provided the bulk of its military capability. New Delhi has for decades attempted to lessen its reliance on Russian-made weapons, while keeping the relationship close enough to avoid Moscow aligning more with rival Asian power China. - Agencies