

Samana

Friday, March 11, 2022

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VP Harris embraces call for war crimes probe of Russia

Detailed News On Page-07

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

China urges Europe to find common ground

Detailed News On Page-06



Karim Benzema sends PSG out of UCL 2022

Detailed News On Page-06

all fronts: PM

PM visits Lahore; meets CM,

Governer as well as PTI leaders

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Prime Minister Imran Khan on

Thursday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-In-

saf (PTI) government is "stable" and joint

He said this was talking with Punjab Gov-

ernor Chaudhary Muhammad Sarwar and

Chief Minister Usman Buzdar who called

on him here in Lahore. During the meet-

ing, the prime minister also tasked the

Punjab governor and CM Buzdar to en-

gage with Punjab MNAs and MPAs amid

a no-confidence motion in Centre and a

Govt to wrap

up no-trust

move ahead of

OIC moot

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Federal government

has decided to wrap up no-trust move

against Prime Minister Imran Khan

ahead of the Organization of Islamic



India violates border again

According to DG ISPR, a projectile entered Pakistani airspace and fell in Khanewal district; no casualties reported



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

RAWALPINDI: An Indian projectile on Thursday entered the Pakistani airspace and fell near Mian Chunnu in Khanewal district, causing some damage to the surrounding areas. Addressing a press conference in Rawalpindi, the Director-General of the Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR) Major Gen Babar Iftikhar said that Pakistan strongly condemned the incident and asked India

Four terrorists killed in two operations

RAWALPINDI: Security Forces conducted two Intelligence Based Operations on reported presence of terrorists in general area Maddi Khel and Bobar Gap in North Waziristan District. Acording to ISPR, 4 terrorists were killed during intense exchange of fire. Weapons and ammunition was also recovered from the killed terrorists. The killed terrorists remained actively involved in terrorist activities against security forces. Locals of the area appreciated the operation and expressed their full support to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the area, ISPR added. - DNA

for an explanation. He said that the projectile travelled at the speed of 124kms as it entered from Pakistan from India."We detected the object on time and took necessary action as per the standard operating procedures (SOPs)," he said, adding that no casualties took place because of the incident. "Some material damage was caused to a building when the object fell and a crater was formed as result," he said. Answering a question, the DG ISPR said: "We were absolutely monitoring the flight path of this object." Maj Gen Iftikhar confirmed that there was "no sensitive installation in the area where the object was shot down." Speaking about an uptick of terrorism incidents in the country, the DG ISPR said that the country's armed forces are taking prompt actions to thwart the nefarious designs of the enemy."So far, we have killed 80 terrorists during the past few weeks," he said.

LAHORE: Governer and Chief Minister of Punjab call on Prime Minister Imran Khan. – DNA Raid Opposition to on North face defeat at Korean

Diplomatic circles surprised over police action; want thorough inquiry

embassy

resented

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The diplomatic circles have expressed concern and astonishment as to how police could conduct a raid on the embassy premises. Under the Vienna Convention embassy premises is considered a territory of the respective country therefore it cannot be raided or searched.

It may be mentioned here that the embassy of North Korea lodged a protest with the chief of Islamabad police on Wednesday over a raid at its premises earlier this week, saying the incident was a violation of

the Vienna Convention. In a letter it wrote to the Inspector General of Islamabad Police, the embassy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea said seven police personnel from the federal capital's F-10 police station, including a woman, made an "unlawful entry" into its premises on Mon-

day (March 7). "The mission staff reminded them that the premises of the embassy are sovereign territory of DPRK and asked them to immediately stop this brutal act," it said. "But the police ignored the request, searched the storerooms at the backyard on the pretext of seizing some items and threatened the staff with guns." The police officials damaged the door and broke into a room in the basement, the letter stated.

The police claim they raided the embassy after getting news that the mission was involved in selling of liquor illegally. The Police pointed out presence of huge consignment of liquor in the premises.

Briefs

Fawad condemns attack on Lodges

DNA

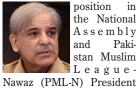


Minister Infor mation and Broadcasting Chaudhary Fawad Hussain says the attack of JUI-F's force on

Parliament Lodges is condemnable by all aspects. In a tweet on Thursday, he said that Maulana Fazlur Rehman's armed group has reached Parliament Lodges to put pressure on parliamentarians. He said the opposition will fail in its no-confidence motion against the Prime Minister. The Minister said that the Speaker National Assembly has directed the Islamabad Police to take strict action against the facilitators of these groups and they will be dealt according to the law.

PM's statements hurting Pak

BUREAU REPORT LAHORE: Leader of the Op-



Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday vowed to face 'selected Prime Minister Imran Khan on all fronts, saying premiers "careless" statements were impacting the foreign policy. Speaking outside Special Court Central where he had gone in connection with the hearing of a money laundering case against him and several others, he said that the prime minister was using 'indecent' language. "The statements he is making these days are non-serious," he said, adding he is doing cheap politics. Such a 'filthy language' he is using, PML-N president added, which could not be repeated in front of the people. "Whatever little bit of good image the country had in the eyes of the outside world has now been spoiled," he opined.

Tolerate no more; Bilawal tells PM Khan

Bilawal says that PM Imran "threatening with life and death" is not a joke



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Thursday took exception to Prime Minister Imran Khan's remark about having Asif Ali Zardari on his target, saying these "threats" will not be tolerated anymore. "We will not tolerate this anymore; I am here now," Bilawal said while addressing a press conference in Islamabad. The PPP chairman said that there have been two such incidents that are unbearable for him - referring to PM Imran Khan's statement and drone incident with Aseefa Bhutto-Zardari. He said that his family and party has

made many sacrifices for Pakistan and the restoration of democracy but they

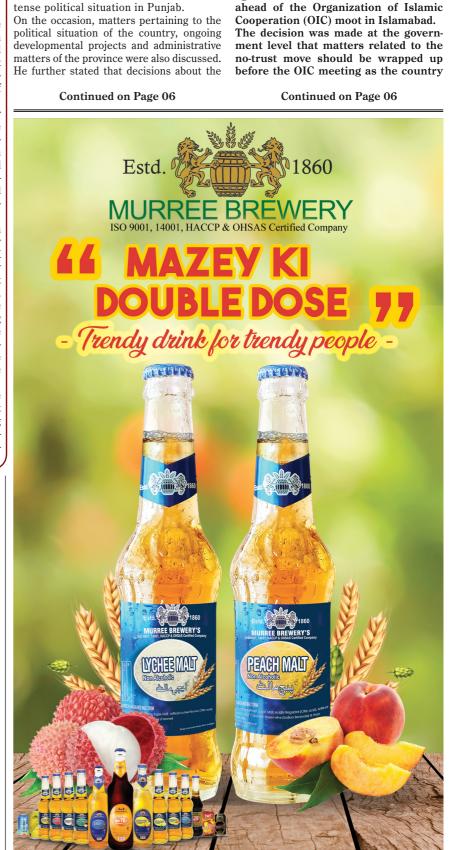
MQM-P delegation meets Fazl, Zardari

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held detailed talks with a delegation of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Thursday in Islamabad, with primary focus on no-confidence move against Prime Minister Imran Khan. In this important meeting, senior PPP leaders including Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah were also present. From MQM-P, convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Aamir Khan, Aminul Haq and Waseem Akhtar were present in the meeting. After the meeting, the MQM delegation left without any media talk. Prior to this, the delegation of

MQM-P met with the key Pakistan Muslim League (PML-Q) leaders including Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain.

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06



No-trust: deal between govt, Tareen group?

Punjab Chief Minister to be changed with the consent of Tareen group and PML Q

Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: The govt seems to have reached an understanding with powers that be for the future set in the Center as well in the Punjab province. Sources privy to this development have confided to this correspondent that Jehangir Khan Tareen Group and the PML Q led by Chaudhries will nominate a consensus candidate for the Punjab Chief Minister slot, which means Usman Buzdar will finally be shown the door. The sources further claimed that the new arrangement in the Punjab

would come into force once the notrust move issue is settled. In return PML Q and the Tareen group will support Prime Minister Imran Khan and thus the PM is likely to survive

the no-confidence motion. Sources further said the Opposition parties too have got a clue to this development therefore their frustration has started appearing on their faces. Sources say Thursday night's brawl between Maulana Fazalur Rehman men and the security forces was in fact a clear manifestation of Opposition parties' frustration. Maulana security guards gathered in the Parliament lodges on the pretext of giving protection to MPs hailing from the opposition camp. PML Q and Tareen groups are likely to get key portfolios in the future Punjab set up. PML Q has hinted at asking for the post of Punjab Chief Minister. When PML N had contacted PML Q for a change in the Punjab, the Q had asked for the chief minister ship - a demand which was outright turned down by PML N and thus any further negotiations between these two parties could not proceed further.

The government had decided to settle the no-trust move before the upcoming OID conference which means the next two weeks are going to be

highly charged and tumultuous.

f murreebrewery.com



Friday, March 11, 2022

4 persons

kidnapped

in Gujrat

YOOSUF BHUTTA

GUJRAT: Four persons including one woman were kidnapped in two different

incidents from Gujrat on Wednesday. In first incident

a married woman Asma was abducted along with her

two kids from Village Kath-

ana by a nominated person

Mumtaz Ahmed. In second

incident a teenage girl Per-

Briefs

Asghar Ali College organises Punjab Cultural Day

Anwar Chohan

KHARIAN: Government Asghar Ali Graduate College for Women's Kharian competitions were held on the occasion of Punjab Cultural Day. In which all the girls colleges from all over the district participated with great enthusiasm. Deputy Director Colleges Gujrat was the special guest at the event of Punjabi Song and Regional Dress Competition.

The first prize in this colorful ceremony was won by the student of Folk Song Government Graduate College for Women, Dinga. The first prize in regional dress went to Government Asghar Ali Graduate College for Women Kharian, second prize to Government Associate Women's College Galyana and third prize to Government Associate Women's College Kanjah.

At the end of the colorful ceremony Government Asghar Ali Graduate College Women Kharian Principal Tahira Mumtaz thanked the participants of the prestigious event of Punjab Cultural Day and the competition Congratulations to the winning students and distributed prizes among them.

155 new cases of corona in Punjab

LAHORE: No death was reported due to coronavirus and about 155 new cases were recorded in Punjab on Thursday. According to data shared by a spokesperson for the Punjab Primary and Secondary Healthcare Department (P&SHD), the number of cases in the province reached 503,328 while a total number of deaths had been recorded 13,534 so far.

The P&SHD confirmed 90 cases in Lahore, two in Dera Ghazi Khan, four in Faisalabad, eight in Gujranwala, one each in Gujrat, Hafizabad, Khanewal, Sheikhupura, Sialkot, Toba Tek Singh and Bahawalpur, 16 in Multan, two in Okara, three in Rajanpur, 20 in Rawalpindi, two in Rahimyar Khan and three cases were reported in Vehari.

The Punjab health department conducted 10,282,885 tests so far while 484,747 confirmed cases had been recovered.

The health department urged the masses to follow SOPs for their protection and cover their faces with masks besides washing their hands with soap several times in a day to protect themselves from the COVID-19. Contact 1033 immediately on symptoms of coronavirus, the healthcare department urged people. – APP

Sehat Card scheme being extended

PESHAWAR: KP Minister for Health and Finance, Taimur Saleem Khan Jhagra has said that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has introduced a Sehat Card Plus like welfare project that was now being extended to the whole country.

He was addressing a conference titled the 'Future of Pakistan' at London School of Economics, Britain, said an official handout issued here on Thursday. During the conference, students from Pakistan and other countries asked questions about this historic public welfare-oriented project.

The provincial minister told the participants of the conference that under the scheme 7.5 million families of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are being provided free medical facilities upto Rs.1 million. The standard of service delivery would be leveled in public and private sector hospitals. He said that during last

He said that during last January, the facility of the liver transplant was also included in the scheme and till now over six liver transplant and over 60 kidney plants operations have also been conducted so far. He said that 65000 persons are taking benefits of the Sehat Card Plus on monthly basis. – APP

Ongoing initiatives will open new avenues for women: Alvi

The President said that Pakistan was at a critical juncture and its young generation was the center of attention of the world

ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi has said that the ongoing measures to empower women and foster their financial inclusion will open new avenues of economic development in the country at large. Awareness of rights is a challenge. However, constant communication through the media and the public can be helpful.

He expressed these views while addressing the inaugural function of "Insaaf Watch Portal" on Thursday, a web portal designed to improve gender justice in the country, under a partnership between the presidency the Federal Ministry of Law and Justice and Group Development Pakistan.

The President said that Pakistan was at a critical juncture and its young generation was the center of attention of the world. The president advised the Federal Ministry of Law and Justice to display posters in the madrassahs and mosques about pro-women and girls laws.

He also welcome the use of new technology

and the idea to introduce audio messages, and animated videos, doodles of laws on the portal, as well as the efforts to summarize those laws and ensure their availability in both English and Urdu. He said that the proportion of cases registered is far less than the actual situation of violation of women's rights which requires massive awareness among women. He said that the protection of women's rights should not only be done for the fulfillment of international laws but also because it is a necessity and responsibility of the country, adding that Islam had given inheritance rights to women 1400 years ago. "Unfortunately, a large proportion of women are deprived of their inherited property and the government has en-

AC Kharian

Khalid Sial holds

initial meeting

STAFF REPORT

KHARIAN: Assistant Commissioner Khalid Abbas Sial left

his memories in administrative affairs and said goodbye to

Kharian and Sajid Munir Kaliar took over the pen of Assistant

Commissioner Kharian. The people of Kharian loved Assis-

tant Commissioner Khalid Abbas Sial because when ever he

was in his office. Or in the field, listening to the citizens, the

greatest virtue of a high official is that he listens to the ques-

tioner in a good manners tone, no matter what the job of the

questioner may be, but he never forgets the good manners

of the chief officer. Wherever Khalid Abbas Sial fulfills his

departmental responsibilities, the prayers of the citizens of

Kharian sub-division will remain with him. Sajid Munir Kaliar from Mandi Bahauddin Tehsil Phalia of Gujrat District Sub

Division Kharian is his first posting as Assistant Commission-

er . The first meeting with Sajid Munir Kaliar was good, he

is young, he has a smile on his face and humble. Welcoming

Khaliar to Kharian, he said that we, the citizens of Kharian,

are big peace loving people, Kharian city is inhabited by

people of different religions, different faiths and schools of

thought, but in social life, the citizens of Kharian city are an

example, cradle of religious peace. Yes, our newspaper news

has its place, but there are some issues which do not need to

Sajid Munir Kaliar listened to me with great interest and

said that inshaAllah I will not disappoint the citizens of

be reported. But never ignore the truth!!

Kharian sub-division in administrative matters.



acted necessary legislation to protect their rights and has empowered the ombudsman's office for this purpose," she said. The president called for the respect for women's property as well as the implementation of laws to protect them against harassment. He said that women should be given their inheritance rights and encouraged to become business partners. He referred to Hazrat Khadija bibi who was a successful business woman. "It is the responsibility of the society to prevent crimes against wom-

en before they happen and to ensure their safety," he said.

The President gave the example of Minar-e-Pakistan where a woman was harassed and people made a video of her instead of stopping the scene. He said that about Rs.500 billion has been disbursed through measures like cash assistance to women through Ehsas program, equivalent educational stipends, stipend for school going girls, which will help in financial empowerment of women.

He said that it was equally important to pay special attention to women's health as malnutrition, neonatal deaths, recurrent pregnancies and maternal deaths were obstacles to women's empowerment and well-being. The government is in the process of implementing the necessary legislation and structural changes. He thanked the British High Commission and other partners for their support in setting up the portal. "It is important for women to be aware of their rights while enforcing the law" he said. — APP

through Ehsas program, equivalent educational stipends, stipend for school going girls, which will help in financial empowerment of women. Commission and other partners for the support in setting up the portal. "It is portant for women to be aware of their right while enforcing the law," he said. – APP NEPRA, FESCO release 'line staff safety manual'

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) and Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) have jointly released a draft of "Line Staff Safety Manual" to ensure safety of line staff. NEPRA HSE, FESCO's Safety and Public Relations Directorates have played a vital role in the preparation of this Manual, which is commendable, said Chairman NEPRA Tauseef H. Farooqi. He was addressing a webinar at the NEPRA headquarters arranged to launch the Safety Manual, The webinar was also attended by professionals from Pakistan's power sector, safety officers of Distribution Companies (DISCOs) and officials of NEPRA Health Safety and Chairman NEPRA said that zero toler-

Chairman NEPRA said that zero tolerance against the fatal and non fatal accidents is top priority of the power sector and have to ensure the safety as an integral part of our lives and routines, for which NEPRA is working closely with Distribution Companies (DISCOS)." he added. He further said that



General Safety, Public Safety, Unsafe Operation, Unsafe Situation and what to do in case of emergency have been clarified with pictures in simple Urdu language for the line staff and it will play an important role in prevention of accidents. Tauseef H. Farooqi said that this booklet will be printed and distributed among the line staff of distribution companies across the country in pocket size so that they could keep it in their pocket at all times.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) FESCO Engr. Bashir Ahmed also addressed the webinar and said that FESCO has floated the international tender for the purchase of 45 bucket cranes which would be helpful to provide the safe working environment to its line staff. He said that safety teams of Safety Control Room and the Safety Directorate are

engaged in the implementation of the Safety Audit and NEPRA Safety Code on a daily basis in all over the FESCO region. He further said that it is an honor for the company to prepare the safety booklet with support of NEPRA while the efforts of Deputy Director Safety Saeed Raza and Public Relations the Directorate are commendable.

Later, Consultant (HSE) NEPRA Sohail Ahmed and Deputy Director Safety FESCO Muhammad Saeed Raza gave a lecture to the participants on the topic of Safety and gave a comprehensive presentation on the preparation of Safety Manual.

At the end of the ceremony, Senior Advisor NEPRA Imran Qazi presented appreciation certificates by NEPRA Authority to Chief Executive FESCO Engineer Bashir Ahmed, Director Safety FESCO Munawar Mahmood, Deputy Director Safety Mohammad Saeed Raza and PR Assistant Ayub Ahmed Yaqub. The ceremony was also attended by FESCO Staff Officer Abid Rasheed, FESCO Best Linemen and a large number of others, while DISCOs employees also attended through a zoom meeting.

province out of which 21

blind murder cases were

Similarly 34 cases of street

crimes took place out of

which 21 were resolved

and 41 accused were ap-

prehended. In the first two

months of the current year,

as many as 55 cases of ter-

rorism were registered out

of which 11 were traced out

with arrest of 11 accused.

resolved.

veen was kidnapped from Village Doga by one Jamshaid resident of Raheem Yar Khan. Police have registered separate cases. New rates

for daily-use

commodities

fixed

FAISALABAD: The district price control committee, in its meeting Thursday, fixed new rates of the daily-use

commodities. After the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Ali Shehzad said that whole sale rate of gram white (big) was fixed at Rs 197 per kilogram (kg), while it would be available for Rs 202 per kg in retail price. Similarly, gram white (small) will be sold at Rs.193 per kg and Rs.196 per kg, grams black (big) at Rs.132 per kg and Rs.136 per kg, grams black (small) at Rs.127 per kg and Rs.130 per kg, gram pulses (big) at Rs.139 per kg and Rs.144 per kg, gram pulses (small) at Rs.133 per kg and Rs.138 per kg, Moong pulses (unwashed, unpolished) at Rs.114 per kg and Rs.120 per kg, Maash pulses (washed) at Rs.244 per kg and Rs.248 per kg, Maash pulses (unwashed) at Rs.219 per kg and Rs.222 per kg, lentil pulses (big) at Rs.185 per kg and Rs.190 per kg, lentil pulses (small) at Rs.220 per kg and Rs.225 per kg, Besan (gram powder) at Rs.145 per kg and Rs.148 per kg, rice basmati (super karnal new) at Rs.127 per kg and Rs.132 per kg, rice basmati (super karnal old) at Rs.145 per kg and Rs.148 per kg whereas rice (ari) would be sold at Rs.54 per kg and Rs.58 per kg in whole sale and retail prices.

He said that flour bag of 20-kg will be sold at Rs.1100 while its 10-kg bag will be available at Rs.550 in the market. The Chakki owners will be bound to sell flour at Rs.62 per kg whereas sugar will be sold as per government policy rate.

He said that milk will be sold at Rs.95 per liter, yogurt (Dehi) at Rs.100 per kg, meat at Rs.1000 per kg in Tehsil City and Rs.950 per kg in other Tehsils, beef at Rs.500 in Tehsil City and at Rs.450 per kg in other Tehsils.

Tandoori roti of 100 grams weight will be sold at Rs.8 while price of Khamiri roti will be Rs.10, Naan (plain) at Rs.12 whereas coal would be sold at Rs.80 per kg.

The prices of poultry products will be released daily whereas vegetable and fruit prices will be fixed after their auction on daily basis, he added.

daily basis, he added. He also appealed the general public to immediately inform the price control magistrate or get their complaints lodged on "Qeemat Punjab App" or through toll free number 0800-02345 if they find profiteering at any shop or market

in Faisalabad. - APP

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State & Chairman Bol, M Azfar Ahsan met with Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki, ambassador of Saudi Arabia. – DNA

Three facilitators of Kocha Risaldar blast killed: Saif

DNA

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister for Information Barrister Mohammad Ali Saif Thursday confirmed that three facilitators of 'Kocha Risaldar' blast were killed by the security forces while investigation was underway to trace out all the perpetrators.

Addressing a press conference on performance of KP police department here, he said the investigation into Kocha Risaldar terrorist attack was being carried out on scientific and technical grounds and soon all other perpetrators would be arrested. The CM's aide said that during the last two



months 14 police personnel embraced martyrdom in different incidents of terrorism and 24 others

received injuries.

On the occasion, the twomonth performance of
KP police was released in
which it was revealed that
the incidents of dacoity
and killing remained very
low in the province.

During the year 2022, 438

During the year 2022, 438 cases of murdered were reported from across the

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KP CM starts uplift schemes

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan on Thursday paid a day-long visit to district Kohat and inaugurated multiple development projects worth billions of rupees. The chief minister inaugurated a newly constructed sports complex and widening of 32 km long Jawaki-Guzdara Road completed at a total cost of Rs. 262 million and Rs. 829

million respectively.
Other projects included
Government Girls Degree
College Usterzai and Government Girls Degree College
Bilitang completed at a cost
of Rs. 237 million and Rs. 207

million respectively.

He also inaugurated newly

established Rescue sub-station Shakardara worth Rs. 36 million, rehabilitation of 6.5-KM road from Abbas Chowk to Darra Tunnel worth Rs. 226 million and type-D Hospital Jawaki. Besides, the chief minister performed the groundbreaking of Tehsil building Gumbat which would be completed at an estimated cost of Rs. 290 million. The chief minister on this occasion also distributed Ehsaas Kifalat Cards among the deserving families of the Kohat district. Addressing a public gathering, the chief minister said work was underway on projects worth billions of rupees in southern districts, adding that the government was working on Peshawar-D.I Motorway Khan project worth Rs. 276 billion.

EXTENSION IN DATE

PROCUREMENT OF BUS OPERATOR FOR OPERATION, MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF METRO BUS SERVICE FROM PESHAWAR MORR TO NEW ISLAMABAD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ISLAMABAD

Reference CDA Advertisement No.PID(I)5866/21 published in National Newspapers dated 23rd February 2022, inviting Bids on Single Stage Two Envelop Bidding process.

All interested parties/operators are informed that the last date and time for submission of Bid has been extended to <u>15th March 2022 at 3:00pm PST</u>. The other Terms &Conditions shall remain the same.

Project Director (BRT), CDA

Room No. 22, Block No. 02, Capital Development Authority,
Khayaban-e-Suhrwardy, G-7/4, Islamabad.

Phone: +92-321-5390080

PID (I) No.<u>6361/21</u>

National Days and Armed Forces Days

MARCH

March 01/ Bosnia National Day

March 03/ Bulgaria

National Day

March o6/Ghana

Independence Day

March 12/ Mauritius National Day

March 17/ Ireland St. Patricks 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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Water Tank

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Serena Hotels to support first-ever river expedition

Senior media persons briefed about the expedition at the luncheon meeting

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Serena Hotels arranged luncheon meeting with the senior journalists of Islamabad, in connection with 20 years celebrations of Islamabad Serena Hotel. The senior manager of marketing Tourism Services Promotion (TPS) Hussain Odhwani in his opening remarks welcomed the guests. He said the event was in fact a small token of appreciation for the efforts of the media fraternity, which it had contributed towards promotion of tourism and hospitality industry. Hussain also dilated upon various initiatives that

Serena undertakes from time to under the banner of corporate social responsibility. He announced to support an upcoming river expedition by Wajahat Malik and his team, which, he said would be first of its kind. The Serena Hotels would support this venture under its Adventure Diplomacy initiative. Wajahat Malik a TV presenter and an adventure/ travel documentary film-maker in his speech briefed the audience about the upcoming adventure. He was all praise for CEO Serena Hotels South and East Asia Aziz Boolani for extending to him full support. He said the expedition is going to be the first of its kind and credit of which goes to Serena Hotels. He said the provincial governments are also on board with him in this enterprise. He requested the media to highlight the event at a large scale so that





ISLAMABAD: Managing Director Associated Press of Pakistan Mobashir Hasan briefs the Secretary Information Ms. Shahera Shahid regarding Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) Project at APP. – APP

Pakistan-KSA discusses investment cooperation

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on Thursday discussed the investment cooperation in different sector including energy and petroleum, technology, infrastructure.

Minister of State and Chairman Board of Investment, Muhammad Azfar Ahsan met with the Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki here.

Both sides shed light on the cordial relations between the two countries and deliberated on ways to further enhance and promote bilateral relations, said a press release issued here. Chairman BOI briefed the ambassador about the lucrative investment opportunities available in Pakistan with special mention of incentivized priority sectors. He stressed that Board of Investment

under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan is committed to facilitate and encourage investment in the country. Azfar Ahsan expounded that Pakistan has ample untapped opportunities waiting to be explored in various sectors of the economy. He added that Pak-Saudi relations are moving in an upward trajectory and Pakistan is really looking forward to facilitate Saudi investors in the country.

Ambassador Malki agreed with the Chairman about Pakistan's massive investment potential. Highlighting the recent positive developments in Pak-Saudi bilateral relations, the ambassador stated that he was confident about substantial economic cooperation between KSA and Pakistan in coming future. The ambassador unlaboration between the two countries

in areas of trade and investment. He shared that Saudi investors are taking keen interest in investing in several sectors of Pakistan including energy & petroleum, technology, infrastructure etc. Chairman BOI apprised the ambassador on an upcoming investors' meet-up being organized by BOI and requested the ambassador for participation from the Saudi side.

Ambassador Malki warmly accepted the invitation and assured of maximum assistance from his side.

He also mentioned that a group of Saudi investors will soon visit the Board of Investment to formally discuss project proposals and to take this meeting to the next level. - APP

CDA poised to facilitate citizens

ISLAMABAD: The management of the Capital Development Authority is taking all possible steps to provide the best facilities to the citizens of Islamabad. Special measures are also being taken to provide quality transport facilities.

According to the details, third party pre-shipment inspection of buses to ply on Peshawar Mor to New Airport metro bus route has been completed in China.

The buses will be shipped to Pakistan on March 15 and will reach Pakistan in 20 days. Similarly, the trial run of Metrobus bus service will start in the first week of April. Total of 30 buses will run on this route. The buses have been painted in orange color in accordance with Orange Route.

On this occasion, the management of Capital Development Authority said that the launch of this service will provide modern and quality travel facilities to the citizens of Islamabad.

'Strong institution vital for sustainable development'

country, we need to revamp our governance and improve the delivery systems at every level. Strengthening institutions has become especially imperative after the pandemic which has provided several crucial lessons to learn for a sustainable development. The speakers said this while speaking at a webinar on 'Accelerating Sustainable Development beyond Pandemic: Way forward for Pakistan' organized by the Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI). Dr Habib Bokhari, Vice Chancellor, University of Kohsar,

Murree, was of view that Pakistan is facing grave problems stemming from population growth whereas there are complex sues in our environment further intensifying these issues. He said that the pandemic has affected our labour classes the most who were already under economic stress. Highlighting the importance of institution building. Dr Samina Tasneem Zahra, representing UNDP, Dr. Samina Tasneem Zahra, National Project Manager Reforms, and Innovation in Governance, UNDP said that the UNDP focuses on institutional development to empower and strengthen institutions and help them device indigenous solutions to governance challenges, but these interventions are only catalysts and require a local will to proceed or take benefit of the proposed initiatives. She said that strong institutional mechanisms are a key to progress; NCOC is one successful example of institutional arrangements for national incentives. A strong governance framework is a necessity of our time. Shehzad Ali Khan, Vice Chancellor, Health Services Acade-

my said that reforms to integrate grassroot level systems in larger framework are necessary for sustainable development. During Covid, we have worked with districts directly which integrated local administration with the larger framework. This model can be adopted for education and health sectors as well. Sustainability is achieved when you let go of project-based approach, sustainable development needs a programmatic approach than a project-based approach. – DNA

Pak envoy urges traders to explore Uzbek markets



DNA

RAWALPINDI: Ambassador of Pakistan to Uzbekistan, Syed Ali Asad Gilani visited RCCI and called on President Nadeem Rauf. Senior Vice President Asim Malik, Vice President Talat Awan and Executive members were also present on the occasion. The Ambassador discussed trade op-

portunities for Pakistani businessmen in various sectors including textiles, Pharma, Sports & Leather Goods, Agri Food and Tourism.

Issues related to banking channels, direct flights, road and railway network and information sharing also came under discussion. On the occasion, the President of the Chamber Nadeem Rauf briefed the Ambassador on the ongoing activities of the Chamber. He urged for sharing information regarding trade opportunities in Uzbekistan. He said that Rawalpindi Chamber continues to promote Pakistani products abroad through Single Country Exhibition and Made in Pakistan Exhibition and added that we should focus on non-traditional sectors as well. He stressed the need to share information on trade opportunities in Uzbekistan.

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Friday, March 11, 2022

Briefs

Fawad lauds Kanwal Shozab for exposing drama

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Thursday appreciated the bravery and tolerance of Kanwal Shozeb, MNA who exposed the drama in the name of freedom of expression.

In a tweet, Chaudhry Fawad said that, in doing so, MNA got bitter but someone who is targeted and insulted in the name of freedom of expression, can be harsh in their response.

The minister said that no body is allowed to target someone's dignity and honour as there was difference between freedom of expression and insult.

Nawaz, Zardari remained silent over drone strikes

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib said on Thursday that during the tenures of Nawaz Sharif and Asif Zardari more than 400 drone attacks were carried out against the country's territorial integrity, but they remained silent.

In a tweet, he said that some foreign ambassadors issue press releases ignoring diplomatic norms. The opposition was criticizing Prime Minister Imran Khan because he wanted to bring back the looted money stashed abroad by Nawaz Sharif and Asif Zardari. – APP

Vegetable exports increase 21.11%: SBP

ISLAMABAD: The exports of vegetables products from the country witnessed an increase of 21.11 percent dur ing the first seven months of fiscal year 2021-22 as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

Pakistan exported vegetables products worth \$ 2110.786 million during July-January (2021-22) against the exports of \$ 1742.815 million during July-January (2020-21), showing growth 21.11 percent, according to the data issued by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The food commodities that contributed in positive growth of vegetable exports included edible vegetables export of which grew from \$112.613 million last year to \$131.461 million during the fiscal year under review, showing increase of 16.73 percent.

During the months under review, the exports of cereals also witnessed an increase of 18.60 percent, from \$1211.838 million to \$1437.297 million whereas the export of other vegetable saps and extracts (lac, gums, resins) also grew by 11.17 percent from \$21.913 million to \$24.362 million. - APP

Opposition to face embarrassing defeat: Murad

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed on Thursday said that Opposition parties would not only face an embarrassing defeat in no confidence move but their negativism would be exposed.

Addressing a press conference, he said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has defeated negative politics of the Opposition on every front. He said that PTI government sailed through all tests in the parliament including legislation pertaining to Financial Action Task Force in the Parliament. PTI also defeated the Opposition parties in Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu Kashmir recent elections, he said while reacting to the Opposition leaders' statements.

The minister said that government was pursuing an independent and dignified foreign policy by saying absolutely not to joining any war of others. He said that speeches of the Opposition leaders had also become "jokes". - APP



ISLAMABAD: Zafar Bakhtawari former president ICCI in a meeting with Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain Former Prime Minister at his residence in Islamabad. Sheikh Nadeem Former president FPCCI is also present. - DNA

Logistic reforms vital to tap region's trade opportunities

"Pakistan has immense opportunities knocking at its doorstep and we need to take advantage with the implementation of a multimodal logistic strategy," he said

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said to fully tap the trading opportunities offered by increasing regional integration, Pakistan needed to reform its logistic infrastructure besides developing human resource. "The regional countries are eager to transport their goods to Gwadar port, and hence Pakistan needs to put in place a smooth supply-chain system at the earliest," he said in his address here at the First Multimodal Logistics Conference 2022.

President Alvi mentioned that Uzbekistan had shown keen interest in transport-

ing its commodities through Pakistan, while Turkmenistan and Iran were interested in the supply of natural gas. In this regard, he said an efficient cargo system in Pakistan was vital to substantially improve the supply-chain system, thus benefiting both the producer and

consumer countries. "Pakistan has immense opportunities knocking at its doorstep and we need to take advantage with the implementation of a multimodal logistic strategy," he said. He mentioned that the government had done a splendid job in improving the farming, industry, and textile sectors during the pandemic, however, mentioned

ply chain system. ruptions, and re-To bridge gaps between lying on two or the manufacturer and more modes consumer, he said, of transporthe policies needed tation could to be formulated in substantialconsultation with improve government funclogistionaries and the tics system. private sector. Не said President Alvi said multimodal getting adjusted to transportachanging trends. tion required overcoming supcommuply chain nication

collaboration and emphasized training the country's huge youth bulge into a productive human resource to achieve the goals. Dr Ishrat Hussain, former Adviser to Prime Minister

on Institutional Reforms and Austerity said inefficiency of the supply chain could be overcome through the implementation of reforms in institutions. He mentioned that the reforms carried out in Civil Aviation Authority, Pakistan International Airlines, Pakistan Railways, and National Highway Authority were aimed at the improvement of consumer services.

To improve the efficiency of public organizations, he said it was important for the

ministries to work on policies only, while the regula-tory bodies could function

autonomously. He stressed a level-playing field for all stakeholders including the private sector relating to the supply chain to benefit the consumer. Vice President Manzil Pakistan Asim Siddiqi said the non-governmental organization had been assisting the government and policy-makers on laws relating to the country's maritime and freight potential. He said Pakistan eagerly needed a change in multimodal logistics in view of the growing demand such as regional connectivity and the projects under China Pakistan

Economic Corridor.

CSs, IGPs directed to

eradicate menace of

terrorism, terrorists

gender", she said. - APP Govt not to spare 'thieves':

DNA

ISLAMABAD: stanTehreek-e-Insaf kitty. Today Chairman Paried out personal attacks

Senator Faisal Javed Khan who is also Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Information said that these corrupt people destroyed the country and built per-

Panahgahs served over 20mln people

ahgahs'(shelter two times nutritious food in the last three years.

The shelter homes have also provided night stay facility to over 4 million persons in neat and clean settings across the country, Prime Minister's Focal Person on Shelter Homes Naseemur Rehman told APP. The two main features included Ehsaas Langar and safe Shelter Homes were providing daily homelike hygienic and nutritious meal to 1000 destitute and poor daily wagers

500 homeless persons night stay in eco-friendly, secured

(Panahgah) is offering over

whereas facilities like, water, health, food, lavatories and greenery are hallmark of 25 Panahgahs. Those shelter homes helped each inmate to save upto 10,000 rupees every month, which he could spend on his family to improve their living standards, he said. - APP

Climate action need of hour

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam on Thursday said at a time when the global community is faced with climate crisis, tapping potential leadership conversation is key to sustainable production and consumption lifestyle for achieving environmental sustainability. He highlighted that soaring climate-altering carbon emissions in rich nations over recent decades continue to exacerbate the situation of untamed climate crisis, leading to devastating impacts on socio-economic sectors, particularly water, agriculture, energy and health sectors. "For this boosting concept of leadership conversation roles regarding environmental sustainability and climate action is key." "However, rich nations need to show robust climate leadership role through enhanced conversation on the climate issues, so as to protect the global community from fallouts of the climate

a high-level Pakistan Leadership Conversation -2022 event. The event was organised here at a local hotel in partnership with the climate change ministry by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, a global professional accounting body offering the Chartered Certified Accountant qualification worldwide. He informed the participants from top key corporate and government sectors that the Prime Minister Imran Khan's government has already launched efforts for boosting climate agenda through conversation at various forums and climate leadership role through various world-acclaimed green initiatives as a part of global climate action direly needed to protect lives and livelihoods of the people from adverse impacts of the climate crisis, particularly those living in climate-vulnerable areas. "To plug the climate action gaps in particularly our part of the world. which is extremely vulnerable climate change impacts, we need to produce leaders who converse out climate

solutions by introducing courses for managers in various

socio-economic sectors to promote environmental con-

versation concepts at their organizational levels," - APP

crisis through evidence-based environmental conservation and



ISLAMABAD: Pre inspection of buses to be run from Peshawar Morr to New Airporst has been completed in China and buses are expected to reach Pakistan on March 15. - DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Interior Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed on Thursday said all the Chief Secretaries(CSs) and Inspector Generals of Police (IGPs) had been directed to eradicate menace of terrorism and terrorists.

Addressing a press conference here, he said international conspiracies were being hatched against Pakistan, adding that the IGPs were directed to keep vigil eyes on situation. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan would inaugurate E-Passport facility during the current month. All visas were online and no visa case was pending with the ministry, he added. He said around 86 new passport and NADRA offices were also being set up in various parts of the country, he added. Issuance of succession certificates would be started in Baluchistan from March 12, he added.

Rasheed said Pakistan was an independent and sovereign country and they had an independent foreign policy. The PM had taken the nation into confidence on independent foreign policy, he said. Commenting on current political scenario, the minister said no confidence motion against PM would face defeat and Imran Khan was going to win. The Speaker National Assembly had discretion to convene session within 14 days, he added. He said the 18th amendment had empowered the Speaker to stop floor crossing and horse trading. - APP

COMSTECH, UNESCO organize webinar on open science

Prof. Shinwari said that as the world is divided into haves and have nots, the same is the case with science. He stressed that we have to do a lot on the issue of inequality. He said that there is a need to address governance and sustainability issues to have open science ciety and emphasized that

DNA

ISLAMABAD: COMS-TECH and UNESCO organized a webinar on open science on Thursday. Prof. Dr. Shahbaz Khan, Director and UNESCO representative to China, Korea, Japan, and Mongolia, Prof. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari, Academy of Pakistan Sciences, Islamabad, Pakistan, and Prof. Dr. Claudia Bauzer Medeiros, Institute of Computing, University Campinas, Brazil addressed the webinar by giving one-hour long talk each to more than 250 participants joined online from different OIC states. Prof. Shahbaz Khan said

that if we want to solve global challenges like COV-ID then we must share science, its products like vaccines and should be able to make solutions work together. He said we must nurture cooperation beyond boundaries. He said that unfortunately, there still exist scientific and digital divide in the world. Prof. Shahbaz mentioned that to achieve the sustainable development goals we need quality science. He said that open science is about creating opportunities for increased



scientific collaboration, sharing of information and benefits. It is about knowledge being openly available, accessible, and reusable. Prof. Shinwari said that as the world is divided into haves and have nots, the

same is the case with sci-

ence. He stressed that we

have to do a lot on the issue



of inequality. He said that there is a need to address governance and sustainability issues to have open science. Prof. Shinwari stressed the need of a comprehensive policy of inclusiveness, funding, infrastructure, and incentives. He said that all scientists are responsible to the so-

the work of scientists must benefit the society. Prof. Claudia said that we

can do a lot to open science through sharing our data. She said science is a public good and a basic human right, outputs of publically financed research are a public good and must be made public as soon as possible, while respecting the principles of scientific ethics, privacy, security and protection of intellectual property. Prof. Claudia said the design, execution and results of a research project should be open under ethical and legal constraints. Coordinator General COM-

STECH, Prof. Dr. Iqbal Choudhary gave introductory talk and said that COMS-TECH is striving to gather people from different countries by conducting such webinars to build scientific capacity. He said we are proud to have partnership with UNESCO. Prof. Choudhary said the cost of publication policy is really important factor. He said despite doing good quality science, if you don't have money you would not be able to publish it, and it is very unfortunate. This publication policy really needs a fresh thinking and open science can play an important role.

Women playing pioneering role at NUMS

RAWALPINDI: al University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) has set an example in promoting gender equality by giving pioneering role to highly qualified women in at least four of its departments being run successfully by them. Commenting on the occasion of the International Wom-

en's Day with the theme "Changing Climates: gender Equality today for a sustainable tomorrow" the Heads of NUMS four departments called for gender equality for ensuring equal rights for women and acknowledgment of their important role in every field of the society.

The International Women's Day was celebrated across the globe last Tuesday to spotlight the importance of challenging the "biases and misconceptions" about women and create an environment for gender equality. The day highlighted the role being played by women to address climate change as well. Dr. Aisha Mohyuddin, PhD, Dean, Faculty of Multidisciplinary Studies said women were playing an significant role in the advancement of sciences at NUMS. All these Departments at NUMS, including Public Health, Psychology, Nutrition and Health Professions Education, headed by female faculty, are proving to trailblazers for others. Science is a vast field and it is encouraging to see many women participating meaningfully to progress in research and academics." "The female faculty at

NUMs is leading research projects related to molecular diagnostics and devices, cancer therapeutics, nanomedicine, human genetics and environmental sciences. Women, if given equal opportunity, have all the potential and skills to prove their mettle in their respective fields", she added. Head of NUMS Nutrition and Dieticians department Dr. Sehar Igbal, a PhD said.

the gender equality meant that all have equal opportunities, respect and rights so it was time "to groom our daughters to be aware of gender equality and our sons to never think of degrading women just because of their dependence Such awareness is necessary to avoid violence and discrimination against any

Faisal Javed

leader, Senator Faisal Javed Khan on Thursday said the government would not spare the corrupt politicians who had plundered the national kistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari carand made y cheap and false allegations, he tweeted.

sonal properties abroad.

ISLAMABAD: Ehsaas-Panhave served over 20 million poor people by providing

in the federal capital. The each Shelter Home

and healthy environment. Over 120 Panahgahs are operational across the country.

05

The political chaos

HE political scenario of the country is as much heated as it can get. Everyone from incumbent government to opposition parties is busy in gathering support for the incoming no-confidence motion against the Prime Minister. The role of government allies has become increasingly important, with all opposition leaders and even Prime Minister himself visiting the party leaders of MQM-P and PML-Q. While the government ministers claim support of allies, the opposition biggies say things are quite messed up in government's camp. Another headache for the government is the role of estranged party leader Jahangir Tareen's loyalists, who are made stronger by the joining of Aleem Khan, another estranged leader and a CM-hopeful. Jahangir Tareen is scheduled to come back in Pakistan during next days and meet with the opposition leadership to decide their course of action. Meanwhile, Chaudhary brothers of PML-Q and the MQM-Pakistan leadership have reportedly told the Prime Minister they are open to options seeing that PTI lawmakers themselves are increasingly unhappy with the government policies.

In all the political chaos, one thing that is missing is decency. The use of degradatory words and foul language has become a political tool of Pakistani politicians. Even the Prime Minister seems to lessen his political burdens by calling names and using slurs. Foul language must never be appreciated.

Who better but the politicians know how their words come haunting them at times, because no one is friend or enemy forever in politics. The friends in opposition today were bitter rivals a couple of years ago. Priem Minister Imran Khan has those people in his government as allies, whom he used to call Daaku and Chapraasi. Another shameful incident happened at the premises of Faisal Mosque where a group of PPP supporters hurled slogans and degradatory chants at the grave of former President Zia ul Haq. This is an act which must be condemned by all parties irrespective of their ideology. PPP, being a so called progressive party, must not appreciate

this behavior. Personal grudges and enmity must not be en-

Islamabad POST

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Vol: 02 Issue: 260
Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com
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Ukraine refugees

ORE than 2 million people had fled Ukraine as of Thursday in what could soon become Europe's biggest refugee crisis of the 21st century, and the worst since World War II. A spokesperson for UNICEF told NBC News that at least half of them are children, some of whom have been forced to travel on their own.

The U.N.'s refugee agency, UNHCR, welcomed a decision last week by the European Union to offer temporary protection to Ukrainians and third-country nationals who have refugee or permanent residence status in Ukraine, offering them "immediate protection."

While the bloc and countries neighboring Ukraine have received praise, however, other nations are being accused of falling behind, particularly Britain, after it acknowledged issuing just 300 visas to Ukrainians so far in response to the crisis. Plenty of refugees could testify to the incompetence and inhumanity of the UK's asylum system. The difference this time is that across Europe, including in places previously extremely hostile to migrants and refugees, there is greater public sympathy for white Europeans fleeing their homes. The meanness of the UK government's approach is not new; it is more visible this time, however, because it is not only out of step with domestic public opinion but strikingly at odds with the welcome now offered by other nations. Moldova, one of the poorest countries in Europe, with a population of just 4 million, has taken more than 80,000 Ukrainians.

The UK's failure to help Ukrainian refugees is not an accident, though its ineptitude has worsened the plight of many. It is possible to have a humane and efficient asylum system, but not when you promote stereotypes of refugees as a threat and a burden. The government has closed off safe routes – while its nationality and borders bill seeks to criminalise those who arrive here by irregular means. Ukrainians are the latest victims of its cruelty.

Why Cold War II is different and dangerous

Ishtiaq Ahmed

couraged in politics.



Cold War II is not only different from the first one in its underlying reasons but also more dangerous in its plausible implications

REAT power rivalries in the 20th century led to two deadly world wars, followed by a bitter cold war between the US and USSR. Since the latter's fall in 1991, wars have occurred but without any global contestation for power. Now we have one again, pitting the US and its western allies against Russia in Europe and China in Asia.

Cold War II is not only different from the first one in its underlying reasons but also more dangerous in its plausible implications.

Cold War I was born from the ashes of the second world war when the US decided to contain the expansion of Soviet communism in Europe and the world. It averted another world war through nuclear deterrence and ended when the USSR ultimately collapsed, enabling the US to emerge as the sole superpower. China at the time was too poor, and Russia was too weak. Why then, just three decades later, the US and its western allies face another cold war with these two powers in two different continents. Why did the US fail to use its unipolar moment to sustain global leadership well into the next century?

The answer lies in the American hegemonic drive to impose a liberal international order upon a world with diverse political systems and economic structures. In the process, the US has fought wasteful wars, in Afghanistan and the Middle East, with devastating con-

sequences. Its imperial impulse to enforce a neo-liberal economic model and export liberal democracy has ultimately created two formidable enemies out of China and Russia. To be precise, the roots of Cold War II lie in the US inability to compete with China economically and its attempt to encircle Russia through NATO enlargement.

China's economic rise has deeply worried Washington since 2013, when President Xi Jinping launched the Belt and Road Initiative. This trillion-dollar energy and infrastructure development project aims to keep China's economic growth steady by investing and relocating its surplus capital and production capacity to BRI nations. China has additionally integrated itself in the global economy by leading or joining organizations like the SCO in Central-South Asia and the RCEP in Asia-Pacific. Consequently, the US perceives China as a key threat to its ability to dictate the terms of international trade.

Moreover, since the 2007-08 global financial crisis, the US economy has grown sluggishly, raising its trade deficit with China significantly. That is why the US launched a trade and technology war against China in 2018, and decided last year to shift the US strategic focus from the Middle East to the Indo-Pacific.

China can ill afford to engage in a futile security competition with the US, let alone fight a war, as this will slow down its economy and progress of BRI. A key reason behind its economic success since the 1980s is that while the US and Europe have fought major wars, China has waged none.

Despite the fact that China is currently nowhere near the US in military power or naval bases, it is economically rich and demographically strong enough to confront the US during Cold War II. Given its stable rise so far, this power will only grow in future.

What should concern us is the possibility that Cold War II might be more prone to turn hot because of geography: For there is no clear line in the vast Asian continent like the Iron Curtain, which prevented a major war in Europe during Cold War I due to mutual fear of nuclear annihilation. Limited conflicts will occur over China's territorial claims or the maritime routes that run between China and the Persian Gulf, deliberately or accidentally. And they could also turn into protracted conventional wars, with the potential to turn nuclear.

Cold War II in Europe is even riskier, as it begins with a hot war. There is a particular backdrop to the Russian attack against Ukraine. Moscow chose not to confront NATO when it included ten former Warsaw Pact countries in central and eastern Europe into its fold during 1999-2005. Nor did it resist the eastward expansion of the EU or the democracy promotion by the US. But NATO's decision to extend its membership to Georgia and Ukraine at the Bucharest summit in 2008 was the last straw, and Russia under Vladimir Putin decided to draw the line. Within months, it invaded Georgia, occupying its breakaway border regions.

In 2014, when the pro-Russian Ukrainian president was ousted from power in a US-sponsored 'orange revolution,' Russia reacted by occupying Ukraine's Crimea peninsula. The issue of NATO enlargement had almost frozen subsequently, until last year when the US and UK began arming Ukraine and took other provocative steps in the Baltic Sea. So, when Russia moved its military along Ukraine's border, the war was a foregone conclusion.

Russia would like Ukraine to act as a buffer state, not become a de facto NATO state to threaten its security. It has set a bad precedent by attacking and violating the sovereignty of an independent nation. But it is also a fact that the US and its NATO allies did not leave Russia with any other choice.

How the Ukraine war finally unfolds remains to be seen. But the hostility it has created between Russia, the US and its European allies is likely to persist. Consider also that the 1987 intermediate nuclear forces treaty is no more, and the nature of risks this war entails for European security becomes amply clear. By placing its nuclear arms on high alert during the war, Russia has already raised the alarm bell. Finally, the US and its western allies will have to wage Cold War II simultaneously in Europe and Asia against two formidable enemies, the militarily powerful Russia and economically powerful China, which will also have respective allies. Especially in Asia, how much support the US is able to muster from its two QUAD allies, the reluctant India and the anti-war Japan, will determine how far it prevails over China.

 Ishtiaq Ahmad is a former journalist, who has subsequently served as the Vice Chancellor of Sargodha University in Pakistan and the Quaid-e-Azam Fellow at the University of Oxford, UK.

Karl Marx and inclusively accommodativism of Allama Iqbal

Dr. M Akram Zaheer



Human nature loves extremism. It deviates between extremes rather than expanding. Iqbal was once fascinated by the Western system and later by communism

NCLUSIVISM is an approach of several to understanding different ideologies.Inclusivists hold many beliefs as true and accommodate with their own philosophy.Accommdativism is a doctrine that refers to appropriateness, conformances and reconcilementin socio-political and theological attitudes. According to Dr Muhammad Asim, "Accomodationism" means to accommodate distinct religious identities by government in a structural framework with regard to providing fundamental human rights, religious expressions and particular facilities". Accommodativismis observed in the social behavior when an individual reconcileshimself with the belief of other'sparticularly for the endurance of economy and politics."Inclusive Accomodativism means to seek similar traits between socio-political and/or cultural segments, market economies and religious/sectarian fractions by avoiding differences (even major or minor) just to avail Dr. Muhammad Asim's 3Ps (peace, progress and prosperity) Model, structural functionalism and cosmopolitanism". Allama Iqbal was also prominent philosopherwho experienced such approach. He inhaled different ideologies and transmitted its intellectual development through his poetry. The Muslim community of sub-continent was and now is much impressed by his acomodativeism approach and lyrical message to the Muslim Umah. However, some are very confused by its philosophical thoughts because he himself was impressed by a number of personalities and philosophies that left a deep impact on him but it seems that he could not totally followed them.

ne could not totally followed them. One of them was Karl Marx whose socialist ideas were interpreted into action in 1917 by Lenin. Iqbal was greatly impressed by the Marxian thought and in his later poems, published posthumously in his last collection 'Armughan-e-Hejaz', he described Socialism as the next greatest threat to all evils of the world. Even though he partially subscribed to the Marxian ideology, he had objections to its doubt, on the one hand, and its continuation of statehood on the other. Nevertheless, his sympathies with the peasants and workers and inclination

towards Lenin and Marx were distinctive.

Allama Iqbal has written these and similar verses in praise of Karl Marx and Lenin. This is a tribute of approval on his part, as well as an indicator of the fact that, despite reaching the climax of intellectual thought, establishing a rationalistic system, and writing a book destined to cure human ills and misery, Marx is a Moses without divine. He leads and is a Christ who was not verses show extreme approval of Marx, on the one hand, they also expose his deprivation of visionaryexposé and his lack of insight into spiritual values and ecstasy. Marx has been called a materialist, that is, one who was devoid of the exhilarating and life-giving revelations brought by Hazrat-i-Jibreel. Marx assumed that materialistic equality was the solution for human ills. Allah says that the roots of his (Marx's) imagination have not penetrated the depths of his heart, but are only floating in the most basic existence, and although his sympathy for humanity may give the impression that the heart of a believer, his insight, being deprived of divine revelation, the system produced by him through the innovations of his intellect is not beneficial. To be deprived of divine revelation is nothing more than the spikes of an unbelieving mind. Consequently, Iqbal has said that the problem would not be solved with the control of the government by the proletariat. On the contrary, the bourgeoisie would parade with the mantle of the proletariat, because the true revolution is more a change of the basic sentiments of the heart than of the material resources and conditions, and so on.

Human nature loves extremism. It deviates between extremes rather than expanding. Iqbal was once fascinated by the Western system and later by communism. Very few people accept the positive aspects of these two as the lost heritage of the believers and reject the negative aspects because of their harmful effects. Iqbal praised the sentiments of human sympathy in Communism, Marx and Lenin and acknowledged their struggle to smash the idol of capitalism. What attracted Iqbal the most was the nectar, which in the communist capitalist system proved to be the cancer of the idea of a national organization based on color, language and race and gave birth to a new concept of national ideology in Europe. Islam bases its own nationalism. This harmony of thought between the two created a soft spot for sharing in Iqbal's conscience. In other words, Iqbal happily saw the achievements of communism against capitalism as preparing the ground for Islamic revival. At the very beginning of the communist trial time, when he may perhaps was seeing the future of human between the two extremes of communism and capitalism from which the human race would benefit. Though today when we study him after 80 years, he still remains worth-while because his imbalances philosophy is still persist. Although Subcontinent is free from imperialist rule, still faces the challenge of the dominating self of the West. The laziness of the centuries still to be broken and the passion for progress, devotion to ideal and dedication to action are yet to be acquired.

New books network review: Islam and the Arab Revolutions

James M. Dorsey

Al-Azami's narrative juxtaposes the pro-revolt legal opinions of the Qatar-backed cleric, Yusuf al-Qaradawi, widely viewed as one of Islam's most prominent living scholars

SAAMA al-Azami's Islam and the Arab Revolutions: The Ulama Between Democracy and Autocracy (Oxford University Press, 2022) focuses on the responses of several prominent Muslim religious scholars towards the 2011 Arab popular revolts, particularly in Egypt, that toppled long-standing autocratic leaders. It also looks at their reaction to the subsequent military coup in 2013 that overthrew Egypt's first and only democratically elected leader and led to the brutal and bloody repression of anti-coup protests.

However, the book's significance goes far beyond the events surrounding the Egyptian

revolt by discussing the relationship between the Muslim clergy and the state and the theology and jurisprudence that is central not only to the revolts but to the competition between major Middle Eastern and Asian Muslim-majority states in defining what constitutes Islam, and particularly moderate Islam, in an era of geopolitical transition.

Mr. Al-Azami's narrative juxtaposes the pro-revolt legal opinions of the Qatar-backed cleric, Yusuf al-Qaradawi, widely viewed as one of Islam's most prominent living scholars, and those of two Egyptian scholars beholden to the Egyptian state, Al Azhar Grand Imam Sheikh Ahmed El-Tayeb and former Grand Mufti Ali Gomaa, as well as two scholars who are backed by and reflect the United Arab Emirates' militant advocacy of autocracy, Abdullah Bin Bayyah and Yusuf Hamza. In laying bare the issues that divide the scholars the book shipes a spotlight on two

In laying bare the issues that divide the scholars, the book shines a spotlight on two major fault lines in Islamic jurisprudence as it relates to political governance: the relationship between the ruler and the ruled and how to prevent anarchy and chaos.

Mr. Qaradawi rejects the principle supported by counterrevolutionary scholars of Muslims owing unconditional absolute obedience to their ruler and defends their right to oppose and peacefully resist unjust rule. Similarly, Mr. Qaradawi argues that greater transparency and accountability prevents anarchy and chaos while counterrevolutionaries believe that only strengthened autocracy can maintain order.

None of this makes Mr. Qaradawi a democrat even if he would like to be seen as such. Nonetheless, he has developed an Islamic legal argument for a more open political system that is at loggerheads with the legitimization of autocracy developed by Mr. Bin Bayyah, Mr. Qaradawi's erstwhile associate-turned rival.

The differences highlighted in Mr. Al-Azami's book, as well as a recently published work by David H. Warren, who will be a guest on this show in the coming weeks, take on significance because they are between influential clerics who have provided religious legitimacy for policies and/or shaped the thinking of rulers in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

By laying out the different positions in great documented detail, Mr. Al-Azami 's book makes an important contribution to an understanding of debates among scholars in which, in his words, counterrevolutionaries have for now the political upper hand whilst more reform-minded clerics retain the discursive high ground.

Briefs

Tolerate no more; Bilawal slams PM

From Page 01 will not tolerate it anymore "We consider the attack on Aseefa a message for us,' Bilawal alleged. He request ed the ISI and other investigation agencies to probe the matter as he doesn't trust the government on this matter.

Bilawal said that PM Imran Khan "threatening with life and death" was not a joke.

"I am not a child anymore," Bilawal said in reference to his young age at the time of Benazir Bhutto's assassination. He said that for those who think that we will get scared and step back, they don't know that Zardari and Benazir's blood flows in my

"What I will do to you will be remembered by your gener-

"We never used guns but we know how to use them," Bilawal said, adding that he is a peaceful person and will remain the same.

"However, we will respond in the same language if they keep pressurising us," he said, referring to the prime minister's "foul language". "Using foul language will not save PM Imran Khan's seat but he would curse more when he sees position in danger."

He accused the premier of taking funds from India and Israel, while also blaming PM Imran Khan for using the donations given to Shaukat Khanum Hospital for the PTI.

"You used the donations from the cancer hospital to run your kitchen and your party [...] you are a culprit; a United States court has convicted you," he told the prime minister.

Bilawal also said that he never spoke against First Lady Bushra Bibi, but the reports that he got from the bureaucracy and other institutions suggested that no bureaucrat can be posted in Punjab without first giving "money' to the first lady.

"We are told that your candidate for the chief minister [could not give enough money], but Buzdar invested in the right place - and this problem (Buzdar) is imposed on us till the day," he said.

MQM-P delegation...

From Page 01

Besides meeting with leaderships of PPP and PML-Q. JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman is all set to meet the delegation of MQM-P amid rising political temperature. Bilawal Bhutto also hosted a lunch for his party members which was also attended by Asif Zardari. Zardari and Bilawal took the PPP's National Assembly members into confidence regarding the no-confidence motion, and consulted on party strategy for the success of the motion. Important instructions were also given to the members of the Assembly regarding the no-confidence motion.

After meeting with the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leaders in Islamabad, Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) delegation called on JUI-F and PDM chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman in Islamabad to discuss no-confidence motion against PM Imran Khan.

A delegation of the PTI government's ally, MQM-P comprising Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Ameenul Haq, Waseem Akhtar, Aamir Khan and Kanwar Naveed Jameel. JUI-F's Akram Durrani and Maulana Lutfullah were also present in the meeting.

The meeting discussed the matters related to the country's political situation including the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan. Addressing the media, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman said, they are in contact with every political force in the wake of the country's rapidly changing political environment.

Consultation is underway to deal with the current situation, he added. MQM-P Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that every party is concerned about the current political situation and underlined the need to deal with the situation in such a way so that democracy remains unharmed. He said MQM-P is reviewing the situation to ensure that democracy remains safe amid no-confidence motion. Earlier in the day, the MQM-P delegation met with the PML-Q leadership. – **DNA**

China urges Europe to find common ground with Russia

Wang and Di Maio discussed the Russian military campaign in Ukraine and how hostilities could be brought to an end as soon as possible during a video call

News Desk

BEIJING: The unresolved issue of pan-European security is at the core of the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, and all European nations, including Russia, need to be involved in resolving it, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told his Italian counterpart Luigi Di Maio on Thursday.

Wang and Di Maio discussed the

Russian military campaign in Ukraine and how hostilities could be brought to an end as soon as possible during a video call. The Chinese official urged European nations to address Russian concerns. The continent needs a security architecture based on the principle of its indivisibility, the diplomat said. Only "in-depth and comprehensive discussions with the Russian side" would allow the arrangement to be "balanced, effective and sustainable," he said. The minister criticized the use of sanctions as a tool of coercion in international relations, saying the approach "cannot solve problems and will create new ones." Puni-



tive measures imposed against Russia for its attack against Ukraine "will have a serious impact on global finance, energy, food, transportation, supply chain and other aspects, and damage the world economic recovery and the people's livelihood of all countries," he warned.

Russia attacked Ukraine in late February, claiming that NATO's creeping expansion into the country posed an unacceptable threat to its national security. Western nations led by the US retaliated with an array of sanctions meant to cripple the Russian economy. Attempts by Ukraine and Russia to negotiate a ceasefire have failed so far, with neither side apparently willing to compromise on its red lines. Moscow attacked Kiev following a seven-year standoff over Ukraine's failure to implement the terms of the Minsk peace agreements, and Russia's eventual recognition of the Donbass republics in Donetsk and Lugansk. The German and French-brokered protocols had been designed to regularize the status of the regions inside the Ukrainian state.

China slams US' denial of bio military activities

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: The international community has expressed grave concern over US biomilitary activities and for the US to dismiss this as "fake news" shows an irresponsible attitude, said the Chinese Foreign Ministry on Thursday when asked to comment on the US' denial that it operates biowarfare labs in the Ukraine.

The international community has no idea what the US has done in its domestic Fort Detrick lab and the 336 biolabs it has abroad, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian.

"We appeal to all parties to ensure the safety of the biological laboratories in Ukraine under the current circumstances, for the sake of people in Ukraine and in the surrounding regions," said Zhao. The Russian Ministry of Defense said on the same day that documents showed experiments on coronavirus samples from bats have been conducted in the biolabs founded and financed by the US in Ukraine. Zhao also expressed concerns over US opposition to the founding of a multilateral inspections mechanism, and whether it complies with the Chemical Weapons Convention. "Despite being a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention, the US remains the only country in the world that still possesses chemical weapons. It has twice exceeded the time limit to destroy all its chemical weapons stockpiles despite repeated requests by the international community," Zhao noted.

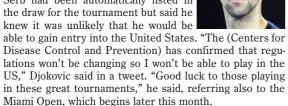
Zhao added that the data he mentioned about US biomilitary activities came from the US itself.

Djokovic withdraws from **Indian Wells**

AGENCIES

INDIAN WELLS: World number two Novak Djokovic has

withdrawn from the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells, the tournament announced on Wednesday, in the latest setback for the player due to his refusal to take the COVID-19 vaccine. The Serb had been automatically listed in the draw for the tournament but said he knew it was unlikely that he would be



Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov will move into Djokovic's space in the draw ahead of the start of the first round of the Masters 1000 tournament on Thursday.

Djokovic was unable to compete at the Australian Open after immigration authorities detained him on Jan. 6, prompting a legal rollercoaster ride over the country's COVID-19 entry rules that led to the cancellation of his visa later that month. Rafa Nadal went on to win the tournament and with it a men's record 21st Grand Slam title, one more than Djokovic and Roger Federer. Djokovic most recently competed in Dubai in February, where Czech Jiri Vesely upset him in the quarter-finals. The loss meant he would lose his world number one ranking to Russian Daniil Medvedev, who claimed his maiden major title in Flushing Meadows in September and is the top seed at Indian Wells.

ACB officials participate in training for blind women

DNA

ISLAMABAD: CEO of Cricket Australia Nick Hockley and the CEO of the Australian Cricketers Association, Todd Greenberg joined Australia's Deputy High Commissioner Joanne Frederiksen and Chairman of Pakistan Blind Cricket Council Sultan Shah in a six-day training camp and championship for women and girls with visual impairment. The participants, who are selected from across Pakistan, will be have a chance to become part of Pakistan's National Blind Women Team based on their performance.

The Australian High Commission sponsored the training camp and the tournament for visually impaired women from across Pakistan.

Australia's Deputy High Commissioner Joanne Frederiksen said, "in sponsoring this cricket clinic, we hope it has given these women and girls the opportunity to enjoy playing one of Pakistan's most popular sports and to show off their skill and ability. This can help reduce gender stereotypes and negative perceptions associated with women with disabilities.

CEO of Cricket Australia Nick Hockley said, "cricket is a sport for everyone. It helps with confidence. It breaks down

S. Korean president-elect pledges

tougher stance on N. Korea

a bitter dispute over wartime history.

Some experts say a Yoon government

will likely be able to reinforce ties with

Washington and improve relations with

Tokyo, but will probably be unable to

avoid friction with North Korea and

China. "I'll rebuild the South Korea-U.S.

alliance. I'll (make) it a strategic compre-

hensive alliance while sharing key values



stereotypes and it's a great way for confidence. A great credit to Pakistan Blind Cricket Council for the leading work they do. To see young girls from all around incredible. You only need to look at the smiles on the faces and friendships to see the positive impact this is having." CEO of the Australian Cricketers Association, Todd Greenberg said, "I'd like to see these girls promoted more and I'd like to see our governments con-

tinue to support them. The more the

girls can play, the more they can expe-

rience and grow. We're going to continue to put more funding and support to showcase these types of programs to the broader community.

Team's kits to the participants of the tournament and played with women and girls at the training camp.

The Blind Women Cricket Championship is part of Australian High Commission's celebrations around International Women's Day. Its final is scheduled on Sunday at National Cricket Ground F-7 Islamabad.

Russian, Belarusian

WEB DESK

sian Aryna Sabalenka called for peace amid the ongoing conflict in Ukraine that caused tennis officials to strip any mention of their home countries from the Indian Wells tennis tournament, Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24 in the biggest assault on a European state since 1945. Russia calls the action a "special military operation".

"My message is always the same - I want peace in all of on the eve of the first round of ATP action in the Southern California desert. "I think every tennis player is going to

Former world number ones Maria Sharapova and Andy Murray have pledged to support relief funds for children affected by the invasion. Two million people - mostly wom-

manitarian organizations and said she was proud that her

players call for peace

INDIAN WELLS: Russian Daniil Medvedev and Belaru-

the world," world number one Medvedev told reporters say the same." Indeed, support for the Ukrainian people has been pouring out from the tennis community.

en and children - have now fled Ukraine. Poland's Iga Swiatek encouraged people to support hu-

Real knock PSG out of Champions League

on Yoon's victory.

like liberal democracy, a market econ-

omy and human rights," Yoon said in a

"I'll establish a strong military capacity

to completely deter any provocation,"

Yoon said. "I'll firmly deal with illicit,

unreasonable behavior by North Ko-

rea in a principled manner, though I'll

always leave open the door for South-North talks." After his election win, he

spoke with U.S. President Joe Biden on

the phone. According to a White House

statement, Biden congratulated Yoon

and emphasized the U.S. commitment

It said the two also agreed to main-

tain close coordination in address-

ing threats posed by North Korea's

nuclear and missile programs. North

Korea didn't immediately comment

to the defense of South Korea.

televised news conference.

Benzema scores stunning hat-trick to earn team 3-2 aggregate win over French giants

SPORTS DESK

SEOUL: South Korean President-elect

Yoon Suk Yeol said Thursday he will

solidify an alliance with the United

States, build a powerful military and

sternly cope with North Korean prov-

ocations, hours after he won a hard-

fought election to become the coun-

Yoon, a conservative whose single five-

year term begins in May, said during the

campaign that he would make a strong-

er alliance with the United States the

center of his foreign policy. He accused

outgoing liberal President Moon Jae-in

of tilting toward North Korea and China

and away from the U.S. He also stressed

a need to recognize the strategic impor-

tance of repairing ties with Japan despite

try's next leader.

MADRID: Real Madrid pulled off one of the great Champions League comebacks on Wednesday as Karim Benzema scored a breath-taking hat-trick to upstage Kylian Mbappe and dump Paris Saint-Germain out in the last 16. Madrid were set to be the latest victims of another Mbappe masterclass at the Santiago Bernabeu after the 23-year-old ran them ragged for the best part of an hour and fired in to put PSG 1-0 up on the night, 2-0 ahead on aggregate.

But Madrid came storming back as Benzema capitalised on a mistake by PSG goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma and then scored an incredible double in two minutes, the third coming within 11 seconds after PSG had kicked off.

When the full-time whistle confirmed their 3-2 aggregate victory, many of Madrid's players dropped to their knees and looked up to the sky, as much perhaps in disbelief as joy, after completing one of the most memorable turnarounds



in the club's recent history. "Every game is a final now for us in the Champions League and La Liga but today we showed that Real Madrid is alive," said Benzema. PSG coach Mauricio Pochettino fumed at referee Danny Makkelie for not whistling for a foul in the build-up to the first

Madrid goal. "Explaining what happened is easy, there was a foul on Donnarumma during the first goal, and that

changed everything," he said. "It's hard not to talk about this big refereeing mistake, which I don't understand and won't forgive. I don't understand why the referee didn't call VAR."

All eyes were on Mbappe, who was the only player to be cheered by Madrid's fans before the game as they were gifted an up-close preview of the player they hope will be theirs this summer.

Mbappe delivered, scoring a superb goal, not to mention a

spellbinding second that was disallowed for offside when he bamboozled Thibaut Courtois with a magical dummy.

He might not even have been at 100 percent here after a knock in training on Monday temporarily put his involvement in doubt.

But what looked set to become an exhibition of the world's deadliest player instead became another remarkable European night for Real Madrid, who showed again why they consider this to be their competition.

Madrid clearly wanted to hit PSG hard from the start, with Dani Carvajal leaping and waving his hands at the crowd in an attempt to generate a wave of noise.

For a while, it worked, Vinicius Junior tearing down the left and FedeValverde bulldozing through Mbappe, but the surge was brief. PSG killed Madrid's momentum, pushed them back and took complete control.

Mbappe sped clear for the first time in the eighth minute, Neymar curling a ball into the space on the left. The stadium held its breath, Mbappe made space but this time

Opposition to face defeat at all fronts: PM

From Page 01 political situation of Punjab will be decided after consultations with all concerned stakeholders.

The prime minister said that it was for the first time that development projects were launched across the Punjab province, contrary to the past when the entire budget was spent on particular cities.

"The government's top priority is the development of cities which were neglected in the past," PM Imran Khan said besides also discussing political development and uplift projects in the ministries of Sardar Asif Nakai and Samsam Bukhari. The prime minister said this in his meeting with PTI leaders Sardar Asif Nakai and Syed Samsam Ali Shah Bukhari who called on him in Lahore on Thursday. Matters pertaining to political situation and ongoing development projects of the provincial ministries came under discussion during the meeting.

During the meeting, PM Imran Khan said that backward areas were neglected in the past and development of these areas is the top priority of the incumbent government and in the past, the entire development budget of Punjab was limited to specific cities.

Earlier, provincial minister Asif Nakai rejected the Tareen group's decision of boycott and stand by PM Imran Khan. "I attended Tareen group's meeting to woo them and explained them to sit down and talk to the prime minister and they agreed with me but now boycotted the meeting," he

On the other hand, Punjab Finance Minister Hashim Jawan Bakht and Chief of Special Monitoring Unit Punjab Fazil Asif also met PM Imran and discussed progress on ongoing development projects in the province.

On the occasion, the prime minister said that the government has launched development and social security schemes for the welfare of the common man.

He said despite the commodity super cycle, the government announced a tricity prices, adding that the government has also introduced a modern monitoring system to improve governance.

Govt to wrap up no-trust move ahead of OIC moot

From Page 01 could not bear political

turmoil at that time. To thwart the vote of the no-confidence motion, the government Thursday proposed that after three days of debate, voting will be conducted next week. The final decision on the proposal of the National Assembly Secretariat will be taken by Speaker Asad Qaiser. As per rules, an NA session on requisition has to be convened within 14 days. As per sources, the period of 14 days will be completed on March 22, National Assembly session will be finalized soon. Final consideration has been done over the proposals to convene the National Assembly soon instead of delay, the sources told. The matter related to the new chief minister Punjab will also be resolved ahead of the OIC meeting, they said adding that PML-Q and Jahangir Tareen group have conveyed their reservation over Chief Minister Usman Buzdar. Meanwhile, Prime Minister

Imran Khan has also decided to replace Punjab Chief Minister Sardar Usman Buzdar. The sources said the prime minister, who arrived in Lahore today on a day-long visit, has constituted a committee to decide who will be the next chief minister of the province. The development comes amid a flurry of political activity in the country after the joint opposition submitted a no-confidence resolution against Prime Minister Khan in the National Assembly. Earlier, the sources said

the opposition has also decided to bring a no-trust motion against the Usman Buzdar government in Punjab. The no-trust motion could be submitted in the Punjab Assembly in the next 48 hours, they

Business / World



Briefs

Erdogan discusses Ukraine war with Aliyev

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addressed regional developments and Russia's invasion of Ukraine with his Azerbaijani counterpart, Ilham Aliyev, on Thursday. The two leaders attended a working lunch at Cankaya Mansion.

Aliyev arrived in Ankara as part of a one-day working visit to Turkey. A delegation led by Energy and Natural Resources Minister Fatih Donmez greeted Aliyev at the Esenboga Airport, Anadolu Agency (AA) reported. Aliyev and Erdogan had previously affirmed their determination to act in coordination on bilateral relations and regional issues

All Ukrainians allowed to possess arms

AGENCIES

KYIV: Civilians in Ukraine are allowed to open fire on troops identifiable as hostile forces, under a new law that went into effect this week, Ukrainian media said.

According to the law, which went into effect on Monday, foreigners and the stateless living legally in the country can also obtain weapons and use them against Russian soldiers involved in the ongoing attack of Ukraine.

Issuance of weapons will be regulated by the Interior Ministry. Any weapons and leftover ammunition issued are to be returned no later than 10 days after the end of the martial law currently in force. Assault rifles and ammunition had already been issued indiscriminately in the first days of the war, especially in Kyiv. Gunbattles broke out and were only stopped after the imposition of a strict curfew. The Kremlin criticized the permission now granted. "If someone with a weapon in his hand attacks a Russian soldier, then he also becomes a target," the Kremlin's spokesperson Dmitry Pes ov said

Women's empowerment in China hailed by Pakistani women

BEIJING: "We have the great pleasure of celebrating International Women's Day here because China attaches great importance to the protection of women's rights. We should also acknowledge the outstanding contributions by women in different fields," said Pakistani women Syeda Saira Raza, and Soufia Badar based in China.

Syeda Saira Raza, Press & Culture Attaché from Pakistani Embassy in Beijing told China Economic Net (CEN) that Pakistani women are delighted to celebrate International Women's Day, as well as their achievements, progress, and contributions towards building a better society.

"Our hope and aspiration are to try our best to attain the unattainable. We shall go for a gender-equal world for a sustainable tomorrow," Saira stated. International Women's Day is celebrated on March 8th every year to provide a chance to unite and recognize the outstanding contributions of women around the globe.

"I have been in China for almost 1 and a half years. have met Chinese women from different walks of life; I am simply impressed by their confidence, hard work, and determination to contribute to the betterment of the society and overall, their country.

I observed both Pakistani and Chinese women, and I saw their similarities of commitment, hard work with a positive mindset to fulfill their dreams and achievements", the Press & Culture Attaché added.

She wishes great success to all the women of the world to keep on progressing and keep on contributing to a better future. Soufia Badar, an entrepreneur based in China for the last 4 years told CEN that Pakistani women should be empowered as Chinese women because Chinese women are working in all kinds of areas but Pakistani women usually prefer teaching & medical sectors. - APP

China's governance model is people-centric: Pak envoy

CPEC is a flagship project of BRI. Pakistan can take advantage of it in the field of agriculture to boost food security, make population tech-savvy, and enhance vocational and capacity building of people in the long run", he mentioned

DNA

BEIJING: China's governance model is people-centric; says Pakistan envoy, while commenting on President Xi leading GDP growth outlook, with pragmatic policies, Gwadar Pro reported on Thursday. He said, "We are impressed by the vision of the Chinese leadership, especially President Xi, who has now also launched the Global Development Initiative, which is basically to focus on bringing equity and justice to development, especially for the poor in developing countries.'

Meanwhile, Shan Saeed, Chief Economist at Iuwai IOI said "The economic strategy under the leadership of Chinese President Xi has put China on the global investors' radar.'

Shan Saeed told Gwadar Pro that Two Sessions have focused on the human development and capacity building of the population to make them globally competitive, accelerating the HSR and airports construction in the country, enhancing the GDP size, creating more jobs to improve the living standards of people and increase the income levels.

"China's growth target of 5.5% in 2022 looks pragmatic. President Xi is willing to support the economic reforms of PM Imran Khan in the areas of agriculture, infrastructure, and technology. Pakistan pivots towards



China can help the country grow over 5-6% in the next 3-5 years", Shan stated. He further said that Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) outreach should be enhanced so that more countries can be included for connectivity and trade. President Xi Jinping's main economic focus

is on people-centric strategies to uplift the masses with rising income levels not only in China but also countries and regions along BRI. "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a flagship project of BRI. Pakistan can take advantage of it in the field of agriculture

population tech-savvy, and enhance vocational and capacity building of people in the long run", he mentioned. Pakistani ambassador to China Moin ul Haque said that China's governance model is people-centric, be it decisions taken for the welfare of people like the fight against COVID-19 pandemic and the poverty alleviation program.

"We are impressed by the vision of the Chinese leadership, especially President Xi, who has now also launched the Global Development Initiative, which is basically to focus on bringing equity and justice to development, especially for the poor in developing countries.

these important decisions made in two sessions", the ambassador mentioned. It is to be noted that during the visit of Imran Khan to China, from 3 to 6 February 2022, a joint statement has been issued where President Xi's leadership has been appreciated by both sides. "Reiterating his felicitations on the centenary of the Communist Party of China, Prime Minister Imran Khan lauded the role of CPC leadership with President Xi Jinping at its core for China's growth and prosperity and appreciated President Xi for his personal contribution to promoting the enduring Pakistan-Chi-

na partnership" the Joint

FPCCI expresses concern over delay in

merce & Industry's (FPCCI) Standing Committee on SMEs chairman Iqbal Sony has said the long delay in proper working of the Sialkot Tannery Zone (STZ) has halted billions of rupees' new investment and a vast opportunity of jobs creation, beside hitting the growth of leather exports from

Iqbal Sony, in a statement issued here today, appealed the government, especially the Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC), to conduct a thorough forensic audit of the STZ, which has not been completed for the last 13 years

He said that with a view to help grow the businesses in post-corona economic strategy, the government will have to take solid measures to strengthen the industry in true spirit, especially the SMEs, saving the livelihood of millions of workers associated with the small industries. The small and medium enterprises are backbone of the economy and their role was crucial for economic development.

In perspective of the COVID-19 the cash-strapped Small and Medium Industry needs special attention of the government. as it represents more than 90 percent of around 3.2 million business enterprises in Pakistan, contributing 40 percent to the GDP, employing more than 80 percent of non-agricultural workforce, and generating 25 percent of export earnings. Igbal Sony said that the historic project of the STZ in view of revolutionizing the export industry of Pakistan was realized

Tannery Zone working

KARACHI: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Com-Pakistan, as the project is pending for a long time.

despite spending billions of rupees funds on it.

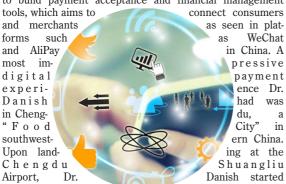
in 2004 and purchase of land was started in 2009. - APP

ANKARA: A meeting is being held between Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev

and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara. – DNA

China helps transform Pak digital landscape": Nayapay CEO

BEIJING: "Inspirations from China help me transform Pakistan's digital landscape", said NayaPay Chief Executive Officer and Founder Dr. Danish A. Lakhani in an interview with CEN. Danish A. Lakhani travelled to China a lot to meet their partners in the fields of Internet, optical fiber, telecommunications, etc. It was during those trips that he saw the emergence of WeChat and AliPay and decided to develop a fintech company in Pakistan. Nayapay is making a splash in Pakistan by securing \$13 million seed fund, the largest in South Asia, to roll out its multi-service messaging and payment app and to build payment acceptance and financial management



Danish started his digital journey. "From taking a taxi to booking a seat at Haidilao (a famous hotpot brand), to ordering food and paying for the meal, the entire process is digital. It was an outstanding experience", Dr. Danish recalled. "In Pakistan, about 63 percent of the population comprises of youth. We believe that an equivalent of WeChat and AliPay is something that is just a matter of time. So we tried", said Dr. Danish, who aspires to bring a digital payments revolution in Pakistan. Dr. Danish is an old hand entrepreneur. After graduation from Stanford university with a graduate degree in electrical engineering and from Harvard Business School, he returned to Pakistan to build Cybernet, a leading Internet service provider which is working with Hengtong Group on the China-Pakistan section of the PEACE undersea internet cable project that connects China, Pakistan Europe, and Africa. - APP

UK to simplify refugee process

LONDON: Britain is to simplify its much-criticised visa process for refugees fleeing Russia's war in Ukraine from next week, the government said on Thursday.

"From Tuesday, I can announce that Ukrainians with passports will no longer need to go to a visa application centre to give their biometrics before they come to the UK," Home Secretary Priti Patel told parliament. Patel said that she had received "assurances on security matters" which enabled her to make changes to the Ukrainian family scheme. "Instead, once their application has been considered and appropriate checks completed, they will receive direct notification that they're eligible for the scheme and can come to the UK." Patel and her department have been accused of forcing Ukrainian refugees to jump through hoops to secure visas to travel to the UK. Hundreds have travelled to the Channel port of Calais in the hope of crossing to join family in Britain, only to be turned away because of a lack of travel documents. - **APP**

US VP Harris embraces call for war crimes probe of Russia

WARSAW: US Vice President Kamala Harris on Thursday embraced calls for an international war crimes investigation of Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, citing the "atrocities" of bombing civilians, including a maternity hospital. Speaking alongside Polish President Andrzej Duda at a press conference in Warsaw, where she is demonstrating U.S. support for NATO's eastern flank allies, Harris expressed outrage over the bombing Wednesday of the maternity hospital and scenes of bloodied pregnant women being evacuated, as well as other attacks on civilians. She stopped short of directly accusing Russia of having committed war crimes. "Absolutely there should be an investigation, and we should all be watching," said Harris, noting that the United Nations has already started a process to review allegations. "I have no question the eyes of the world are on this war and what Russia has done in terms of this aggression and these atrocities. Duda, for his part, said "it is obvious to us that in Ukraine Russians are committing war crimes." He added that in his view the invasion was "bearing the features of a genocide – it aims at eliminating and destroying a nation." Harris praised the Polish people for their generosity for taking in nearly 1.5 million refugees since Russia invaded Ukraine last month. "I've been watching or reading about the work of ordinary people doing extraorand so I bring you thanks from the American people, earlier during a meeting with Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki hours after the U.S. House passed massive spending bill that includes \$13.6 billion in aid for Ukraine and its European allies. The legislation includes \$6.8 bil lion to care for refugees and other economic aid to allies. Later Thursday, the vice president was slated to meet with Ukrainian refugees who have fled to Posince the Russian invasion began. The vice president is also scheduled to meet with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau while in Warsaw. The Canadian leader has been in Europe in recent days meeting with allies about Ukraine. Harris' whirlwind visit to Poland and Romania was billed by the White House as a chance for the vice president to consult with two of the leaders from eastern flank NATO nations about the growing humanitarian crisis caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. - DNA

Iran will not forgo nuclear program: Khamenei

"Regional presence gives us more strategic depth and national strength. Why should we give it up? Scientific nuclear advance has to do with the country's needs in the near future and, if we do away with [the nuclear program], who will we have to ask for [nuclear knowhow to meet our demands

DNA

TEHRAN: Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei savs Iran will not give up on its regional presence and peaceful nuclear program as two factors that contribute to the country's national power. Addressing a meeting on Thursday with Iran's Assembly of Experts, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "It is vital for any country to have national power."

He said any nation seeking independence and resistance against the will of others needs to "stand strong, otherwise it will be fearful, weak, humiliated and constantly worried about the

foreigners' greedy eyes." Ayatollah Khamenei described national power as a "compound issue" and an "intertwined network" comprised of multiple factors. The Leader said among the "pillars of national power" are "security and defense power," "economy, public welfare and easy livelihood," "the power of politicking and bargaining to fulfill national interests in at the regional and global front," and "culture and lifestyle," among other things. "None of these arms of national power should be cut off in favor of one pillar and the other," Ayatollah Khamenei said. "Regional presence

gives us more strategic

depth and national strength.

Why should we give it up? Scientific nuclear advance has to do with the country's needs in the near future and, if we do away with [the nuclear program], who will we have to ask for [nuclear knowhow to meet our demands]? the Leader asked. It is a big mistake to retreat in the face of America or any other power for securing protection against sanctions, which will deal a blow to the nation's political power, Ayatollah Khamenei said.



Iran rejects AL foreign minister's accusations

News Desk

TEHRAN: The spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry has dismissed the latest report by foreign ministers of the Arab League and the so-called Quartet Committee, noting that leveling accusations against Tehran will impede improvement of regional Arab states with the Islamic Republic. In his Thursday remarks, Saeed Khatibzadeh was reacting to a statement issued on Wednesday by the so-called Ministerial Committee of the Arab Quartet, which accused Iran, among other things, of interfering in regional countries' affairs. Khatibzadeh said that such repeated statements will only impede the strengthening of Iran's relations with its neighbors. The spokesman once again reaffirmed Iran's unwavering position on the necessity of recourse to diplomatic channels in order to promote dialogue among neighboring countries and overcome the existing misunderstandings.

Spain PM accuses **Russia of** war crimes

MADRID: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez on Thursday accused Russia of "war crimes", a day after a shocking attack on a children's hospital in the Ukrainian city of Mariupol. Wednesday's airstrike hit a maternity and children's hospital in the besieged southern port city, killing two adults and a child, city officials said, updating a previous figure of 17 people wounded. "We're seeing how hospitals are being bombed. They are attacking civil society in an indiscriminate manner, therefore clearly violating human rights and more than likely committing war crimes, Sanchez said during a visit to a Ukrainian refugee centre near Madrid.

"Such war crimes cannot go unpunished." The bombing, which practically destroyed the hospital, triggered global outrage, with Ukraine denouncing the "barbaric' attack as a "war crime".

Russia's foreign ministry did not deny the attack but accused Ukrainian "nationalist battalions" of using the hospital to set up firing positions after moving out staff and patients. Even before the bombing, the chief prosecutor at the International Criminal Court in The Hague said last week he would look into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Ukraine since Moscow's invasion on February 24.

And earlier this week, Germany's federal prosecutor opened a probe into suspected war crimes by Russian troops. Spain's public prosecutor also opening an inquiry into "serious violations of international humanitarian law" by Russian troops in Ukraine. - APP

Hundreds protest in Argentina against IMF deal

BUENOS AIRES: Hundreds of protesters marched in Argentina's capital Buenos Aires on Wednesday to denounce the government's recent \$44 billion deal with Fund (IMF) to help restructure its debt payments. Answering a call by trade unions, they gathered in the city center and marched from May Avenue to the Palace of the Argentine National Congress. Chanting anti-IMF slogans, the protesters held banners saying "No to IMF debt repayments.

The debt agreement is "fraud," Carlos Peiro, a union leader, told Anadolu Agency. "This debt is the surrender of sovereignty ... The IMF will act as a sub-government, and we totally reject that." The government reached a

deal with the IMF to revamp a failed 2018 loan during the presidency of Mauricio Macri when Argentina received a \$57 billion loan because of a deep economic crisis.

According to the IMF, the Extended Fund Facility, with requested access of Special Drawing Rights aims to provide Argentina with the balance of payments and budget support to address the country's most pressing economic challenges and enhance the prospects of all Argentines by implementing measures designed to promote growth and protect essential social programs. – APP

UK sanctions seven more oligarchs LONDON: British gov-

ernment on Thursday announced a full asset freeze and travel ban on seven Russian oligarchs, including Chelsea football club owner Roman Abramovich, as Moscow's war on Ukraine continues. "Foreign Secretary Liz

Truss has today (Thursday 10 March) announced a full asset freeze and travel ban on seven of Russia's wealthiest and most influential oligarchs, whose business empires, wealth and connections are closely associated with the Kremlin,' a statement said.

It said the oligarchs, who have a collective net worth of around £15 billion (\$19.7 billion), were sanctioned "as part of the UK's leading efforts to isolate [Russian President Vladimir Putin," and "they are banned from travelling here and no UK citizen or company may do business with them." - APP



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Briefs

PPP misusing Sindh's resources, says Gill

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communications Dr. Shahbaz Gill on Thursday while referring to the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), said those who have used the resources of Sindh for their personal gains, cannot understand the problems of

common people. Responding to PPP Leader Bilawal Zardari's statement, he said shame on the people who were using the resources of Sindh for their personal gains. "PPP was rejected by the people in 2018 as people didn't trust them. Hundreds of innocent children were killed in 350 drone strikes during the PPP regime," he said.

About the opposition, he said those who criticized each other in the past, now have been united for personal gains. "The time is close when the Corrupt Alliance (opposition) will face nothing but humiliation and won't find a place to hide their corrupt faces," he said.

Germany, France call for cease-fire in Ukraine

BERLIN: In a phone call with the Russian president, German and French leaders called for an immediate cease-fire in Ukraine, government sources said on Thursday. Chancellor Olaf Scholz and French President Emmanuel Macron held a joint phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin ahead of today's EU leaders summit at the Versailles palace, according to a German official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Scholz and Macron, according to the official, underlined that a solution to the crisis can only be achieved through negotiations between Russia and Ukraine. Earlier in the day, Russian and Ukrainian foreign ministers held their first face-to-face meeting since the war stared on Feb. 24, but they could not achieve much progress for a comprehensive cease-fire. – APP

Indian troops martyr three youth in IIOJK

SRINAGAR, MAR 10 (DNA)

— In Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Indian troops in their fresh acts of state terrorism martyred three Kashmiri youth in Pulwama and Srinagar districts, on Thursday.

The troops martyred two youth during a cordon and search operation in Batpora Naina area of the district. Another youth was martyred by the troops during a similar operation in Hazratbal area of Srinagar. The troops have sealed all entry and exit points and suspended mobile internet service in the areas. – DNA

ASEAN countries gather to support a noble cause

Ambassador of Thailand being the Chairman of ASEAN Islamabad Committee along with member states donate things to Mashal Model School

Ansar M Bhatti

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Thailand Chakkrid Krachaiwong, who is also Chairman of the ASEAN Islamabad Committee, has said people to people contacts are very important and today's activity truly reflects this aspect.

The ambassador made these remarks during his visit to Mashal Model School in Nur Pur Shahan, Bari Imam. The ambassador was accompanied by the heads of missions of ASEAN countries including Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar and Vietnam. All missions brought with them gifts and various items for the school children. They remained with the children for quite some time and witnessed various shows presented by the kids. They were also taken to various classrooms in order for them to have an interaction with children.

Ambassador Karachaiwong further said people say that children are an asset of our future but I would say that they are equally important for our present as well. He said Covid pandemic posed some serious challenges for all of us but it does not mean that we should have stopped doing good things such as the one we are doing right now. Zeba Hussain Director of Mashal Model School in her opening remarks told that the school was founded in 2008 and is a nonprofit organization under section 45 C Charities Act.

She added, it is a registered trust with the govt of Pakistan. She said many children in Pakistan do not have access to education. In the urban slum area of Bari Imam, thousands of children are internally displaced persons with no state ID living below the poverty line.







'No progress' as top Russia, Ukraine diplomats talk

Monitoring Desk

ANKARA: Ukraine's foreign minister said he discussed a 24-hour ceasefire with his Russian counterpart but no progress was made as Moscow's representative defended its invasion and said it was going as planned. The foreign ministers of Russia and Ukraine met for face-to-face talks in Turkey on Thursday in the first high-level contact between the two sides since Moscow invaded its ex-Soviet neighbour last month. Ukraine's Dmytro Kuleba said he secured no promise from Russia's Sergey Lavrov to halt firing so aid could reach civilians, including the main humanitarian priority – evacuating hundreds of thou-

sands of people trapped in the besieged the ceasefire but no progress was accomplished on that," Kuleba told reporters after meeting Lavrov. "It seems that there are other decision-makers for this matter in Russia," Kuleba added in apparent reference to the Kremlin. He described the meeting as "difficult" and accused Lavrov of bringing "traditional narratives" to the table. "I want to repeat that Ukraine has not surrendered, does not surrender, and will not surrender," said Kuleba. Lavrov, meanwhile, said Russia wants to continue negotiations with Ukraine and President Vladimir Putin would not refuse a meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy to discuss "specific" issues.



FM apprises UN rights envoy of atrocities in IIOJK

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi met Ms. Michelle Bachelet, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in Islamabad. The Foreign Minister underscored Pakistan's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. He outlined the Government's policy aimed at ensuring human dignity, empowerment of women, advancing the rights of the child, safeguarding the rights of minorities, and promoting inter-faith harmony. Foreign Minister Qureshi and High Commissioner Bachelet discussed matters relating to the situation in Afghanistan. The Foreign Minister stressed that the people of Afghanistan were in dire need of international assistance and support to avert a humanitarian crisis and economic meltdown. While acknowledging the international community's expectations from Afghanistan on respect for human rights of all Afghans, the Foreign Minister stressed that the Afghan authorities should be constructively engaged. The international community should also fulfil its commitments of humanitarian and economic assistance to the Afghan people. The FM briefed on the gross, systematic and widespread violations of human rights in IIOJK While referring to the two Kashmir Reports issued by the OHCHR, he stressed the need for continuous monitoring of the grave human rights situation in IIOJK and measures to address it. - DNA

EU lawmakers concerned over treatment of rights defenders in India

ISLAMABAD: Members of the European Parliament Thursday expressed deep concern regarding the treatment of human rights defenders in India, especially those jailed under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA). In a letter addressed to Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, 21 members of European Parliament stated, "We, the undersigned Members of the European Parliament, are writing to express our concern over the treatment of human rights defenders (HRDs) in India." "We have followed cases of HRDs being jailed for their peaceful work, targeted under anti-terror laws, labeled as terrorists, and facing increasing restrictions on their ability to safely mobilize and access funds due to restrictive legislation. We are especially concerned about the safety of unjustly jailed defenders with emphasis on 15 HRDs accused in what is known as the Bhima Koregaon case and 13 defenders currently in jail for their campaign against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)."

Amendment Act (CAA)."

"We have followed – and written to you several times about – the Bhima Koregaon case since June 2018. The 16 well known HRDs jailed under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) are prominent individuals known for their commitment to the human rights of the most marginalized – particularly Dalit and Adivasi. They have been labeled as terrorists, subjected to deliberate smear campaigns and repeatedly denied bail

despite their age and the risks posed by Covid-19. We are anguished by the death in custody of 84 year-old Jesuit priest Stan Swamy, which we believe would have been preventable, had the octogenarian, suffering from advanced Parkinson's, been given access to timely medical care and proper treatment.

While we welcome the recent release on bail of Varavara Rao and Sudha Bharadwaj, we remain gravely concerned that the risk to the remaining jailed defenders are heightened by their age, underlying health issues and the pandemic and by accounts that they have frequently been denied phone calls to family and lawyers." They took note that the systemic use of anti-terror legislation the UAPA to quash dissent had been widely condemned including by sitting and retired Supreme Court judges.

"In particular, we are concerned that the UAPA permits detention without charge for up to 180 days and restricts recourse to bail. Its use poses even greater risks to those with health issues. We deplore that concerns raised locally and internationally have been met with silence and are shocked that not even the death in custody of a sick and elderly HRD and the serious medical issues faced by several others has prompted a change. The use of the UAPA against HRDs undermines the law's original intent and serves only to punish defenders for their work, without the need for trial and sentencing." – APP

Police conducts operation inside Parliament Lodges

PDM Chie urged all his party workers to reach the Parliament Lodges as soon as possible

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police on Thursday decided to conduct an operation inside the Parliament Lodges on the command of the director-general of police (operations). According to media, the police launched an operation inside the Parliament Lodges and arrested more than a dozen Ansar-ul-Islam workers, which is a security organisation of the JUI. The DIG instructed the officials to evacuate media personnel from the building as they made their way towards the lodge of Ansar-ul-Islam MNA, Salahuddin Ayubi, which was situated on the fourth floor of the building. Shortly afterwards, Ayubi's staff and police personnel started a clash. Several parliamentarians of the PPP and PML-N were also present in the lodges at the time of the lodge, while JUI's Maulana Fazlur Rehman had also reached the venue

During a scuffle between police and Ayubi's staff at the lodges, PML-N leader Khawa-ja Saad Rafique was injured when his foot hit the door. Rafique, while talking to journalists, said that Ayaz Sadiq was holding a meeting in the lodge when the incident happened. "We found out that the police had

entered the lodge and had surrounded it," he said, adding that when they contacted the police, they were informed that the police had warrants against some people. "We tried to convince them that they could not enter the lodges but the police personnel remained adamant and entered by force." Following the arrests of several workers and leaders, JUI chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman arrived at the Parliament Lodges to surrender himself before the police.

surrender himself before the police. Speaking to the journalists, he urged all his party workers to reach the Parliament Lodges as soon as possible.

He said that the "government wants to abduct the Opposition's members of the National Assembly by arresting them" to reduce their numbers for the no-confidence motion. "I will surrender myself along with some of my friends," he said, urging all workers to reach Islamabad as soon as possible. "I request all party workers to block roads and shut down businesses," Fazl said. According to media, police has also arrested Maulana Jamaluddin and Mufti Abdullah. – DNA

MARCH 2022

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