



Islamabad POST

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NATO says Russia's war must not escalate beyond Ukraine

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Iran won't back down on its 'red lines'

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UN rights chief to visit China's Xinjiang

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Govt days numbered: Opposition

PM Imran faces no-trust motion

Speaker to call session within seven days; voting may take place in the last week of this month

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Opposition bigwigs on Monday appeared confident about the success of the no-trust motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan, which was submitted to the National Assembly Secretariat earlier in the day. The Speaker would call the Assembly session within seven days after sub-

mission of the motion. It is likely that voting takes place at the end of this month. Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehmaan, PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif and PPP co-chair Asif Ali Zardari held a joint press conference in Islamabad, seeming certain that the days of the PTI government were numbered. Shehbaz kicked off the press conference by explaining the need for

the no-confidence motion. "What has been done to the country's economy [...] there is no other example of such destruction in Pakistan's history," he said, adding that the rise in inflation was the biggest concern. He also lamented foreign policy failures, regretting the fact that "friends" that had supported the country during tough times were angered. "What type of foreign policy is it to upset China," he asked, pointing towards criticism and "baseless allegations" against Chinese funded development projects. The PML-N said PM Imran had criticised the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor before his election to the office of the prime minister. He further censured PM Imran for lambasting European Union (EU) countries over asking Pakistan to vote against Russia during a recently held special session of the United Nations General Assembly. This, he lamented, had angered EU nations. Meanwhile, Rehman regretted the state of affairs over the past three-and-a-half years, reiterating that the 2018 election was



ISLAMABAD: Opposition leaders addressing a press conference, on Tuesday. - DNA

Continued on Page 06



RAWALPINDI: PM Imran Khan distributing certificates of excellence among the high achievers from various fields during Women's Day ceremony held at Fatima Jinnah Women University. - DNA

Monal re-opens

Diplomats, general public hail court decision

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has ordered to re-open Monal. The decision came on Tuesday. The apex court observed in its judgment that if all other restaurants in the area are operational then why only Monal was closed. People have hailed the decision and are happy that they will again enjoy traditional and mouth-watering delicacies of Monal. Similarly the diplomatic community has also welcomed the decision. Some of the diplomats talking this newspaper told that they have already planned to take their delegations to Monal during the upcoming OIC event in the capital.

Asks Buzdar to continue Imran Khan says ready to counter Opp

"No matter what planning such corrupt do, I am ready to thwart their attempts," Khan says

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD, Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday said he was ready to thwart all designs and tactics by some corrupt politicians against the government. The prime minister said a skipper in a match was always ready to counter the attack of his opponent. He asked Punjab Chief Minister Usman Buzdar to continue in his office. "No matter what planning such corrupt do, I am ready to thwart their attempts," he said in his address at an event in connection with International Women's Day at Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU). Imran Khan said Pakistan on its creation, was envisioned as a country with the rule of law and that he would not give

Fawad slams 'political dwarfs'

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Hussain said on Tuesday that many political pygmies have become "big leaders" in Pakistan which was sickening. In a tweet, the minister said that Senator Kamran Murtaza of JUI-F has submitted a motion in the Senate that the House should hold debate on the harsh statement of the Prime Minister against the European country. - APP

Continued on Page 06

Qureshi holds phone talks with Chinese FM



STAFF REPORT / APP

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Tuesday spoke on telephone with China's State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi. The two Foreign Ministers discussed bilateral ties and exchanged views on the regional and global situation. State Councilor Wang Yi conveyed his condolences on the loss of precious lives in the cowardly terrorist attack in Peshawar and sympathies with the families of the victims. The Foreign Minister underlined that the terrorist act was an attack on the

Continued on Page 06

Pakistanis repatriated via Poland arrive home

This is a joint effort of Embassy of Pakistan in Warsaw, Embassy of Poland in Islamabad and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The first group of Pakistanis evacuated from Ukraine to Poland have been repatriated by the special Warsaw-Islamabad through PIA airplane. Flight number PK 7788 landed in Islamabad last night bringing the

first batch of evacuated Pakistanis. This is a joint effort of Embassy of Pakistan in Warsaw, Embassy of Poland in Islamabad and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Poland. Mr. Piotr Opalinski, ex Ambassador to Pakistan and currently serving as a Minister

Continued on Page 06

7 terrorists killed during IBO in Turbat

A significant cache of arms and ammunition has also been recovered



DNA

RAWALPINDI: Security forces Tuesday killed seven terrorists during an operation against miscreants in Gorchop, Turbat. "Based on information of presence of a Terrorists' Hideout in general area Gorchop, Turbat, Balochistan, Security Forces conducted IBO today to apprehend externally sponsored enemies of peace in Balochistan," said a handout issued by the ISPR. "Once the troops started clearance operation in the area, Terrorists tried to escape from their camp and opened indiscriminate fire onto security forces," said the statement. "Seven Terrorists including Commanders Hasil Doda and Washdil have

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5 security personnel martyred in Sibi blast

NEWS DESK

SIBI: At least five security personnel were martyred and 19 people injured in a blast near Thandi Sarak in district Sibi of Balochistan, officials said. Medical Superintendent Civil Hospital Dr Sarwar Hashmi told Dawn.com that 16 of the 19 injured were security personnel. He had earlier said that among the injured who were initially brought to the hospital, five were in critical condition and shifted to Quetta. Meanwhile, Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo strongly condemned the blast and directed authorities to provide the best possible medical treatment to those injured in the blast. Bizenjo said the blast was an attempt to sabotage the annual festival and overall peace in the province. He vowed to thwart "all conspiracies against the province".

Briefs

West also responsible for deaths

KIEV: Growing increasingly frustrated with what he perceives as a lack of Western action, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has accused his allies of sharing responsibility for casualties. "While Russians are to blame for the killings, responsibility is shared by those who for 13 days in their Western offices haven't been able to approve an obviously necessary decision, who didn't save our cities from these bombs and missiles - although they can," The Kyiv Independent newspaper quoted Zelenskyy as saying Tuesday. Zelenskyy has repeatedly called for Western powers to enforce a no-fly zone over Ukraine to prevent more Russian attacks. "We repeat every day: close the sky over Ukraine. Close for all Russian missiles, for Russian combat aircraft, for all their terrorists," Zelenskyy said on Sunday. - APP

Farrukh blasts PPP

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Tuesday said that leaders of Pakistan Peoples Party are responsible for damaging governance in Sindh province. The PPP could not provide better services in hospitals of Sindh besides clean drinking water and modern transport facility to the people of Karachi, he said while talking to a private television channel. Shahbaz Sharif and Nawaz Sharif, he said had been ruling in Punjab for many years but they also failed to bring improvement in health sector. The PPP and PML-N, he said could not formulate a clear foreign policy for Pakistan. Farrukh Habib said both the political parties had been unsuccessful in raising Pakistan's image in the comity of nations. He said PM's government after coming to power had made efforts to highlight the issue of Kashmir. - APP

US, UK and EU move against Russian oil

The measures are meant to hurt Russia, with its economy dependent on energy; US says Russia suffered 2000-4000 casualties

NEWS DESK / DNA

WASHINGTON: The US and UK are poised to ban Russian oil and the EU is sharply reducing gas imports as countries harden their response to the invasion of Ukraine. President Joe Biden announced Tuesday that the U.S. will target "the main artery of Russia's economy" by banning the import of Russian energy products. "We're banning all imports of Russian oil and gas and energy," Biden said in remarks from the White House. "That means Russian oil will no longer be acceptable at U.S. ports and the American people will deal another powerful blow to Putin's war machine." The president warned that the move would probably increase gas prices in the U.S., but that it was necessary to ramp up sanctions pressure on Russia's

economy for its war on Ukraine. "Putin's war is already hurting American families at the gas pump," Biden said. "I'm going to do everything I can to minimize Putin's price hike here at home." The move has political support. On Monday senior Republicans and Democrats in Congress announced a bipartisan agreement to suspend normal trade relations with Russia and Belarus. "Taking these actions will send a clear message to Putin that his war is unacceptable and the United States stands firmly with our Nato allies," they said. "We are committed to using the tools at our disposal to stop Russia's unconscionable and unjust war." About 8% of US oil and refined product imports come from Russia. The European Commission has announced it will reduce demand for Russian gas by two-thirds - the EU gets 40% of its gas from Russia.

NATO says war must not escalate beyond Ukraine

CENTRELINE REPORT

RIGA: NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said on Tuesday there were credible reports that Russia was targeting civilians in Ukraine and urged Moscow to end the conflict, also vowing not to let it spread. "We have a responsibility to ensure the conflict does not escalate and spread beyond Ukraine," Stoltenberg said. "We will protect and defend every inch of all allied territory," he added. Speaking alongside Latvia's President Egils Levits, Stoltenberg said Russia's invasion was causing horrific suffering and that the humanitarian impact was devastating. Earlier, Volodymyr Zelenskyy has warned that Russia will next target Nato member nations unless they do more to protect Ukraine. The Ukrainian president's chilling warning comes as Russia continues its bombardment of Ukrainian towns and cities, while Nato rules out imposing a no-fly zone over the country under siege. He said: "When the limits of rights and freedoms are being violated and stepped on, then you have to protect us. "Because we will come first, you will come second."

The measures are meant to hurt Russia, with its economy dependent on energy. But such action could also send prices soaring. Investor fears of an embargo drove Brent crude oil to \$139 (£106) a barrel at one point on Monday - its highest level for almost 14 years. Russia earlier warned it may close its main gas pipeline to Germany if the West bans Russian oil. Meanwhile, Russia has suffered between 2,000 and 4,000 casualties in Ukraine, the head of the US Defence Intelligence Agency has told a US Congressional hearing. "They had a bad plan", Scott Berrier said, while estimating, with low confidence, the deaths based on intelligence and open source reporting. The details follow earlier reports, from the Ukrainian defence ministry, that a senior Russian military commander was killed in a battle on the edge of the eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv.



SIBBI: President Dr Arif Alvi being presented with bouquets on his arrival at the closing ceremony of Annual Sibbi Mela. — DNA

Int'l Women day observed in Kharian region

ANWAR CHOHAN

KHARIAN: March 8 is being celebrated all over the world, including Pakistan, as International Women's Day (especially for the empowerment of rural women). The main purpose of celebrating this day is not only to make women aware of their basic rights but also to highlight their social significance. Nearly a hundred years ago today, women who worked for more than ten hours in a row in a New York textile factory called for a reduction in their working hours and an increase in wages. He was tied to horses and dragged through the streets. These brave women led an active movement against the state, the result of their everlasting sacrifices. The first international conference of women was held in Copenhagen in 1910 with the participation of nearly 100 women from more than 17 countries. It was decided to celebrate the International Day

of Exploitation.

On International Women's Day, this year's theme, "Empowering Rural Women," accounts for 63% of women farm workers, and the share of women in agriculture is still high in Asian countries. At present about 43% of rural women in Pakistan are involved in agricultural work in the fields. While the number of women working in households is different. A conservative estimate is that 25% of women work on the farms as family workers and 75% as part-time farms, while they receive no reasonable compensation for all day work and lack of proper care and medical facilities. This causes women to suffer from various diseases. The majority of rural families have been found to be against women's education and despite this the deficit is being met by the so-called education policies of the government in which majority of rural women are deprived of the jewel of education.

Barrister Saif condoles deaths of policemen



DNA

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister on Information, Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif on Tuesday expressed grief and sorrow over the deaths of police personnel in a road accident in Shingla district.

He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to families of the martyrs and added that the best medical facilities would be provided to the injured. He prayed for the departed souls and early recovery of the injured.

Chinese technology makes KP's Jaggery (Gur) exportable

The districts of Mardan, Charsadda and Swabi are amongst the main sugarcane growing districts of KP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The sugarcane growers living in the proximity of Rashakai Special Economic Zone (RSEZ), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), are optimistic that with the latest Chinese agricultural machinery and with the establishment of SEZ, they can export different products of Jaggery (Gur) to international markets in the near future.

According to a Gwadar Pro's report, Jaggery, locally known as Gur, is a sweetener made from sugarcane that is unrefined and produced without filtering molasses.

The districts of Mardan, Charsadda and Swabi are amongst the main sugarcane growing districts of KP. The Rashakai SEZ is located at the center of these sugarcane growing districts, which is one of the main crops the local farmers grow. The growers either produce Gur while exercising the labor-intensive traditional methods or sell the sugarcane to mills for sugar (white) productions. The sugarcane growers use decade-old methods to obtain jaggery, which not only are labor-intensive but also result in pre-and-post labor losses. However, the use of the latest machinery can change the whole scenario. "Jaggery in KP has immense export potential; however, farmers must be equipped with advanced technologies for agriculture," Irfan Khattak, a sugar



cane grower, told Gwadar Pro.

Mr. Khattak grows sugarcane in the Lundkhwar area of Mardan. Mostly for making Gur, his family uses tools for making tea and Sharbat (juice), especially in the month of Ramadan. Jaggery in these areas is available in lumps without a definite shape. Gur is usually transported in large-sized sacks of jute. "We don't have the technology to make our jaggery presentable items in the market," Mr. Khattak said, adding that the farmers need equipment for making proper cubes, slabs, and proper packing materials for them. "Latest Chinese tools and equipment can help us overcome this issue," he said.

Raza Shah of Charsadda said like other neighboring countries, sugarcane growers of this region can produce different jaggery products like liquid jaggery, jaggery juice, jaggery powder, and jaggery cubes. "However, for doing so, we need tools to shape the jaggery properly and packing and packaging units as well," he added. During the second phase of CPEC, besides other areas of collaboration, the agriculture sector has been focused to boost Pakistan's agricul-

ture-based exports. The sugarcane growers living in proximity with Rashakai SEZ are optimistic that China will not only help them increase the yield of sugarcane but also set up units helping them export their jaggery to different destinations of the world. "Chinese help regarding seeds and technology would be highly appreciated," said farmer Abdullah. The jaggery, which is usually found in light golden to dark brown color with rich fiber, has great medicinal value, and day by day its demand is increasing worldwide.

It has been used in foods and beverages, bakery products, confectionery, organic health products, and natural dyeing of fabrics as well. If Pakistan starts producing quality jaggery products, China can be one of the top destinations for Pakistani exporters. In a recent interview, Abdul Karim Tordher, Special Assistant to CMPK on Industries had told Gwadar Pro that in the priority the government would provide space to industries and food processing units that process local raw material.

Women empowerment vital for socio-economic development

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Pakistani society is facing gender discrimination for which ensuring women rights and women empowerment are inevitable to make the socio-economic development. It was stated by University of Agriculture Faisalabad Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan while addressing the celebrations in connection with International Women's Day at Iqbal Auditorium as the Chief Guest. The UAF took out a rally, arranged a seminar, art exhibition and inter-hostel sports gala. Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan said that half of the population of the country consists of women. We cannot pave the way of development without gender mainstreaming. He said that the university students consist of more than 50 percent women and steps are also being taken to increase women participation at the faculty level. He said that UAF launched a bicycle program for women a decade ago to overcome the travel difficulties of female students. Now, we see women on cycle/bicycle across in different areas of city.

Government College Women University Faisalabad Vice Chancellor Dr. Rubina Feroz called for increasing the participation of women in professional education. She stressed upon the need of women increased participation in the mainstreaming of political, social and administrative affairs. She said that for a better society, it is necessary to ensure women's education. MPA Firdous Rai said that ensuring women rights is one of the top priorities of the government for which all possible measures are being taken. The dream of national prosperity cannot be materialized without the development of women.

Former MPA Najma Afzal said that in order to build self-confidence, women should participate more in all fields of life. She said that development can be achieved only by providing equal opportunities to women. Dr Attiya Awan said that an empowered and educated woman can become the best mother and raise the generation in a better way that is a guarantee of a bright future. She said that the purpose of celebrating Women's Day is to pay homage to the role of women in the development of the country as well as to raise the

awareness about their rights. She said that Islam gives the best rights to women. Unfortunately, we are not implementing the golden principal of the Islam in our lives. There is a tendency in society to deprive women of their rights.

Dean Food Nutrition and Home Sciences Dr. Masood Sadiq Butt said that the best facilities are being provided to the UAF students. He said that without women participation, we could not compete with the rest of the world.

Principal Officer Dr. Jalal Arif said that under the visionary leadership of Vice Chancellor Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan, all efforts are being made to equip women in the university with a better environment and facilities. He urged the women to build confidence and fight the odds in the life for progress.

Progressive farmer Sapna Kavita said that in villages, women are standing side by side with men in the agriculture sector. Shazia George, Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce Representative Qurat Ul Ain, Institute of Home Sciences Director Dr. Ayesha Riaz, Associate Professor Dr. Bushra Sadia, Lecturer Hira Iftikhar and others also spoke.



WAZIRABAD: Women leaders are addressing a function organized by Jamaat-e-Islami (women's wing) Wazirabad in connection with International Women's Day. — DNA

FCCI fixes membership target

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) has fixed a target of membership renewal for the year 2022-23 at 90% and evolved a 3-layered strategy to achieve it, said Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh President FCCI.

He was addressing an emergent meeting to discuss the pace of renewal and take appropriate decisions to expedite this process. He said that Rana Sikandar Azam Khan Chairman FCCI Standing Committee on Liaison with Trade Associations was looking after the renewal related matters for the last many years

and hence, he has been entrusted this job in view of his previous experience. He said that the current renewal campaign will continue up to March 31 and only 23 days have been left. During this process, we are also organizing a 3-day Pakistan Economic Conference (PEC) and we must equally focus on the renewal as well as on the PEC to achieve the given targets. He said that last year we had achieved 84% renewal targets but this year we would make best efforts to convince 90% members to renew their membership positively before March 31, 2022. He said that we have a total 7142 members out of which 265 corporate and 603 associates have so far renewed their

membership. "The renewal ratio is only 12.15%", he said and added that we must expedite it in collaboration with the executive and chairmen of the standing committees. He said that if the remaining members are distributed among 30 executive members, each will have to contact 200 members. "If these members are divided among the 83 chairmen of the standing committees, their numbers would further reduce", he said and added that a comprehensive monitoring system would also be added to overview the process of membership on a daily basis. He disclosed that the next meeting of the chairmen of the standing committees would also be held immediately after PEC on March 22.

Auditors' role vital for department

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Auditors perform pivotal roles to save the department from possible financial irregularities and embezzlement, said Director General (DG) Audit Power Sheikh Nadeem Amjad, he was addressing a review meeting held here at FESCO Headquarters today. He said that it is the responsibility of the audit department to establish the audit standard in accordance with international audit principles. He also appreciated the performance of FESCO audit and finance and said that FESCO steps for reducing line losses and satisfaction of consumers are imitative. Earlier, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) FESCO, addressed the meeting and said that FESCO has achieved the recovery and line losses targets set by National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA). He further said that FESCO is striving hard for the promotion of the corporate culture in the company; in this connection, utilization of the latest technology is FESCO priority.

UNODC launches TB, Hepatitis and HIV services in Sindh prisons

NAZIR SITAL

KARACHI: Today, UNODC Country Office Pakistan, in coordination with the Sindh Prisons Department, held a ceremony on the Coordination and Strengthening of HIV, TB, and Hepatitis Services in Prisons in the IG Prison Sindh office.

During the ceremony, the formal control and implementation of the HIV, TB, and Hepatitis Module of Prison Management Information System (PMIS) along with the equipment for HTC centre was handed over to Sindh Prisons Department.

The equipment will be used in the newly established HIV Testing and Counseling (HTC) Center for HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and TB testing and treatment services at the District Prison Malir in Karachi. The HIV, Hepatitis, and TB Module has been designed to help prison authorities and the Health Department Sindh in maintaining data on the health of the prisoners with regards to HIV, Hepatitis, and TB during their time in prison. This will help keep track of, and support people, after their release from prison. This pilot project also aimed at strengthening coordination between the Prisons and Health De-



partment of Sindh facilitating a quality continuum of HIV, Hepatitis, and TB prevention, treatment, and care services to the prisoners. As part of the project, tools were developed for the initial screening of prisoners for high-risk behaviors and capacity-building of the prison staff. Moreover, NADRA is now providing mobile services for registration and issuing free-of-cost CNIC to prisoners suffering from HIV, Hepatitis B, and C. Kazi Nazir Ahmed, Inspector General of Prisons praised UNODC Pakistan, Health Department Sindh,

and all the stakeholders for their continuous support of the project and its implementation. He noted UNODC's exponential efforts in providing PMIS in 22 prisons throughout Sindh. Dr. Jeremy Milsom, Representative UNODC, thanked the Prisons, Health Department, Sindh, and stakeholders for their support and ownership of this important initiative. He appreciated UNAIDS for its generous support and underscored the importance of having strong collaboration between departments that can help in improving the quali-

ty of life of prison inmates. Director General Health Services Sindh was also in attendance and appreciated the support of UNODC and UNAIDS in capacity-building of the staff and provision of equipment. He assured that the health department will continue to provide health care services to the prison department and support the post-release referral mechanism. These prison interventions were made possible with the financial support from UNAIDS under the Country Envelops and HIV Section of the UNODC Headquarters.

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

MARCH

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



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Monal.....	0334-5421812



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Rawal Town.....	5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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International Women's Day

Serena Hotels host networking breakfast

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels hosted a Networking Breakfast on the 8th of March 2022, to celebrate International Women's Day and honour, recognise and applaud the talented women. This year the Women's Day celebration was also part of the Islamabad Serena Hotel's 20 year anniversary celebrations.

Women from all walks of life including the Guests, Associates, Entrepreneurs, and representatives of the Civil Society along with a large number of Diplomats and their spouses joined the celebrations. Mrs. Samina Alvi, the First Lady was the Chief Guest. Aziz Boolani, the CEO of Serena Hotels, said, "At Serena, we believe that investing in women is the most effective way to improve the standards of living of communities and most of our CSR initiatives are focused on empowering the women resulting in social and economic upliftment".

The objective of celebrating International Women's Day is to break the bias, stereotypes and discrimination, and to celebrate a world that's diverse, equitable and inclusive. A world where difference is valued and celebrated.

On this occasion, various stalls featuring Pakistani handicrafts and traditional items, made by differently abled children, women artisans in underprivileged homes and other arts and crafts were displayed by women organisation represented by Indus Heritage, Andaaz, Mashal Association, Air Organics, Behbud Crafts, Care for



Special Children Organisation, Pakistan Navy Women Association, Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association, the Aga Khan Economic Planning Board, and Chann Mahi Handicrafts.



The First Lady also visited various stalls and evinced interest



in items displayed there. She also praised the work of artisans. The guests thoroughly enjoyed live music and an entertaining trivia session in a well decorated Sheesh Mahal.

Diplomat launches 'Handbook on Economic Diplomacy'

Ambassador Sirohey said that aim of the diplomacy is to nurture good relations with other nations and if you are economically connected with other nations, relations would automatically go better and strong

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The launch ceremony of "A Handbook on Economic Diplomacy" written by Ambassador Mr. Ahmed Ali Sirohey, Pakistan envoy in Niger, held at COMSTech on Tuesday in collaboration with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan.

In his introductory lecture, Ambassador Sirohey said that the aim of the diplomacy is to nurture good relations with other nations and if you are economically connected with other nations, relations would automatically go better and strong. Mr. Sirohey said that the pioneer in economic diplomacy in the world is Netherland and in Asia is Japan. He mentioned that today geographically and demographically small countries are influencing policies of large countries due to their economic power and best eco-

nomics. He said that the diplomats of economically advanced country spend their 90% time to meet business communities to enhance the exports of their countries and 10% of time allocate for other activities.

Mr. Sirohey suggested to achieve economic deterrence by adopting creative and innovative attainable action plans. He advised to make achievable time bound goals to get excellence in economic development.

Speaking at the occasion the Coordinator General COMSTech, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary said that a handbook on "Economic Diplomacy" by Ambassador Mr. Ahmed Ali Sirohey is an excellent addition to the literature on economic diplomacy. He said that I found it as a crashcourse for myself to understand the economic diplomacy and it must be read by all particularly those who are in the foreign service. Prof. Choudhary said that Ambassador

Sirohey is one of the most seasoned and effective diplomats of Pakistan and he is certainly a role model. He said that his vast experience of working in different countries and international organizations is deeply reflected in his book. He has addressed contours of economic diplomacy in the modern world, and contextualized them with Pakistan. Prof. Choudhary mentioned. Prof. Choudhary also mentioned that the world's economy is now linked with science, technology and innovation, and economic diplomacy is linked with science and technology capacity building and linking innovation with production sector. He said that Ambassador Sirohey presented examples of best practices and advocated a focused approach toward economic diplomacy in Pakistan. Prof. Choudhary said that this handbook is well suited for everyone interested in the global diplomacy, and economic advancement.

'No place for corrupt system in Naya Pakistan'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Political Communication Dr. Shahbaz Gill on Tuesday said there was no place for a corrupt system and its beneficiaries in Naya Pakistan. While responding to PML-N leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's statement, he said Prime Minister Imran Khan had seized doors of the corrupt system and its beneficiaries and those incompetent were unable to accept the change. "Half of the PML-N is running away from the country while half was in courts dealing for their wrongdoings," he said in a statement issued here.

NPO's webinar on Thursday

ISLAMABAD: The National Productivity Organization (NPO) is going to organize a webinar on "Conflict Resolution and Management Techniques" on March 17. The training provide information about what is conflict resolution, why, when and how you resolve conflict, types of conflict, steps in conflict resolution, basic strategies for resolving conflicts and conflicts management styles, according to NPO document. - APP

PM to defeat all Opposition plans: Tanvir

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Azad Kashmir President and Most Senior Minister Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan has said that people of Pakistan are fully behind Prime Minister Imran Khan. Sardar Tanvir Ilyas Khan said that Imran Khan has vowed to transform Pakistan into an Islamic welfare state like Mstate of Madina, and he is the only leader who can succeed in this. Opposition's plans are bound to fail; no-confidence motion is just a hype which will eventually be failed. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan has set Pakistan on the road to prosperity, and Pakistan is once again respected worldwide, thanks to the policies of incumbent premier. He further said that Prime Minister Imran Khan will not back down against the corrupt mafia and will rid Pakistan of their corruption. He termed the talk of Molana Fazal ur Rehman immoral and substandard and said that the talk of Molana had embarrassed all the religious parties. He further said that Prime Minister Imran Khan was setting the direction for the next generation of Pakistan which some elements were not digesting. He expressed full confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. He added that the Kashmiri people had full trust in Prime Minister Imran Khan's foreign policy and his sentiments and views regarding Kashmir. Even as the Opposition mobilises no-confidence motion against the Imran Khan government, the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) exuded confidence that its party has sufficient numbers in the National Assembly.



PHA's rainwater harvesting project

RAWALPINDI: The construction of the first underground water tank with a storage capacity of nearly 100,000 gallons which is part of the rainwater harvesting system project worth Rs 50 million, has been completed in Rawal Park. The project is being executed by the Parks and Horticulture Authority (PHA) Rawalpindi to reduce the use of clean water in parks. According to Director General PHA, Zaheer Ahmed Jappa, the project would enable the authority to collect rainwater in various parks of Rawalpindi city which would be used for irrigation in parks and other plantation sites of the city. Water supply systems would also be installed in the parks besides constructing

water filling stations to fill water tankers, he said. "The second such tank is under construction at Li-aquat Bagh while two others would be built in Commercial Market and Allama Iqbal Park. All four tanks would have a capacity of over 300,000 gallons." The underground water tanks are being constructed to conserve rainwater through this eco-friendly project, he said. The project would help save clean water being used for irrigation purposes, he said adding, PHA Rawalpindi was installing rainwater harvesting system to reduce the use of clean water. Over 300,000 gallons of underground clean water would be saved through this project, he added. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Turkish Ambassador Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul along with his spouse and MD PBM, Malik Zaheer Abbas Khokhar in a group photo with trainees of PBM's Women Empowerment Centre, during a ceremony. - DNA

Briefs

PIA starts airlift operation in Ukraine

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plane, Boeing-777, left for Poland on Tuesday to airlift the Pakistanis stranded in Ukraine following the Russia-Ukraine conflict. From Lahore airport, the PK-7787 has left for Warsaw, the capital of Poland, at 7:23 a.m. [today], and will land there by 10:00 am as per the local time, PIA spokesman Abdullah Hafeez Khan said in a press release issued here. He said the plane, dispatched on the directives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, would bring back around 300 Pakistanis to the country and land at the Islamabad International Airport, while "more flights will also be operated on the instructions of the government of Pakistan," the PIA spokesman said. - APP

AIOU to hold Int'l Islamic conference

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) is organizing an international Islamic conference on "Discussions of Tradition and Modernity in Islamic Thought" on Friday (March 11). The inaugural session will be chaired by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Zia Ul-Qayyum, while Prof. Dr. Abu Sufyan Islahi of Aligarh Muslim University, India, Prof. Dr. Israr Ahmed of the University of Social Sciences, Ankara (Turkey), and Prof. Dr. Jamal Malik of Erfurt University, Germany will be the guests. The conference is being organized by the Department of Islamic Thought, History and Culture, Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies. According to the Dean Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Prof. Dr. Shah Mohyuddin Hashmi, researchers and philosophers will present their research papers and articles at this conference. Speakers will provide a comparative overview of the basic requirements and interactions of 'Science, Muslims and Technology' in the context of modernity so that scholars, intellectuals, and scientists can play their part in creating a universal and authoritative Islamic science.

Command & Control center to be inaugurated at NHMP

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) Inam Ghani has said that state of the art Central Command and Control center would soon be inaugurated at NHMP Headquarters in Islamabad. In a statement issued here, he said that everything happening in the field would be visible and supervised 24/7 from the Central Police Office. He said that the use of modern technology is the need of the hour and all possible steps were being taken to make the Motorway Police more efficient. He said that the initiative aimed to improve efficiency of patrolling and performance all regions to ensure safety and security of commuters. During a visit to the site, the IG Motorway Police reviewed the development work on the Command and Control center at Headquarters. - APP

5th Int'l PATS competition commences

RAWALPINDI, Mar 08 (AP-P): The Fifth International Pakistan Army Team Spirit (PATS) competition commenced on Tuesday at National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC). As many as eight teams from Pakistan Army and eight International military teams including Jordan, Kenya, KSA, Morocco, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Uzbekistan have arrived to participate in one of the toughest team competitions, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release here received. - APP

Italian embassy hosts event to promote women's self-reliance

"The event is held to coincide with the international women's day to provide an opportunity for women entrepreneurs to flourish and contribute to the journey of women's economic empowerment"

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: The Italian Embassy in Pakistan on Sunday hosted an event of various brands run by women for promoting women's economic self-reliance and empowerment. "The event is held to coincide with the international women's day to provide an opportunity for women entrepreneurs to flourish and contribute to the journey of women's economic empowerment", said wife of Italy's Ambassador to Pakistan Andrea Ferrarese, Mrs. Albana Planeja here. Today is International Women's Day, which reaffirms our commitment to the economic, social and political rights of women around the world and the need for women to unite in this regard, she said this while talking to the media.

Mrs. Albana Planeja said that equality and diversity are an important aspect for the society's growth. People from all over the world are joining hands for equality, diversity and inclusion through various events. In Pakistan and Italy, women are emerging in business and they need to move forward together to advance their business, she said. She said that women are a symbol for peace and humanity in the world and they have a vital role to play in making this world beautiful and developed. She said that the role of women is very important in family and society and women have a very important role in strengthening the family. Mrs. Albana Planeja said that women should come forward all over the world and play their full role in all fields of business, politics and development. "The Italian embassy and our government intend



to hold similar exhibitions in the future to promote women's business," she said. She said that Pakistani women should

now focus on e-commerce and online businesses as there are huge business opportunities in it. She said Pakistan was an emerging e-commerce market and had the potential to excel in the international market and also emerge as a global player in the coming years. Replying to a question, Mrs. Albana was asked if she finds any similarity between the Pakistani and Italian women. To which she answered that many Pakistani women are very successful in their careers as well along with having the perfect home life. Both in Italy and Pakistan the women never ignore the fundamental values in life. Various entrepreneurs and clothing brands attended the event and appreciated the efforts of the Italian Embassy and underlined the need to create similar programs in the future to promote women's business.

4 burnt to death as car falls into gorge

ISLAMABAD: At least four people were burnt to death when a car caught fire after falling into a deep gorge in Rawalpindi on Tuesday. According to details, Rescue 1122 sources said that a speeding car fell into a ditch on GT Road and caught fire as a result of which 4 persons were burnt alive, a private news channel reported. Police along with Rescue 1122 officials reached the site immediately after they were being informed and shifted the body to a nearby hospital. Rescue sources said that the victims have not been identified yet.

Spices' exports increase 22.94%

ISLAMABAD: The exports of spices from the country witnessed an increase of 22.94 percent during the first seven months of financial year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. Pakistan exported spices worth US \$64.900 million during July-January (2021-22) as compared to the exports of US \$52.792 million during July-January (2020-21), showing growth of 22.94 percent, according to the PBS. In terms of quantity, the exports of spice also rose by 17.69 percent as the country exported 15,525 metric ton of spices during the period under review as compared to the exports of 13,191 metric ton during last fiscal year. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani exchanging views with Aybek Arif Usmanov, ambassador of Uzbekistan at Parliament House. - DNA

Shortage of hostels worries students

ISLAMABAD: Shortage of adequate and affordable hostels in twin cities is worrying students coming from the far flung areas of the country. Moreover, these facilities are marred with lack of security, quality food and sufficient water supply. Sarfraz came all the way from Rajanpur to Islamabad after he secured admission in a reputed public sector university here. He told APP that there was no hostel within the university premises. "I had to look for private accommodation nearby which was a Herculean task for me as I had come to the city for the first time and had no connections here to guide me. So much so even the university did not offer any guidance into finding a suitable accommodation." Another student shared his experience that a few public universities with their own hostels offered rooms on the basis of political affiliations. He was referring to the student chapters of various political parties in these institutes. However, an official of the university denied this saying that it was not possible to accommodate every student in university hostel, and rooms were given on a first come first serve basis or to the most deserving. Girls coming from remote areas to Islamabad and Rawalpindi in hope for better education faced numerous challenges even after finding a place to stay. One major issue which almost every hostel girl raised was the lack of proper security. Mehwish who came from Kharian said that there was no check on who was coming in and going out of hostel. She further said, "The facility is substandard, and we are not provided the service that was promised and marketed by the hostel manager." A few girls reluctantly spoke of being harassed by the hostel staff as well as individuals in the nearby markets. Saad who had come from Faisalabad tried three different options during his two-year degree program. First, he was in university hostel, but was fed up of strikes, and fights between different student groups. Then, he went to a private hostel, which too he had to leave soon after witnessing the drug culture there. His third accommodation was a flat which he rented together with some of his friends. "Here, I did experience water shortages at times, but apart from this it was a much better and safer place than the two before this", he recalled. Some universities are planning to build more hostels to facilitate the growing number of students after repeated demands from students. Meanwhile, private hostels continue to exploit students left at their mercy due to the shortages or lack of hostels within the university or college campus. - APP

Police arrests man involved in killing

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police have arrested a man allegedly involved in killing of his wife, father-in-law, brother-in-law and another man on Tuesday morning. According to the Police, the suspect, identified as Abdul Raheem, shot them dead over a family dispute. The suspect first gunned down his wife and a hospital technician at Maternal and Child Healthcare Center in G-6 area of Islamabad, within the limits of Aabpara police station. Then, the suspect went to his in-laws' and killed his father-in-law and brother-in-law. While in the meantime, a neighbour of the victims shot and injured the suspect. The deceased were identified as Shoab Aziz, Raheela Bano, Aziz-ur-Rehman and Naem Akhtar. - APP

Education only key to liberate, empower women: Kashmala

ISLAMABAD: Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment Kashmala Tariq Tuesday on the eve of International Women's day said that she believes that education was key to emancipation and empowerment of women and educating of girl child was the best investment in future. Talking to a private news channel, she said the celebration of March 8 as International Women's day is to honor and recognize the contributions women made in the world. "I firmly believe that inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development can only be ensured by providing equal opportunities and a conducive environment of education to every women", she added. She urged that women should demand their more rights rather than creating a conflict atmosphere in society, adding, women should raise their voices and report any act of abuse or violence. The government was making all-out efforts to create awareness among

Govt takes various steps to provide a conducive environment to women

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Human Rights Dr. Shireen Mazari on Tuesday said that government has taken various steps to provide a conducive working environment for women and girls. Addressing the launching ceremony of National Gender Policy Framework here in the Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives, she said that Ministry of Human Rights is only talking about

women rights. The minister said that legislation has been enacted for the rights and protection of women and children in the country. She said that government has a responsibility to protect the rights of its citizens. Dr Mazari said that government has taken steps to address the issues facing women. The event was held in connection with International Women's Day, 2022. - APP

there was need for creating more awareness and training of women. "On Women's day, we pay tribute to every woman who stood steadfastly beside the men in the struggle for country's progress", she added. We reaffirm our commitment to ensuring women a secure and enabling environment to play their rightful role in our nation's development," she mentioned. - APP

Pakistan should support non-bloc politics: Fatemi

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's former Adviser on Foreign Affairs Ambassador Tariq Fatemi urged the Government of Pakistan to support non-bloc policies in coordination with other likeminded developing states. He also observed that foreign policy pronouncements are far more credible and effective when couched in nuanced and conciliatory expressions. He made these remarks while speaking at an event titled 'Ukraine Crisis: What Next?' organised by the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) here on Monday. Ambassador Fatemi argued that the US has pursued a policy of insisting on its own sphere of influence in the American hemisphere, ever since the early 19th century, referring to it as the Monroe Doctrine. At the same time, the US was in the habit of denying the pursuit of a similar policy of spheres of influence to other states, which had resulted in friction with competing powers. Ambassador Fatemi maintained that Ukraine has had longstanding historical, religious and cultural links with Russia since the time of the Tsars and, consequently, Moscow has always viewed it in its sphere of influence and deemed Western plans to include it in NATO as in breach of the US and the West's solemn promises, particularly as it is



convinced that the US wants to bring Ukraine in NATO, a development that would seriously threaten Russia's core national security interests. Ambassador Fatemi was of the view that Russian intervention in Ukraine could have long-term consequences for Europe, as the US had re-established its presence in the continent with renewed resolve and determination, convincing the Europeans, in particular the Eastern European countries, that it alone was in a position to protect them from Moscow's ambitions. Germany too, had already made major changes in its policy towards Russia, while also announcing its plans for large-scale defence procurements. NATO membership had thus become the single biggest source of comfort for the Europeans, which meant increased dependency on the US. He was also of the view that China was pursuing an extremely wise policy in which it was confirming its continued strategic

ties to Russia and, at the same time, its concern for the well-being and safety of Ukrainians. Some may want China to play a role in diffusing the conflict in Ukraine owing to its good relations with Russia and its interest in peace and stability in Europe, but China was likely to keep a low profile on this issue, as its interests lay in maintaining meaningful ties with all sides. Ambassador Fatemi said that the West might have been disappointed over the non-committal attitude of India over Ukraine. This was on account of India's long history of close and highly advantageous relations with Russia. At the same time, India greatly valued its growing strategic cooperation with the US, especially after the US sought India out as an important pillar in the Western policy of 'containment' of China. In fact, the success of the policy of containment of China depends on the success of US's relations with India, he said. Therefore, Indian abstention in the UN General Assembly's vote against Russia on Ukraine may have come as an unpleasant surprise for some in the West, but it confirmed, once again, the fact that the Indians have long mastered the game of playing both sides and, therefore, refrained from annoying Russia by not voting in favour of the Western-sponsored resolution against it, despite Western urgings.

Advertisement for FCCI (Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry) featuring contact information, a list of members, and a meeting schedule.

The West's headache

THE ongoing conflict in Ukraine has changed the perception about many of world's powers. Specifically, the west and European Union countries have been left exposed as none of their threats and counter measures have so far been effective in stopping Russian aggression. The west has started to realize that their sanctions have had no effect on Russia's plans as Russia is surprised at the stiff resistance from Ukrainians. As a result more people are dying than can be justified or handled properly and prices of all sorts of essential commodities like oil, gas and grain have shot through the roof. And that, in turn, is giving global central bankers severe headaches because another round of cost-push inflation at this point raises the very ugly spectre of international stagflation. Interest rates are finally on their way up all over the world after the extraordinary situation presented by the Covid pandemic, which saw a rush in reducing rates all the way to zero in some cases. Now, though, as they are being raised again, with growth unlikely to respond because of the fallout of the war in Ukraine, crucial things like employment and earnings are vulnerable all over the place; and nobody knows when things are expected to get any better. Things look particularly grim for countries like Pakistan. It's not just that oil is up and rising; it's also that the prime minister's recent 'relief package' locks local retail prices of oil products all the way to the next budget, which is still more than a quarter away. Then there's the diplomatic pressure following the PM's trip to Russia. These factors are combining to cast a very long, dark shadow over the country, especially the economy, even though Islamabad has taken the wise stand of staying neutral and reiterated its position favouring a negotiated end to the conflict. Despite all the claims and counter-claims, at the end of the day this war is about who blinks first - Russia or Nato. Things are more or less deadlocked for now, but if this war of economic attrition lingers much longer, the whole world will be poorer because of it.

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

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Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



Women's day

THE International Women's day was celebrated nationwide on Tuesday. Various ceremonies were organized in this regard. In Islamabad, a ceremony was held in Serena Hotels to shed light upon the role of women in development and economic progress. For the last few years, the women's day in Pakistan has been a subject to various debates. It has been noticed that a certain women rights group has gotten into limelight by the use of somewhat degradatory and insulting slogans. While some defend their controversial slogans, majority of the people think they are drifting the attention away from the actual problems women face, like right to education and under-age marriage. The organizers of the famous march however, gain media attention by showcasing unorthodox and unprecedented slogans, which has nothing to do with the problems most of the women face. In today's world, women are a crucial part of economic progress of any society. In Pakistan, the issue of women rights is being brought up and as a result, various development programs have been started for women. Successful steps in the form of Women's Parliamentary Caucus, Human Rights Cells in Courts, Women Police Stations, nationwide help lines, national and provincial commissions on the status of women, provincial women development departments and directorates as well as a Women's Bank and establishment of National Human Rights Complaint Cell are examples of how institutional framework in Pakistan to protect women rights has been formulated. There is a great deal of evidence that societies that discriminate on the basis of gender pay a price in more poverty, slower growth, and a lower quality of life, whereas gender equality enhances development. Empowered women and girls can become a powerful force and contribute to the well-being of their families and communities. The non-existence of gender equality entails enormous loss of human potential as well as for development.

Pakistan and Russia are shaping new era of relationship

Dr. M Akram Zaheer



Russia is interested in Pakistan because of its strategic location being right next to Afghanistan and close to the Central Asian states

PAKISTAN and Russia have a past of being adversaries, but today both are welcoming the idea of building and stimulating a strategic relationship. Pakistan wants to build a better relationship with Russia to reduce dependency on the United States. Islamabad wants to prove to Washington that it has another strategic option if any tension happens between Pakistan and United States. Washington never liked Moscow's influence in Islamabad. There are differences between Pakistan and the United States over drone attacks. According to some analysts, American hegemony is about to end in the region and Pakistan does not want to become too close of an ally with the United States and dependent on it. In fact, the increasing relationship between India and America motivates Pakistan to look for new friends and alliances. Pakistan also likes to drive a wedge between Pakistan also has an eye of Russian military equipment supply and technology assistance that is better than China's. Pakistan wants to gain much commercial incentive from Russia, for example, the Karachi to Lahore Pipeline, and Russia is also interested in the renovation of the Pakistan Steel Mills. According to some reports, Russia may join the CASA-1000

energy project providing electricity to Afghanistan and Pakistan. On the other hand, today Russia is interested in Pakistan because of its strategic location being right next to Afghanistan and close to the Central Asian states. Although both the countries do not share borders but have same geopolitical space between them, Moscow has long considered Islamabad as a troublemaker for Russia and a supporter of terrorism in the region. The Russian motivation is to convince Pakistan to be moderate and subdue Islamic radicalization and militancy in the region. Pakistan is a Muslim state which has great influence in the Muslim world and Russia also has a large Muslim population. Russia thinks that Pakistan can play a vital role for stabilizing Afghanistan. Moscow hopes, after the withdrawal of American forces, that Russia will find strategic place in the region and then it will be able to play a better role in the Indo-Pacific region. Russia also hopes that its understanding with Pakistan will decrease terrorism in Afghanistan and the region. It is also building relations with Pakistan to counter alignment between India and United States. The Pak-Russia relationship can impede India from getting close to the United States. The Indian tendency toward Israel and the United States for advanced weapons and technology encourages Russia to look for new markets for her arms sale. In Moscow's proposition to Islamabad, Pakistan can be a part of Russian strategy by playing a significant role in the region. On the issue of Ukraine, Russia is being isolated and has few friends in the international sphere. In the aftermath of the Ukraine issue, Russia is looking for new friends who may help her challenge the West. Islamabad and Moscow noticed each other for the first time in 2009 when Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia, and Tajikistan floated the idea of promoting regional security and economics. This quadrilateral idea held three meetings but did not take off due to the cancellation of Putin's expected visit to Pakistan for the fourth meeting in 2012. President of Pakistan Asif Ali Zardari had visited Russia in 2011 and the Army Chief visited Moscow during 2012. There were reciprocal visits continued by ministers and high-level officials

of both the countries. Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu visited Pakistan in 2014, which was the first time that someone of his position had done so in the last 45 years. During this visit, both countries agreed on information exchange on political-military issues; cooperation for promoting international security, counterterrorism, and arms control activities; collaboration in various military fields and other areas of education, medicine, topography, hydrography, and culture; and sharing experiences in peacemaking efforts. In August 2015, Moscow agreed to provide Mi-35M helicopters to Pakistan. Pakistan wished to buy 20 Mi-35Ms over the next year and got four helicopters in 2017. In addition, both countries enhanced military relations and joint military exercises were made between the two armies under the slogan of Druzhbha (Russian word meaning friendship). Russian naval forces also participated in the Aman-17 international exercise in the Arabian Sea hosted by Pakistan in 2017. Further, both countries agreed about coordination against terrorism and drug trafficking. Russia had already cooperated in outer-space exploration and helped in launching the Pakistani telecommunication satellite AlBadar in 2001. It also had refurbished the only Pakistani steel mill. An agreement of \$2 billion for the North-South gas pipeline was signed in October 2015, which would connect Lahore to the Karachi terminal. This agreement was signed on the first visit to Pakistan by a Russian Energy Minister. The 1100kilometer pipeline was anticipated to be completed in 2018, but construction has yet to begin because of unexpected disagreements over the project. According to the original plan, the Russian company will complete this project and use it for 25 years. In the energy sector, both states are collaborating as well and have signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Moscow between Russia's Gazprom International and Pakistan's Oil and Gas Development Company Limited on July 3, 2017. The project will fulfill the energy requirements of Pakistan. This understanding was for mutual cooperation and joint ventures and use of state-of-the-art technology that would aid exploration and development in Pakistan. This is the beginning of commercial ties

between these two countries. The increasing cooperation between Pakistan and Russia should be viewed in the context of the Afghan scenario which had created challenges for Moscow. Pakistan is considered an important country for the stabilization of Afghanistan. Without the constructive involvement of Pakistan, stability there is a dream. During the last six decades, very few Pakistani leaders and officials visited Russia. Whenever whoever visited, it yielded positive results such as the Tashkent Declaration in 1966 and the agreement on the Pakistan Steel Mills in the 1970s. Pakistan has revisited her foreign policy during the 21st century and gave impotence to neglected states. When the President of Pakistan visited Russia in 2002, a joint working group on strategic stability, counterterrorism, and an inter-governmental commission was established. Regular meetings of these groups have been held since then. Russia also seems to be accommodating Pakistan. Russia condemned the Salala attack by NATO on November 26, 2011 and issued a friendly public statement, and it also supported Pakistan on its decision to stop supplies to NATO in Afghanistan through its territory at the time. Russia has supported Pakistan becoming a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and being part of this Russian security mechanism. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is an important initiative to counter American influence and to bring peace and stability in the region. Membership in the SCO will enhance the strategic and regional importance of Pakistan. There is a strong potential of Pak-Russia relations in steel production, communication, space technology, and the energy sector. Pakistan should embrace these choices because it has much learned from past errors and mistakes. There is common perception in Pakistan that its policy of ignoring nearer countries and aligning with distant ones cost her politically, economically, and strategically. These alliances could not become successful in achieving all the goals of Pakistan such as politically resolving the Kashmir issue and ensuring security against India. Washington has enhanced its relationship with India and is projecting it as a regional power. It did not fulfill the promise which

it had made in the beginning of the relations. It also did not make Pakistan a progressive and modern society, but turned it into a radical and fragmented one. In fact, the ideal of choosing the democratic west against the authoritative east resulted in a long and consistent spell of dictatorship in Pakistan. Comparatively, India chose the other way around and has always had a stable and functional democracy in the country. Although Pakistan and Russia are becoming close, Pakistan will never jeopardize its relations with Washington. Washington is providing military aid and financial assistance to Pakistan but is getting concerned by the Pak-Russia romance. Russia understands Indian concerns and believes that Moscow and Islamabad's rapprochement will normalize the hostile situation between India and Pakistan. The historical background of the India-Russia relationship is very strong and Russia would never like to lose India. However, it is expected that there will be a period of much more intensive and extensive interaction between these two countries. The Pak-Russia rapprochement should not surprise the regional powers due to the current geopolitical churn in global politics. The Pak-Russia relationship may become a true strategic partnership in the future. If Russia improves strategic relations with Pakistan, it might be able to influence Pakistan to play a constructive role in Afghanistan and not act against India. This would be a regional interest as regional powers like to see stability in Afghanistan. If Russia goes ahead with defense cooperation with Pakistan, it would be to the detriment of the Indo-Russia relationship, and Pakistan is a smaller market than India for Russia. Russia may lose some major contracts which it has made with India recently. Both India and Russia have a long history of relations and India has never openly criticized Russian policies over Ukraine. Both of the countries are also members of several multilateral organizations like BRICS, RIC, and the SCO. Although India has expressed its concerns about growing cooperation between Pakistan and Russia several times, Russia believes that this rapprochement will normalize the hostile Indo-Pak attitude. It seems that Pakistan and Russia are going to forge a true strategic partnership.

Women empowerment is need of the hour

Altaf Kumail



History has shown that in developed countries, both men and women have participated. Women have played a significant role in the development and prosperity of the United States, United Kingdom, China, Japan, and Malaysia

WOMEN'S Day is being celebrated all over the world today. The purpose of this day is to pay tribute to the women who have made great sacrifices for their rights in Europe and the West. And finally convinced Western society that they are human beings just like men and have equal rights in the pursuit of all rights and resources. However, within the Islamic world, the concept of celebrating International Women's Day is different. Islam has innately given honor and dignity to women in the form of mother, daughter, sister, and wife. Therefore, it was not the turn of any feminist moment for them to assert their rights in the style of Western women. From the Islamic point of view, a woman, if she is a mother, has heaven, comfort in the form of a wife, honor in the form of a sister, and mercy in the form of a daughter. A woman is the part of the universe that completed the creation. However, our society has so far failed to fully understand and implement this position regarding the woman of Islam. Due to the lack of education in the patriarchal society, outdated traditions, and tribal culture, Pakistani women are still forced to live

in a world of cosmopolitanism. However, over time, that is likely to change. And women's personal, social, economic, and political conditions are improving, which is welcome. The role of women in the development and prosperity of Pakistan has been key from day one. From Fatima Jinnah to Benazir Bhutto, Asma Jahangir and SharmeenObaid Chennai to ArfaKarim and MalalaYousafzai, women have made Pakistan famous in every field. However, the country still needs a conducive environment for women's rights and better development resources. Which, of course, made the video an overnight sensation? Even today our women have many problems. And many rights remain. And this is possible only when we, like other nations, come to the fore for the legitimate rights of women; just as in 1908 15,000 American women were oppressed and enslaved, with long working hours and low wages, and the right to vote. She took to the streets of New York. The slogans of these women were Bread and roses, which were meant to improve living standards and economic security. This echo, which rose in 1908, has not diminished since the turn of the century,

but its echo has spread from the developed world to the developing world. Pakistan also celebrates International Women's Day on March 8 with renewed vigor and enthusiasm in which seminars, events, and rallies in favor of women are organized at the level of government, semi-government, NGOs, and civil society. And they seem to point out women's issues. History has shown that in developed countries, both men and women have participated. Women have played a significant role in the development and prosperity of the United States, United Kingdom, China, Japan, and Malaysia. But it is a pity that in an Islamic country like Pakistan where there are many laws for the protection of women. Where NGOs are making a lot of money in the name of women. But an ordinary woman is still struggling to convince herself. Today's woman is far ahead of men in education. But in our society, she gets a job for less than men. Where does a woman get a job? Young girls who are educated in private schools and colleges are easily getting jobs. Institutions where education is being offered at very high prices. But female teachers are paid less than a day

laborer. MA / MSc girls are recruited in many private educational institutions with a salary of five to ten thousand rupees. Where their job is permanent. Nor are they paid regularly. Many reputable educational institutions charge "tuition fees" for children during the holidays. But they do not pay teachers during holidays. Today's woman is intimidated in many ways. Even today, women in our beloved Pakistan are victims of domestic violence. The rape of women is reported daily. 4 to 6 girls get burnt every day due to the explosion of a stove in the house. Not only this, some inhumane customs such as Vani, vita Satta, Karo Kari, marriage to the Qur'an, burial in the ground, abandonment of dogs, cutting off the nose, ears, and other organs also happen. If Pakistan is to make progress, we have to make women stand side by side with men and give them development opportunities and we have to formulate such women-friendly policies that can restore the status of women in society and their social and economic hardships can be reduced. Every aspect of women plays a key role in society. No society is on the path of development unless women are included.

Briefs

Hammad, UAE envoy discuss mutual cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Pakistan Hammad Obaid Ibrahim Monday called on Federal Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar in which both discussed global inflation and current geo-political scenario. During the meeting, both sides exchanged views on rising oil prices in the global market and agreed that the world over inflation and deteriorating conflict situation was a matter of worry for all the countries. According to the Energy Ministry's news release, Hammad welcomed the interest of UAE government to reach a comprehensive economic agreement with Pakistan on the lines of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and ensured his full support for this positive development in the historic UAE-Pakistan bilateral relations. Such an agreement would not only pave way for Government-to-Government initiatives but also help create a conducive environment for the business community, he added. The Ambassador appreciated the efforts of Pakistan in successfully hosting the Australian cricket team after 24 years. He further expressed his good wishes for the upcoming OIC meeting in Islamabad. The Minister lauded the long-standing relations of both the countries and reiterated the resolve of this government to further strengthen them. In this regard, the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to UAE was of utmost importance, he added. - APP

Capital reports lowest Covid tally since Dec 19

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Health officials on Tuesday reported only 19 new coronavirus cases in the Federal Capital - the lowest single-day tally since December 19, 2021. According to an official of the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), the figure remained high during the period with 23 new coronavirus cases reported on Monday and 37 on Sunday. The official said so far 134,662 cases had been reported from the Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), with 1,019 deaths and 133,262 patients recovered completely. Meanwhile, 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.

Expo Dubai visit numbers surge past 17mn mark

ISLAMABAD: There has been a rush of visits to Expo 2020 Dubai - with numbers crossing the 17 million mark as the mega event nears the finish line. The total number of visits has reached 17,434,222, with organisers describing this as "phenomenal increase" of 1.4 million visits in a single week. "We have said from the start that the numbers typically ramp up towards the end of Expo," said Sconaid McGeachin, senior vice president of communications at Expo 2020 Dubai, on Tuesday. "We have been talking about the 'now or never'. Clearly that message is landing with people." The last minute surge of about 1.5 million visits per week is likely to bring numbers closer to the original 25 million target, The National reported. - APP

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

NAB achieves many milestones under Chairman

NAB being the signatory to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), has set up a cell for combating money laundering and terror financing

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB chaired a meeting to review overall performance of all Regional Bureaus of NAB at NAB Headquarters. Zahir Shah, Deputy Chairman NAB, Syed Asghar Haider, Prosecutor General Accountability (PGA), Masood Alam Khan, DG Operations and other senior officers of NAB besides all Director General (DG's), Regional Bureaus of NAB attended the meeting via video link. The Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB appreciated the excellent performance of all Regional Bureaus for putting excellent work in bringing the corrupt elements to justice as per law where the Learned Accountability Courts of the country convicted 1405 accused persons due to vigorous prosecution of all Regional Bureaus of NAB in coordination with Operations and Prosecution Divisions, NAB Headquarters. During the meeting, it was informed that NAB under the dynamic leadership of Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB from Oct 2017 to Dec 2021 has recovered Rs. 584 billion directly and indirectly after complete overhauling, perfecting its procedures and taking new initiatives besides introducing a comprehensive and effective anti corruption strategy comprising Awareness, Prevention and Enforcement with commitment of "Accountability for All" with a slogan of NAB's faith-Corruption free Pakistan. As per Gillani and Gallup Survey, 59 percent people have shown trust upon NAB besides NAB's performance have been appreciated by reputed National and International organizations like; Transparency International, World Economic Forum, Global Peace, Canada, PILDAT and Mishal Pakistan. Moreover, the Government of Pakistan has appreciated NAB's efforts in improving Pakistan's position among FATA/APG members especially during the preparation of post observation period Report/follow up



Reports which helped FATF Coordination Committee of Pakistan to complete their work within the deadline. It is important to note here that NAB under the dynamic leadership of Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB apprehended untouchables for the first time in the history of Pakistan and brought them to justice. Currently, 1237 references of NAB are under trial in the learned Accountability Courts throughout the country. The total worth of under trial references is approximately Rs.1335.019 Billion. NAB's overall conviction ratio in Accountability Courts is about 66.8 percent. It was further informed that NAB, has introduced a new concept of Combine Investigation Team (CIT) in order to benefit from the experienced and collective wisdom of its senior supervisory officers in order to further improve the standards and quality of inquiries/investigations on the basis of solid evidence as well as statements of witness

and documentary evidences. NAB has itself prescribed a timeframe of 10 months in which complaint verifications in two months, inquiries in four months and investigations in four months on alleged allegations of corruption and corrupt practices. Moreover, NAB has established a state of the Art Forensic Science Laboratory with the aim to facilitate / assist in investigation and prosecution. Furthermore, NAB has established its own Pakistan Anti-Corruption Training Academy at NAB Headquarters with the purpose to train and equip NAB investigation officers/Prosecutors with modern techniques in order to investigate white collar crimes and vigorously NAB cases in the learned Courts. NAB has also established Witness Handing Cells besides Complaint Cells in all its regional bureaus. Due to this reason, NAB is pursuing its cases in the learned Courts very vigorously on the basis of solid documentary evidence. Apart from

its national obligations while keeping in view that Corruption in the present times, surpasses geographical boundaries with ill gotten money being stashed abroad, NAB has also contributed towards the country's international commitments. NAB being the signatory to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), has set up a cell for combating money laundering and terror financing. Furthermore, Pakistan is the first chairman of the SAARC Anti-Corruption Forum. Moreover, NAB has also signed a unique Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with China to extend cooperation in tackling corruption and to oversee CPEC projects currently under process in Pakistan. NAB under the chairmanship of Honorable Mr. Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB has shown its firm resolve and commitment of "accountability for all" to eradicate corruption from the country by adopting a policy of zero tolerance and self-accountability.

Over 6 mn people have died from Covid

PARIS: Over six million people have died worldwide from Covid-19 since the pandemic began, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP on Tuesday. A total of 6,003,081 people have succumbed to the virus, AFP counted at 1100 GMT. The milestone comes as the number of infections and deaths continues to plummet in most regions of the world, except in Asia, where Hong Kong is suffering its worst-ever outbreak, and Oceania, where New Zealand has recorded a jump in cases. Average global daily deaths over the past seven days have fallen to 7,170, down 18 percent in a week, continuing a trend seen since the peak of the Omicron wave in early February despite many countries relaxing restrictions. - APP

Iran won't back down on its 'red lines', says Raisi

MONITORING DESK

DUBAI: Iran will not back down on its red lines in nuclear talks with major powers, President Ebrahim Raisi said on Tuesday, after the European Union said the time had come for Washington and Tehran to take political decisions needed to reach an accord. Eleven months of negotiations to revive the 2015 nuclear deal which lifted sanctions on Iran in return for curbs on its nuclear programme have reached their final stages. Iran has sought to remove all sanctions and it wants guarantees from the United States that it will not abandon the deal once more, after then-U.S. President Donald Trump walked out of the deal in 2018 and reimposed sanctions. Iran's top negotiator, Ali Bagheri Kani, returned to Tehran on Monday for consultations. "The government pursues nuclear negotiations in full accordance with the principles and framework set by the Supreme Leader," Raisi said, referring to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who has the final say in Tehran's decision. "It has not and will not back down on any of these red lines," the semi-official Fars news agency quoted Raisi as saying.

PIA flight diverted after passenger suffers heart attack

DNA

KARACHI: A man suffered a severe heart attack during Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Toronto-bound flight. According to details, a passenger, identified as Syed Waseh was travelling to Canada from Karachi by a PIA flight PK-783 on Tuesday when he suffered a massive heart attack. According to airport authorities, he suffered a heart attack as the flight took off from Jinnah International Airport, Karachi. The ambulances of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and a team of doctors immediately rushed to the airport after landing. Later, the passenger was shifted to the hospital for medical treatment.

Tareen group advocates 'minus Buzdar' strategy

DNA

LAHORE: The group of lawmakers led by estranged PTI leader Jahangir Tareen announced on Tuesday that it would only move forward on a "minus Buzdar" strategy. Speaking to the media in Lahore, Punjab MPA Nauman Langrial said that Tareen was currently in London and was apprised of the current situation via video link. "During the meeting, we gave Tareen full authority to take decisions on behalf of the group," he said, adding that different political parties had and were continuing to contact the group. "However, I want to make it clear that all members of the group are united on the stance that we will move forward on the minus Buzdar [strategy]," he said, reiterating that they would accept the decisions taken by Tareen. Langrial said that the group was also listening to things being said by the political parties getting in touch with them and updating Tareen about the developments. He said that an important meeting would be held tomorrow to take decisions regarding the group's future under the current circumstances. "We will look at this evolving situation and will draft a plan." When asked about possible candidates for the post of chief minister, the Punjab MPA asserted that the Tareen group was a "united front" and a "family". "We know that all members of this group will accept the decisions taken by Tareen." He also refused to comment on whether Aleem Khan - who had joined the group a day earlier - had been selected for the job, saying that the group was united under Tareen's leadership. "We told Aleem Khan the same, that if you are a part of this group then you will have to follow the decisions taken by Tareen." When pressed about PML-Q's Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi as a possible nominee, he said: "Tareen has the right to take all decisions. We will follow whatever he says."



ISLAMABAD: French embassy officials interacted with talented women from various walks of life on the occasion of International Women Day. DNA

UN rights chief to visit China's Xinjiang in May

WEB DESK

GENEVA: The UN human rights chief said Tuesday she would make a long-delayed visit to China in May, including to Xinjiang, where Western lawmakers have accused Beijing of genocide. "I am pleased to announce that we have recently reached an agreement with the government of China for a visit," Michelle Bachelet told the UN Human Rights Council. She said that the UN rights agency,

OHCHR, and Beijing had "initiated concrete preparations for a visit that is foreseen to take place in May." Nearly 200 rights groups meanwhile demanded Tuesday that Bachelet's office release its long-postponed report on the rights situation in Xinjiang. "The release of the report without further delay is essential - to send a message to victims and perpetrators alike that no state, no matter how powerful, is above international law or the robust independent scrutiny of your office," the 192 groups, including Hu-

man Rights Watch and Amnesty, wrote in an open letter. There have long been calls for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to visit Xinjiang and to publish her office's findings on the situation there. Rights groups say that at least one million mostly Muslim minorities have been incarcerated in "re-education camps" in Xinjiang, a far-western region where China is accused of widespread human rights abuses including forced labourisations of women and forced sterilisation.

Pakistan committed to protection of women's rights

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is fully committed to the promotion and protection of women's rights, both nationally and internationally, the Foreign Office said Tuesday. In a special message on International Women's Day, the Foreign Office said through various policy measures and legislation, Pakistan continued to make utmost efforts for women empowerment and their equal participation for building an inclusive society. "The government will continue to fulfill its obligations under Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action as well as United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 5 and its related targets," it said. The FO said the foundations of Pakistan were laid on the contributions of men and women alike. "Our Constitution and legal framework provide guarantees for equal participation by women in all spheres of life including, social, economic and political," it said. The Foreign Office said Pakistan paid tribute to the women around the world whose resil-

ience, sacrifices and efforts have made it possible for humankind to progress and build a better future for all. No society or nation can succeed and achieve sustainable development without realization of gender equality and women empowerment, it said. The FO said the recovery from COVID-19 pandemic was only possible by creating inclusive political systems, workforce, economies and societies. Pakistani women have contributed immensely to national development and progress, it said. "We are proud that today Pakistani women participate in every facet of public life. They have held prominent positions, including as Prime Minister, Governor of State Bank of Pakistan, Speaker of National Assembly, Judge of the Supreme Court, Chief Justice of High Court, and important portfolios in the Cabinet as well as Federal and Provincial Secretaries, Generals, fighter pilots and UN peacekeepers," it said. The FO also paid special tribute to the remarkable Pakistani women in diplomacy for their exemplary service, hard work and dedication in contributing to the foreign policy objectives and ably representing Pakistan across the world. - APP

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A sister concern of
Islamabad POST
11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165