



Islamabad POST

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Ambassador of UAE hails Pak-UAE deep rooted relations

Detailed News On Page-08

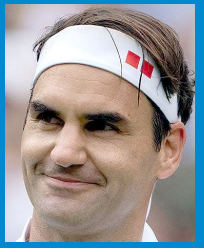
No trust move: Opposition lack numbers: FM

Detailed News On Page-08



Roger Federer anticipates his comeback

Detailed News On Page-06



Russian invasion of Ukraine PM displeased with EU envoys' letter

Says where were they when India broke the international law in Kashmir; announces to table South Punjab province bill in Parliament

STAFF REPORT / DNA

VEHARI: In response to the letter written by the European Union envoys in Pakistan asking Islamabad to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Prime Minister Imran Khan asked the bloc where were they when India broke the international law in Kashmir. PM Imran spoke about the European Union envoys' letter to Pakistan in a public rally in the Tehsil Maisi of Vehari District. CM Punjab Usman Buzdar and other govt members. The premier told the people of Maisi that his parents had taught him and he had always believed that Pakistan should not be a "slave to anyone". "EU ambassadors wrote a letter to Pakistan to give an anti-Russia statement. I ask EU ambassadors did you write that letter to India as well?" said PM Imran. The premier reminded the country that Pakistan had helped the Western bloc in the war on terror. He added that he would not have made Pakistan party to the war had been in government. "Head of the country at that time supported them," said PM



Imran. He wondered what Pakistan got out of supporting the West apart from losing 80,000 of its citizens, displacement of 3.5 million people and losing over \$100 billion. "I ask EU ambassadors did you thank us? Did you say you helped us in our war? Did you appreciate us?" asked PM Imran from the EU envoys. The premier reminded the envoys that instead of thanking Pakistan the West had made Islamabad a scapegoat.

Continued on Page 06

NSA Moeed Yusuf's UK visit called off

ISLAMABAD: The British government did not state any reason as it unilaterally called off the visit of Pakistan's National Security Adviser (NSA) Moeed Yusuf. The NSA was scheduled to visit the UK next week. Quoting sources, the report said that the visit was called off owing to Pakistan's policy towards standoff between Russia and Ukraine, reports local media. Pakistan has expressed its dismay over the move taken by the European nation. Asim Iftikhar, spokesman for the Foreign Office in his media interaction on Friday made it clear that Pakistan had taken note of a joint statement issued by a group of EU envoys posted in Islamabad. The spokesman quoted as saying, "We expressed concern over the statement because as I said that is not the way diplomacy should be practised, I think they have realised." - DNA

Pakistan to exit FATF grey list this year: Tarin

The FATF said that Pakistan completed 26 of 27 action items

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Shaukat Tarin said that Pakistan would exit from the grey list of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) this year as it has already achieved almost all targets set by the task force. "We have completed 26 conditions out of 27 of the action plan," the minister, who is in Dubai, told Khaleej Times and termed the FATF decision as politically motivated. It is pertinent to mention that on Friday, the FATF announced that it was retaining Pakistan on the grey list while noting that significant progress had been made in completing the required action items for removal from the list. In a statement, the FATF said that Pakistan completed 26 of the 27 action items in its 2018 action plan. It encouraged Pakistan to continue to make progress to address the one remaining item as soon as possible. It further added since June 2021, Pakistan has taken swift steps towards improving its AML/CFT regime and completed six of the seven action items ahead of any relevant deadlines expiring.

Bilawal hopeful of no-trust move success

Nadeem Afzal Chan re-joins PPP



LAHORE: Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari flanked by senior PPP leaders Qamar Zaman Kaira, Pervez Ashraf, Aitezaz Ahsan talking to media at Afzal Chan residence. - DNA

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari has suggested Prime Minister Imran Khan to resign before the joint Opposition tables the no-confidence motion against the incumbent government. The statement came during Bilawal's interaction with the media at Afzal Nadeem Chan's residence in Lahore. Chan, meanwhile announced detachment with PTI and joined PPP today. The PPP

Continued on Page 06

No-trust move likely on 8 or 9

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) senior leader Syed Khursheed Ahmed Shah on Sunday said that no-trust move likely to be tabled before the National Assembly on March 8 or 9. In his informal media talk,

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

UNSC condemns Peshawar attack

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) condemned the "heinous and cowardly" terrorist attack on a Mosque in Peshawar. "The members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack that took place at the Koocha Risaldar Mosque in Peshawar, Pakistan, on Friday, March 4 2022," said UNSC president. The statement said that the UNSC members expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims and the Pakistani government. After the statement was released, Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN Munir Akram thanked UN chief, United Nations Alliance of Civilisations. The envoy especially thanked China for "proposing the press statement and UAE for securing consensus on it."

Opp would bite the dust

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain Sunday said all the towering claims made and the deadlines given against the democratically elected government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) by the opposition parties had failed. "Fazl-ur-Rehman's 48 hours and Bilawal's five days proved as a wooden horse," the minister said in a tweet. Fawad expressed confidence that in the next week the opposition including its movement would be 'back to their homes' after seeing the results contrary to their tall claims about the government. - APP

Diplomats extend condolences on the Peshawar incident



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Various foreign missions continue to condemn the Peshawar blast and express solidarity with the families of the victims. The Ambassador of Nepal Tapas Adhikari in his Twitter message expressed sympathies with the affected families. The message said 'We are deeply saddened by the news of the deadly bomb explosion at a mosque in Peshawar, Pakistan, leaving many precious lives lost and several others wounded. We condemn this senseless act of terrorism. Our deepest condolences to the families of the victims, the message added', High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Pakistan Mohan Wijewick-

rama in his message on embassy social media pages said 'terrorist act targeting innocent civilians in a Mosque in Peshawar was extremely shocking and sad. We condemn it at highest levels. We send our heartfelt sympathies to families of all who died and wish all who were wounded in the attack an early recovery'. Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Rabei has also condemned the incident and extended condolences to the affected families. In his message issued on Saturday the ambassador said, 'my heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyrs, the government and the brotherly Pakistani people, and the recovery of the wounded in Peshawar, and I strongly condemn this terrorist attack on the mosque'.

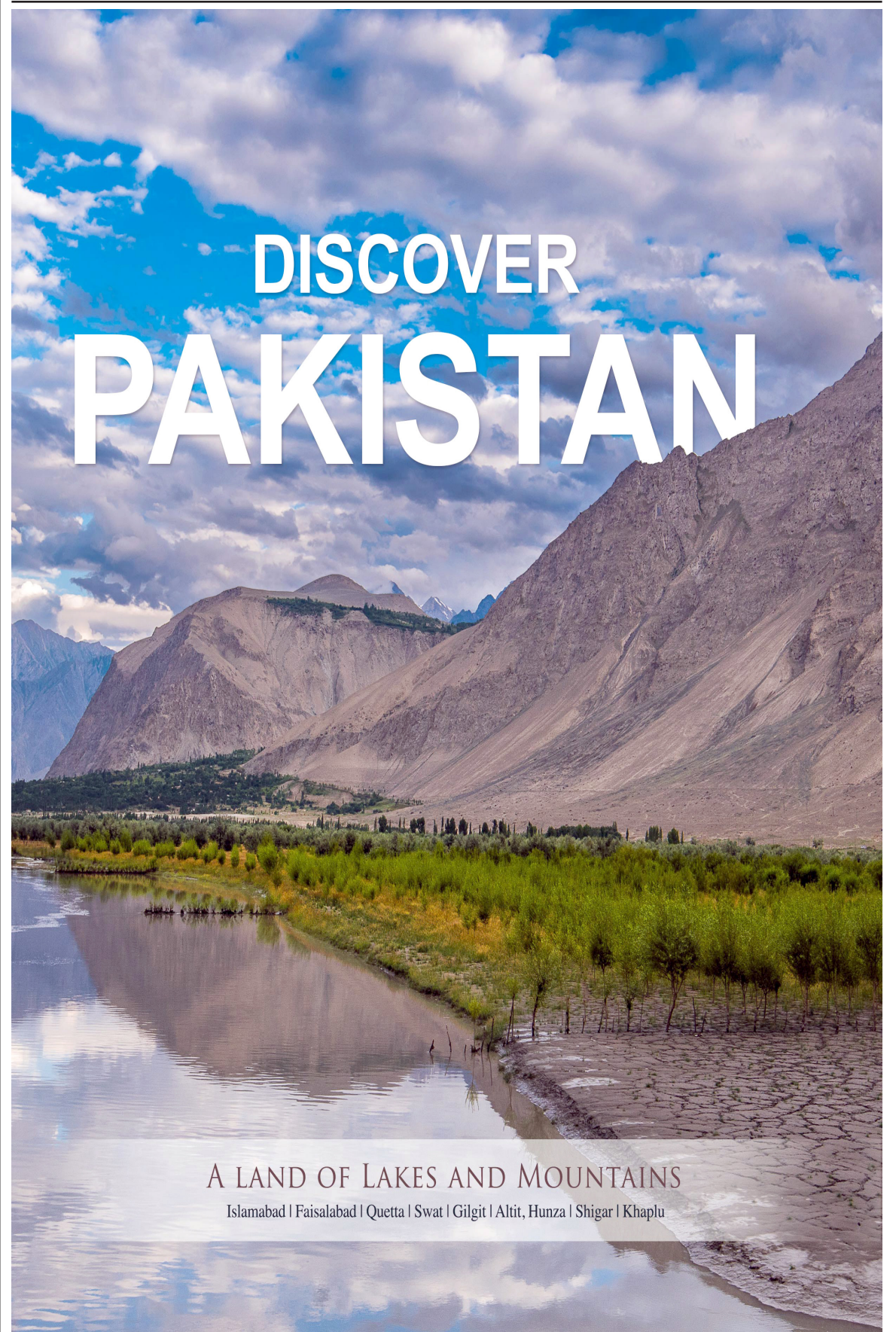
Palestine: Indian ambassador found dead in embassy

CENTRELINE REPORT / DNA

RAMALLAH: Indian ambassador to Palestine Mokul Arora found dead inside the Indian embassy located in Beitunia west of Ramallah in occupied West Bank. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants of Palestine in a press release said that Indian Ambassador to Palestine has died under mysterious circumstances. Ministry said, "We received with great astonishment and shock the news of the death of the Ambassador of the Republic of India to the State of Palestine, Mukul Arya, and we express great sadness, loss and pain at his death." It said, we are making official contacts with the Indian Foreign Ministry to complete arrangements for transporting the body of the deceased ambassador to his country. President Mahmood Abbas and Prime Minister Muhammad Shtayyeh issued immediate instructions to all security, police and public authorities, in addition to the Min-



istry of Health and Forensic Medicine, to immediately move to the residence of the Indian ambassador in Ramallah; to find out more about the death. "All parties are fully prepared to do what is required of them in such difficult and emergency circumstances," the ministry said. In a tweet Indian Foreign Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar presents his condolences on the death of Arya. "Deeply shocked to learn about the passing away of India's Representative at Ramallah, Shri Mukul Arya" FM said in a tweet.



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FCCI demands arrest of Peshawar blast culprits

Deputy Commissioner welcomed the members of district peace committee and said that the scholars of all schools of thought in Faisalabad district are united

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) has condemned the suicide attack in Imam Bargah in Peshawar and demanded deterrent punishment to the perpetrators. In a statement, he said that peace is imperative for economic activities and despite the best efforts of the Government, sporadic incidents occur which shatter the confidence of the investors. He said that the Government must direct law enforcing agencies to take proactive measures to check recurrence of such incidents in future. He also underlined the need to reactivate the secret agencies to keep an eye on the anti-state elements who are conspiring to create chaotic conditions in the country. He also expressed condolence with the victims of this tragic incident and demanded reasonable financial compensation for the families of the martyrs and injured individuals.

District peace committee meeting

The meeting of District Peace Committee was held at dc office under the joint chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad and CPO Ghulam Mubashar Maikan. Additional Deputy Commissioner General Qaiser Abbas Rind, District Manager Auqaf Shahbaz Ahmad and other officers were also present. Maulana Muhammad Yusuf Anwar, Pir Faiz Rasool Rizvi, Muhammad Riaz Kharal, Mufti Zia Madni, Syed Jafar Naqvi, Dr. Iftikhar Naqvi, Yaseen Zafar, Syed Tajmal Hussain, Bishop of Faisalabad Andaryas Rehmat and others were present on the occasion. Deputy Commissioner welcomed the members of district peace committee and said that the scholars of all schools of thought in Faisalabad district are united. He said that tolerance, love and observance of law should be taught to the people and especially in the gatherings of Jumua prayer, the message of sincere adherence to Aswa-e-Hasana (PBUH) and unity

should be conveyed. He said that district administration would always welcome the suggestions of Ulmas for the establishment of peace. He said that peace and security is the hallmark of religion Islam which makes the world and the hereafter better therefore, will not spare a single minute to keep Faisalabad as the cradle of peace, the credit of which goes to the scholars of all sects. He condemned the bomb blast in mosque at Peshawar and prayed for the martyrs of tragic incident. CPO also highlighted the remarkable role of members peace committee for peace in district. Members of Peace Committee assured their full cooperation and said that peace belongs to all of us.

They strongly condemned the sadful incident of Peshawar and urged to tightening up the security. Finally, prayers were offered for the development and prosperity of the country and the nation, peace and security, unity and solidarity and blessings and for martyrs of Peshawar incident.



LAHORE: State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib addressing to Media Training Workshop at a local hotel accompanied by Chairman National Press Trust Munir Ahmed Khan, Sohail Ali Khan (PIO) and Amjad Pervez Malik Senior Advisor (NPT). - APP

UBG condemns Peshawar attack

DNA

KARACHI: The leaders and members of UBG Mr. SM Munir, Iftikhar Ali Malik, Zubair Tufail and other vehemently condemned the suicide blast in Peshawar mosque claiming 56 innocent lives of worshippers and more than 190 injured. They said the coward anti Pakistani elements have again resorted to defame and destabilize the Pakistan economy which is flourishing making Pakistan prosper and stable. UBG said the anti-Pakistan elements are trying to bring back scenes of gloom and horror in Pakistan as they can't digest its progress. The UBG members have also announced their solidarity with the families who lost their members in the mosque bombing and requested the Ministry of Interior to take effective action against anti-state elements who are terrorist and foil their evil designs by taking strict security measures by deputing police and security forces at mosques, other worship places, shopping centers and other sensitive area to avert any such incidents.

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Excise dept seizes drugs

PESHAWAR: The officials of the Excise department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sunday seized huge quantities of drugs and foiled an attempt of Drug smuggling wherein recovering 70 kg of cannabis, spokesman of the Excise Department said here. He said the Excise Intelligence Bureau (EIB) acted on intelligence reports and during a search of a truck (No. KBL 3823) at Arbab Landi check post near Kohat Road in Peshawar, 70 kg of hashish was recovered from a secret compartment set up behind a diesel tank. The truck was already parked on the side of the road. - APP

Jhelum stallion win sixth Yo'or Tasker Football C'ship



KAMRAN GUJJAR

JHELMUM: Jhelum stallion won the sixth Yo'or Tasker Football Championship after the thrilling competition. OMAR RIAZ (Chief Executive Officer, Yo'or Tasker) paid

tribute to chairman Yaqoob for contributing to promote football game in Pakistan and giving young players a chance to demonstrate their talent in team management and planning. He expressed his determination to organize more events in the future to encourage sports culture in Pakistan.

Businessmen expresses solidarity with blast victims

PESHAWAR: The local business community expressed solidarity with the blast victims and bereaved families as on the third day of Kocha Risaldar tragedy, the atmosphere of the city is mournful, shops of the markets and surrounding areas were closed. The mourning procession at the homes of martyrs in Peshawar were held with relatives and locals continue to arrive for prayers. The business community expressed solidarity with bereaved families and visited each of the victim's homes for Fateha. The city's historical storytelling and Kohati's bazaar is closed for the third day on Sunday. There were increase in the number of security personnel in Peshawar, Kohati and

surrounding areas with prayers continue and locals in Peshawar, including relatives of the martyrs of the suicide attack. However, the death toll increased to 63 on Sunday with 37 injured are under treatment and more than five injured were in critical condition. The federal government and provincial governments have claimed to trace and identified the suicide bomber and other suspects and facilitators. When contacted the spokesman of the Lady Reading Hospital Muhammad Asim, he said, 27 injured of the bomb blast are under treatment besides confirming the death toll as 62. He said five of the injured are currently in ICU with 10 more injured have been discharged in the last 12 hours. - APP

3 dacoits rearrested after police encounter

DNA

FAISALABAD: The Millat Town police have re-arrested three dacoits after an encounter near FDA City on Sargodha Road. A police spokesman said on Sunday that a team of the Millat Town police station handcuffed three accused including Ashfaq alias Gunga, Iftikhar alias Tota and Owais alias Champo in case No 1926/21, and was taking them along for recovery of property. When the police van reached near FDA City on Sargodha Road, two assailants riding on a motorcycle intercepted the vehicle and opened indiscriminate fire on it. They also succeeded in getting their arrested accomplices released from the police van. The police team called for help and started chasing the accused. Receiving information, SP Madina Town Naem Aziz

Sindhu, along with heavy police contingent, reached the spot and encircled the accused. The police directed them for surrender but they once again opened fire. The police also returned the fire. In exchange of fire, all three handcuffed accused including Owais, Ashfaq and Iftikhar, residents of Bismillah Town, received bullet injuries and fell down on the ground whereas their accomplices managed to escape from the scene. The police re-arrested the accused, who were wanted to Chak Jhumra, Millat Town and Nishatabad police in a number of dacoity, robbery and other cases. The police shifted the injured accused to Allied Hospital for treatment and started investigation to trace whereabouts of the escapees for their arrest, spokesman added.

4 injured in rivals' clash

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Four persons including a woman were injured in rivals' clash in the area of Sadar Jaranwala police station. A Rescue-1122 spokesman said on Sunday that two rival groups exchanged firing over an old property dispute near Chak No 27-GB on Sitiana Road and injured four persons including Ameeran (50), wife of Javed Anwar, Riaz (32) son of Falak Sher, Haidar (30) son of Gulzar and Garhi Muhammad (42) son of Falak Sher. A rescue team shifted the injured to Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital Jaranwala where their condition was stated out of danger, he added.

Fesco power shutdown schedule

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (Fesco) has issued shutdown programme for Monday due to necessary repair, maintenance and expansion of electricity lines. According to the programme issued by the company, power supply from Sultan, Nagar, Darul Ehsan and Rasool Pur feeders emanating from 132-kV Chak Jhumra grid station will remain suspended from 9:30 a.m to 1:30 p.m while all feeders originating from 132-kV Gohar Textile grid station will observe shutdown from 9 a.m to 1 p.m on Monday (March 07). Similarly, electricity supply from all feeders emanating from 132-kV MTM and JK Tech grid stations, VAC-1, Garment City, Sadaqat Textile, Gohar Textile, Global Enterprises, Tricon, Chawla Spinning, Bahmani Wala, Sumaira Fabrics, Ahmad Jamal and Shahkot Road feeders originating from 132-kV VAC grid station will also remain suspended from 9 a.m to 3 p.m on March 07, 2022. - APP

KP govt signs MoUs of US\$ 8b in Dubai Expo

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has signed 44 memorandum of understanding (MoUs) worth US\$ 8 billion with various foreign investment companies during its participation in the Dubai Expo 2020 in January this year. The MoUs were signed in various sectors including energy, agriculture, industry, tourism, minerals and information technology. During Dubai Expo, the team of the provincial government held a successful investment road show which was attended by representatives of over 250 foreign companies. Similarly, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa team also organized eight sectoral conferences in which up to 100 foreign investors participated. Moreover, the provincial government has also prepared an action plan to implement the MoUs signed with foreign companies at the Dubai Expo. This was told in the 9th Board meeting of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KPBOIT) held here the other day with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan in the chair, said an official handout issued here on Sunday. The meeting was informed that as per special

instructions of the Chief Minister, a team of the provincial government led by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment and Trade (KPBOIT) participated in the Dubai Expo with full preparations and homework, and the outcome of provincial government's participation was beyond expectations. It was further informed that strictly adhering to the austerity policy of the government, the team of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government had saved huge amount for the provincial exchequer by spending only 34.27 percent of the funds allocated for Dubai Expo. Talking on this occasion, the Chief Minister termed the participation of the provincial government in the Dubai Expo as very successful and fruitful and appreciated the performance of the entire team including the officials of the Board of Investment and Trade in this regard and directed the concerned quarters to take necessary steps to execute at least 50 percent of the MoUs signed at the Dubai Expo in the tenure of incumbent government so that maximum employment opportunities could be created to the people of the province by attracting more and more foreign investment. - APP

Peshawar blast probe sees rapid progress

DNA

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Local Government and Rural Development Faisal Amin Gandapur on Sunday said the rapid progress has been made within 24 hours on the probe of tragic incident of suicide blast and terrorism in Kocha Risaldar of Qissa Khawani Bazaar and all its characters

would be exposed soon.

He said it was proven fact that inimical forces did not want to see Pakistan prosper and wanted to reorganize the network of sectarianism and terrorism with the aim to stop restoration of international cricket in the country and world trade here besides harming progress on CPEC. He, however, reiterated the firm pledge that the nation and security agencies will

thwart such nefarious intentions of the country's enemy and they would even have to bear the brunt of recent terror incidents, he asserted. The minister, while talking to local journalists and elite of the area in Dera Ismail Khan, strongly condemned the blast and clarified that the incident had saddened the Pakistani nation but the enemy would also have to pay its heavy price.



WAZIRABAD: Haji Muhammad Ashfaq Warraich, Jamshed Ahmed Chatha, Sabir Hussain Butt, Muhammad Farooq Mirza and others are posing for a group photo on the occasion of meeting of General Body of Pakistan Chamber of Education, Tehsil Wazirabad. - DNA

Tahir Ashrafi visits Kocha Risaldar, condemns attack

PESHAWAR: Special Representative to Prime Minister on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East and Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council, Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi Sunday visited Kocha Risaldar Qissa Khwani and condemned blast at Imambargah. Talking to media, Tahir Ashrafi said that he visited here on behalf of Prime Minister Imran Khan and said that it was not the issue of any one sect, rather it is the issue of all sects. Tahir Ashrafi said that perpetrators may know that these sacrifices were inherited to us from Hassan and Hussain R.A. He said that such violence and terrorism can-



not depress the courage and faith of us adding people sacrifices will not go in vain. He said we stand united against such terrorists and

extremists. Tahir Ashrafi said that this is an attack on Pakistan, if we stand united for our country no one would be succeeded to sabotage the peace of our country. Tahir Ashrafi said that those who were involved in the incidents were identified and soon they would be brought before justice. He said that the case would be run in terrorism court with speedy trail to give exemplary punishment to the people involved in the incident. He expressed sympathies with the families of martyrs and the injured. He said words cannot adequately condemn the sheer brutality. He said this is a terrorist act

by anti-state elements to derail interfaith harmony in the country. Tahir Ashrafi also visited Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar and inquired after the injured of the blast. Federal Minister for Religious Affairs Pir Noor ul Haq Qadri also visited Kocha Risaldar and expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of people and prayed Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to bereaved family members to bear this irreparable loss with fortitude. He said that we would not provide any space to such anti-state elements and will compete against them. - APP

COURT NOTICE

In the court of Mis Nasir Zadi Mehwish Sahiba Civil Judge Jhelum

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March 17/ Ireland	St. Patrick's Day
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Pakistan fully vaccinates 100mn people: Asad Umar

The vaccination milestone development has achieved at the time when the country's Covid graph was showing decreasing trend of the virus

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: As many as 100 million people have been "fully vaccinated" against the coronavirus in Pakistan, a "major milestone" achieved by the country in its effort to get rid of the virus and return to normalcy. According to National Command and Operation Centre head Asad Umar's tweet on Sunday, more than 127 million have received at least one dose of the Covid vaccines. "We are very close to achieving vaccination of all eligible citizens," he said. It is pertinent to mention that the countrywide door-to-door vaccination cam-

paign, which started on February 1, had also contributed to the latest milestone to some extent as the country witnessed an increase in the number of vaccinated people after the drive. It was the first phase of the "massive" two-week-long countrywide vaccination campaign to inoculate more than 35 million people. "As many as 55,000 mobile teams will take part in this campaign that will be conducted across the country. We have trained them and arranged vaccines for them," NCOC head Asad Umar had said during a press conference on February 1. He was addressing the presser with Special Assistant to the PM on Health Dr Faisal Sultan in Islamabad.



The vaccination milestone development has achieved at the time when the country's Covid graph was showing decreasing trend of the virus. The daily coronavirus statistics have shown that the impact of the virus has dampened over the last 10 days, prompting the NCOC

positivity : 2.0%; deaths: 7; patients on critical care: 821," it said in a tweet. The NCOC forum, which serves as the nerve centre of the country's unified efforts to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus, also shared the country-wide tally. According to the data, Sindh topped the list with maximum cases, 569,978, followed by Punjab (502,621), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (216,983), Islamabad (134,620), Azad Jammu and Kashmir (43,106), Balochistan (35,380), and Gilgit Baltistan (11,570). Furthermore, the active cases also stayed below 30,000. Amid the weakening signs of the fifth wave of coronavirus, the NCOC

on March 1 allowed full occupancy at stadiums for the Pakistan-Australia cricket series that will be held in three cities of the country from March 4 to April 5. In a statement issued by the NCOC, the Covid-19 monitoring body allowed people aged 12 and above who are vaccinated to attend matches. Moreover, children below 12 years of age who are not vaccinated are also allowed to watch matches in the stadiums, it added. Earlier, the NCOC on February 23 abolished the pre-boarding negative PCR test for fully vaccinated inbound travellers as it revised the Covid-related policy for passengers travelling to Pakistan.

Street libraries attracting youth

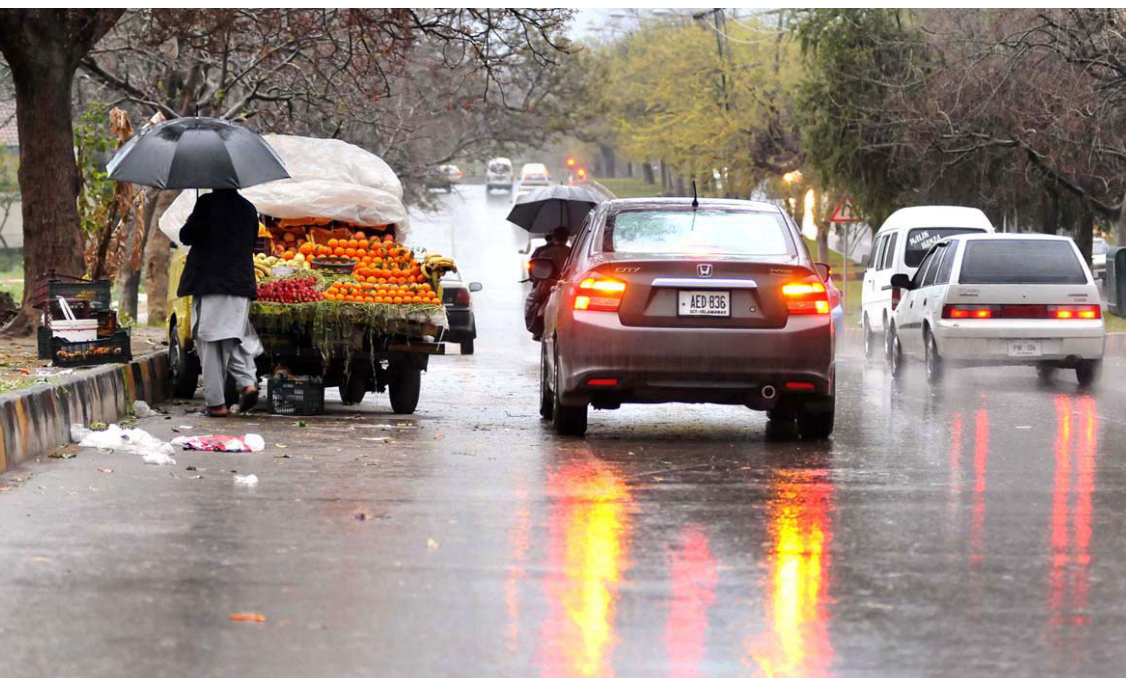
ISLAMABAD: The concept of 'street libraries' has become center of attraction among book lovers that were opened at various places of Islamabad and Rawalpindi aimed at promoting book culture among people. Talking to APP here on Sunday, an official of Department of Islamabad Library Mahmood Raza said, 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. - APP

Biggest Buddhist Stupa discovered in Swabi

ISLAMABAD: Directorate of Archeology & Museums (DOAM) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has discovered and excavated one of the biggest Buddhist Stupa in the region. According to DOAM, KP, Baho Dheri Stupa at Swabi the discovered site is almost 1800 years old as per initial researches. An official of DOAM said, more than 400 antiquities have been recovered. It is the largest stupa in the area. Further excavations are underway. The discoveries include a 73-meter (240-feet) stupa, the largest of its kind so far found in the region and a rare life-size statue of Gautam Buddha, the founder of Buddhism. - APP

Cloudy weather with rain likely in Capital

ISLAMABAD: The weather in various parts of the country particularly in the federal capital was expected to be rainy with thunderstorm, winds and snowfall over the hills including in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, North Balochistan, Upper and Central Punjab, Gilgit-Baltistan, Islamabad and Kashmir during next 24 hours. A westerly wave is affecting western and upper/central parts of the country and may persist in upper parts till Thursday, said the Met Office. - APP



ISLAMABAD: A view of car lights reflects on road during rain in the capital near G9 area. - APP

IIU president stresses students to adopt online free courses

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President, International Islamic University Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, stressed upon the students to adopt online virtual free courses. He was addressing an enthralled audience of newly admitted students the other day in a welcome orientation ceremony at Faisal Masjid. The ceremony was organized by Directorates of Students Affairs (male and female) of the university. In a maiden speech in the presence of Vice Presidents, Deans, DGs, Professors, senior faculty members and relevant

officials, the IIU President urged the students to adopt patience and consistency adding that these are the attributes that lead to success. He opined that same is the case with the education as it needs immense hard work, dedicated learning and devotion. The IIU President highlighting the importance of virtual learning stressed upon the students to adopt online virtual free courses. "You are the future, take the responsibility and raise the lamp of knowledge, we will always be there to make your life a real success" Dr. Hathal said while discussing the importance of youth. He told that the university

is preparing a curriculum according to the latest changes and trends to make our place among the top universities of the world. IIU President urged the students to disseminate peace while reiterating the resolve the Islamic character building, disciplined conduct and peaceful atmosphere of learning will be ensured on campus. "I wish you a successful journey of education" he prayed at the end of his speech. On the occasion, the IIU also inaugurated the website of Directorate of Student Advisors. In his speech, Vice President Academics Prof. Dr. Ayaz Afsar elaborated the Inter-

national character of the university. He said the university is having students from more than 40 countries and a dedicated campus for female students is a unique distinction. Dr. Ayaz mentioned the recent ranking that IIU is among top 200 youngest universities across the world. He also shared accolades won by university researchers being among the top 2 percent of the world. The Vice President also told that university focuses on every aspect of providing elite resources of learning and university will soon have a separate library for the female students.

Limits must not be crossed on Women's Day: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East and Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi has said that everyone has equal rights to mark International Women's Day within the constitutional parameters. To a query regarding the letter of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Minister Pir Noor ul Haq Qadri to Prime Minister Imran Khan for observing 'Hijab Day' on March 08, he said it was Noor Qadri's legal right to celebrate the day as there was no bar on it. He said if some civil societies and activists wanted to mark it as Aurat March,



they were also free but they should not cross their limits. He said last time, they raised some slogans which were socially, morally and religiously unacceptable. He said there was a proper mechanism in place to hold any day in the country and everyone should follow the code of conduct as prescribed in the law of the land. - DNA

Women Int'l Film Festival at PNCA on March 11

ISLAMABAD: Two-day Women International Film Festival (WIFF) would be held at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) from March 11. WIFF is having its sixth year run in Islamabad, said a statement. We have an amazing line-up of films all made by women from Pakistan and around the world. The event is supported by the Embassy of France in Pakistan, the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany Islamabad and British Council, in collaboration with FM89. - DNA

Health expert underlines need to protect from dryness

ISLAMABAD: The health expert Dr Azhar Khawar Sunday underlined the need to protect from multiple skin allergies including dryness as changing weather pattern impacting on residents of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Talking to APP, he said "Climate change refers to long-term shifts in weather conditions and patterns of extreme weather events. It may lead to changes in health threat to human beings, multiplying existing health problems. This review examines the scientific evidences on the

impact of climate change on human infectious diseases". It identifies research progress and gaps on how human society may respond to, adapt to, and prepare for the related changes. He said humans' vulnerability to the potential health impacts by climate change is evident in literature. As an active agent, human beings may control the related health effects that may be effectively controlled through adopting proactive measures, including better understanding of the climate

change patterns and of the compound disease-specific health effects, and effective allocation of technologies and resources to promote healthy lifestyles and public awareness. Eczema the most common skin condition, especially in children. It affects one in five infants but only around one in fifty adults. It is now thought to be due to "leakiness" of the skin barrier, which causes it to dry out and become prone to irritation and inflammation by many environmental factors, he said. Also, some young children

with eczema have a food sensitivity which can make eczema symptoms worse. In about half of patients with severe atopic dermatitis, the disease is due to inheritance of a faulty gene in their skin called filaggrin. Adding he said, unlike with urticaria (hives), the itch of eczema is not only caused by histamine so anti-histamines may not control the symptoms. Eczema is often linked with asthma, allergic rhinitis (hay fever) or food allergy. This order of progression is called the atopic march. - APP

37 fresh Covid cases reported in capital

ISLAMABAD: Health officials on Sunday said that 37 new Coronavirus cases were reported in the federal capital during the last 24 hours. According to an official of the NCOC, as many as 64 cases were reported on Saturday while 23 cases were reported on Friday. He said so far 134,620 cases were reported from the federal capital and 1,017 deaths were reported from ICT while 133,105 patients had been recovered completely. He said that the government has already waived off the booster shots fee for those visiting abroad, and now they can get a free booster while showing their documents. This booster

was free for the general public, he added. He said that on the direction of the Ministry of National Health Services, the district administration of Islamabad had continued surveillance of different areas of the capital to reduce transmission of the infection in the selected streets and other sectors. They also started taking action on a violation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) related to the coronavirus while visiting marriage halls, markets, and petrol pumps by its inspection teams. The administration had been asked to take action on the violation of SOPs at shops, workshops, and restaurants.

Islamabad Museum to initiate mega projects soon

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Heritage Museum would soon initiate mega projects including sculptures, Gandhara heritage with the aim of promoting the rich and diverse culture of the country. Talking to APP, Official of Islamabad Museum Abdul Ghafoor said, "This museum is a centre of attraction among all classes of the society including foreigners who visit frequently due to its heritage dimensions". Adding, he said, the Museum covers the history of Pakistan through the artifacts displayed in chronological order, incorporating one of the earliest man-made tool, dating back to 2 million years, collected from Soan Valley, nine thousands years old objects from Mehrgarh (Balochistan), artifacts of world celebrated Indus valley civilization and statutory of Gandhara Civilization. He said the antiquity representing Kot Digi, Gandhara Grave Culture, Bhanbhore, Thatta and other regional cultures spell out the story of evolution of man. - APP

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MAINTENANCE DIVISION NO.III (SB)

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited on percentage basis on NIT cost from the contractors resided with FBR and duly enlisted with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in appropriate category and PEC license having validity upto 30-06-2021-22 for the works as detailed below:-

S.#	Name of work	NIT Cost	Earnest Money	Tender Cost	Date & Time of Receiving of tenders	Date of opening of Tenders
1	Providing and fixing of false ceiling , wall paneling and miscellaneous work at 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th floor fata house G-5/1 Islamabad	4221338/-	126640/-	2000/-	24-3-2022 at 11.30 am	24-3-2022 at 12.00 PM
2	Providing and fixing of glass partition & miscellaneous works at 3rd floor fata house, Islamabad	4376499/-	131294/-	2000/-	24-3-2022 at 11.30 am	24-3-2022 at 12.00 PM
3	Providing and fixing of wooden almiras, shelves and other wood work, at 3rd floor fata house sector G-5/1 Islamabad	2427847/-	72835/-	2000/-	24-3-2022 at 11.30 am	24-3-2022 at 12.00 PM
4	Providing / supply of office furniture and material at fata house sector G-5/1 Islamabad	4490007/-	134702/-	2000/-	24-3-2022 at 11.30 am	24-3-2022 at 12.00 PM
5	Supplying of executive office furniture at fata house G-5-1 Islamabad.	6152957/-	184589/-	2000/-	24-3-2022 at 11.30 am	24-3-2022 at 12.00 PM

CONDITIONS

- Application for the tender document for above mention work shall be received upto 21-3-2022 till AM
- Tender will be issued to only those firms who will provide attested copies of active (PEC) License for the current year and NTN & active GST having appropriate Category for the work PEC Certificate, professional Tax Certificate in original will also be seen at the time of application submission (All documents should be current year and attested) Bidder must also be an active Tax Payers List.
- That deposit at call/Earnest money should be generated only from firms account and in the name of firm.
- Power of attorney duly registered in respective court for the each work/works.
- That the attorney holder may not be the employee of any Government/Semi Government institute.
- That only legitimate attorney holder may be allowed to get tender documents.
- The bid security of all bidders would be deposited in the CDA Bank account and same may be returned after the acceptance of the contract with the successful bidders.
- The eligibility criteria of the firms with the relevant experience i.e at least 03 Nos wok orders in last two financial years may be attached with the application.
- Tender will be issued only to those firms who provide an undertaking on stamp paper worth not less than Rs.50/- for each work in original shape that the firm/contractor are neither involved in any litigation nor black listed by any government, semi government or autonomous body in Pakistan and also undertakes that if any information or document provided by firm for issuance of tender document is found incorrect or fictitious the firm is liable for legal action under the law. Without the undertaking under will not be issued to firm.
- Tender documents can be obtained on receipt of pay order (Non-refundable) in the Name of Dy. Director Maint-III (SB) of the prescribed fee for the work as mentioned above from the undersigned.
- No tender documents will be sold on the day of opening of the tender.
- Bid Security/Earnest Money shall be accompanied with the request in the shape of Deposit at Call (CDR) clearly indicating the Name of Firm issued by local schedule bank in favor of Dy. Director Maint-III (SB) CDA, Cash/Cheque or open CDR without indicating Name of firm will not be accepted and no application without Bid Security/Earnest Money will be accepted for issuance of tender. Bank certificate to the effect that CDR name from the firm account must be attached.
- Bidder must submit affidavit on stamp paper regarding integrity.
- The tender document shall only be issued to the owner of firms or legitimate attorney holder, if the contractor or his legitimate attorney holder does not sign the tender opening register their call deposit will be liable forfeited.
- Affidavit on stamp paper that bidder will comply with the BQO and instructions of the CDA.
- Satisfactory performance certificate must be submitted by the bidder.
- Certificate on stamp paper must be provided regarding reliability and guarantee of work performed by the bidder.
- Tender should be received and open by the Director Maintenance, CDA as per schedule given above. CDA may reject all bid or proposal at any time prior to the acceptance of a bidder or proposal as per PPRa rule. In case of any Gazetted/occasional Holidays, the tenders will be opened on the next working day.
- Non relationship certificate.
- Tender notice can be view both on CDA website www.cda.gov.pk ppra website www.ppra.org.pk, whereas tender notice can also be downloaded from CDA website.
- The Supply of Furniture tender shall be issue after visiting the participate workshop for approval sample.

(MUHAMMAD RIAZ)
Deputy Director Maint-III (SB)

Briefs

PTI gov't has full support of its allies: Faisal Javed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Faisal Javed Sunday expressed his confidence that allies political parties of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government were firmly standing with it and would never back out.

"Opposition was only using blackmailing tactics to protect itself from accountability", he said while speaking to a private news channel. While lashing out opposition parties, he claimed that opposition parties have no option left but to accept defeat. He said the current political situation would not affect the government's welfare agenda, adding, nation has given its mandate to the PTI and the government will complete its constitutional term of five years.

The PTI government believes in the constitution, rule of law and strengthening of state institutions, adding, Naya Pakistan Card, Kamyab Jawan Program, Sehat Insaf Card and Ehsas Programmes are a gift from PM Imran Khan for the poor. Replying a question, he said opposition's destiny is defeat only as all dacoits are trying to blackmail government to get National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO).

Trend of handicrafts among women on rise

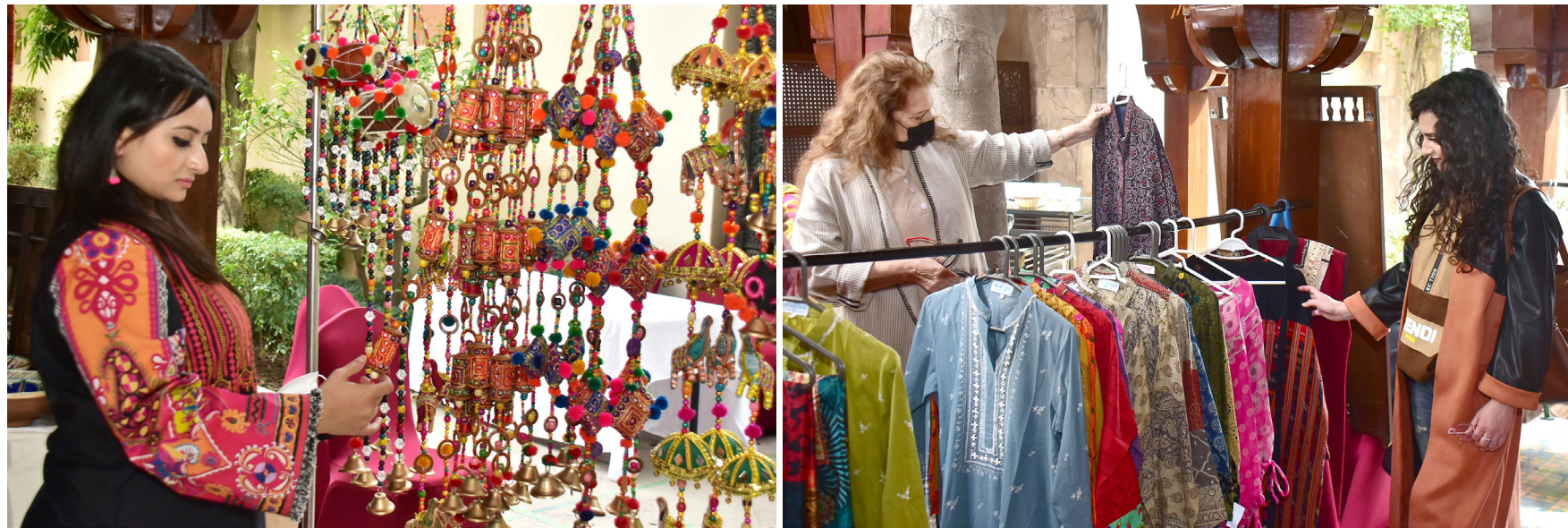
ISLAMABAD: The handicrafts abilities and skills of women have improved with the passage of time, which make them self-reliant and useful citizens of the society. The trend of handicrafts has been increasing among the women, mainly due to non availability of jobs in markets. The range of handicraft products include ajrak, ceramics, articles made of date leaves, farassi rugs, jandi, khes, musical instruments, caps, straw products, bangles, crochet work, embroideries. Zahra Syed producing handicrafts, told here on Sunday APP that she was generating sufficient income to lead a respectable life and support his family. She added that women who do not have formal education, they should focus on developing their skills in different fields especially in handicrafts sector to support their families. Another Samia Rasheed student of arts told that though this work lies with great hardwork and time consuming but these women don't get wage according to their skills. She said that cost of inputs, difficult access to credit and poor marketing network, made their labour very low. She suggested that their work should recognize and it lies in the development of infrastructure, provision of financial support to artisans, establishment of direct links between buyers and artisans, and improved marketing facilities. - APP

Govt taking special initiatives for children

ISLAMABAD: The government is taking various special initiatives for the physical and mental health of the children in child protection centers. According to official data issued by Child Protection Center, around 38 children from Islamabad, Punjab 33, KPK 13, Azad Jammu and Kashmir 1 child are being provided with all the care they needed. The Police also has handed over two children belonged to Sindh and 26 from Afghanistan to the Ministry from the last one year of October 2021. The Child Protection Center has reunified the 103 children from different cities with their families after necessary intervention in year 2020, 2021. According to official data provided by MoHR, forty-eight children are rescued from roads, streets and other vulnerable places. The 48 children were reunited in 2020 and 55 children were also reunited in 2020 and 60 children in 2021 to get Non-Formal Education in 2021, according to details issued. - APP

20th anniversary: Serena Hotels organize crafts festival

The festival aimed to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Islamabad Serena Hotel and the International Women Day, said a press release issued here



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The management of Serena Hotels, in collaboration with Nomad Gallery, organized a two-day Crafts Festival to promote arts and crafts of the country. The festival aimed to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Islamabad Serena Hotel and the International Women Day, said a press

release issued here.

The festival held at Bazaar Court Serena Hotel. The visitors saw live craftsmanship of the local craftsmen and to buy handicrafts lovingly made ranging from regional textile, handmade jewelry, block printed items, arts and crafts. NAG's programme 'Arts and Film' promoting cultural heritage

Meanwhile, The Nomad Art Gallery (NAG) programme 'Arts and

Fim' for social change attracting emerging talent aimed at promoting rich cultural heritage of the country and to empowered women. Head NAG Nageen Hayat said, "the programme has contributed to creating awareness and economic opportunities for the emerging talent of the country specially women in the society". The aim of Nomad Art Productions is to facilitate

the development of new art works, expand market opportunities and provide management support for artists and art workers nationally. She said Nomad Art Collections currently operates as an online gallery specialising in limited edition prints and works on paper by artists from Aboriginal owned art centres from Australia. Nageen Hayat added that since inception

Nomad Art has become a leading outlet for quality Aboriginal prints on paper and hand printed fabrics in Australia. Nomad Art focuses on art that involves cross-cultural collaborations between artists and master practitioners. A large range of limited edition etchings, lithograph, silkscreen, wood block, lino prints and textiles make up the unique and beautiful selection, she said.

CDA chairman Amir Ali Ahmed visits old zoo site

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority, chairperson IWMB, architect Naem Pasha visited the old zoo site. They discussed various options for reviving the place in consonance with High court order. The Chairperson IWMB briefed the participants at the IWMB site office

about the future plans. The object is to create an environment where residents of Islamabad can benefit from the site. There is a plan to have animatronic models of animals, visual gallery and informative 3 D shows for engaging the public and informing them about the wild life and need to preserve their freedom. Chairman CDA assured that CDA is willing to prepare a PC-I in this

context based on guidelines set by IwMB and facilitate them in setting up and reviving this place. Next meeting has been scheduled on Friday at CDA headquarters to discuss the concept plan. A target date of six weeks has been set to start the construction work on this revival effort where education and information will be focus whereas no live animals will be made captive.



Agri. Youth Festival to start from Mar 11

RAWALPINDI: Two-day Agricultural Youth Festival (being organized by Barani Agricultural Research Institute, (BARI) Chakwal would start from March 11. According to Director BARI Chakwal, Muhammad Rafique Dogar, the objective of the festival is to showcase the latest agri-technologies and agri-business ideas to the talented youth in collaboration with collaborators from public and private sectors. The event would also provide a platform to various value chain players/stakeholders to showcase their agricultural products and interact with students, farmers and civil society members. "We are also going to organize a Water Purification Filter Development Challenge at the event on March 12 and the students from various educational institutes are being encouraged to participate in the program," he said adding, the event would be open for the visitors from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. According to a spokesman, BARI is a multi-crop and multi-disciplinary R&D organization working on more than 40 crops strategically important for enhancing agricultural productivity and profitability of farming communities in rainfed region on sustainable basis. The institute is developing applied Agri-technologies and contributing greatly to Agri. Transformation Plan by focusing on transforming Potohar region into a high value agriculture valley. The institute is recognized as hub of olive R&D activities in the country and a technology park for rainfed Agri-business as well. - APP

Authorities directed to resolve traffic congestion

RAWALPINDI: President Cantonment Board, Brig. Salman Nazar has directed the authorities concerned to remove encroachments and take solid steps to resolve traffic congestion on city and cantt roads. According to a RCB spokesman, Station Commander and President Cantt Board, Brig. Salman Nazar while chairing a meeting held here the other day at Station Headquarters ordered the authorities to take solid steps to control the traffic congestion in Rawalpindi city and cantonment areas while orders were also issued to improve the sanitation system and condition of roads besides eliminating encroachments. - APP

Italian business team to visit Pakistan

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: A high level delegation of investors from Italy led by Emilio Guerini, following the package of incentives offered by Prime Minister Imran Khan, will visit Pakistan to explore the avenues of foreign investment through joint ventures. Talking to Chairman UK-Pakistan Business Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq through virtual conference here today Muhammad Sheheryar Khan, an honorary investment consular, government of Pakistan in Milan Italy said top class furniture manufacturers and world class furniture designers

will meet Mian Kashif Ashfaq who is also Chairman Pakistan Furniture Council and hold marathon series of meetings with their counterparts to thrash out modalities of investment. He said he will accompany the delegation to make their visit a success. Mian Kashif Ashfaq said Italy can share its expertise in fashion industry with Pakistan to help meet international standards. He said that vast scope of economic cooperation exist between two countries and stressed the need to strengthen with mutual collaboration. He said that Italy is home to some of the most famous luxury clothing

brands in the world. He said the Italian fashion, textile and accessories sector is also popular worldwide. He said fashion industry cooperation will yield positive impact on improving the designs of textile industry of Pakistan at par with new trends in international market besides imparting modern training to Pak woodworkers. Mian Kashif said delegation will also be taken to different furniture manufacturers for round of the different sections besides visit of Chenone outlet in Lahore for showing the best quality hand carved finished end products most popular worldwide.

PM package to achieve industrial goals: Iftikhar

Meher Kashif Younis urged the local and foreign investors to take full advantage of this unprecedented attractive package of lucrative incentives to contribute their key role in development and progress

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik Sunday said Prime Minister's package of incentives will help greatly achieve direly needed industrialisation goals for boosting local productivity besides pushing exports upward. Talking to a traders delegation led by former Senior Vice President Lahore Chamber Meher Kashif Younis he said package will pay dividends in the long run

as it trumped all previous efforts to fully support private capital investments in new companies, revival of sick units and help existing industrial units to expand their production capacities and upgrade their technology on modern scientific lines to meet international standard. He said package will attract capital investment of Rs 50 million and above in small to large industrial units across the country which will promise accelerate the pace of industrial growth besides generating ample job opportunities for unemployed youths.

He said that it's good omen that all local especially foreign and overseas Pakistani investors will benefit from tax reliefs and exemptions if they kick off their production till June 2024. He said under this Industrial amnesty, no questions will be asked about the source of funds invested in new Industrial projects. Iftikhar Ali Malik said local and overseas Pakistanis will get some additional tax benefits. He hoped it will attract capital investment in the future. He said no country can progress economically and alleviate abject poverty without boosting and di-

versifying industrial productivity. He said absence of proper systemised industrialisation is one of the major factor for low exports and frequent currency fluctuations marred the economy after witnessing short lived economic boom. He stressed the urgent need for streamlining and simplifying cumbersome procedures for investors under one umbrella in addition to do with red tape hurdles in the way of ease of doing business in Pakistan which he added will help manufacturers and exporters competitive in international markets.

He said Pakistan exports in the last couple of years is showing good indicators but imports have devoured its exports which needs to be arrested by shooting up exports manifolds to strengthen the national economy on sound footings, in addition to curtailing the flow of ever increasing imports, he concluded. Meher Kashif Younis urged the local and foreign investors to take full advantage of this unprecedented attractive package of lucrative incentives to contribute their key role in development, progress and prosperity of Pakistan.

Health expert underlined need to protect from dryness

ISLAMABAD: The health expert Dr Azhar Khawar Sunday underlined the need to protect from multiple skin allergies including dryness as changing weather pattern impacting on residents of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Talking to APP, he said "Climate change refers to long-term shifts in weather conditions and patterns of extreme weather events. It may lead to changes in health threat to human beings, multiplying existing health problems. This review examines the scientific evidences on the impact of climate change on human infectious diseases". It identifies research progress and gaps on how human society may respond to, adapt to, and prepare for the related changes. He said humans' vulnerability to the potential health impacts by climate change is evident in literature. As an active agent, human beings may control the related health effects that may be effectively controlled through adopting proactive measures, including better understanding of the climate change patterns and of the compound disease-specific health effects, and effective allocation of technologies and resources to promote healthy lifestyles and public awareness. Eczema the most common skin condition, especially in children. - APP

WPC for empowering women, says Munaza

ISLAMABAD: Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) has recently taken various productive steps for the up-bringing of women's development 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 processes and at all levels. In this regard, the Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) is a cross-party forum and a nerve center for women parliamentarians, and can contribute tremendously". The role of women in democratic 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-party forum and a nerve center for women parliamentarians and can contribute tremendously. She said in September 2018 the WPC entered its third tenure, in which we hope to make this non-partisan forum more vibrant, strategic, and beneficial for the women of Pakistan. She said the WPC will work to enable women parliamentarians to optimally perform substantive and effective roles in the sustainable development of our beautiful nation. - APP

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 Sunday. 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 stupa 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 release issued here. 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. 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. - APP

PNCA organizes puppet show tomorrow

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) on Monday will showcase a Puppet Show aimed at entertaining the audience along with family and friends. The show featured folk dances, stories, theme-based speeches, and skits for children and adults the colorful puppet show revolved around current issues including gender disparity, contrariety in education, and environmental challenges and there will be an exclusive show for kids as well, which ensured infotainment according to the theme. Due to COVID-19, the puppet shows were being canceled, but the shows were scheduled four times a month as a regular feature by the National Puppet Theatre (NPT) of PNCA. Such events provide the required boost to puppetry and help people, especially the younger generation to become aware of it, said a press release issued here. The traditional art of puppetry was dying and PNCA has been struggling so long to revive this art adding that such events help in reviving this traditional art form the art of puppetry and puppet shows have long been a part of Pakistani culture. The importance of puppetry was such beautiful and colorful art and an effort to bring back this art form can be useful both for entertainment and education purposes. - APP

Admin seal 22 shops over profiteering

RAWALPINDI: RDA conducted 5342 raids in seven tehsils of the district to check profiteering during last week and imposed over Rs 5,342 fines on 559 shopkeepers while 22 shops were sealed besides lodging several FIRs and arresting 26 violators. According to a district administration spokesman, the authorities concerned on the directives of Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Noor ul Amin Mengal had accelerated their ongoing operations to check profiteering, availability of daily use items and provide relief to the citizens. He informed that the Commissioner had instructed the officers concerned to visit different markets on daily basis and take strict action in accordance with the law against profiteers to provide relief to the citizens. Cases should also be registered against the rules violators and they should be sent behind the bars, the Commissioner said adding the rate lists must be displayed at prominent places at the shops besides ensuring establishment of DC counters at general stores. - DNA

FATF: Pakistan remains in the grey list

THE FATF board in its recent meeting decided to keep Pakistan in the grey list. The board that deliberated Pakistan for three consecutive days reached a conclusion that there are still certain grey areas in Pakistan's economy that need to be addressed seriously. The meeting especially mentioned the transactions made in the real estate sector. According to the meeting the real estate sector had been an easy source of money laundering in recent years, therefore the Pakistan government was asked to plug this loophole.

The Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Shaukat Tarin said in his recent statement that Pakistan would exit from the grey list of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) this year as it has already achieved almost all targets set by the task force. "We have completed 26 conditions out of 27 of the action plan," the minister said adding the FATF was politically motivated. In a statement, the FATF said that Pakistan completed 26 of the 27 action items in its 2018 action plan. It encouraged Pakistan to continue to make progress to address the one remaining item as soon as possible. It further added that since June 2021, Pakistan has taken swift steps towards improving its AML/CFT regime and completed six of the seven action items ahead of any relevant deadlines expiring.

"Pakistan should continue to work to address the one remaining item in its 2021 action plan by demonstrating a positive and sustained trend of pursuing complex money laundering investigations and prosecutions," the statement said. The economic analysts believe that Pakistan was already in the grey list since 2018, so there was no major impact expected on business and markets in near term. Pakistan's performance has been impressive while complying with FATF parameters and it is also acknowledged by the FATF. Pakistan should have been excluded from the grey list amid considering its significant progress on improving its financial system and check terror financing. Pakistan presented its case in an effective manner and also reaffirmed its political commitment to continue with the efforts to complete the action plans. The FATF reviewed Pakistan's progress on both action plans in its plenary meeting. The economic team needs to work zealously in order to fulfill the last two demands as well. Getting out of the grey list must be the top most priority of the government. It would improve the credentials of the Pakistan economy.

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Peshawar blast culprits deserve no mercy

ALL of gloom still hovers over Peshawar on the 3rd day of a tragic blast in which many precious lives were lost. While the government claims to have tightened noose around the perpetrators, the incident seeks to put question marks on the government's ability to check such incidents in future. The timing of course was awkward from Pakistan point of view as the Australian cricket team was in Pakistan and the blast appeared to be a dime a dozen attempt to scare the guest team. Hats off to the Australian team who remained undeterred and decided to continue the Pakistan tour.

Meanwhile people from all walks of life continue to express solidarity with the families of the victims. The diplomatic community is also greatly perturbed by this gruesome incident. Ambassadors and high commissioners of various countries have already extended condolences. Similarly the business community also extended its support to the affected families. The Peshawar business community expressed solidarity with the blast victims and bereaved families as on the third day of Kocha Risaldar tragedy, the atmosphere of the city was mournful, shops of the markets and surrounding areas were closed.

The mourning procession at the homes of martyrs in Peshawar were held with relatives and locals continue to arrive for prayers. The business community expressed solidarity with bereaved families and visited each of the victim's homes for Fateha. The city's historical storytelling and Kohati's bazar is closed for the third day on Sunday.

The death toll increased to 63 on Sunday with 37 injured are under treatment and more than five injured were in critical condition. The federal government and provincial governments have claimed to trace and identified the suicide bomber and other suspects and facilitators. Nevertheless, people want immediate punishment for those involved in this incident. Unfortunately it happens that people as well as the government officials forget about the incident after a few days. The culprits too are never brought to justice due to which such incidents continue to take place.

The Prime Minister soon after the incident summoned the interior minister and asked him to do more in terms of enforcement of law and order in the country. Pakistan has already suffered a lot in war against terror and because of sectarian violence. While the country is already passing through difficult times with regard to economic growth and political stability, such incidents would only add to our woes.

Western disinformation campaign: Bye bye to Journalism

Dr M Ali Hamza



Now the Western Media i.e. France24, is portraying this news as a victory for Ukraine, Turkish partiality in Ukraine's favor, and Turkish declaration of its anti-Russia position

THREE days after Kyiv had asked Ankara to close the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits to Russian ships, Mevlut Cavusoglu, Turkey's foreign minister, said on 1st March that Turkey will activate the Montreux Convention and ban Russian war vessels from entering the Black Sea through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles straits. Although Turkey has yet to spell out its official statement but France24 reporting confidently saying that Turkish government has invoked the clause of the Montreux Convention, regarding the movement of naval vessels through the straits of Bosphorus and Dardanelles. Let's first understand what this convention is and what the implications of invoking it in the current situation are. This convention was signed on 20th July 1936 at the Montreux Palace in Switzerland and went into effect on November 09, 1936. This convention regulates the traffic in and out of the Black Sea. It provides for completely free access for civilian vessels and gives Turkey the right to restrict the navies of countries not belonging to the Black Sea. You can get further details about this Convention online from open sources.

The questions that arise are: 1) Why has Turkey decided to invoke this convention? 2) How will it affect Russia or Ukraine? 3) Does this invocation show Turkish partiality? These are the questions which come to mind right away. The first 2 questions can be best answered by the relevant countries and their representatives. But the third question is open to interpretation. And yes it is "interpretation" that is the base of Western reporting these days. The Western journalists have stopped seeking facts. They utter all the interpretations or narratives that they are provided by their respective handlers. Now the Western Media i.e. France24, is portraying this news as a victory for Ukraine, Turkish partiality in Ukraine's favor, and Turkish declaration of its anti-Russia position. However, a very quick fact check can tell you that such a decision by Turkey has nothing to do with its "Anti-Russia" stance, and the Russian Navy will not be affected by such controls. The Russian Navy belongs to a Black Sea state so its movement will not be and cannot be hindered. Secondly Ukraine is without a navy right now, so in fact Turkey is effectively blocking any Western nations from embarking on a naval endeavor. So dear France24, it is a blockade against Western warmongers. Turkish decisions indeed a decision made by a sovereign state, according to the current situation in the region, and we hope they must have weighed all outcomes and consequences. But why are the Western media outlets spreading such unfounded information, and spinning it? There could be multiple purposes, for instance convincing other Muslim countries, like Pakistan, to rethink their position. The imperialist Western minds understand that Turkey is among the leading Muslim countries, so an anti-Russia partisan decision by Turkey might fool others into rethinking their positions.

Another example is BBC showing a report, where allegedly Russians are making a mass exodus towards Finland. There are some fundamental flaws in this report. First of all the Finnish embassy and consulate are not issuing visas from Moscow or Saint Petersburg, except for certain special cases, and mind you this restricted visa issuance has nothing to do with the current conflict. These are the restrictions imposed during the COVID19 pandemic.

The fact of the matter is that many Russian citizens, who had arrived in the EU during the days preceding this conflict and air traffic ban imposed by the EU, have no way of returning, so most of them have crossed through Finland to return to Russia. Although there are other border crossings as well, but Estonia has closed its border, so people return through Finland. Unfortunately BBC decided to flip the video and show it as if people were running away from Russia, but how and why is BBC doing so? Is BBC not afraid of being sued for false reporting? Or is BBC not afraid of losing credibility? First of all BBC is not a monolithic organization. The part of BBC which is spreading false information, or which is lying, is BBC International or BBC World Service. This organization is not regulated by the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is the main media regulatory authority in UK. So BBC International can lie with impunity, and it is not that such unregulated right to fake journalism is unintentional. This is by design. The BBC at home, which is regulated, tries to adhere to basic rules of professionalism and decency, hence providing a false umbrella of BBC brand, under which BBC International blatantly lies. We hope one day this world will come to its senses and such shameful display of disregard to human life and intellect will not be practiced. Instead of lying about Russian citizens running away to Finland, BBC might had been better off reporting that last week a death threat was delivered against children at a daycare center in Helsinki, Finland. This daycare center caters for children of Russian parents, who work in Helsinki. But, unfortunately BBC is tasked by its masters to do everything to cover-up all Nazism, fascism, xenophobia, Russo-phobia, and all other growingly negative trends in Europe and the UK. You cannot hide the ugliness of Nazism, by pulling masks of deceit on your Western faces. What the Western media is doing is continuously lying in an attempt to pump a piece of false information, which could or might create a cascading effect of stirring anti-Russia stances. Let us not take the information provided by these media giants at face-value. Let us do their job and do some research, before debunking this factory of lies, deceit, and hyped up propaganda.

China faces a new, uneasy balancing act on Russia and Ukraine

Keith B. Richburg

Putin's invasion of Ukraine has brought images of civilian areas being shelled, as well as a global outpouring of support for the brave Ukrainians fighting back, with the Russian leader being roundly vilified. And that has left China awkwardly struggling to adjust. Chinese officials have swung between statements affirming the principle of "territorial integrity" and Russia's right to protect its "legitimate security concerns"

IT might have seemed like a good idea when Chinese President Xi Jinping signed on to a new "no limits" friendship pact with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, on Feb. 4, right before the start of the Beijing Winter Olympics. The two countries, after all, share a perceived common enemy, the United States. They also share fear of a similar threat: "encirclement" by NATO on Putin's part – and on Xi's, attempts at the "containment" of China by the United States-Britain-Australia alliance, known as AUKUS. Xi and Putin are both authoritarian leaders who see America as a declining power and the Western democratic system as a failure. And both eschew Western notions about human rights.

For Xi, there was an added benefit to the joint statement. It allowed him to send a signal to Taiwan that, in the event that China decided to take the island by force, Beijing could count on a powerful ally in Moscow. In exchange, China tacitly backed Putin's view that Russia had security concerns in Ukraine, which Putin considers a breakthrough province.

But Putin's invasion of Ukraine has brought images of civilian areas being shelled, as well as a global outpouring of support for the brave Ukrainians fighting back, with the Russian leader being roundly vilified. And that has left China awkwardly struggling to adjust. Chinese officials have swung between statements affirming the principle of "territorial integrity" and Russia's right to protect its "legitimate security concerns." They have insisted that the United States is really to blame for the conflict. Foreign ministry spokespeople and the tightly controlled state media won't use the word "invasion," instead having called the roughly 200,000 Russian troops pouring into Ukraine "a special military operation." China's reality-bending distortions were on full display on Feb. 25, the day after the first Russian troops crossed the border supported by a missile barrage. China Daily, the Communist

Party's English-language newspaper, carried the front-page headline: "Putin aims to demilitarize Ukraine."

Ever since, Chinese media portrayals of the events unfolding in Ukraine read like an alternate universe.

In a March 3 editorial, China Daily opined, "The reason that the US is so keen to portray Russia's action as an 'invasion' is that it fuels the historical fears of European countries." The editorial said "both sides" in the conflict have concerns to be addressed.

Global Times, another fiercely nationalistic Communist Party tabloid, carried an unsigned opinion piece claiming that Western media "desperately exaggerate the situation of the war and tried hard to paint a scene where Russian troops are 'invading' intensively."

By signing on to its "no limits" friendship pact with Russia, China now finds itself facing isolation on the global stage. Beijing has since tried to inch away from its pro-Russian position to a more neutral stance. For example, it has abstained in votes condemning the invasion in the U.N. Security Council and General Assembly. But neutrality seems increasingly untenable, with U.S. officials warning that China could be hit with countermeasures if it tried to help Russia evade sanctions.

Xi might be feeling a bit envious of India and its prime minister, Narendra Modi, who has similarly staked out a neutral stance on the Ukraine invasion; Russia is India's key weapons supplier, and India has its own border disputes with China. Yet it has so far escaped much of the backlash.

Even China's intended signal to Taiwan seems to be running smack up against reality. The Global Times tried to hammer home the original message in a March 1 opinion piece, arguing that America's reluctance to get involved militarily in Ukraine had undercut U.S. assurances to aid in Taiwan's defense. "The island of Taiwan is shivering after having witnessed what's going on in Ukraine," it wrote, claiming "the sun is setting on the US."

Taiwan, however, may be taking the exact opposite lesson. The West rallied in a remarkable show of unity to oppose the invasion of Ukraine. Officials in China "will study the response of the international community and note the cohesiveness of U.S. alliances, the seismic shift in Germany's policy, and the willingness of many countries to impose sanctions," said Bonnie Glaser, a China expert with the German Marshall Fund. "This should give China pause."

Another lesson for Taiwan may be that one side having a massive conventional military advantage does not always translate into a quick military victory against a population willing to fight. The Ukrainian resistance and Western solidarity have strengthened the belief that self-defense "is key to attracting international support," a Taiwanese friend messaged me from Taipei. China now faces a new balancing act, feeling obligated to help Russia economically survive sanctions, but not help too much, to avoid collateral damage to its own economy and banking system.

The Sino-Russian friendship agreement might have sounded promising to Beijing when it was signed. But Xi might find that with friends like Putin, China could end up making a lot more adversaries.

—Courtesy: Washington Post

Biden cannot make US failure in Afghanistan disappear by ignoring it

Luke Coffey

Even though Biden remains silent about Afghanistan, his officials cannot ignore the situation

LAST week, President Joe Biden delivered his first State of the Union address to a joint session of the US Congress. He started his speech by focusing on the situation in Ukraine but then quickly dived into promoting his domestic agenda. It was a lengthy speech, running to more than 6,500 words. However, one defining moment of his presidency so far was not mentioned at all: The US withdrawal from Afghanistan and America's defeat by the Taliban.

Biden's critics were quick to point out this glaring omission. Instead of ignoring the obvious, the president should have used the spotlight provided by the State of the Union to explain to the American people his thinking behind the decision to withdraw from Afghanistan. Then he could have laid out his strategy to counter global terrorism while helping to address the dire humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. At a minimum, Biden could have paid tribute to the 13 US troops

who were killed in a suicide attack at Kabul airport, and apologized for the botched drone strike that left 10 innocent Afghans dead during the final days of the evacuation. Instead, nothing was said.

While the world watches the horrific situation in Ukraine play out, the Taliban has been terrorizing people in Kabul and other parts of the country. Late last month, Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid announced the beginning of "clearance operations" in Kabul and nearby provinces to find weapons and "criminals." In reality, the purpose of these house-to-house searches has been to hunt down Afghans with connections to the international forces stationed in the country for two decades. Even though Biden remains silent about Afghanistan, his officials cannot ignore the situation. There are three major challenges his administration needs to tackle in the coming months. The first thing that needs to be done is sorting out America's counterterrorism strategy in Afghanistan. It has been six months since the Taliban takeover. At the time, assurances were made by the Biden administration that an "over the horizon" counterterrorism capability could strike at emerging terrorist threats in Afghanistan from bases outside the region. Half a year later, there is no indication that the US has the ability to launch such long-range strikes and there is every indication that terrorist groups such as Al-Qaeda and Daesh are increasingly active in the country.

Since coming to power, the Taliban have shown utter incompetence when it comes to governing. The militants can barely divide power between the competing factions inside their own movement, much less form a government that can serve and represent the diverse people of Afghanistan. Clearly, they are not capable of handling the humanitarian crisis facing the country.

If money and resources are given directly to the Taliban it is likely that most of it will be siphoned off. The Taliban will not allow any aid to go directly to the people. Whatever the Biden administration and the international community plan to do about this, they had better do it quickly. According to a report published by the Observer Research Foundation in India, 11 million people in Afghanistan are experiencing food insecurity, and 97 percent of the country's population will be on the brink of universal poverty by mid-2022. Since the US left and the Taliban returned to power last year, the situation across the country has been bleak. Millions of girls are still not allowed to attend school. There are acute food shortages. The Afghan branch of Daesh has launched numerous deadly attacks. Senior members of Al-Qaeda, who had not set foot in Afghanistan for almost two decades, are now roaming the land freely.

While Biden has his eye on Ukraine, he cannot afford to ignore Afghanistan.

—Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs

22 injured
as fans fight
in Mexico

NEWS DESK

MEXICO CITY: At least 22 people were injured when violence broke out among the crowd at a top-flight match in Mexico. The Liga MX encounter between Queretaro and Atlas was abandoned after 63 minutes when fighting spilled on to the field at La Corregidora stadium. Some players attempted to calm fans down before they were sent to the locker room. Local police said two people were seriously injured, with nine in total taken to hospital. Visitors Atlas led 1-0 when the match was suspended. Liga MX president Mikel Arriola said all Sunday's matches have been suspended "in solidarity with the people affected". "Those responsible for the lack of the security at the stadium will be exemplarily punished," he wrote on Twitter. "The safety of our players and fans is priority!"

No-trust
move likely...

FROM PAGE 01
Syed Khurshid Shah said that the opposition has completed the numbers' game for the success of the move and added that a no-trust move will also be introduced against NA Speaker Asad Qaiser. For the survival of the state, Imran Khan has to leave the seat now and go home, he was quoted as saying to the journalists. Replying to a question, he said that a no-trust move will be passed from the lower house of the Parliament.

It may be noted here that the opposition parties have agreed to submit a requisition for summoning a National Assembly session for tabling no-trust move against the incumbent government on Monday, sources within Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) confirmed.

Bilawal
hopeful...

FROM PAGE 01
Chairman stopped at Chan's residence on his way, leading the long march to Islamabad. He said that the incumbent government has the biggest assessment in front of it in the form of a no-trust motion. "We defeated the government earlier in the Senate and in the National Assembly and will do it again in the future," Bilawal said while referring to the latest Senate elections. He challenged PM Imran Khan to dissolve the assembly, "which he has always threatened to do," if he has trust in the people that they would elect him again. "Even if he doesn't resign and dissolve the assembly, the Opposition is well prepared. We will bring the no-trust motion and take this democratic war to Parliament and get successful," Bilawal said. Bilawal said that the way all the Opposition parties have come together to oppose the incumbent government has taken the government under pressure. "The government has never been under this much pressure as it is nowadays". He further stated that he has been listening to PM Khan's statements for the last three years and has observed that he [PM Imran Khan] is addicted to taking U-turns while the PPP does not. We have always been consistent in our stance, he added. "PPP's stance from the day one has been to counter him [PM Imran Khan] on both the fronts, that is the people and the parliament," Bilawal said, adding that the majority that constituted the PTI-led government was not an organic majority. He said that it is an inorganic majority that has been enforced upon the country. When asked about the failed no-confidence motion that had been tabled against former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Bilawal said that the main difference between it and the one they are trying to bring is that the former was an undemocratic move.

Khawaja, Warner lead
strong Australia reply

Australia, finished day three 205 behind but scored freely after resuming on five for no loss

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Usman Khawaja fell agonisingly short of a hundred but Australia's top order powered them to 271 for two in reply to Pakistan's total of 476 for four declared on day three of the opening Test on Sunday. David Warner made 68 and Marnus Labuschagne was on 69 when bad light followed by rain stopped play with Australia's top three posting half-centuries in the bat-dominated contest. Steve Smith will also be hopeful of converting the start he got into a big knock when he resumes on 24 on Monday. Australia, on their first tour of Pakistan in 24 years, finished day three 205 behind but scored freely after resuming on five for no loss. Khawaja, who made 97, could have been dismissed on 22 when Shaheen Afridi got the opener to drive away from his body but Fawad Alam spilled a straightforward catch at gully. It was a costly mistake on a flat track on which bowlers have struggled and only four wickets fell in the first two days. The morning session also witnessed a little duel between Warner and Naseem Shah. Warner hit the fast bowler for two boundaries in an over and Naseem responded by bowling into the opener's body in his next. Warner suffered a blow to his upper arm but laughed it off when Naseem gave him a stare and a piece of his mind. Khawaja played a spectacular uppercut



against Naseem and took two runs off spinner Sajid Khan to bring up a breezy half-century. Warner welcomed off-spinner Iftekhar Ahmed into the attack by hitting him for three boundaries, the first bringing up his fifty. The left-hander, who hit 12 boundaries, had his middle stump pegged back as he went

on the back foot to play Sajid through the off-side and misjudged the line. Islamabad-born Khawaja missed out on what could have been his third Test hundred in five innings after fluffing a reverse sweep which otherwise had been a productive shot for the left-hander.

Umpire Aleem Dar had initially ruled the batsman not out but reversed the decision after replays confirmed the ball from Nauman Ali hit Khawaja's gloves before popping up to Imam-ul-Haq at forward short leg. Labuschagne hit nine boundaries in his fluent unbeaten knock.

Pakistani skipper's daughter
Fatima, a delight for everyone

After the match, the Indian players were enjoying the company of Fatima while she was in the care of one of the Pakistan support staff members



SPORTS DESK

MOUNT MAUNGANUI: Pakistan women's team didn't have the best of the start in the 2022 ICC World Cup as they were outclassed by neighbours India comprehensively. The Women in Blue managed to claim a win of 107 runs over the Girls in Green courtesy of the attacking knocks from lower-order batters Pooja Vastrakar (67) and Sneha Rana (53*) while they replied back with a brilliant

bowling display, bowling Pakistan out for 137. In a high-intensity game, a few precious moments that caught the attention of everyone was Fatima, the daughter of Pakistan skipper Bismah Maroof. After the match, the Indian players were enjoying the company of Fatima while she was in the care of one of the Pakistan support staff members. Indian spinner Ekta Bisht was the first one to be seen having fun with Fatima while veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami was also near her. Bismah was busy with post-match

stuff and she was asked about Fatima and the attention she received at the start of the play. Before the match, a photo of Bismah holding Fatima while entering the stadium also went viral. "It's a very emotional moment for me," Bismah said. "It was a different feeling. Coming back and playing in the World Cup. My mother and daughter are here so it's a special moment for me and I want to do something special," she said. Remember, Bismah is one of eight mothers playing at the 2022 World Cup. She is making her comeback to international cricket through this World Cup after going on maternity leave last April. Before that, she had played an international game in 2020, at the T20 World Cup in Australia. After Bismah was free from the mandatory post-match duties, Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, Shafali Verma, Renuka Thakur, Yastika Bhatia, Richa Ghosh and Meghna S were among those seen with Fatima and Bismah in a video shot on the dressing room balcony. International Cricket Council (ICC) also shared a picture of Indian players clicking a selfie with Bismah and her daughter.

WWC: India
beat Pakistan

WEB DESK

MOUNT MAUNGANUI: India women's team have beaten Pakistan in a thumping 107-run win after an all-round performance from Sneha Rana in the Women's World Cup opener at the Bay Oval. After deciding to bat first, India had handed a 245-run target to Pakistan, and the Indian bowlers showcased their talent and skills to dismantle the Pakistan batting line-up. All-rounder Sneha Rana provided an all-round performance to win the match for India. In the match-winning performance, Sneha Rana scored 53 runs and took two wickets while giving away only 27 runs. Rajeshwari Gayakwad was exceptional with the ball as she dismissed four Pakistani batters and gave away only 34 runs. Jhulan Goswami also claimed two wickets while Meghna Singh and Deepti Sharma took one wicket each. Pakistani batters could only score six runs in the first six overs, and they couldn't really find the momentum, and Indian bowlers restricted them to form prolonged partnerships. Opener Sidra Ameen was the highest run-scorer for Pakistan as she scored 30 runs before getting out to Jhulan Goswami. Indian Women's team had handed Pakistan a 245-run target after a brilliant display of batting by Pooja Vastrakar. After a slow start, left-handed opener Smriti Mandhana took charger as she scored a half-century before getting out by Anam Amin. India's middle-order couldn't deliver with the bat and bowler Pooja took matters in her hands, scoring a blistering 59-ball 67 to help India set a good target of 245 runs. Partnering up with Pooja, all-rounder Sneha Rana was also brilliant as she scored 53 runs to put India in the driving seat. Nida Dar was the stand-out bowler from the Pakistan side as she took two wickets and gave away 45 runs.

Federer anticipates
summer comeback

GENEVA: Former men's tennis world number one Roger Federer plagued by recurring knee problems for the last two years hopes to make a comeback at the end of the summer, he told Swiss television. Federer, who turns 41 in August, hasn't played competitively since losing last July in the quarterfinals at Wimbledon to Pole Hubert Hurkacz. He then withdrew from the Olympics and underwent his third bout of knee surgery in 18 months, to "suture" his right internal meniscus and "treat (his) cartilage". Federer played just 13 matches in 2021, having played only six times in 2020. "I am doing well, much better. For two months I was on crutches, it was long and I had to start from scratch. But it was the right thing to do. The knee wasn't doing well after Wimbledon," Federer told Swiss public broadcaster SRF in Lenzerheide where he was watching the women's World Cup skiing super-G. — APP

Hadid calls for same outrage over
Muslim oppression as Ukraine

CALIFORNIA: American supermodel from Dutch-Palestinian descent Bella Hadid raised a question on the visible discrimination in condemning the oppression in different parts of the world, demanding same level of backlash against Muslim suffering as the outrage against Russian invasion of Ukraine. Taking to Instagram, the supermodel spoke up about the ongoing exploitation of Muslims around the globe as people choose to stay mum about the injustice. Hadid reminded people that all oppression deserves the same level of backlash. "Question yourself, question how quietly you moved around other injustices, the footprint we leave here will be the clearest one we've left in a long time," Hadid's post read.



"If this is your first time realising a war in some years, you're not of the world. War is forever, and the position we take during it is forever too," she pointed out the biased reaction towards the Muslim suffering in Palestine and China. "The moment the American president is defending a liberation movement, there's no risk in joining that defence. There's

little glory in joining a warmonger point at another warmonger," the 25-year-old model asked people to show support to Muslims. She captioned the post, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." "The language we use to define oppression cannot favour one victim over another," Hadid noted. "How many Muslim nations aflame? Invasions by the west, merciless drone strikes, executions, internment camps in China? How much of Palestine, how little of Palestine left?" Hadid recently spoke up against the discrimination against hijab wearing Muslims amidst the hijab bans in countries like India and France, urging governments to stop dictating women's choices and what they can wear. — Agencies

Taliban
embrace
buzkashi
in new
Afghanistan

KABUL: The announcer roared over the public address system as a lone rider separated from a melee of horses and galloped towards a chalk circle drawn in the middle of a muddy field in the Afghan capital. Despite being pursued by what appeared to be a cavalry charge, the rider dumped his "prize" in the circle and raised an arm in triumph. Kandahar had taken the lead against Kunduz in Sunday's grand final of Afghanistan's national buzukashi championships. Banned as "immoral" when the Taliban first ruled from 1996 to 2001, the headline Islamists have embraced buzukashi since returning to power in August, and the winning team hails from their heartland despite it having no real tradition of the sport. "Unfortunately, buzukashi was not allowed previously and was only played in provinces where the Taliban didn't rule," Qais Hassan, the owner of the winning Kandahar team, told AFP. "Today, luckily, buzukashi is not only being played all over Afghanistan, but the government, the Islamic Emirate, is organising this competition." The sport is both spectacular and violent — a lot like the country, many Afghans are quick to tell you — and steeped in history. — APP

Ukraine
conflict a full
scale 'war':
Pope Francis

WEB DESK

VATICAN: Pope Francis rejected Russia's assertion that it is carrying out a "special military operation" in Ukraine, saying the country was being battered by a war. "In Ukraine rivers of blood and tears are flowing. This is not only a military operation but a war which is leading to death, destruction and misery," the pope said in his weekly address to crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square. Meanwhile, President Vladimir Putin told Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan in a phone call that Russia would only halt its military operation if Ukraine stopped fighting and Moscow's demands were met, the Kremlin said in a statement.

PM
displeased...

FROM PAGE 01

"Secondly, when India broke international law in Kashmir and ended Kashmir's status did anyone of you break ties with India, end trade or criticise [New Delhi]," asked PM Imran. "What are we? Are you slaves? Do we do what you say?" said PM Imran. Prime Minister Imran Khan announced to table a bill in the National Assembly for creation of separate province of South Punjab. He said the government is taking concrete steps to reduce inflation, create job opportunities, and strengthen national economy. The Prime Minister said the Federal Board of Revenue collected record tax last year, which will be spent on the welfare of the masses. He said the government took measures to provide relief to farmers, which will pave the way for the development of the country. He said government is providing subsidy worth 132 billion rupees on purchase of Urea, while fertilizer is being imported from China to overcome its deficiency. Talking about Coronavirus, he said the government announced smart lockdown policy during the pandemic to save national economy from adverse impacts of the pandemic. Talking about recent bomb blast in Peshawar, he said government is committed to overcome terrorism and promote peace and stability in the country. Imran Khan said Pakistan incurred huge loss in terms of finance and infrastructure in the fight against terrorism. "About protest marches and 'No Confidence Motion', the Prime Minister expressed resolve that opposition will fail in its effort to table the motion in the Parliament as government enjoys support of all its allies.

PSG lose at Nice ahead of Real visit

NEWS DESK

PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain lost 1-0 at Nice in Ligue 1 on Saturday ahead of next week's trip to Real Madrid in the second leg of their blockbuster Champions League last-16 tie. Substitute Andy Delort struck two minutes from the end as Nice won for just the second time in 18 league meetings with PSG, who struggled to create chances without suspended top scorer Kylian Mbappe. Nice bolstered their chances of qualifying directly for a first appearance in the Champions League group stage, climbing into second place and moving two points above Marseille. PSG remain 13 points clear at the top but the loss serves as a warning that Mauricio Pochettino's side must sharpen up considerably to keep their European dreams intact on Wednesday. "We were a little bit unlucky. In the end maybe we didn't deserve to win, but we didn't deserve to lose," Pochettino told broadcaster Canal Plus. "We didn't find the solutions in the last 20 metres but we have to think about the next game against Madrid. It's very important for us but we are very disappointed with the defeat." Mbappe's 24 goals this season are more than Lionel Messi, Neymar, Angel



Di Maria and Mauro Icardi combined, and his absence at the Allianz Riviera further underlined just how important he is to the French champions. "They have (Marco Verratti, Neymar, Di Maria, Messi...) they go well with other players but there's a PSG with Kylian and one without," said Nice coach Christophe Galtier.

"To beat Paris you need to have everyone on the same wavelength. We've taken four points against them. That doesn't happen often and it makes up for silly points dropped here and there." Mbappe, out of contract in July and strongly linked with a move to Madrid, will return well rested in Spain as PSG try to defend their 1-0 lead

the France star secured with an injury-time goal last month. Gianluigi Donnarumma and Presnel Kimpembe are also likely to be recalled after being given the night off at the Allianz Riviera, while Idrissa Gana Gueye only made a brief appearance. Nice twice threatened early on through Amine Gouiri, who led the club to a first French Cup final since 1997 in midweek following a 2-0 victory over fourth-tier Versailles. The former Lyon forward forced Keylor Navas into a save low to his right before bending another shot just wide as Nice's quick ball movement troubled the visitors. Neymar released Di Maria in behind the Nice defence but the Argentine's attempted scoop was flicked behind by the fingertips of Walter Benitez, while Messi was kept quiet. A repeat of the 0-0 draw when the clubs met in December looked on the cards before Delort grabbed the winner minutes after Justin Kluivert wasted a glorious chance for Nice. Calvin Stengs whipped over a cross that Delort met on the half-volley and slammed in via the underside of the crossbar to condemn PSG to a third defeat in Ligue 1 this term. Marseille could reclaim second on Sunday when they host a Monaco side wounded by their midweek penalty shootout loss to Nantes in the French Cup semi-finals.

Briefs

PIA gets operating licence for Guangzhou

BEIJING: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has been granted two more operating licences by Chinese authorities for Guangzhou and Xian in addition to Beijing and as a result, the national flag carrier can start schedule passenger flights for these stations.

Previously, PIA has an operating licence only for Beijing. Now, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) has granted two more operating licences to PIA for Guangzhou and Xian Stations enabling it to start schedule passenger flights for the two cities, PIA Country Manager, Qadir Bux Sangi said on Sunday.

Now, PIA possesses operating licence for Beijing, Guangzhou and Xian Stations, he told APP in an interview.

He informed that as per current standard operating procedure of CAAC, international carriers can operate one weekly flight for China. PIA is operating PK854-855 ISB-XIY-PEK-ISB by using Xian first entry point for Beijing as per CDC approval of Xian government.

"After change in current standard operating procedure of CAAC, we have an option to start our schedule flights for Guangzhou and Xian also," he added.

Responding to a question, he said, the national flag carrier has also applied for grant of operating licence for Chengdu Station which is under approval process and hopefully, we will get its approval next month.

About cargo flights, he said that PIA has got approval from the Chinese authorities to operate chartered cargo flights for Kunming and Shenzhen while approval for Kashgar (Xinjiang) is under process. - APP

Greece seizes seven million cigarettes

ATHENS: Greek authorities have seized more than seven million cigarettes being smuggled to EU countries and the United Kingdom, according to the shipping ministry. The ministry said Saturday that officials of the Central Port Authority of Igoumenitsa in western Greece arrested a 64-year-old from an unnamed foreign country on charges of smuggling.

The authorities who seized his refrigerator truck on Friday found 7,198,200 cigarettes hidden in more than 5,000 containers of yoghurt. The sum of evaded customs duties and taxes for the confiscated goods amount to more than 1.5 million euros (\$1.6 million). "The confiscated quantity of smuggled cigarettes was to be distributed on the illegal markets of the European Union and the United Kingdom", the ministry statement added, citing the analysis so far. - APP

Palestine under pressure on Ukraine war

RAMALLAH: Palestine is facing pressure to take a position regarding the Russian war in Ukraine, according to the Palestinian foreign minister. "We are under pressure to take a stand regarding what is happening in Ukraine," Riyadh al-Maliki told the official Palestine TV. "Certainly, pressure continues on us in all directions, as well as all other countries to take a position on the Ukrainian crisis," he added.

The chief diplomat stressed that the Palestinians are distancing themselves from the current conflict in Ukraine. "We are a country under occupation. We cannot bear the burden of taking a position in favor of one party at the expense of another, and the repercussions of that position on us," he added.

Russia's war on Ukraine has been met by outrage from the international community with the EU, UK, and US, among others, implementing a range of economic sanctions on Moscow.

According to UN figures, at least 331 civilians have been killed and 675 injured in Ukraine since the beginning of the war on Feb. 24. More than 1.5 million people have fled Ukraine to neighboring countries, according to the UN refugee agency. - APP

Pakistan, Kazakhstan need to exploit opportunities

APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood, while speaking on the occasion, said that there can be many areas of trade expansion that may be identified with the help of constant interaction between the private sectors representatives of two countries

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Kazakhstan Ambassador to Pakistan Yezhan Kistafin has said that both Pakistan and Kazakhstan have large domestic markets and unique geo-strategic competitive advantages but we have yet to enhance our trade volume by making good use of these opportunities.

While addressing a ceremony arranged by the All Pakistan Business Forum held in view of holding match making and B2B meetings with the Kazakh business delegation, he said the key purpose of visit to Pakistan was to explore the Pakistan markets for further developing the trade and investment opportunities between the two countries.

The delegation members had meeting with members of APBF and also attended a lunch hosted by it. The discussion on the occa-

sion remained fruitful and would definitely pave way for trade, investment and joint ventures between the private sectors of the two countries. The trade delegation showed keen interest in joint ventures in the sectors, including pharma, plastic, agriculture, food processing, steel industry and hi-tech machineries etc. The Kazakh Ambassador said the importance of such interaction was hard to be measured as these kinds of meetings cause to arrange more and more follow up meetings which ultimately lead to establish long lasting trade and economic relations. The constant exchanges of business delegations between Pakistan and Kazakhstan was one of the key indicators that both the nations seriously want to seize the increasing trend occurring in balance of trade for the last many years. Yezhan Kistafin said that Kazakhstan and Pakistan have always enjoyed smooth



development of friendly and neighborly relations as well as mutually beneficial cooperation. We take Pakistan as

an important regional country and a potential trading partner. We have been maintaining strong cultural and diplomatic relations with Pakistan, he added.

APBF President Syed Maaz Mahmood, while speaking on the occasion, said that there can be many areas of trade expansion that may be identified with the help of constant interaction between the private sectors representatives of two countries. He appreciated the efforts of embassy of Kazakhstan which is doing consistent efforts to enhance the existing level of bilateral trade. He said that Pakistan's share in bilateral trade has been quite low. I think we also need to make adequate efforts to find more exporting orders so that the trade deficit could be minimized.

The APBF President said that we, from the platform of APBF, always strive for developing and strengthening close working relations with foreign business communities. He said that APBF firmly believer of trade diplomacy and for that matter, we also regularly interact with for-

eign counterparts. It is needless to mention that Kazakhstan is closest to our hearts. He informed the Kazakh counterparts that the APBF had been voicing in favor of exploring new avenues other than bilateral trade for the sake of enhancing cooperation between two countries. We can cooperate in renewable energy, construction, manufacturing sector, automotive, retail market, electronics and other electric equipment, pharmaceutical, industrial and commercial machinery etc, he added.

He hoped business meetings with Kazakh counterparts would play a key role in reviving the national exports. He said that it goes without saying that our Embassies along with their subsidiary consulate offices have certain role to play to facilitate the business community of Pakistan who were very eager to develop trade relations with their counterparts in major economies.

All Kazakh regions in Covid-19 'green zone'

DNA

NUR-SULTAN: No region remains in the high COVID-19 risk 'red zone' and moderate risk 'yellow zone' as of today, March 6, the Telegram Channel of the Kazakh Interdepartmental Commission for preventing coronavirus spread reads.

The cities of Nur-Sultan, Almaty, Shymkent as well as Almaty, Aktobe, Atyrau, Ak-mola, West Kazakhstan, East Kazakhstan, Zhambyl, Karaganda, Kostanay, Kyzylorda, Mangistau, North Kazakhstan, Pavlodar, and Turkestan regions are in the low COVID-19 risk 'green zone'. As earlier reported, 171 new coronavirus infections were recorded in Kazakhstan over the past 24 hours.

Uzbekistan evacuated 3,685 citizens from Ukraine

WEB DESK

TASHKENT: From 28 February to 6 March, Uzbekistan evacuated 3,685 compatriots from the combat zone in Ukraine. This was reported by the official representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Yusup Kabuljanov.

"On 5-6 March 2022, 440 citizens of Uzbekistan were returned from Ukraine through the airport in Katowice (Poland), including 88 women, 59 children and 20 babies," he said. Yusup Kabuljanov noted that in the period from 28 February to 6 March this year, 16 flights took place and 3,685 compatriots were taken out of the combat zone. Several more flights are scheduled for March 6, he added.

According to him, there are more than 850 fellow citizens on the territory of Poland, of which 50 people, placed in the accumulation zone of the state border of Poland, about 800 people. - at the Katowice airport. The Embassy of Uzbekistan in Ukraine is in constant contact with compatriots. Diplomats are in various regions of Ukraine, including in the war zone, and are working to evacuate our citizens, Yusup Kabuljanov added.

Armenia shells Azeri positions in Aghdam

BAKU: Illegal Armenian armed groups have shelled Azerbaijani military positions located in liberated Aghdam, the Defence Ministry reported on March 6. In a statement posted on its website, the ministry said: "Members of the illegal Armenian armed detachment in the territory of Azerbaijan, where the Russian peacekeepers are temporarily stationed, using small arms subjected to fire the Azerbaijan army positions in the direction of the Khidirli and Chukhur-mehle settlements of the Aghdam region. - DNA



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhary Fawad Hussain addressing a media briefing at Lahore. Federal Minister for Education Shafqat Mehmood and SAPM on Youth Affairs Usman Dar are also present. - DNA

Erdogan urges Putin to declare Ukraine ceasefire, make peace

AGENCIES

ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan urged his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Sunday to declare a ceasefire in Ukraine, open humanitarian corridors and sign a peace agreement, his office said. NATO member Turkey shares a maritime border with Russia and Ukraine in the Black Sea and has good ties with both. Ankara has called Russia's invasion unacceptable and offered to host talks, but has opposed sanctions on Moscow. In a statement after a one-hour phone call, the Turkish presidency said Erdogan told Putin that Turkey was ready to contribute to a peaceful resolution of the conflict. "President Erdogan, who said an immediate ceasefire will not only ease humanitarian concerns in the region but also give the search for a political solution an opportunity, renewed his call of 'let's pave the way for peace together'," his office said. "Erdogan emphasised the importance of taking urgent steps to achieve a ceasefire, open humanitarian corridors and sign a peace agreement," it said.

The Kremlin said Putin told Erdogan that Russia would only halt its military operation if Ukraine stopped fighting and if Moscow's demand were met, adding the operation was going to plan. Russia calls its assault a "special military operation". It has uprooted more than 1.5 million people, in what the United Nations says is the fastest growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War Two. Turkey has said it would be "naive" to expect results from the Ukraine-Russia negotiations while the fighting continues. Turkey's defence minister on Sunday said an urgent ceasefire was needed so Ankara could evacuate its citizens from Ukraine. Erdogan, who has called Putin a "friend", had last spoken to the Russian leader on Feb. 23, a day before Russia launched its invasion. The call makes Erdogan the third NATO leader to speak to Putin since his offensive, following the leaders of Germany and France.

Cross border exhibition to boost Pak-China co-op

BEIJING: "In the field of global cross-border e-commerce, we have always been committed to playing the role of bridge and link, especially in emerging markets like Pakistan," said Zhang Na, CEO of Beijing Guanrui Technology Co., Ltd, also as the organizer of the 2nd China Cross Border E-commerce and New E-commerce Exhibition. Recently, Shaikh Muhammad Sharif, Chief Representative of the Beijing Representative Office of National Bank of Pakistan visited the CBEC Organizing Committee to communicate with DeYiE-commerce Alliance, an exhibitor of the 2nd CBEC. About cross-border payment collection, the two parties have reached a preliminary cooperation intention. According to Zhang, by assisting Chinese companies to smoothly collect money in cross-border e-commerce trades, NBP further guaranteed the stability of transactions between the two parties, opening up a new path for China-Pakistan e-commerce cooperation. - DNA

Ambassador Sajjad visits Belarus biggest linen mill

DNA

MINSH: The Ambassador of Pakistan to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan visited Orsha Linen Mill and met with its Director General Mr. Vladimir Nesterenko and Deputy DG for Commercial Affairs Mr. Igor Eshenko. The parties discussed the opportunities of cooperation between textile industries of two countries, the possibilities of creating joint ventures and exchanging experiences. The Ambassador invited the company to participate in one of the

exhibitions held in Pakistan to explore further opportunities and also shared about the tentative visit plans of Faisalabad Chambers of Commerce delegation to Belarus during BelTex Industry exhibition in Minsk later this year. The two sides agreed to enhance interactions for fruitful cooperation.

Orsha Linen Mill is the biggest manufacturer of linen fabrics, bed and table linen and readymade linen garments in Russia, CIS and Europe, employing more than 3500 people and exporting to more than 40 countries of the world.



Baku fully supports Turkey-Armenia normalization

DNA

BAKU: There is full coordination between Turkey and Azerbaijan amid the process for normalization of bilateral ties with Armenia, Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu said Saturday. "Our main goal is to maintain good neighborly relations in the region in line with international law," he stated speaking at a joint news conference with his Azerbaijani counterpart Jeyhun Bayramov in Baku. Bayramov said Azerbaijan supports the normalization between Turkey and Armenia. Baku wants "good neighborly relations to be established in the region," he added. The region, he said, has "new realities" following the 44-day Patriotic War, which ended a nearly three-decade Armenian occupation of Azerbaijani territories. "Azerbaijan has emphasized many times before that it is ready to sign a cease-fire agreement with Armenia. "We believe that despite all the difficulties, all the sufferings of the past, we can now talk about normalization," Bayramov said.

The second meeting between Turkey and Armenia's special envoys to discuss steps to normalize ties between the two countries was held in Vienna in late February. The envoys have "confirmed that the ultimate goal of the negotiations is to achieve full normalization" between the two countries as agreed on during their first meeting in

Moscow. Last December, Serdar Kiliç was named Turkey's special envoy to discuss steps toward normalization with neighboring Armenia, with Ruben Rubinyan named as his counterpart days later.

The first meeting of special representatives from Turkey and Armenia for normalization was held last month. The countries attended what both hailed as "positive and constructive" talks in Moscow, the first in more than a decade, raising hopes that diplomatic relations can be established and their land border - shut since 1993 - reopened.

Turkey and Armenia have also restarted commercial charter flights between Istanbul and Yerevan after two years as part of the normalization process.

Turkey is ready to take further steps in improving relations with Armenia and establishing a regional cooperation platform in the Caucasus as long as Yerevan is determined to continue the normalization process that started with the appointment of special envoys, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said last month.

Despite being neighbors, Turkey and Armenia have seen many difficulties in their diplomatic relations since the latter's declaration of independence in 1991. The two countries have long been divided by a range



of issues - from Armenia's refusal to recognize their shared border to its occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh and the 1915 events between the Ottoman Empire and Armenians. The two countries have had no diplomatic or commercial ties since the 1990s. The talks last month were the first attempt to restore links since a 2009 peace accord that was never ratified.

Bilateral relations, however, have taken a new shape and appear to be heading toward normalization recently. Following the war over Nagorno-Karabakh in which Turkey backed Azerbaijan against Armenia, Turkish-Armenian relations have entered a new phase, with Erdogan saying Turkey is ready for dialogue with Armenia. Azerbaijan also supports the process. Addressing Azerbaijan's parliament on Jan. 16, 2021, Erdogan said peace and stability in the Caucasus will benefit the entire world, not just countries of the region. Ankara has made frequent calls for a six-nation platform comprising Turkey, Russia, Iran, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia for permanent peace, stability and cooperation in the region, saying it would be a win-win initiative for all regional actors in the Caucasus. Turkey believes that permanent peace is possible through mutual security-based cooperation among the states and people of the South Caucasus region. Russia hosted the inaugural meeting of the regional platform.

Protesters call for Western intervention in Ukraine

NEW YORK: Thousands of people gathered Saturday in Times Square in New York in support of Ukraine, demanding the United States, NATO or the European Union intervene to stop the unfolding war. Some were Ukrainian-American, while others were just New Yorkers who wanted to express their opposition to Russia's invasion of the former Soviet republic. The iconic New York square, known for its giant billboards, was a sea of blue and yellow, the colors of the Ukrainian flag. Protesters of all ages waved signs for hours calling for the end of the war, a no-fly zone over Ukraine and to simply "stop Putin," with some photo collages comparing Russian President Vladimir Putin to Hitler. The rally easily filled Times Square, which extends for several blocks in the heart of Manhattan. Cars parked along the edge of the square revved their engines, as people stood out of the sun roofs waving Ukrainian flags. Protester Tania Schneider, 32, called for "more military support, more humanitarian aid, medical aid, more ammunition, just support in general." "NATO needs to get involved. (The) European Union should get involved," she told AFP.

Another demonstrator was Vasily Koval, 31. The web developer, who had left his parents in Ukraine, came to Times Square to demand that Western nations "close the sky" over his home country to Russian fighter jets. He urged the United States and NATO to act.

In tears, Tatiana Dyakun, a 38-year-old Ukrainian who has lived in the United States for six years, denounced the Russian invasion of Ukraine as "terrorism" and a "crime." "We ask for help... Please don't wait!" she said to AFP, adding she was grateful for the "huge support" already coming from Western countries. When asked if she thought Europe and the United States should intervene in Ukraine, she said "yes," even if it risked a third world war. - APP

Briefs

Fawad dares Opp to bring no-trust move against NA Speaker

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry on Sunday dared opposition to bring no-trust move against speaker National Assembly. Taking to Twitter, Fawad Chaudhry shared a screenshot of a news channel that the opposition is mulling over to bring a no-trust move against the National Assembly speaker rather than the prime minister. The minister said that he had previously said that this opposition is not capable of doing anything and dared that they should now move ahead with a no-trust move against the speaker. "Now they should not say that empire is not neutral and they are unable to do this as well," Fawad Chaudhry said. Pakistan People's Party (PPP) senior leader Syed Khurshed Ahmed Shah on Sunday said that no-trust move likely to be tabled before the National Assembly on March 8 or 9. In his informal media talk, Syed Khurshed Shah said that the opposition has completed the numbers' game for the success of the move and added that a no-trust move will also be introduced against NA Speaker Asad Qaiser.

Saudi Arabia lifts most Covid curbs

WEB DESK

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia said on Saturday it was lifting most Covid restrictions including social distancing in public spaces and quarantine for vaccinated arrivals, moves that could facilitate the arrival of Muslim pilgrims. The decision includes suspending "social distancing measures in all open and closed places" including mosques, the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) cited an interior ministry source as saying. Masks will only be required in closed spaces, according to the decision, which came into effect on Saturday. The Saudi kingdom, which is home to Islam's two holiest places in Makkah and Madinah, will no longer require vaccinated travellers to provide a negative PCR or rapid test before their arrival in the kingdom or to quarantine, SPA said. The Covid-19 pandemic has hugely disrupted Muslim pilgrimages, which are usually key revenue earners for the kingdom, bringing in some \$12 billion annually. Hosting the pilgrimages is a matter of prestige for Saudi rulers, for whom the custodianship of Islam's holiest sites is their most powerful source of political legitimacy. In 2021, the coronavirus outbreak forced Saudi authorities to dramatically downsize the Hajj for a second year, and just 60,000 fully vaccinated citizens and residents of the kingdom took part.

Blair admits he 'may have been wrong'

LONDON: Former British Prime Minister Sir Tony Blair has admitted that he "may have been wrong" about the decision to invade Iraq and Afghanistan but remained steadfast in his view that he thought it was "the right thing" to do. In conversation with the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, as part of the BBC's "The Archbishop Interviews" series, Blair provided a defense of his decision to invade Iraq and Afghanistan in support of former US President George W. Bush. "People often say over Iraq or Afghanistan that I took the wrong decision, but you've got to do what you think is right," the 68-year-old said. He added: "Whether you are right or not is another matter. In those really big decisions, you don't know what all the different component elements are, and you've got to follow, in the end, your own instinct." He told Welby that he "may have been wrong" but reaffirmed that he thought it was the right thing to do. - APP

50 years of bilateral relations UAE embassy, MOFA organize mini marathon

Ambassador Al Zaabi hailed the deep rooted relations between two friendly countries, derived from the depth of Islamic brotherhood and geographical, cultural and historical bonds



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The UAE Embassy in Islamabad in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a Mini-Marathon to celebrate the 50 years of bilateral relations between the United Arab Emirates and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. A large number of athletes from deferent nationalities and Ambassadors and representatives of diplomatic community participated in this healthy and family-friendly 5 km, and 2km, run on Saturday 5th March 2022 in Diplomatic Enclave, Islamabad.

Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Al Zaabi, the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the occasion said that the Mini Marathon and remarkable participations from all walks of life reflects the longstanding brotherhood, partnerships, and shared values between the two brotherly countries. Ambassador

Al Zaabi hailed the deep rooted relations between two friendly countries, derived from the depth of Islamic brotherhood and geographical, cultural and historical bonds that evolved into a strategic partnership between the two countries and peoples over recent years. He extended his thanks to the Gov-

ernment of Pakistan for facilitating the Marathon and to Gerry's, Sheikh Zayed International Academy, Bank Al Falah, DP World for sponsoring this event. The UAE Embassy in Islamabad is organizing number of social and cultural activities to celebrate the golden jubilee of PAK- UAE relations this year.

PAF-USAF bilateral air exercise culminates

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Air Marshal Zahid Mahmood, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (Personnel), Pakistan Air Force along with the United States Chargé d'affaires in Pakistan, Angela Aggeler witnessed the culmination phase of the bilateral exercise Falcon Talon between Pakistan Air Force and United States Air Force at an operational base of PAF. The exercise started on 26th Feb, 2022 with the deployment of USAF fighter jets at an operational base.

The exercise was aimed at Interoperability in complex Air Operations in realistic contemporary scenarios.

Interacting with the combat crew of both the air forces, Air Marshal Zahid congratulated the participants on successful completion of the exercise. He also appreciated the air & ground crew for smooth and professional conduct of this significant exercise. He added that both the air forces have a long history of enviable cordial relations and hoped that this exercise would certainly enable both the air forces to learn from mutual experiences in addition to promoting inter-operability.



Putin says Ukraine's future in doubt as ceasefires collapse

MOSCOW: A promised ceasefire in the besieged port city of Mariupol collapsed amid scenes of terror but a pro-Russian official said safe-passage corridors would open again for city residents on Sunday, while Russian President Vladimir Putin warned that the ongoing resistance is putting Ukrainian statehood in jeopardy and likened the West's sanctions on Russia to "declaring war". With the Kremlin's rhetoric growing fiercer and a reprieve from fighting dissolving, Russian troops continued to shell encircled cities and the number of Ukrainians forced from their country grew to 1.4 million. By nighttime on Saturday, Russian forces had intensified their shelling of Mariupol, while dropping powerful bombs on residential areas of Chernihiv, a city north of Kyiv, Ukrainian officials said. Bereft mothers mourned slain children, wounded soldiers were fitted with tourniquets and doctors worked by the light of their cellphones as bleakness and desperation pervaded. Crowds of men lined up in the capital to join the Ukrainian military. The government has ordered men between the ages of 18 and 60 to stay and be available to fight. Some, like Volodymyr Onysko, have volunteered. "We know why we are here. We know why we defend our country," Onysko told Britain's Sky News. "We know what we are doing, and that's why we will win." Eduard Basurin, the head of the military in separatist-held Donetsk territory, said safe passage corridors for residents of two cities in the region - Mariupol and Volnovakha - would be open again on Sunday. He did not give any details on how long the corridors would remain open, nor whether there would be a ceasefire to facilitate the evacuation of the two cities. He made the comments on Russian state television. Russia's defence ministry said the country had struck and disabled Ukraine's Starokostiantyniv military airbase with long-range high-precision weapons. "The Russia armed forces continue to strike the military infrastructure of Ukraine," Russian defence ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said. "On the morning of March 6, strikes were carried out by high-precision long-range weapons. The Ukrainian air force base near Starokostiantyniv was disabled." He said a Ukrainian-controlled S-300 missile system had also been destroyed by Russian rocket forces. He said Russia had downed 10 Ukrainian planes and helicopters over the past 24 hours. - DNA

No trust move: Opposition still lack numbers: FM Qureshi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Sunday said the opposition's no-trust move is getting delayed as they do not have the numbers to oust the government. Talking to a private news channel, the foreign minister said that if the opposition has the support of 12 to 14 lawmakers then what is forcing them to delay the no-trust move. "The delay is a clear indication that they do not have the numbers," he said and added, "the opposition is trying its best but the treasury members are standing their ground firm." He blamed that the opposition is making offers of tickets and money to the lawmakers but they are respectable people and would not consider such offers. He further said that the PPP has no popularity in Punjab and even surveys showed only 5 percent of people wanted to vote for them. "Bilawal Bhutto has made decisions on wrong perceptions and he will need time to grow." It is pertinent to mention here that Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday met with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members of the National Assembly (MNAs) who assured him of their support for the party during the no-trust move. According to sources privy to the matter, the two MNAs who met with the prime minister including Riaz Fatyana and Nasrullah Dreshak after reports that some PTI lawmakers may support the no-trust move.

US says working to send jets to Ukraine

WASHINGTON: Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said the United States is working on a deal with Poland to supply Ukraine with jets amid Russia's invasion. "We are looking actively now at the question of airplanes that Poland may provide to Ukraine and looking at how we might be able to backfill should Poland decide to supply those planes," he told reporters on Sunday during a visit to Moldova. "I can't speak to a timeline but I can just say we're looking at it very, very actively." His comments came after Democrat Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said in a statement that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, in a call on Saturday with US Congress members, asked Washington to facilitate the transfer of used Russian planes from Eastern European allies. Multiple news outlets, meanwhile, reported that the US and Poland are working together to provide Polish Soviet-era warplanes to Ukraine. Four US officials told Politico the two governments are working on a deal, with the question of how to transfer the planes being the biggest difficulty in a potential arrangement. "We are working with the Poles on this issue and consulting with the rest of our NATO allies," a White House spokesperson told Politico. - APP

Israel hopeful to mediate between Ukraine, Russia

TEL AVIV: Israel will continue trying to mediate between Russia and Ukraine even if success seems unlikely, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said on Sunday after returning from surprise talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Ukraine has requested that Israel serve as intermediary, citing the Bennett government's good relations with both Kyiv and Moscow. Bennett's office said he spoke three times over the weekend with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. In televised remarks to his cabinet, Bennett gave no details on his three-hour Kremlin meeting with Putin on Saturday, saying only that it had "the blessing and encouragement of all parties" - an allusion to the United States, among other powers. Bennett and Putin had discussed the mediation idea by phone last week. "We will continue to assist wherever this is requested, even if the chances are not great," Bennett said. "The moment there is even a small opening, and we have the access to all sides and the capability, I see it as a moral duty to make every attempt." - APP

Iran, IAEA nuclear talks near finish line

Iran's FM says he will go to Vienna to sign an agreement soon if all of Iran's red lines are considered in it

MONITORING DESK

TEHRAN: The head of the global nuclear watchdog and senior Iranian officials have held crucial talks as Iran and world powers are on the verge of restoring their 2015 nuclear deal. Rafael Grossi, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), met Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and nuclear chief Mohammad Eslami in the capital, Tehran, on Saturday. A major talking point was IAEA safeguards probes, including into several sites where undeclared radioactive materials were found several years ago. After his meeting with Eslami, the IAEA director told reporters that even as safeguards issues and the JCPOA run parallel to each other, they are closely interrelated. "It would be difficult to imagine that such an important return to such a comprehensive agreement like JCPOA would be possible if the agency and Iran would not

see eye-to-eye on how to resolve these important safeguards issues," Grossi said. But both Grossi and Eslami signalled an understanding has been reached on mutual cooperation. The Iranian nuclear chief said the IAEA will be provided with documentation on "remaining issues" by the third Iranian calendar month in late May without disclosing further details. Iran, which maintains it never had and will never seek a nuclear bomb, believes the issue of the possible military dimensions of its nuclear programme should be laid to rest as it was resolved during the original JCPOA talks. Iranian officials have previously referred to issues relating to the probe as "political demands" by the West that need to be let go if the Vienna talks are to be successful. Earlier this week, Grossi had said he will "never" abandon the safeguards probe due to a political reason, saying "the only way these issues will go away is if they are clarified to the full satisfaction of the IAEA". The director had a phone call with

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett prior to landing in Tehran, and will reportedly brief him again after his return to the Austrian capital. Israel, the strictest opponent of the nuclear accord and its restoration, which maintains Iran is after a nuclear weapon, has repeatedly said it wants the probe to remain open. Grossi landed in Tehran late on Friday and wrote in a tweet that "this is a critical time, but a positive outcome for everyone is possible". Saturday's developments come as an announcement on the success - or breakdown - of the Vienna talks is expected shortly. Iran's foreign minister on Friday told the European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell that he will go to Vienna to sign an agreement soon if all of Iran's red lines are considered. In addition to dropping the IAEA inquiry, Iran has also demanded the lifting of a wide scope of sanctions, including a "foreign terrorist organisation" designation on its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, guarantees that the US will not renege on

the deal again, and a mechanism to verify effective lifting of sanctions. On Friday, the chief negotiators of the so-called E3 - France, Germany, and the United Kingdom - went back to their capitals to keep their foreign ministers abreast of the latest developments in preparation for a final announcement. But Iran's chief negotiator, Ali Bagheri Kani, stayed in Vienna to continue holding talks with his counterparts from Russia and China. The latest of confidential reports by the IAEA - which are regularly leaked to Western media outlets despite Iranian objections - said on Thursday that Iran has produced 33.2 kilogrammes (73 pounds) of 60 percent enriched uranium, up from 17.7kg (39 pounds) in early November when the previous report was released. Iran had committed to cap its uranium enrichment to 3.67 percent and limit its stockpile to 202.8kg (447 pounds) until 2031 under the JCPOA, but gradually abandoning those limits a year after the US withdrew from it.