



Islamabad POST

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BRI cooperation with China transforms Pakistan's economy

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PPP demands resignation of NA speaker

Detailed News On Page-08



Cristiano Ronaldo becomes all-time top goal scorer

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Briefs

PM advised not to defame leaders

DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Quaid-e-Azam (PML-Q) leader Chaudhry Shujaat on Sunday advised Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan not to defame the political leaders of the country. According to details, the leader while quoting Verse-11 of Surah Al-Hujurat mentioned that PM Imran should read the translation of the verse. He said that PM always refers to the state of Madina, if he had read the translation of Surah Al-Hujurat, he would never have accused and entitled the political leaders with bad names.

Kaira says PM is confused

BUREAU REPORT

LALAMUSA: The Prime Minister has become confused and is creating an atmosphere of confrontation at the time when the no-confidence motion is to be presented. The PM's frustration can be judged by his language. These views were expressed by PPP senior leader Qamar Zaman Kaira. He said that Opposition parties only presented the no-confidence motion when the number game is in their favour. Kaira said that the no-confidence motion will succeed and the country will get rid of the incumbent Prime Minister.

Army can be deployed if needed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed on Sunday said Rangers and FC has been called for seven days adding that Army could also be deployed under Article 245 of the constitution if needed. Talking to media person at Women Business Forum organized by Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce here, the minister hoped that there would be no need to deploy Army as the Rangers and FC have already been summoned.

No worries; Will defeat Opp. plans

PM says those trying to dislodge him will get buried under the weight of their own conspiracy



DNA

HAFIZABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday said he was unfazed by the opposition's attempts to de-seat him through the no-trust move, saying the nation will witness that the "three rats who have united to dislodge the government will eventually get preyed upon" themselves. Addressing a rally in Punjab's Hafizabad, the prime minister first recalled the public welfare initiatives

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PTI leadership discusses no-trust motion

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: An important meeting of the senior leadership of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Sunday was held under the presidency of Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan. According to sources, the Prime Minister has devised a strategy to thwart the opposition's no-confidence motion. In this context, a consultative meeting was held under the chairmanship of Imran Khan in which the participants were briefed about the contacts with the angry party members. In the meeting Imran Khan stated that the opponents are not concerned about the people, they are concerned about their own corruption cases.

35 dead in Russian air strike on military base

Another nine people were killed in a strike on the southern city of Mykolaiv

NEWS DESK

KIEV: Russian air strikes killed 35 people at a military base outside Ukraine's western city of Lviv, local officials said on Sunday, in an attack that brings the conflict dangerously close to the Polish border. Another nine people were also killed in a strike on the southern city of Mykolaiv, the regional governor said, while the capital Kyiv braced for possible encirclement by Russian forces. In a video address posted on

Continued on Page 06

US journalist shot dead in Ukraine

UKRAINE: A US journalist was shot dead and another wounded on Sunday in Irpin, a frontline northwest suburb of Kyiv, medics and witnesses told AFP. Danylo Shapovalov, a surgeon volunteering for the Ukrainian territorial

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MULTAN: Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan Manuel Duran Gimenez-Rico meets with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. - DNA

Iran warns Israel after missile strike on bases

CENTRELINE REPORT

TEHRAN: Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has issued a stern warning to Israel following a retaliatory missile strike on the "strategic center of Zionist conspiracy and evil" in the northern Iraqi Kurdistan city of Erbil. In a statement issued Sunday, the IRGC indicated that the operation was in response to an Israeli airstrike on the Syrian capital of Damascus last Monday, in which two IRGC officers were killed. "Following the recent crimes of the fake Zionist regime and the previous announcement that the crimes and evils of this infamous regime will not go unanswered, the strategic center for conspiracy and evil of the Zionists was targeted by powerful and pinpoint missiles of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps," it said. A dozen ballistic missiles hit secret Mossad bases in Erbil, reportedly leaving several Israeli operatives dead. Citing security sources, Iraq's

Continued on Page 06

Iran suspends talks with Saudi Arabia: Report

FOREIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iran has reportedly suspended a fifth round of talks with Saudi Arabia, which was slated to be held in Iraq next week as part of a diplomatic process aimed at mending troubled ties between the two Persian Gulf neighbors. Nournews, which is affiliated to Iran's Supreme National Security Council, reported on Sunday that the Iranian side had "unilaterally and temporarily" suspended the talks. The development comes as Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein revealed during remarks at a diplomatic forum in Antalya on Turkey's southern coast that Baghdad was going to host another round of talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia on Wednesday.

Pevez Elahi tipped as new CM Punjab

Opposition parties agree on his new name

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The opposition parties, reportedly, have agreed on the name of PML Q leader and Speaker of the Punjab Assembly Ch Pervez Elahi to become the next Chief Minister of Punjab. Sources told this correspondent that PPP have conveyed the decision of the all opposition parties to the leadership of PML Q. In return the PML Q shall support no-trust move against Prime Minister Imran Khan. Sources claim the PML Q leadership is expected to make an announcement in this regard soon. The Federal Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed a few days ago had grilled the PML Q leadership for what he called its blackmailing tactics to get Punjab top slot with only five members. Analysts say Sheikh Rashid sought to vent his frustration after knowing the fact that the PML Q had decided to torpedo the ruling alliance. PML Q sources however are skeptical about opposition offer therefore want tangible guarantee that it will back out of its promises after dislodging the prime minister.

Will join hands with everyone to oust PM: Bilawal

Says long march proved the Prime Minister has lost the trust of the people



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilwal Bhutto Zardari on Sunday said that we will join hands with everyone to oust the undemocratic PM. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad the PPP Chairman said that we went to every person who could help in getting rid of the selected. If our numbers were not complete, would Imran Khan have been panicking. I challenge the National Assembly to convene today. He also asked the PM to answer that who he has been referring to as animals in his speech. The PPP Leader stated that Imran Khan believes in fixed match, adding that all democratic forces are using constitutional right against the undemocratic person. Not only the opposition but also the people are with us on the no-confidence motion. Proved

Continued on Page 06

Public should be ready to reach Capital

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Sunday has asked the public to be ready as the Opposition will summon them to Islamabad at any moment as the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan has been submitted to the National Assembly. Talking to journalists regarding the no-trust move, Fazl said the PM has lost the majority as well as the trust of his allies. "The matter is out of PM Khan's hands now," he claimed, adding that "he should gather 172 members against the Opposition in the National Assembly rather than gathering one million people for the Islamabad rally." The PDM chief said that the workers should reach Islamabad as soon as they are summoned. Taking a jibe at Sheikh Rasheed, who had claimed a day prior that he is standing in support with PM Imran Khan "like a wall", Fazl said that the so-called support is nothing short of feeble.

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Pak Navy conducts weapon firing during Seasark 2022 - Page 08

Pakistan must foster strong economic ties with the US and EU

Dr. Kaiser Bengali shared that a major amount of our tax revenue is used for debt servicing and defence. He added that nearly a quarter of our import bill is oil

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: A seminar on "State of Pakistan's Economy: Present and Future" was held on Saturday evening at the Institute of Business Management (IoBM), Karachi. It was jointly organized by the Pakistan Council on Foreign Relations (PCFR) and IoBM. The speakers included Pakistan's noted economist, Dr. Kaiser Bengali, and former FBR Chairman, Mr. Shabbir Zaidi. Veteran diplomats and former ambassadors were also present along with IoBM's management, faculty, and students. During his Welcome Address, Mr. Talib Karim, President, IoBM, remarked

Pakistan's economic future is a huge concern for the nation. He added that somehow, we continuously find ourselves entangled in various economic issues. He expressed the dire need for the resolution of such predicaments. Ambassador Shahid Amin, Chairman, PCFR, shared that the external factors including the Ukraine crisis and its impact on oil prices are affecting our internal situation. He reminisced how Pakistan's economic situation was seen as the best, nearly four decades ago. He mentioned that we must identify the shortcomings, clarify our economic problems and address each one in a non-partisan manner. Dr. Kaiser Bengali shared that a major amount of our tax revenue is used for debt servicing and defence. He added

that nearly a quarter of our import bill is oil. There are seven categories of oil that the country consumes and of these, two account for two-thirds of oil consumption, i.e., diesel and furnace oil. On the other hand, the railway uses one-third less fuel per kilometre, hence the use of railway will reduce 18% of oil consumption. He suggested to disband National Logistics Cell (NLC) and rehabilitate railways. All transport entities make revenue from cargo and subsidized passenger service and the same should be the case for railway. He called for the creation of a holding company comprising railways and NLC to integrate rail and road. He suggested to pursue indigenous power production and ban all non-consumer imports. Dr. Bengali recommended that three industries, i.e., paper, sugar, and automobile should be banned. He was confident that effective policies can reduce employment and poverty rate to a single digit in a decade.

Mr. Shabbir Zaidi presented an overview of Pakistan's economy from 1947 to 2022. He commented that Pakistan did not learn lessons from the 1971 debacle and in the succeeding years, there was no serious dialogue on the real economy. While presenting solutions to strengthen Pakistan's economy, he suggested better economic management, empower local governments, debt restructuring, re-examination of conventional defence expenditure and strong economic relations with the US and the EU. Ambassador Syed Hasan Habib presented a vote of thanks to the speakers, guests, and faculty members.



12 Gamblers arrested

DNA

ATTOCK: 12 gamblers were booked besides recovering Rs 2,10,830, Cell phones and others from their possession and arrested during raids at their gambling dens in Rango Police attack on Sunday. Spokesman of police informed that in a crackdown against the anti social elements Rango Police station got information that some people were busy in playing gambling in the area during course of action police arrested the 12 gamblers identified as Nasar Ahmed, Ahmed Ali, Sakhalen, Mansor Khan, Muhammad Waqar, Amir Ali, Yasir Mehmood, Ghulam Fareed, Sarfaraz, Muhammad Naseem, Sakawat Hussain and Muhammad Ijaz besides recovering Rs 2,10,830 and Mobile phones were confiscated. Police registered and registered case against all of them under gambling act. District Police Officer (DPO) Rana Sohaib Mehmood appreciated the performance of attack police team.

Shopkeepers fined on profiteering

FAISALABAD: The price control magistrates imposed Rs 99,000 fine on 61 shopkeepers on the charge of profiteering in the district during the past 12 hours. A spokesman for the administration said on Sunday that price control magistrates inspected various shops in different markets and bazaars of Faisalabad and found dozens of shopkeepers involved in profiteering and overcharging. The magistrates imposed a fine on them and warned that they would be sent behind bars if they did not mend their way of profiteering, he added. - APP

Excise police recovers 29 kg hashish

PESHAWAR: Excise police during crackdown on narcotics smuggling recovered 29 kilograms of hashish in two different actions. According to the department's spokesperson, the Excise police on a tip off stopped a suspected vehicle bearing number RLA-1948 near H Gol Chowk Peshawar and recovered 12kg hashish and arrested alleged smuggler Qayamuddin resident of Afghanistan currently Achini Payan Peshawar. The police in its second action recovered 17kg hashish from a vehicle bearing JA-4546 near Gardavi Gomal area of district Tank and arrested the smuggler. - APP

OPC Gujrat pledges to solve problems of overseas Pakistanis

YOOSUF BHUTTA

GUJRAT: "The District Overseas Pakistanis Committee has directed the Revenue and Police committees to play an active role to resolve the problems of overseas Pakistanis on priority basis. The committees are empowered to issue summons to the parties in a dispute." This was stated by the Deputy Commissioner Gujrat Dr. Khurram Shehzad and Choudhary Nouman Akbar Warraich, Chairman DOPC jointly during a fortnightly meeting here the other day. The meeting was also attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Mr. Amir Shehzad, Assistant Commissioners Mr. Waqar Hussain Khan, Mr. Umer Draz Gondal, Mr. Ahsan Mumtaz and Mr. Irfan Kalyar, District Attorney Miss Shakeela Choudhary, and police officers. It was disclosed in the meeting that the Revenue Police Committee headed by Assistant Commissioners includes DSP, Tehsildar, SHO, numbered person of the village concerned. The Assistant Commissioners have already set up Overseas Cells in their offices and if during the hearing of an appli-

cation the committee concludes that it requires criminal proceedings, the concerned DSP will issue instructions to the SHOs on the spot to register an FIR immediately. Earlier addressing the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Dr. Khurram Shehzad said that 104 complaints were pending before the committee last month. During the last 15 days, 81 of them have been investigated and reports have been sent to the Punjab government, Assistant Commissioners, Police and other departments. It has been directed to expedite the process of pending complaints.

He directed the District Attorney to prepare a list of cases of overseas Pakistanis pending in the local courts. District Chairman Overseas Pakistanis Committee Mr. Chaudhry Noman Akbar Warraich said that thousands of citizens of Gujrat district are living abroad and they are playing their full role for strengthening the national economy by sending valuable foreign exchange. He said that OPC is committed to solve the problems of Gujrat Overseas and for this purpose full cooperation of all departments including district administration and police is commendable.

Two robbers killed in the police encounter

ANWAR CHOHAN

LALAMUSA: According to details, four armed robbers robbed passers-by near Bhola Jalaluddin village in Saddar Lala Musa area and escaped on two motorcycles. On which SHO Dinga Inspector Liaqat Hussain along with his team set up a roadblock near village Tridanwala. As soon as the robbers reached near the police check post, they started firing indiscriminately as soon as they saw the police, on which the police party also opened fire in their defense. Was killed in indiscriminate firing by his own comrades. The three dacoits fled on motorcycles. When they reached near the check post near Karnana, they again started firing indiscriminately at the police party at the check post, while the police opened fire at their own discretion. He also died on the spot after being shot indiscriminately by his own comrades. While the other two robbers took advantage of the darkness and managed to escape. The two accused Amanullah and Bilal Hassan were wanted by different police stations in 17 incidents of robbery.

Police seized two motorcycles, snatched jewelry, cash and weapons from the spot and started investigation. Meanwhile, a search operation is being carried out by setting up roadblocks across the district to search for the absconding accused.

WB team, irrigation officials planted trees at Ballooki & Trimmu Barrages

BUREAU REPORT

KARACHI: The Task team leader, World Bank Mr Francois Onimus along officers of irrigation of Sindh and Punjab planted different variety of trees at Ballooki and Trimmu Barrages here yesterday. World Bank mission was while on a visit of Barrages of Sindh and Punjab provinces, Task Team leader Mr Francois Onimus during visit of Ballooki planted trees along with irrigations officials. World Bank irrigation expert Dr Charles M Burt, Project Director Sindh Barrages Improvement Project Chief Engineer Ghulam Mohi-uddin Mughal also planted trees at various locations. World Bank mission also visited at Trimmu Barrage, Task Team leader

Mr Francois Onimus also planted tree here at embankment of the Barrage and expressed great satisfaction while nature friendly work.

While, the delegation of Engineers of Sindh Irrigation department led by Chief Engineer, project Director Sindh Barrages Improvement Bar-



rage Ghulam Mohi-uddin Mughal, Deputy Project Director Sajid Ali Bhutto, Technical Officer Engineer Imran Aziz Tunio, Deputy Director environment Sindh Barrages Improvement Project of Guddu and Sukkur Barrages Dr Ali Asghar Mahesar (PhD Hydraulics irrigation) were present and also visited the Barrages on the occasion. The main focus of delegations was to know, how the flow rate measured at off taking canals and Barrages in Sindh and Punjab provinces. Irrigation Officials of Punjab province led by Mr Ijaz-ul-Hassan Kashif Head PMO Barrages Punjab, Amir Khan Chief SPRU Habibullah Bodla Chief Lahore, Raza Abbasi Head PMO canals and his team accompanied the World Bank mission and Sindh Irrigation officers.



WAZIRABAD: Group photo of Chairman Cutlery Association Mohammad Khalid Mughal, Mehr Rashid Rafiq Bhatta, Principal Mohammad Ilyas Cheema and others with position holder students on the occasion of annual sports gala of Government Associate College of Commerce. - DNA

HEC accepts APUBTA demands

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Higher Education Commission (HEC) has finally accepted the demands of All Pakistan Universities BPS Teachers Association (APUBTA) for equal opportunities of promotions and assured that service structure policy would also be formally notified before May 15, 2022 after its approval by the competent authority. Dr. Hafsa Jamshaid of APUBTA Faisalabad Chapter said that all departments have a comprehensive departmental promotion system but the BPS university teachers were deprived of their legitimate rights. She said that teachers recruited under Tenure Track System (TTS) were enjoying the promotion but the BPS teachers were facing discriminatory behavior by the HEC. "This situation had promoted dependency among the BPS teachers", she said and added that they were peacefully protesting but HEC remained adamant to their genuine and legitimate demands. She said that this situation forced BPS teachers to stage a protest in front of HEC. She said that Madam Shaista Sohail Executive Director HEC negotiated with the protesting teachers and assured that their service structure and promotion related matters would be finalized before May 15 up to the entire satisfaction of the protestors. She said that upon this assurance, the protesting BPS teachers dispersed peacefully.

3 killed, 12 injured in different incidents

FAISALABAD: Three persons were killed and 12 others sustained multiple injuries in different incidents in Faisalabad during the past 12 hours. A spokesperson for Rescue-1122 said on Sunday that a speeding wagon overturned near Sahianwala Interchange. As a result, Ghulam Fajal (60) received serious injuries and died on-the-spot, while Rescue-1122 provided first aid to five other victims including Ahmad Nawaz (8), Arsalan Nawaz (10), Areeba Nawaz (12), Allah Mafi (35) and Muhammad Ali (70). Similarly, four women including Manzooran Bibi (70), Sattan Bibi (45), Bharanwan Bibi (40) and Allah Mafi (30) were injured due to rival clash over property dispute in Chak No 450-GB Tandlianwala and were sifted to Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital Tandlianwala for treatment. In another accident, Muhammad Shafiq (44) was killed when his speeding tractor hit a roadside tree near Adda Chak No 77 at Sittiana Road, while the body of an unknown addict was found from a place near Darbar Baba Lasoori Shah, Lorry Adda. - APP

Students should participate in healthy activities

KHALID MAHMOOD

WAZIRABAD: Students are the future of the nation. They should focus on education as well as sports. These views were expressed by Chairman Pakistan Cutlery Association and PTI leader Muhammad Khalid Mughal at Government Associate College of Commerce Wazirabad while addressing the awards ceremony on the occasion of Sports day. The ceremony was presided over by Principal Prof. Muhammad Ilyas Cheema. Prof. Muhammad Saleem Waraich, Prof. Muhammad Akhtar Masood Sajid Cheema, Prof. Abdul Shakoor, Muhammad Asif, Muhammad Ahsan, Dr. Khalid Mahmood, Dr. Syed Raza Sultan, Muhammad Bashir Cheema were also present on the occasion. Speaking on the occasion, Principal Prof. Muhammad Ilyas Cheema said that it is important for a healthy mind to have a healthy body and for a healthy body it is necessary to participate in sports so that students can participate in sports as well as education.

Special Guest Muhammad Khalid Mughal said that promotion of e-commerce education is very important as per the need of the hour. E-commerce subjects should also be introduced in this college so that the youth of an industrial city like Wazirabad can play their everlasting role in the development of the country and nation by selling its products all over the world through e-commerce. He further said that this institute has rendered invaluable services in equipping the students of Wazirabad and adjoining areas with commerce education while being the champion of Punjab in sports in a rented building is also commendable. He said he was working with the Cutlery Association and the PTI platform to build his own college building and acquire land. God willing, there will be good news in this regard soon. Addressing the function, the guest of honor Mehr Rashid Rafiq Bhatta said that students should pay full attention to sports as well as education and stay away from negative activities. On this occasion, special guests distributed prizes among the students.

DC holds meeting with transporters



ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Divisional Commissioner Zahid Hussain hold an important meeting with transporters and traders. Commissioner said that the government of Pakistan has decided to reduce the prices of petroleum products by Rs 10 from March 1, and also maintain the prices till June 30 therefore the fare should be decreased as per the ratio of reduction and provided the relief to the passengers. He said that would welcoming the cooperation of transporters and will resolving the problems of public transporters is also a top priority. He

asked the Secretary RTA to provide a report on reduction in fares. Divisional Commissioner also appreciated the continuous role of traders and said that consumers should be provided essential commodities at controlled rates. He said that they should avoid overcharging and their rights would be fully protected. He said that the challenge of availability of essential commodities at ramzan bazar will be met only with the cooperation of traders. He took personal interest in resolving some of the issues raised by the traders and assured them of their solution, for which the traders paid homage to the efforts of the Commissioner.

24 Covid patients under treatment in Peshawar

PESHAWAR: As many as 24 corona patients are being treated in two major hospitals Khyber Teaching Hospital and Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar, an health official told journalists here on Sunday. The health official said that 122 beds are allotted for corona patients in Khyber Teaching Hospital and a total of 14 patients suffering from corona are being treated at Khyber Teaching Hospital. 28 ventilators are reserved for corona patients at Khyber Teaching Hospital, he added. He said 3 patients of corona in Khyber Teaching Hospital are on Intensive Care Unit (ICU) with 6 patients infected with corona are undergo-

ing treatment at HDU. He said 31 patients have been allotted low amounts of oxygen and 5 patients are undergoing treatment on them. In the last 24 hours, 2 corona patients have been admitted in Khyber Teaching Hospital. The number of coronavirus patients in Lady Reading Hospital has come down to 10 with four hundred beds have been allotted for coronavirus patients in LRH. He said 3 patients were admitted in ICU and only 2 new patients have been admitted in the last 24 hours. He said vaccine booster dose is playing its role in preventing corona. - APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

MARCH

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March 03/ Bulgaria	National Day
March 06/ Ghana	Independence Day
March 12/ Mauritius	National Day
March 17/ Ireland	St. Patrick's Day
March 20/ Tunisia	Independence Day
March 21/ Namibia	National Day
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Increase in remittances shows confidence of expatriates

The Adviser urged the overseas Pakistanis to invest in Pakistan and take advantage of business friendly initiatives of the government

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib says increase in annual remittances from eight-billion to thirty billion dollars shows confidence of overseas Pakistanis in the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan. Addressing three-day overseas Pakistanis convention in Islamabad on Sunday, he said overseas Pakistanis have always supported Imran Khan and PTI. He said they have been a source of PTI's fund. The Minister of State said

overseas Pakistanis played a pivotal role in making Imran Khan as Prime Minister of Pakistan. He said incumbent government has legislated for giving voting right to overseas Pakistanis. Farrukh Habib said Prime Minister Imran Khan has improved image of Pakistan and increased value of green passport. He said Imran Khan leading Pakistan with an independent foreign policy. He said Imran Khan has always raised voice for peace and against wars. He said all initiatives by the government aims at providing relief to the poor class of the society. In his remarks, Adviser on



Overseas Pakistanis Muhammad Ayub Afridi said government will introduce E-gate system to facilitate overseas Pakistanis at the time of

their arrival in Pakistan. Addressing three-day overseas convention in Islamabad on Sunday, he said government is also taking steps to introduce online facilities in Pakistan's embassies abroad. He said with online services overseas Pakistanis will be able to obtain visas and NICOPs without visiting the embassy. He said Koshan Digital Account has enabled overseas Pakistanis to open their bank accounts in Pakistan. The Adviser urged the overseas Pakistanis to invest in Pakistan and take advantage of business friendly initiatives of the government. Speaking on the occasion, Adviser

on Parliamentary Affairs Babar Awan said PTI government will complete its tenure and will be elected again for second term. He said Prime Minister Imran Khan has led the nation successfully in crises like COVID-19 and poor economy. He said in previous governments around 800 drone strikes were carried out by US in Pakistan but Imran Khan did not allow this. The Adviser congratulated overseas Pakistanis for getting right to vote. He said we will overcome the no-confidence movement against Prime Minister Imran Khan with the help of law and constitution.



RAWALPINDI: Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed visiting a traditional exhibition bazaar at Women Business Bazaar. – DNA

Pak must benefit from ASEAN economy: Iftikhar

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan must benefit from \$3 trillion Associations of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) economy for boosting bilateral trade and further cementing economic ties. It was stated by President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik here on Sunday while talking to Pak origin traders delegation from Vietnam led by engineer Ahmad Muzammil Qamar Kamboh. He said with ASEAN's \$3 trillion economic power and a large market of 650 million people in the region, the mutual \$7 billion trade between ASEAN and Pakistan is far below its potential. He said Pakistan is a huge market with a population of 230 million where there are huge opportunities for ASEAN countries as well. Iftikhar Ali Malik said China has \$600 billion in trade with ASEAN countries. Similarly China and ASEAN countries have a free trade agreement with Pakistan from which both sides can benefit. Regarding multilateral trade in ASEAN and Pakistan's trade interests with this trading bloc, the Vietnam being it's an important member can also play its role in paying the way for trade with Pakistan. He added that ASEAN is a very effective trading block of the world having signed the free trade agreements (FTAs) with China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand from which all the regional countries are benefiting. He said that way Pakistan has GSP (Generalised Scheme of Preference) plus agreement with European countries and FTA with other countries now both sides can promote bilateral trade under one agreement. Iftikhar Ali Malik who is also chairman United Business Group in the federation of Pakistan chamber of commerce and industry said his group recently held a result oriented forum in Islamabad with ASEAN countries which was participated by Vietnam Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong, Ambassador of Thailand Chakkrir Kravhain and Malaysian Acting Ambassador. – APP

Two-day festival organized at BARI

RAWALPINDI: A two-day Youth Festival, organized at Barani Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Chakwal with the aim of introducing youth to modern agricultural technology and agrribusiness opportunities in collaboration with public and private institutions has concluded. According to Director BARI, Chakwal, Muhammad Rafiq Dogar, there is a huge potential for development in the agriculture sector. Young people are the capital of the nation and they can make profits in this sector by adopting modern agricultural production technology. The purpose of the two-day festival was to encourage the youth to join this sector and use their potential to the fullest. He further said that BARI, Chakwal had distributed over 2 million olive plants among the farmers to translate this area into olive valley and olive growers in the area were also benefiting from the existing factory set up for extraction of olive oil. – APP

NPO seeks proposals, ideas on productivity

ISLAMABAD: The National Productivity Organization (NPO) is organizing a competition to get ideas, proposals and solutions to promote productivity in the country. The NPO is initiating Pakistan's first productivity movement through PSDP project titled "Improving Competitiveness through Sustainable National Productivity (SNP)", said NPO document. SNP key activities includes launch of productivity movement and portal, awareness session, essay/article competition, curriculum activities, online courses, productivity walk and competitions, national and international conferences, celebration of productivity week and awareness campaign through documentaries, print and social media. – APP

Satrang gallery showcases self experiences exhibition

ISLAMABAD: Satrang Gallery and Serene Arts Sunday organized an exhibition titled 'Ruminations' in which collection of Affan Baghpati, Dua Abbas Rizvi and Imran Ali Kazmi was presented to support and promote the artists and artisans of the country. This exhibition seeks to explore the archive, the nostalgic splendor of it but also the materiality of it through objects which absorb memory and emotion. The processes of collecting, mapping, preserving, rearranging and combining are continuously in motion, said a press

release issued here. The artists in this exhibition work with the archive in their own ways, looking to their own or a larger repertoire of lived experiences, material remains and fictional narratives to create alternative histories and current realities. An artist Affan Baghpati said "I work with items from different cultures to understand the gaps and disconnections of the present time. Object-making techniques and borrowed imagery are part of my studio practice". – APP

Chairman CDA Amir Ali Ahmed inaugurates Hill Park

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority on Sunday inaugurated Hill Park located on 3rd Road Sector G-10/4 Islamabad. Member Finance, officers of the relevant formations and representatives business community were also present on this occasion. The Chairman Capital Development Authority also launched the Spring Tree Plantation drive 2022 and planted a plant sapling at Hill Park while the Department of Environment also planted more than 500 trees during the opening ceremony




of the park. He directed the concerned departments to take further steps for proper lighting system. – DNA

Alvi directs SLICP to pay widow's insurance claim

ISLAMABAD: Expressing displeasure over an unnecessary delay of seven years in the payment of life insurance claim to a widow, President Dr Arif Alvi directed the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLICP) to pay the sum assured of Rs 412,000, as well as add inflation cost/interest to the accrued amount. He further directed SLICP to apologize to the widow and change its financial system attitude and report compliance to Wafaqi Mohtasib within 30 days. The president passed these orders while rejecting a representation of SLICP against a decision of the Wafaqi Mohtasib, directing it to pay the claimants the assured amount without further delay. As per the details, the deceased Zahid Altaf Bhatti had obtained two life insurance policies from SLICP (the Agency) on 06.07.2007 and 25.06.2010 for the sum assured of Rs 212,000 and Rs 200,000 respectively. He died on 20.03.2015 and his wife, Fouzia Zahid Bhatti (the complainant), approached

the Agency to pay the insurance claim but the latter refused to pay the sum on the ground that the deceased had pre-insurance ailments and was a patient of liver disease/hepatitis C. Feeling aggrieved, Fouzia Zahid Bhatti filed a complaint with Wafaqi Mohtasib who directed SLICP to pay the amount and report compliance within 30 days. Instead of implementing the orders of the Wafaqi Mohtasib, SLICP filed a representation with the President against the decision of the Mohtasib. Rejecting the representation, President Dr Arif Alvi referred to section 80 of the Insurance Ordinance, 2000, which provided that an insurance policy could not be called into question on the grounds of misrepresentation, false statement or suppression of material facts after two years from the date when the policy was originally effected. In the present case, the policies were issued in 2007 and 2010, whereas the policyholder expired in 2015, thus, the policy could not be called into question. – APP



MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY

e-Bidding System
شفاف، تیز اور جدید

INVITATION FOR e-BIDS

- National Highway Authority (NHA) invites e-bids from eligible contractors, registered with income tax department and who are on Active Taxpayers List of Federal Board of Revenue, having valid PEC Registration for the works mentioned below :-

Sr. #	Contract #	Work Description/Route/ Chainage	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Minimum PEC Requirement
1	TP-2015-16-SS-Sassui	Km 118+500(N-5/KTH) Construction of 6 Lane at Sassui Toll Plaza	59,099,327	C-4 & Above Having Specialization (CE-01, CE-10 & BC-01)
2	TP-2015-16-SS-Aamri	Km 102+000(N-55) Construction of 6 Lane at Aamri Toll Plaza	58,745,557	
3	TP-2015-16-SS-KNB-II	Km 54+000 to 55+000 (KNB/M-10) Construction of 6 Lane at KNB-II Toll Plaza	60,080,337	
4	AF-2018-19-SS-01	Special Maintenance Work for Furnishing & Plantation of Trees including Maintenance for Two Years - Between Km 135 - 268 on N-55	45,490,093	C-5 & Above Having Specialization (CE-10)
5	AF-2020-21-SS-01	Special Maintenance Work for Furnishing & Plantation of Trees including Maintenance for Two Years - Between Km 00 - 88 on N-120	25,592,054	
6	SM-2020-21-SS-01	Special Maintenance Work Construction of New Jersey Barrier (Precast) for Double Face and Formation Embankment Km 08+000 - 15+000 (KNB/M-10)	6,947,650	C-5 & Above having Specialization in CE-01 & CE-10
7	SM-2020-21-SS-02	Special Maintenance Work Installation of Electric Poles & Lighting System Base on Solar Energy System Km 0+000 - 17+000 (LEW) SBC/NBC	67,739,369	C-4 & Above having Specialization in EE-06 & EE-11
8	SM-2020-21-SS-03	Construction of RCC Drain in Sehwan Sharif Km 136 - 138 on N-55	10,062,990	C-5 & above having Specialization in CE-01 & CE-10

- The bidding shall be done through NHA e-Bidding System. Contractors, having valid PEC registration are required to create their "On-line User Account" for participation in the bidding of Maintenance Works. User Guide, illustrating the steps to create "On-line User Account", is available at www.ebidding.nha.gov.pk. Access to "NHA e-bidding system" for bidding, will be granted upon submission of pre-requisite documents as per guide line. Bid submitted, by using NHA e-bidding system, will only be considered, whereas other bids will be rejected.
- Complete set of bidding documents for the above-mentioned Works, containing detailed terms & conditions, method of procurement (Single Stage - Two Envelopes procedure), submission of e-Bids, Bid Security, bid validity, opening of e-Bid, Evaluation Criteria, etc. will be available on NHA website on or before **March 21, 2022** for downloading free of cost. Bidders are also advised to follow the NHA website for updates of bidding schedule and addendum(s), if any.
- The e-bid must be prepared and submitted through NHA e-Bidding system in accordance with the instructions contained in the bidding documents. Hard copy of e-Bid prepared through NHA e-Bidding system, must reach at the address mentioned below on or before **April 05, 2022 till 1200 Hours**. Technical e-Bids (submitted through NHA e-Bidding system) and envelope containing hard copy of Technical e-Bid, will be opened on the same day at **1230 Hours**. "Financial Bids of the qualified bidders will be opened in sequence and Maximum Two (02) contracts will be awarded to a single bidder and his further bids will not be considered for award of subsequent works."
- The Bidders providing unsubstantiated and/or incorrect information shall be liable to disqualification and/or legal action. NHA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids at any time prior to the acceptance of a bid or proposal (As Per PPRa Rule 2004, clause 33).
- This advertisement is also available on PPRa website at www.ppra.org.pk.

GENERAL MANAGER (SINDH-SOUTH)
NATIONAL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY-KARACHI
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
NHA Complex Near Drig Road Railway Station, Shahrah-e-Faisal Karachi
Tel: 021-99248921, Fax: 021-34602407
Email: directormaintsindhouth@gmail.com & gmsindhouth@gmail.com

PID NO 6438

Briefs

Secy Edu
lauds NBF
promotion

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary Education Naheed S. Durrani highly appreciated role of National Book Foundation (NBF) for promoting book reading culture across the country and the sales proceeds during Education Expo-2022.

While visiting along with Managing Director National Book Foundation Raja Mazhar Hameed, she also lauded the recent various initiatives by NBF to launch a series of innovative projects to promote book reading culture, said a press release issued here.

According to NBF, these initiatives included the formation of Village Book Clubs, City Book Clubs, Children's Book Clubs, Prisoners' Free Minds Book Clubs, Senior Citizens Book Clubs, Travelers' Book Clubs (Books on Wheels), Flying Book Clubs, and Hospital Book Clubs. NBF has come up with another novel idea to appoint book-loving celebrities of the country as Book Ambassadors to play their role in promoting book-reading habits.

Uzbekistan
corner at Lok
Virsa attracts
people

ISLAMABAD: The newly renovated Uzbekistan corner at Lok Virsa Museum is attracting a large number of people with an aim to promote Uzbek traditional and cultural heritage. Lok Virsa established the corner with support of the Embassy of Uzbekistan. Talking to APP an official of Lok Virsa Inam Hussainsaid, "an embroidered panel and national dress of Uzbekistan called 'Suzanna' gifted by Embassy to Lok Virsa for displaying at the Uzbek cultural corner of the Museum".

He said Lok Virsa showcases the cultures of all Central Asian States including Uzbekistan and provides an illustration to the visitors about the cultural similarities that Pakistan shares with these countries. He also said that poets, writers, thinkers of both countries would interact to learn from each others art, cultural heritage and art as all these played a key role to bring nations together. A large number of people, from across the country and even from abroad, come to the centre to get a taste of the different cultures of Pakistan. For this purpose, Lok Virsa organizes cultural exhibits and performances of artisans and craftsmen from all corners of the country. - APP

Water storage
capacity
to increase
11.7 MAF

ISLAMABAD: After completion of 10 under construction Wapda projects, the gross water storage capacity in Pakistan would increase from 13 million acre feet (MAF) to more than 24 MAF with an addition of 11.7 MAF, sufficient to irrigate another 1.6 million acres of land. The under construction Wapda projects include five dams, three hydropower projects, one canal and one water supply scheme. Diyar Bhasha Dam, Mohmand Dam, Dasu Hydropower Project, NaiGaj Dam, Kachhi Canal Extension, Sindh Barrage and K-IV Project were among the projects, said official sources. The installed hydel generation capacity would be doubled and set to cross 18,000 MW with an addition of 9,000 MW on completion of these projects, he continued. The under construction Wapda projects would also provide about 35,000 job opportunities during the construction, he added.

The per capita water availability in Pakistan had come down from 5650 cubic meter in 1951 to an alarming level of 908 cubic meter per annum, pushing us to the stage of water-scarce country. Pakistan can store only 10 per cent of its annual river flows against the world average of 40 per cent, he told.

In order to tackle the impending water scarcity, we need to have more water storages besides practicing good water conservation and management strategies, he said. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Leader of the house in Senate Dr. Shahzad Wasim calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan. - DNA

Poland reciprocates Pak
goodwill gesture: Envoy

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Poland share good relations which was evident from the presence of Polish Ambassador Maciej Piasarski and his wife Justyna Maria Piasarski on the occasion of the arrival of stranded Pakistanis from Ukraine.

In an exclusive talk with APP on this occasion, the ambassador said, "I am sure Pakistan would have done the same for us." He specially mentioned Pakistan's positive role in the

"I am here with my wife to show solidarity with the parents and share their pain as they were worried for the safety of their children. As parents they had to witness which no parent should ever have to"

safe evacuation of foreigners stuck in Afghanistan. Piasarski said, "I am here with my wife to show solidarity with the parents and share their pain as they were worried for the safety of their children. As parents they had to witness which no parent should ever have to." It was an unusual goodwill gesture for such dignitaries to ensure their personal presence at such odd hours and when traveling was very difficult due to political rallies in the capital. This expression of solidarity was greatly appreciated by the students and their families. "At desperate times like this when there is no dearth of gloomy stories, even a single story carrying a message of hope,

cooperation, and humanitarian consideration is remembered for ever", he observed. The ambassador said, "We as embassy are happy that this ordeal has ended on a happy reunification."

He hoped to see a quicker secession of hostilities and end of human sufferings in the war zone. It needs mention that Poland is the major recipient of refugees. Around 230 Pakistanis returned from Ukraine by PIA's special flight. The repatriated Pakistanis were lifted from Warsaw after having crossed over to Poland from Ukraine. The rescued passengers, mostly students, come from different parts of Pakistan. - APP

PTA takes action against
fake SIMs, mobile devices

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The modern-day electronic gadget of smart phone or what may be called as pocket-size mini-computer has more connected the world than ever before through various apps and social media websites during the last two decades or so. Thus the rapid digitization has transformed almost everything on face of the earth: economy to government-citizens' interaction, market-customer relations to healthcare and education. The speed of digitization has doubled in Pakistan during the last few years firstly due

to the government initiatives to modernize and reform the centuries-old obsolete system to ease the conditions of exhausting paperwork and to catch the pace of technological development. Secondly, the Covid-19 pandemic has also forced people to make maximum use of electronic gadgets when they were restricted to their homes. Thus exponential growth was witnessed in sale and purchase of electronic gadgets in the country. But the modern-day gadgets have also brought about a range of novel techniques of crimes and fraudulent activities to deprive innocent citizens from their hard

earned money. Therefore, the government has ensured a tedious process of SIMs and mobile registration to protect the rights of the people. It has also formulated a number of laws to curtail cyber crimes in the country. In this regard, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) during the last three years has blocked about 526,082 fake SIMs and 360,569 CNIC used for getting telecom sector gadgets. The authority has also blocked around 86,000 mobile devices that were found involved in fraudulent activities, a senior official of the authority said. "Blocking of SIMs involved in frauds

is a less plenty to the elements looting the peoples, so causing them a financial damage, the authority has blocked about 86,000 mobile devices during the last one year", he added. From November 2020 to November 2021, he said, about 600 percent decrease had been witnessed in the sale of fake, illegal SIMs across the country. About 2,962 retailers terminated on the charge of issuing fake SIMs while about 532 franchisees were issued warnings. The operation of about 52 franchisees had also been terminated while 23.5 million penalties had also been imposed on the franchisee.

Over 8.2 mln Overseas
Pakistanis registered
with NADRA: Tariq Malik

ISLAMABAD: Chairman National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA), Muhammad Tariq Malik here on Sunday said that over 8.2 million Overseas Pakistanis registered with NADRA and the government was committed to provide maximum facilities to expatriates. Addressing at the Overseas Pakistanis International Conference (OIC), he said that now all diaspora Pakistanis could get their passport online and CNIC within short time. He informed that 20,498 employees working with NADRA, however, 760 Registration centers including 10 for Overseas Pakistanis, 10 mega centers, 222 mobile registration vans, 3 data centers and over 1000 services were providing to the people. Tariq said that new mobile APPs are under process to facilitate to the expatriates within hours including digital NICOP, passport renewal or new registration for passport, death certificate, power of attorney, Roshan digital accounts, land record, succession certificates online biometric verification for overseas family members, PIA Repatriation initiatives to ring Pakistanis back during Covid-19, Internet Voting, Complaints registration cell, he said that these were the major initiatives for Overseas Pakistanis. - DNA

Sectarianism causes
death, destruction
in society: Ashrafi

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East and Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi Saturday said sectarianism had caused death and destruction in the society. Addressing the 4th Paigham-e-Pakistan training of trainers' workshop for religious leaders and faculty members of the International Islamic University, Islamabad, he lamented that there were a number of unfolded stories of sectarian-extremism which had destroyed many families since 1980 in the country. Ashrafi said Paigham-e-Pakistan was the crux of all efforts made during the last four decades for religious harmony in the country.

He said after Resolution of Pakistan, it was the most important document which had the solution of all persistent issues being faced by various segments of the society. He said to achieve this milestone, he had put his life at stake many a time adding seven murder attempts had been made on him so far in which five of them were made by the people of his own school of thought. He said speaking and making efforts for religious harmony particularly in a society where the level of tolerance was zero, was a quite difficult task. - APP



LAHORE: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Political Communication Shahbaz Gill talking to media. - DNA

PTI govt. to complete five years tenure: Babar Awan

Dr. Babar Awan said that fight against corrupt elements was still underway and all those involved in corruption were against Imran Khan on one side and visible due to their corrupt practices in past

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Advisor to Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Babar Awan on Sunday said that incumbent government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) would complete its five-year tenure and would be re-elected with the support of people for another term of five years till 2028.

He expressed these views while addressing three-day Overseas Convention under the aegis of PTI Overseas Chapter. The Convention is

being organized to recognize the services of expatriate Pakistanis for the country. On the first day of Convention, Dr. Babar Awan said that such Convention for overseas Pakistanis would be held every year. Such events, he said, would be held till 2028 as this government to be re-elected after completing first term of five years. He said that PTI government led by Imran Khan had to face enormous challenges after coming into power which included poor economy, internal and external issues and situation after COVID-19. All challenges were successfully

handled and overcome through the rational approach of Imran Khan while strict action was ensured against corrupt elements making the country bankrupt in their tenures. Dr. Babar Awan said that fight against corrupt elements was still underway and all those involved in corruption (thieves) were against Imran Khan on one side and visible due to their corrupt practices in past. He said that the opposition was involved in horsetrading during the election of Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani and the videos were produced as evidence in this regard.

Dr. Babar Awan said that intent of article 63-A of the Constitution is not to allow anyone to cross the floor who got vote in the name of leadership. "We will crush the no-confidence motion through the constitution and the law" he maintained. Babar Awan said that enemies of Muslims (Modi) was invited to weddings and given gifts earlier but Modi's misperception was removed when Abhinandan was downed by our great armed forces including Pakistan Air Force. Though PTI government has less majority in the Parliament but it ensured legislation dur-

ing last three years in the favor of Overseas Pakistanis and raised their voice in parliament and power corridors. The incumbent government fulfilled the promises of EVM and I-voting for Overseas which were not honored during the last 71 years, he added. He thanked all Overseas Pakistanis who stood with PTI leadership in exposing the corrupt elements hiding in the foreign countries. "You all are standing with a leader for the national interests who rejected 'do more' demands and said 'absolutely not' on different issues", he added.

2 gamblers
held on
cockfighting

RAWALPINDI: The police have arrested two gamblers on cockfighting and recovered Rs 9,000, 02 chickens, 02 motorcycles and 02 vehicles from their possession during crackdown here Sunday, informed police spokesman. During course of action, Rawat police arrested two gamblers Zafar Rahim and Mohammad Yameen on cockfighting.

Police have registered separate cases against both of them and started an investigation. SP Saddar appreciated the performance of police team adding that gambling is the root cause of the crime. The accused involved in such crimes do not deserve any concession and strict action must be taken against such criminals, he added. - APP

Police arrest
3 with illegal
weapons

RAWALPINDI: Police have arrested three arm holders and recovered illegal weapons from their possessions during a crackdown here on Sunday, police spokesman informed. During a course of action, Bani police recovered a pistol 9mm from Shehzad Khan. Similarly, Saddar Barooni held Anwarullah and recovered a 30-bore pistol from his possession. Meanwhile, Rawat police arrested Yasir and recovered a 30-bore pistol from his custody. Police have registered separate cases against all of them and further investigation was in progress. Divisional SP appreciated the performance of police teams adding that crackdown on illegal arms holders to be continued. - APP

37 shop
keepers
fines for over
plastic bags

ISLAMABAD: The Plastic Bags Ban Enforcement team on Friday imposed fines of Rs 50,000 on 37 shops or outlets near Simly Dam Road, BharaKahu for flouting the restriction.

The team comprising Ministry of Climate Change, Pakistan Environmental Protection Agency (Pak-EPA) and Islamabad Capital Territory Administration jointly inspected various shops to check compliance of the ban, an official of the team told APP while highlighting the enforcement efforts.

He said that during the inspection, the team confiscated approximately 60 kilograms of plastic bags.

He urged the public to shun the use of polythene or plastic bags as it was highly injurious to human and animal health. It was also the main cause of choked drains and urban flooding in the mega cities of the country, he added. According to the WWF study, every human was consuming around 25 micrograms of plastics equal to the size of a credit card. The main reason was excessive use of polythene packaging for eatable that used to dissolve in food items after a specific time due to reaction with the synthetic material. Plastic was causing serious health complications leading to deadly diseases and even deaths and also serious environmental pollution due to non-degradable nature, the study warned. - APP

PTA chairman
launches tree
plantation
drive

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In line with the Prime Minister of Pakistan's vision of Clean and Green Pakistan, the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) organized a tree plantation drive in the vicinity of PTA Headquarters. Chairman PTA, Major General Amir Azeem-Bajwa (R) inaugurated the spring tree planting drive by planting a sapling along with Authority Members, Member Finance Muhammad Naveed, and Member (Compliance & Enforcement) Dr. Khawar Siddique Khokhar, said a news release. Speaking at the occasion, the Chairman said that tree plantation is an urgent need of the hour. He encouraged PTA officers and officials to actively take part in the tree plantation activity in their neighborhood as it would help reducing the environmental pollution.

Interesting times in Pakistani politics

As the Speaker of the National Assembly Asad Qaisar is all set to call the National Assembly session in the wake of no-trust move submitted by the opposition parties, the government seems to have geared up its efforts to not only woo the estranged allies but to keep its own vote back intact. Currently, various methods are under consideration of both the Opposition and the government as to how to deal with those who are likely to vote against the treasury benches. The government wants to bar all its members from attending the session with the contention that since the move is put forth by the opposition parties therefore it is their headache to bring 172 members. The analysts have termed the government move unfair and a dime a dozen attempt to stop worthy members from exercising their will rather freely.

According to a news report published in this newspaper, the opposition is said to have extended an offer to PML Q that in case of its support to the no-trust against the prime minister, Ch. Pervez Elahi name shall be supported for the slot of the Punjab Chief Minister. Ostensibly, this is the offer PML Q had been waiting for quite anxiously. A senior minister hailing from PML Q in his recent interview made it clear that his party would like to remain in power for which it could go to any extent. The Minister's statement did not augur well for the government for hitherto it has been banking on the support of PML Q both in the Punjab and at Center.

MQM, another party that wishes to be in power come what may, is likely to choose a course of action for it since time is running out. Like PMLQ, MQM's dilemma is that it never wants to be in the opposition. The reason being obvious that scores of cases are pending against its leaders. Being in the opposition means opening of all these cases, which the party cannot afford. In the light of the above, MQM would also like to swim with the tide.

People believe the establishment is neutral this time. Taking a lead from the past events in our polity it becomes evident that the Establishment has never been neutral and can never be neutral. Nevertheless it can be said that it is no longer supporting the ruling PTI spearheaded by Prime Minister Imran Khan.

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Civilians on target

THE war in Ukraine has entered its third week, yet still Russia's once vaunted armed forces are struggling to control much of the country. These blundering heirs to the Red Army are said to be tightening their grip on Kyiv, but the outcome remains deeply uncertain. The aura of invincibility that once enveloped Russia's military is destroyed. Its reputation lies in ruins amid the rubble of invasion. Frustration over the slow pace of advance has led to a change in tactics. Instead of directly engaging the resistance, the Russians have besieged major cities and taken to long-range shelling and bombing by artillery, missiles and air strikes. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says more Ukrainian civilians than soldiers are being killed as a result.

On Saturday, Ukraine accused Russian forces on Saturday of killing seven civilians in an attack on women and children trying to flee fighting near Kyiv, and France said Russian President Vladimir Putin had shown he was not ready to make peace.

With Russia's invasion in its third week, the Ukrainian intelligence service said the seven, including one child, were killed as they fled the village of Peremoha and that "the occupiers forced the remnants of the column to turn back." Ukrainian officials later said the convoy was not traveling along a "green corridor" agreed with Russia when it was struck on Friday, correcting their earlier assertion that it was on such a designated route.

A day earlier, Russian forces had shelled a mosque in the southern Ukrainian port city of Mariupol, where more than 80 adults and children have taken refuge, Ukraine's foreign ministry said. The ministry said in a tweet that Turkish citizens were among those who were seeking refuge in the mosque when it was bombed.

"The mosque of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent and his wife Roxolana (Hurrem Sultan) in Mariupol was shelled by Russian invaders," the foreign ministry said. "More than 80 adults and children are hiding there from the shelling, including citizens of Turkey." It did not say if there were any people killed or wounded.

Compounding its offence, Russia has resorted to the use in urban areas of mass-casualty weapons such as cluster munitions, which scatter hundreds of small, delayed-action bomblets. The UK's Ministry of Defence alleges Russia is also firing thermobaric rockets, known as vacuum bombs, which suck oxygen from the air (and people's lungs) to generate an explosion.

Balakot to Mian Chanu: Critical questions for Pakistan

Irfan Shahzad Takalvi



Strategic stability in South Asia is of vital importance for Pakistan's sovereignty, and the questions above are of pivotal nature in this connection

INDIA did it once again, though 'accidentally', it is claimed by New Delhi.

A supersonic Indian missile landing in Pakistan's Mian Chanu on March 9 raises serious questions for 'strategic stability' in South Asia. India regrets that it was an accident. Yet, as raised by Pakistan's foreign minister and representatives of relevant institutions, the incident proves it once again that security and safety of Indian strategic weapons and delivery systems is highly compromised and questionable. Rather threatening, it would not be wrong to say so. Just imagine the damage it could cause had it come in contact with a passenger plane. There are plenty of them flying

around, all the time. The missile was actually flying at that very altitude where passenger jets usually cruise, in medium to long-haul flights. And it was just a lucky moment that civilians on the ground in Pakistan were spared. Besides, how can one be sure that it would not be repeated again?

International communities must understand that India's strategic posture, and its technical and procedural weaknesses if its 'regrets' are to be believed, pose serious challenges not only to Pakistan but to regional nations as well as international air and maritime traffic. New Delhi must be held accountable, if potential bilateral, regional and global disasters are to be averted.

But beyond this, the incident also raises some serious questions for relevant institutions in Pakistan. These questions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Does Pakistan not have the capacity to shoot-down an aerial object that remains flying within its territory for almost 4 minutes? (It was three minutes and 44 seconds to be precise.)

- Was it not intended to shoot the missile down, at all, after it was found on our radars? In that case, were we sure that it was not carrying any warhead? And more importantly, how could we be sure that while hitting the ground, it would not damage the civilian population?

- Are we sure that India was not testing our response capability in the name of an accident? Would it not give a confidence to India that Pakistan does not have such a capability? Or at least the confidence that Pakistan

needs more response time in such an eventuality?

Let us not forget what happened almost three years ago. Formations of Indian fighter jets violated Pakistan's airspace and sovereignty in a blatant way, and attacked Balakot. Yes, Pakistan Air Force instantly scrambled its jets in response and the Indians ran away, in a matter of seconds. At that time also, the debate revolved around very valid point that any air force in the world needs a minimum time to manage a response in such as a situation – and Pakistan Air Force indeed was very quick. True, and every Pakistan feels proud about its air force. But the question still remains: what happened to Pakistan's anti-aircraft guns and relevant ground-to-air defense systems at that time? Are those not effective or responsive enough against such challenges?

Strategic stability in South Asia is of vital importance for Pakistan's sovereignty, and the questions above are of pivotal nature in this connection. Pakistani nation needs forthright, reassuring answers. Let me conclude by saying that I remain among the proud citizens who are confident that their armed forces are fully capable of defending the country against any challenge that so arises. That very confidence makes it even more important for me to have the answers to above questions.

—The author is CEO of Policy Pak and Founding President of the Eurasian Century Institute, Islamabad-Pakistan. He may be accessed at irfanzad@gmail.com

Strengthening SCO: Counteracting growing terror threats in Eurasia

Musaib Manzoor



SCO has emerged as a multilateral association to ensure security and for maintenance of stability in the Eurasian region

THE increase in terrorist activities throughout the world necessitates the development of currently known strategies and approaches for addressing the terrorism threat.

The statement issued by the Shanghai Cooperation Organisations' Heads of States in the Central Asian Capital city of Astana on Joint Counteraction to International Terrorism has proven to be a significant political instrument that includes approaches to consolidating joint forces in the fight against terrorism, an assessment of the current state of affairs, and a call to the international community to unite within a broadly based international anti-terrorist coalition to combat this grave global threat. The SCO has increased collective efforts to fight radicalization in society, which leads to violent forms of extremism, including terrorism among young people. SCO has also taken attempts to combat religious, ethnic, intellectual, and political extremism, as well as xenophobia. SCO's dedicated office for counter-terrorism, established in Tashkent in 2004, 'Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure' (RATS), so far, has been successful in countering extremism and separatism and preventing several terrorist acts, offences, and dismantling terrorist training camps.

The SCO or the Shanghai Pact's transcontinental political, economic, and security alliance is the world's largest regional cooperation in terms of geographic scope and population, covering roughly 60% of Eurasia's land area, 40% of the world's population, and more than 20% of global GDP.

Since its inception in 2001, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) has emerged as a multilateral association to ensure security and for maintenance of stability in the Eurasian region.

Although the SCO is not a military alliance, its front-line fight against terrorist threats necessitates the development and enhancement of procedures aimed at the total abolition of terrorist activity. SCO should continue its anti-terrorist training exercises, notably the SCO Peace Mission exercise. Building on the Agreement on Cooperation in Ensuring International Digital Security, SCO member states shall expand collaboration in fighting radical propaganda and public justification of terrorism, separatism, and extremism through mass media and the information sphere.

The Joint Position of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of SCO, the Anti-Terrorist Center of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and the Secretariat of the Collective Security

Treaty Organization on Combating Terrorism and Extremism was signed on February 16, 2022, in the headquarters of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in Moscow.

The Parties emphasise the necessity of conducting coordinated action against participants in armed conflicts on the side of international terrorist groups, including those who have been relocated to their home countries or to other countries. Within the framework of common approaches, the Parties intend to strengthen interaction and promote cooperation among SCO member states, CIS member states, and CSTO member states in counter-terrorism, including legal assistance in the search for and prosecution of terrorists and their accomplices, for the benefit of the peoples of the Organization's member countries and regions.

SCO member states shall also work together to combat the actions of people and groups involved in the recruitment, training, and use of terrorists, as well as the justification and funding of terrorist attacks.

While the withdrawal of soldiers from Afghanistan was a strategic failure, it will have little security ramifications for NATO nations but will almost certainly have far-reaching consequences for Afghanistan's neighbours, as four of the Afghanistan's six contiguous states – China, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are SCO members. Given the behaviour of each SCO member, the situation might become a regional security and geopolitical dilemma. The Taliban, al-Qaeda, and the ISKP each have over 10,000 foreign militants from SCO nations. Al-Qaeda and the ISKP have regrouped and resumed terrorist actions in Afghanistan. The resurrected Taliban will rekindle violent attitudes, radicalization, and deviant behaviour among the people of neighbouring nations, posing a threat to regional security.

To avoid an uncontrolled flood of migrants, SCO member nations, particularly those in Central Asia, have opted not to admit Afghan refugees. Moscow has also stated unequivocally that any refugee movement to Central Asia is unacceptable. According to the Russian Envoy to Uzbekistan, accepting migrants is akin to opening floodgates and encouraging uncontrolled migration from Afghanistan.

In the sake of regional peace and development, the SCO nations must reconsider their different policies and ambitions and work together to deal with the Taliban through a single framework. The best way to confront the problems posed by the Afghan situation, notably a revival of terrorist and extremist activity, is through multilateral collaboration under the SCO.

Despite being portrayed as a platform for regional integration, the SCO has devolved into a forum of regional giants, which has weakened its coherence. One option is for member nations to utilise the SCO as a channel for aid to Afghanistan, which may also put pressure on the Taliban to fulfill world expectations. Indeed, if the SCO does not reach an agreement on the Taliban issue and counter-terrorism, peace in Afghanistan and the region would be difficult to accomplish.

—MusaibManzoor is pursuing MS in Peace and Conflict Studies at Centre for International Peace and Stability, NUST Islamabad. He is also a Researcher at Legal Forum for Kashmir.

Ukraine war and aftermath

Samir Humbatov

At the same time, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, commenting on the meeting, said that it was not convincing to get a serious result. This is the first such contact and you should not expect a miracle. In general, the holding of this meeting can help to achieve serious results in the coming periods

FOR the first time since Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine on February 24, 2022, a meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmitry Kuleba took place on March 10, 2022 at the initiative and with the participation of Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu. Of course, looking at the course of events and the statements made by the parties in advance, it was stated before the meeting that no serious results were expected at this meeting. In an interview after the meeting, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmitry Kuleba

confirmed that no significant progress had been made, but stressed the importance of continuing the talks.

Later, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov answered journalists' questions for about half an hour. Lavrov's statement also showed that no serious progress had been made. Even on issues such as achieving a long-term ceasefire, opening a humanitarian corridor and evacuating people from war zones, such an agreement does not seem to have been fully reached.

At the same time, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, commenting on the meeting, said that it was not convincing to get a serious result. This is the first such contact and you should not expect a miracle. In general, the holding of this meeting can help to achieve serious results in the coming periods. It is also clear from the ministers' views that the issue of organizing a meeting of presidents may be on the agenda during the next meetings.

On the eve of these meetings, the visit of the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev to Turkey and the bilateral meeting with the President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara are among the important issues. According to some reports, the sides discussed bilateral relations, energy issues, issues related to the Shusha Declaration, the latest situation in Turkish-Armenian relations, regional and global issues.

Another important issue of was the call of US President Joe Biden to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan after this tripartite meeting. According to

the report, the telephone conversation focused on Turkey's position in the Russian-Ukrainian war, the meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian Foreign Ministers initiated and attended by Turkey, as well as regional and global issues.

Both the meeting of the Russian and Ukrainian Foreign Ministers, the visit of the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev to Turkey and the meeting and bilateral discussions with the President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara, as well as the US President's call to Turkey and the telephone conversation lasted up to 1 hour.

First of all, it should be noted that there was no such high-level telephone conversation from the United States before or during the war over the Russian-Ukrainian tension, and this call lasted a year. At the same time, if Biden welcomes the Turkish side to bring together the foreign ministers of Russia and Ukraine, it means that there are some signals to ensure the interests of the United States. Another important issue here is the visit of the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev at such a time. If we take into account that the Shusha Declaration was discussed at the meeting between the President of Turkey and the President of Azerbaijan at this sensitive moment, it can be considered as a sign of new activity in the region, especially in the South Caucasus.

—The writer is the head of Center for International Relations and Diplomatic Studies, Baku, Azerbaijan

Briefs

Footballers shouldn't suffer anymore: Saadullah

KARACHI: "Today is nothing less than Eid for Pakistani footballers," country's top midfielder Saadullah Khan exclaims as the news of the Fifa-appointed Normalisation Committee (NC) getting the control of the Pakistan Football Federation headquarters in Lahore made rounds throughout the day. This marks the start to an end of the long-standing conflict that has cost the football coaches and players to not only lose their time but also livelihoods and jobs for the last seven years.

While football is a sport that is most diverse and popular in Pakistan, the power struggle to stay in the PFF offices have led the talented youth down for seven years now.

The controversial elections in 2015 led to creation of factions among the officials, who later continued to slam each other through politics, making it impossible for the players to compete domestically or internationally as the country since got banned twice.

The first ban was in October 2017 that lasted for six months, with Fifa backing Syed Makhdoom Faisal Saleh Hayat and his opponents being looked at as interfering third party, while the Pakistani courts were also involved in the dragged out matter. — APP

35 dead in Russian air strike on military base

FROM PAGE 01

social media late Saturday night, President Volodymyr Zelensky was adamant that the Russians would not take Ukraine. "The Russian invaders cannot conquer us. They do not have such strength. They do not have such spirit. They are holding only on violence. Only on terror," he said.

For the first two weeks following its February 24 invasion, Russia's forces had focused on eastern and southern areas of Ukraine, notably the strategic and heavily besieged port of Mariupol.

In recent days they moved to the centre, striking the city of Dnipro, and now the west, edging close to the frontier with EU and Nato member Poland.

Overnight, missiles struck a military training ground in Yavoriv near Lviv, about 20 kilometres (12 miles) from the Polish border, regional governor Maxim Kozitsky said. He said 35 people were killed and 134 injured in the attack on the base, which was a training centre for Ukrainian forces with foreign instructors, including from the United States and Canada.

In the Black Sea city of Mykolaiv, near the strategic port of Odessa, regional governor Vitaliy Kim said nine people were killed in a Russian air strike.

Will join hands with...

FROM PAGE 01

by a long march, the Prime Minister has lost the trust of the people. They will not be allowed to rig, added Bilawal. Further talking about it he said that every member has the right to go to the parliament and exercise their vote. The police forcefully got into the Parliament Lodge and arrested the members. No member should be prevented from voting.

We are peaceful and democratic people. We protested for ten days across the country but didn't throw a stone, he went on saying. Bilawal Bhutto also stated that the Prime Minister's representatives are announcing that we will not count the votes. We appeal to the Chief Justice and the Chief Election Commissioner to allow the representatives to cast their votes. The PPP Chairman expressed that No-confidence is against this foreign policy which has isolated Pakistan in the world. Imran Khan has created anarchy in the society. We want fair and transparent elections. We cannot tolerate the country being harmed by one person.

PCB Chairman Ramiz Raja keen to find talent in Sindh

Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah believes that big cricket teams will now have no 'security fear' after Australia's tour of Pakistan

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)'s chairman Ramiz Raja has shared his interest in finding talented players from Sindh in collaboration with the provincial government. In his brief interaction with media alongside Chief Minister of Sindh - Syed Murad Ali Shah - here at National Stadium during Day 2 of the second Test, Raja said Sindh's players like Shahnawaz Dahani and Zahid Mehmood are quality players and can shine for Pakistan in a longer run. "Pakistan has got some really talented players from Sindh in the form of Dahani and Mehmood," he said. "I have talked to CM Sindh about spotting the talent in the province. We have plans to work together to unearth talented players in Sindh," he added.



Also, Ramiz and Shah agreed for planning the construction of Niaz Stadium in Hyderabad. CM Sindh shared that his government has asked for technical support from PCB in construction of the stadium.

Chief Minister of Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah believes that big cricket teams will now have no 'security fear' after Australia's tour of Pakistan.

While talking to media, Shah said Australia's tour of Pakistan will pave the way for other teams to come to the country without any security fear.

"This tour was very important for Pakistan. After this tour, big teams will not have any more security fears," he said. "PCB chairman Ramiz Raja deserves all the credit and I hope some more big teams will come to Pakistan soon," he added.

Speaking about Karachi pitch, Shah said it is expected to generate results as spinners started getting turn. "The ball has started turning on the pitch. Sajid provided a breakthrough to Pakistan in the form of Usman Khawaja and I think it will now help spinners rule on," he concluded.

Australia in control of 2nd Test with 505-run total



PCB on sticky wicket after Pindi pitch fiasco

ISLAMABAD: The cricket pitches on every individual ground across the globe have their own behaviours due to distinctive soils and diverse climate conditions of that specific area, making them impossible to prepare on a universal standard, applicable across the board.

However, keeping in view these scenarios, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has framed certain guidelines according to which, "a Test pitch should have a seam, bounce, spin, and carry at different stages to make an equal match for the batters and bowlers, slightly favouring the bowlers more". A pitch is considered "poor" if it deprives the bowlers of a fair contest between bat and ball.

The Pindi Cricket Stadium pitch, commonly known as supportive for the seamers and a result-oriented surface, earned a demerit point for being batters' paradise and was rated "below average" by the ICC after the first test between Australia and Pakistan disappointingly ended in a draw. This situation has created a debate and the critics, players and cricket fans the world over, citing it as another example, are demanding to prepare pitches that give results as Test Cricket in the age of T20 and T10 is already losing ground.

The Australian batsman Steve Smith was first to react with disappointment and he called the surface "dead" and "benign" which offered little help to the seamers. After this critical comments from everywhere started to pour in with no let up so far. Former Indian opener Wasim Jaffer jumping on critics' bandwagon expressed his displeasure and called dead and slow pitches, "a threat to the pinnacle format of the game".

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Fawad Chaudhry's statement was no exception to this situation and he was astonished over this dead surface for the historic Test match despite Pakistan having a "fiery bowling attack." Rashid Latif, Pakistan cricket coach and a former wicket keeper also expressed his disapproval for "the sluggish pitch and low strike rate that diminish the match's chances of a positive outcome." — APP

DNA

KARACHI: Australia ended Day 2 of the second Test against Pakistan at National Stadium in control as they have scored a massive 505-8 with Usman Khawaja (160) playing a brilliant knock, while wicketkeeper-batter Alex Carey (93) got dismissed just before stumps.

The left-arm pacer Mitchell Starc (28) is well-set, while skipper Pat Cummins is

yet to get off the mark as Carey missed out on a well-deserved hundred, getting clean bowled on Babar Azam's turning delivery while sweeping.

Earlier, Sajid Khan struck before tea to dismiss Usman Khawaja and Travis Head to get Pakistan back in the game before tea on the second Test of the historic Pakistan-Australia series here at the National Cricket Stadium.

Khawaja scored 160 runs in 369 balls before getting bowled out by off-spinner Sajid. Left-handed batter Head was

trapped for a leg before wicket by Sajid. Later, left-arm leg-spinner Nauman Ali bowled out Cameron Green to help Pakistan get back into the game as the visitors were reduced to 407-7 at tea. Khawaja and Head had put the touring party in a commanding position at lunch.

Left-handed batter Travis Head joined him after the departure of nightwatchman Nathan Lyon, who was bowled out by Faheem Ashraf. Lyon scored 38 runs in 62 balls.

Ronaldo becomes all-time top scorer

WEB DESK

LONDON: Cristiano Ronaldo went down in history as the all-time top scorer after his hat-trick brought a 3-2 victory to Manchester United against Tottenham on Saturday. The Portuguese superstar scored in the 12th, 28th, and 81st minutes of the game, while Tottenham's Harry Kane converted a penalty in the 35th minute at Old Trafford. Manchester United's Harry Maguire scored an own goal in the 72nd minute. After the game, Ronaldo reached 807 career goals, breaking Josef Bican's 805-goal record. The 37-year-old attacker, who was not included in the starting 11 in the previous league game, scored 15 goals in 30 games this season.

Five-times-Ballon D'or winner won five UEFA Champions League titles, in 2008 with Manchester United, in 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018 with Real Madrid, three Premier League titles with Manchester United in 2007, 2008, 2009 and two La Liga trophies with Real Madrid in 2012 and 2017 throughout his astonishing career.

Ronaldo also won the 2016 European Championship with Portugal.

Manchester United are in fourth place with 50 points, 19 points behind league-leading rivals Manchester City. Tottenham Hotspur are in the 7th spot with 45 points in the Premier League standings.

Premier League Results: Brighton-Liverpool: 0-2 Brentford-Burnley: 2-0, Manchester United-Tottenham: 3-2

Australia supports cricket training for blind women

SPORTS DESK

ISLAMABAD: The Australian High Commission sponsored a six-day cricket training and tournament for visually impaired women and girls from across Pakistan, organised in collaboration with the Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) on 8-13 March.

The training builds on Australia's support to PBCC in the formation of Pakistan's first blind women cricket team in 2018, which played its first international Twenty20 game in 2020.

Speaking at the award-giving ceremony at the conclusion of the training today, the Australian High Commission's Chargé d'Affaires, Bryce Hutchesson shared that Australia's support aims to provide more women and girls with disabilities the opportunity to enjoy sport, compete and demonstrate their ability.

"Sport can help reduce gender stereotypes and negative perceptions associated with people with disabilities. Australia and Pakistan share a passion for cricket, so we are happy to support the Pakistan Blind Cricket Council's



efforts to bring women and girls living with disabilities into the sport," Mr Hutchesson added.

Coaches Masood Jan and Abdul Razzak, who coached the national blind men's team, helped these players push their boundaries.

The Chairman of Pakistan Blind Cricket Council, Syed Sultan Shah, said, "Cricket for the blind is a highly competitive game which enables people with visual

impairment to become people of vision – a vision of an accessible future full of exciting opportunities for all."

Two blind factory workers invented blind cricket in Melbourne, Australia, in 1922 when they improvised the game using a tin can containing rocks. A few years later, in 1928, the first sports ground and clubhouse for blind cricket was built at Kooyong in Melbourne.

Prize distribution ceremony of SKI CUP held

Pakistan Air Force clinched the winners trophy of 16th Shah Khan Ski Cup. PAF skiers proved their dominance as they clinched 02 medals in the 16th Shah Khan Alpine Ski Cup

NEWS DESK

SKARDU: Prize distribution ceremony of 16th Shah Khan Ski Cup & National Biathlon Championship-2022 was held at PAF Ski Resort, Naltar. Brigadier (Retd) Syed Kausar Hussain, Director Operations & Plans National Logistic Cell was the chief guest at the occasion. The ceremony was also attended by Air Cdre Javed Iqbal, SASO Federal Air Command and other distinguished guests.

Addressing the ceremony, the chief guest appreciated the efforts of PAF and WSPF for the promotion of winter sports in Pakistan. He also congratulated all stakeholders for successfully holding the mega event.

Pakistan Air Force clinched the winners trophy of 16th Shah Khan Ski Cup. PAF skiers proved their dominance as they clinched 02 medals in the 16th Shah Khan Alpine Ski Cup. In Slalom cate-



gory, Zakir Hussain of Civil Aviation won the Gold, Ubaid Ullah

of PAF earned Silver while Sep Hamza of Pak Army won Bronze

medals. In the Giant Slalom category L/NK Shakeem of Pak Army

won Gold while Zakir Hussain of Civil Aviation and Shah Zaman of PAF won Silver & Bronze medals respectively.

In National Biathlon Championship Alam Masood of Gilgit Baltistan won Gold while Khan Ishaque of Gilgit Baltistan Scouts won Silver and Shah Noran of Pak Army won Bronze medals.

26 national skiers from all over the country participated in the much-awaited winter sports, which are conducted each year in the magnificent Naltar ski resort under the auspices of PAF and Winter Sports Federation of Pakistan. Teams of PAF, Pak Army, GB Scouts, Islamabad and Civil Aviation Authority participated in the mega event. Pakistan Air Force and Winter Sports Federation of Pakistan jointly arrange these events each year in a bid to promote winter sports in the country and sports tourism in snowy mountains of Gilgit Baltistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

No worries; Will defeat Opp. plans

FROM PAGE 01

taken by his government amid the problems faced by the country before criticising the main opposition leaders. The premier said people will see that those trying to dislodge him from the top office would get buried under the weight of their own conspiracy.

He recalled that some 20 EU ambassadors had questioned him in the past on his stance of opposing drone attacks. "I asked them whether they will allow Pakistan to launch a drone attack at a Pakistan-based terrorist sitting in London for 30 years who has been involved in several killings in Karachi, the capital of Sindh," he alleged.

Imran said he would not appease anyone or opt for a foreign policy that resulted in the country's interest being compromised.

He called out JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman, PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and PPP Chairperson Asif Ali Zardari for maintaining silence on US drone strikes in Pakistan between 2008 and 2018, saying those leaders never spoke for the rights of Pakistan.

He said his government would maintain relations with everyone "but will not make any compromise on national interests".

PM Imran insisted that Pakistan was going to become a great country in the remainder of his term, adding that the incentives announced by his government would yield results in time to come. PM Imran reiterated that he had rightly criticised the European Union for writing to Pakistan and asking the government to condemn Russia.

"The west only respects you when they see you are sincere towards your country," he said. He said he was respected in all countries he has visited so far as the prime minister. "I do not have any wealth stashed abroad nor I am involved in any corruption," he claimed, adding: "I only entered the politics to serve my people."

Iran warns Israel...

FROM PAGE 01

Sabereen News reported that two Mossad training centers were targeted by ballistic missiles in the early hours of Sunday.

Al-Mayadeen said a Mossad base on the Masif-Saladin street in Erbil was "fully razed to the ground and a number of Israeli mercenaries were killed or injured". Last week, IIRG identified the two slain officers as colonels Ehsan Karbalaipour and Morteza Saidehnejad, warning that Israel would "pay for this crime".

On Thursday, Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations had written to the UN secretary general and the Security Council, saying Tehran "reserves its inherent right to self-defense, under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, to respond to such criminal act whenever it deems appropriate".

Iran "recognizes that the Israeli regime is fully responsible for all the consequences of these criminal acts, and seriously warns the regime about taking further adventurous and malevolent measures," it said.

The Sunday statement by the IIRG said, "Once again, we warn the criminal Zionist regime that the repetition of any evil will face harsh, decisive and destructive responses."

US journalist shot dead...

FROM PAGE 01

defence, said one of the Americans died instantly and he had treated the other. AFP reporters in Irpin saw the body of the victim. The victim – Brent Renaud – had previously contributed to The New York Times, according to The Sun.

"A 51-year-old world-renowned media correspondent was shot in Irpin today," said the head of Kyiv region police Andrey Nebitov. He further said that they are trying to remove the victim from the war zone. "Of course, the profession of a journalist is a risk, but US citizen Brent Renaud paid his life for trying to highlight the aggressor's ingenuity, cruelty, and ruthlessness," added Nebitov. According to the initial reports, Renaud worked for The Times. — Agencies

Briefs

Diplomacy opens way for peace: Turkey's First lady

ANKARA: Opening the way to the ideal of permanent and sustainable peace can only be possible through soft power, first lady Emine Erdogan said. Speaking at a panel as part of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, Erdogan said it was essential to review the approaches and methods of diplomacy to keep up with the new world that is being built. In this context, Erdogan said that they wanted to draw attention to soft power in diplomacy. She said that they held consultations on peace amid the devastation and suffering caused by the war in Ukraine. "The cries of mothers who lost their children in conflicts resonate all over the world. We witness families falling apart. But, unfortunately, the dark shadow of war has once again fallen upon humanity," she said. "Unfortunately, the reflex shown in the face of the war in Ukraine, which has plunged us all into great grief, was not shown equally for other oppressed peoples. Regardless of race or religion, the pain and fear experienced by a child or a woman in the face of war are equal. One tear cannot outclass another. So let's take this day as a milestone and unite against all the wars that are taking place," the first lady said. - APP

High cost of doing business dangerous for trade

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) on Sunday said that the high cost of doing business has proved to be dangerous for Pakistan's industry, discouraging investment both in capacity and capability, calling for lessening the burden of heavy taxes on the power sector.

PIAF senior vice chairman Nasir Hameed and vice chairman Javed Siddiqi, in a joint statement issued here, condemned the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) for shifting power distribution companies' inefficiencies' burden of almost Rs58 billion to the consumers by jacking up the tariff by Rs5.94 per unit under Fuel Charges Adjustment (FCA) to be charged through March 2022 electricity bills. Nasir Hameed said that constant hike in power tariff on the plea of fuel adjustment has pushed the electricity prices higher and added to the already soaring cost of trade and industry. According to NEPRA notification, an increase of Rs5.94 per unit on account of FCA for Jan 2022 will be charged from the power consumers through the electricity bill of March 2022 which will cause additional burden of approximately Rs58.5 billion on consumers. - APP

Venezuelan FM urges US to lift 'unilateral measures'

ANTALYA: As senior US officials visited Venezuela last weekend to discuss oil production, the Venezuelan Foreign Minister said such visits are "nothing new" while also urging the US to lift "unilateral measures" against his country. Speaking to Anadolu Agency on the sidelines of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, Felix Plascencia said: "Having their visit to Venezuela to talk about this is important, but it's nothing absolutely out of the blue or new because we've been doing business with Americans for a long while."

Underlining that Venezuela has the largest oil and gas reserves on earth, he said his country's oil business with the US has been "historical," and "does happen for a long while." "And we've never asked American companies to leave the country," he said. "President Nicolas Maduro said many times that we welcome American oil companies to invest and develop oil business in Venezuela." Plascencia said that he hopes the US to respect the sovereignty and the legitimacy of the Venezuelan government. - APP

BRI cooperation with China "transforms" Pak economy

The ambassador told Xinhua that his country is seeking more cooperation with China on industry modernization and information technology (IT) since Pakistan began working on its special technology zones

DNA

BEIJING: Cooperation with China under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) "has transformed Pakistan's economic landscape," Pakistani Ambassador to China Moinul Haque said. In a recent interview with Chinese state news agency, Haque spoke highly of the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a flagship BRI project, saying it is "transformational" for his entire country. Besides the Gwadar Port, which he said has become the crown jewel of the CPEC, Haque also lauded the eco-friendly Orange Line metro train in Lahore, the first of its kind in Pakistan, which officially opened for traffic in October 2020. "You see the metro-train, it is a world-class, high-quality public transport system. In

Lahore, the second-largest city in Pakistan, people have this very efficient, very modern and affordable transport system," he said. According to Haque, BRI projects have benefited the Pakistani people through job creation, improving livelihoods, eradicating poverty and upgrading remote areas. Infrastructure development and energy upgrades have "helped change the economic, social and industrial landscape of Pakistan," said Haque.

So far, more than 70,000 jobs have been created thanks to BRI cooperation, stressed Haque, adding that according to his government's forecast, another half a million direct and indirect jobs will be created in the next five to seven years. He further elaborated that "all these philosophies and dimensions of BRI directly contribute to the 17 SDGs (Sustainable Development



Goals)." The 17 SDGs were adopted by all United Nations member states in 2015, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which include no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, and others. Being a witness of the signing of a series of BRI

cooperation agreements between Pakistan and China, the ambassador also shared with Xinhua his personal experiences. He recalled the difficult nights when the temperature was as high as 40 degrees Celsius, the light went out and the fan stopped

working due to power shortage, and one could not sleep. Thanks to BRI projects, frequent power outages in peak season are now a thing of the past, he said. The ambassador told Xinhua that his country is seeking more cooperation with China on industry modernization and information technology (IT) since Pakistan began working on its special technology zones. In September last year, Pakistan and China established a joint working group on information technology at the 10th Joint Cooperation Committee meeting of the CPEC. Since assuming ambassadorship in Beijing in 2020, Haque has visited Z-park on several occasions, also known as China's Silicon Valley, to see how Pakistan can learn from the Chinese side in IT technology, artificial intelligence, 5G, robotics and cloud computing. In February, Pakistan's Special Technology Zones Authority and China's Zhongguancun "Belt and Road" Industrial Promotion Association signed a letter of intent to promote high-quality science and technological exchanges between the two countries. "It's just a beginning," Haque said, expecting closer cooperation among research institutions and universities. "We want to see more cooperation in this area." Noting the COVID-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented global economic impact, the diplomat called for collective effort, international solidarity and cooperation to address which he said is the biggest challenge faced by humanity in a long time. "The BRI has played, is playing and is going to play a very important role for stabilizing the economies of the world and bringing countries together for tackling challenges like COVID-19," said Haque.

Japan launches joint maritime drills with US

TOKYO: Japan's Ground Self-Defense Force (GSDF) launched three-week-long joint amphibious military drills with US troops stationed in Okinawa on Sunday. It stated that the exercise was aimed at deterring potential "aggression" from "competitors."

Its Amphibious Rapid Deployment Brigade is to participate alongside the US 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, Japan's Kyodo news agency reported. The exercise, which marks the first large-scale drill in the Indo-Pacific involving both units, will run through March 25, according to Marine Corps Captain Nicole Gallegos.

Earlier this month, GSDF chief General Yoshihide Yoshida, revealed that the drills would involve 440 Japanese soldiers and 600 US Marines. It will see participants land from the sea and the air as well as various "combat situations" on the ground, Kyodo said. Japan is set to use its US-made V-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft for the first time, it added, citing officials. Commanding officer Colonel Michael Nakonieczny praised the forces as "two of the best trained and most prepared crisis response" units in the so-called 'first island chain'. He said the primary purpose of the exercise was to "deter competitor and adversary aggression."

The 'first island chain' refers to a chain of archipelagos encompassing Japan, Taiwan, the northern Philippines, Borneo, and the Kuril and Ryukyu Islands in the southwest to Russia's Sakhalin Island and Kamchatka Peninsula in the northeast. - APP

Ethiopian forces burned Tigrayan man alive

NAIROBI: The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) said on Sunday that government forces were responsible for burning a Tigrayan man to death, a barbaric act circulated in a widely-shared video that sparked outrage on social media. Ethiopia's government on Saturday vowed to investigate and take action against anyone involved in "the extremely savage act" depicted in the video, which shows an unarmed man being set on fire as a group of people, including some wearing army uniforms, taunt him. On Sunday, the EHRC said the victim was a Tigrayan man who was "burnt alive... with the participation of government security forces and other people."

The atrocity occurred on March 3 in the northwestern region of Benishangul Gumuz, which borders Sudan and South Sudan. It followed an attack a day earlier that left at least 20 people dead, the state-affiliated independent rights body said. Security officials later captured and shot dead eight Tigrayans suspected of involvement in that assault, it added. "The bodies of the deceased were taken by security forces to a nearby forest and burned," the EHRC said in a statement, citing eyewitness testimony. - APP

US CG Lahore visits SCCI

SIALKOT: United States Consul General Lahore William Makaneole visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) here on Sunday. President SCCI Mian Imran Akbar, Senior Vice President (SVP) SCCI Sheikh Zohaib Rafique Sethi and Vice President (VP) SCCI Qasim Malik warmly welcomed the US Consul General.

Speaking on the occasion, the SCCI President said the US was the top trading partner of Pakistan and the business community of Sialkot remained committed to strengthen the existing bilateral-trade relations which in trading figures had a major share in total external-trade of the country. He proposed that effective coordination should be established between SCCI and US Consulate's economic team to work on the prospects of exchanging trade delegations, exhibitions and finding common grounds for collaboration. US Consul General Lahore William Makaneole expressed gratitude over the warm welcome and assured his full support and assistance in creating business-to-business linkages to promote bilateral-trade between the US and Pakistan. - APP

Thousands protest in Berlin against Russia's war on Ukraine

BERLIN: Thousands of people took once again to the streets in downtown Berlin on Sunday, rallying against Russia's war in Ukraine. Young and old were among the demonstrators, as well as families with children. Some held balloons in blue and yellow, the colors of the Ukrainian flag, while others had peace signs in their hands. Some of the protesters were carrying self-written banners that read "Stop War", "Peace", "Where is the vaccination against war" as well as insults against Russian President Vladimir Putin. Hundreds of police officers were on duty while the mood at the demonstration was peaceful. An alliance of organizers made up of trade unions, churches, environmental protection initiatives, and peace groups had again called for the protests across Germany. The slogan of the demonstration was: "Stop the war. Peace and solidarity for the people of Ukraine." More anti-war demonstrations were also reported from Hamburg, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, and Leipzig. On Feb. 27, three days after Russia launched a war on Ukraine, hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated in Berlin and several other major German cities. Germany has been the scene of mass anti-war protests in recent weeks in the wake of the war. Tens of thousands of war refugees, mostly women and children, from Ukraine have arrived in Germany. - APP



ANTALYA: Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan Amir Khan Muttaqi meets Uzbek counterpart Abdulaziz Kamilov at the sidelines of Antalya Diplomacy Forum in Turkey. - DNA

China, India agree to continue dialogue to resolve LAC issues

The 14th round of talks had taken place on January 12, and did not result in any significant headway in resolving the row in remaining friction points

BEIJING: China and India held a military commander's level meeting to resolve issues related to Line of Actual Control (LAC) and agreed to maintain dialogue through military and diplomatic channels to reach a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues. The 15th round of the Corps Commander Level Meeting between the two countries was held at the Mol-do-Chushul border meeting point on the Indian side, according to China's Ministry of National Defense. The two sides carried forward their discussions from the previous round held on January 12, 2022 for the

resolution of the relevant issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Western Sector of China-India border areas, said a joint statement released by the Chinese ministry. A detailed exchange of views took place in accordance with the guidance of the state leaders to work for the resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest, the statement read. It added that China and India reaffirmed that such a resolution would help restore peace and tranquility along the LAC in the Western Sector and facilitate progress in bilateral relations. The two sides also agreed to maintain the security and stability on the ground in the Western Sector in the interim, the statement noted. It said the two sides agreed to maintain dialogue through military and diplomatic channels to reach a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest.

According to media reports, the two sides have already disengaged from the north and south banks of Pangong Tso, Galwan and Gogra Hot Spring areas. - APP

'World should probe Indian clarification on missile crash'

BEIJING: Cheng Xizhong, Visiting Professor at Southwest University of Political Science and Law on Saturday said that the world community should probe India's so-called clarification on super-sonic projectile crash into Pakistani territory. Cheng Xizhong, also a former Chinese Defense Attache in South Asian countries pointed out that no matter what "excuse" India may find, this was the unprovoked violation of Pakistani airspace, which should be strongly condemned. He said that the Indian projectile crash directly threat-

ened the civilian lives who were airborne in commercial airlines during the high-speed object's flight at 40,000 feet height. The world community should also supervise India and prevent it from arbitrarily undermining regional peace as India is an irresponsible country. Prof. Cheng noted that it took more than two days for India to accept that this was their missile launched ostensibly due to a "technical malfunction" during maintenance. He said that in its statement, the Indian Defense Ministry only expressed sorry, not even

an apology, which is really incomprehensible. Prof. Cheng opined that the Indian military has not only a large number of conventional missiles, but also over 150 nuclear warheads, covering the entire trans-Himalayan region. He said that if India has frequent "technical malfunctions", its missiles, especially those carrying nuclear warheads, may fly anywhere at any time. In this case, how can the whole region, including China, Pakistan and other countries in South Asia, have peace and security? Prof. Cheng analyzed that

now both India and Pakistan have nuclear weapons, and their deployed missiles are aimed at each other's strategic objectives. Prof. Cheng believed that the Pakistani military is fully capable of early warning and rapid response, that is, launching a missile to intercept and retaliating against Indian military targets. In this way, India's "technical malfunction" may burst into full-scale war between India and Pakistan, and even a nuclear war. It was Pakistan's restraint that effectively avoided such extremely serious consequences. - APP

Turkish, Greek leaders agree to improve ties

ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis on Sunday agreed to improve bilateral relations and to focus on positive agenda, the Turkish Communications Directorate said. Apart from bilateral relations, many regional and global developments, including the latest geopolitical issues and repercussions of the Russian attack on Ukraine, were discussed at the meeting held between the two leaders, a directorate statement said. It was stressed during the meet-

ing that Turkey and Greece bear a special responsibility in Europe's security architecture which is changed with the Russian attack on Ukraine, the statement added.

The meeting also focused on the mutual and regional benefits of increasing cooperation between the two countries. The two leaders also agreed to improve bilateral relations and to keep communication channels open, despite disagreements between the countries, the statement said.

The steps to be taken to reach the \$10 billion bilateral trade volume were also discussed in the meeting. Reiterating Turkey's steps to open a new page in bilateral relations, Erdogan told Mitsotakis he maintains a belief in progress in Aegean Sea-related issues, fight against terrorism, and illegal migration.

The issues can be resolved through honest and sincere dialogue and thus two neighboring countries should always maintain dialogue and not only in times of crisis, the Turkish president added. - Agencies

Turkish, Armenian FMs meet in bid to normalize ties

Armenia's Mirzoyan echoed similar sentiments, saying "we are continuing the process of normalizing relations without preconditions... we are making efforts"

WEB DESK

ANKARA: Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said he held "productive and constructive" talks with Armenian counterpart Ararat Mirzoyan on Saturday. The diplomatic forum in Turkey marks the first time foreign ministers of Turkey and Armenia met for sit-down talks since 2009. Cavusoglu told reporters that they were "making efforts for stability and peace."

Armenia's Mirzoyan echoed similar sentiments, saying "we are continuing the process of normalizing relations without preconditions... we are making efforts" by Armenians and that Turks were killed as well. The German Parliament in 2016 recognized the killing of Armenians as constituting a genocide, as did the United States

in 2021. A dozen other bodies and countries like the European Parliament, France and Canada recognize Ottoman killing of Armenians as genocide. Additionally, normalization of ties between Turkey and Armenia have been hampered by fierce dispute between Turkey's ally Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Azerbaijan and Armenia have fought violence wars over the region in the late 1980s and 1990s, with tensions flaring most recently in 2020. Turkey cut diplomatic ties and shut its border with Armenia in 1993, in solidarity with Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan was at the time engaged in a conflict with Armenian separatists in Karabakh. Azerbaijan is majority Muslim, while Armenia is majority Christian. In 2009, Armenia and Turkey signed a landmark peace accord to



restore ties and open borders, but the deal was never ratified amid pressure from Azerbaijan. In 2020, during the bloody Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Ankara once again supported Azerbaijan and accused Yerevan of occupying Azeri territories. A Russian-brokered truce that ended the conflict removed Turkey's main objection to talking to Armenia, which was Yerevan's support for the local Nagorno-Karabakh government's claim of independence from Azerbaijan. The war also saw Azerbaijan restore control over large parts of its former province of Nagorno-Karabakh and surrounding districts.

Briefs

Guns, not diplomacy, to determine Ukraine war: Experts

PARIS: Russia entered negotiations with Ukraine only days after invading the country but experts say the ongoing talks are unlikely to yield progress until one side feels it has momentum on the battlefield. The latest attempts at finding a negotiated end to the bloodshed saw the Russian and Ukrainian foreign ministers sit down for talks on Thursday in the Turkish resort city of Antalya. Although there was no breakthrough, Ukrainian President Zelensky said on Saturday there had been a "fundamentally different approach" from the Russians in the latest discussions, while Putin claimed there were "some positive shifts" in the dialogue. Experts say Russia's approach has so far entailed making ultimatums, insisting that Ukraine agree to de-militarise, renounce its ambitions to join NATO, and recognise Russian territorial claims in eastern Ukraine. Ukraine rejects these demands and there appears to be little incentive for anyone to compromise until one side builds a dominant military position. "It's a kind of deadlock or standoff because Russia still hopes that Ukraine will accept its demands," said Oleg Ignatov, a Russia specialist at the International Crisis Group (ICG), a think-tank. "Both sides consider the military scenario as the main scenario: Ukraine is not losing this war and Russia is not winning this war." Natia Seskuria, a Russia expert at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), a British think-tank, said it was hard to imagine a diplomatic solution when the two sides are struggling to agree on humanitarian corridors or even temporary local ceasefires. - APP

China: Millions locked down

BEIJING: Millions of people across China endured lockdowns on Sunday as virus cases doubled to nearly 3,400 and anxiety mounted over the resilience of the country's 'zero-Covid' approach in the face of the worst outbreak in two years. The nationwide case surge has prompted authorities to close schools in Shanghai and lock down central neighbourhoods in southern tech powerhouse Shenzhen as well as whole northeastern cities, as almost 18 provinces battle clusters of the Omicron and Delta variants. In China's most populous metropolis Shanghai, individual housing compounds were being locked down one by one as the city ramped up efforts to contain infections and test suspected close contacts. Jilin - the city at the centre of the outbreak in the northeast - was partially locked down Saturday, while residents of Yanji, an urban area of nearly 700,000 bordering North Korea, were confined to their homes Sunday. - APP

Pak Navy conducts weapon firing during Seaspark 2022

The live weapons firing were conducted on the culmination of sea phase of PN's Major Maritime Exercise SEASPARK-2022. The exercise was conducted to validate PN operational plans and war preparedness of Pak Navy



DNA
KARACHI: In an impressive firepower display, Pakistan Navy Fleet units demonstrated combat readiness and war fighting potential by Live Weapon Firings of Anti-ship Missiles and Torpedoes in North Arabian Sea. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi witnessed the Live Weapons Firings along with senior officers from Tri-services. During the Fire power demonstration, PN Ship, Aircraft and Submarine successfully hit their intended targets thereby re-affirming PN's war fighting capability and combat potential.

The live weapons firing were conducted on the culmination of sea phase of PN's Major Maritime Exercise SEASPARK-2022. The exercise was conducted to validate PN operational plans and war preparedness of Pakistan Navy. On the occasion, Naval Chief expressed his entire satisfaction on the operational readiness of Pakistan Navy and its preparedness to defend the national maritime interests. He also commended the officers and men for their commitment and professionalism. Chief of the Naval Staff assured that Pakistan Navy is ever ready to thwart any aggression against Pakistan's Maritime frontiers and will continue to play an important role in making defense of motherland impregnable. Pakistan Navy stands fully prepared to tackle threats across entire spectrum of warfare. The show of fire power by Surface, Sub-Surface and Aviation units is manifestation of our resolve.

Induction of J-10C a huge milestone



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Induction of J-10C aircraft has further strengthened PAF as a formidable and potent force well capable of defending the aerial frontiers of our beloved country. With J-10C "Dragon" Omni role fighter in its ranks, PAF retains the first shot BVR capability while maintaining a qualitative edge in the application of Air Power across all domains. The capabilities of the aircraft are showcased in the short video documentary released by Directorate General Public Relations (Air Force).

Pakistan logs lowest deaths since Jan 11

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan logged the lowest number of daily COVID-19 deaths since January 11 as three patients infected with the virus died during the last 24 hours, the NCOC data showed Sunday morning. On January 11, only two deaths were reported in the entire country, while the latest additions placed Pakistan's coronavirus death toll at 30,307. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 positivity rate in the country remained below 2% for the fourth consecutive day. The national COVID-19 body said it conducted 35,627 diagnostic tests, of which 609 came back positive. - APP

NAB Executive Board meeting on Tuesday

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Justice Javed Iqbal, Chairman NAB will chair NAB's Executive Board Meeting on March 15, 2022 at NAB Headquarters in which various inquiries, investigations and references are expected to be authorised after due diligence as per law, according to a spokesman of NAB.

Saudi Arabia executes 81 people in one day

MONITORING DESK

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia said on Saturday it executed a record 81 people in one day for a variety of terrorism-related offences, exceeding the total number it sentenced to death last year. All had been "found guilty of committing multiple heinous crimes", the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported, saying they included convicts linked to the militant Islamic State (IS) group, or Al Qaeda, Yemen's Houthi rebel forces or "other terrorist organisations".

Those executed had been plotting attacks in the kingdom - including killing of a large number of civilians and members of the security forces, the SPA statement read. "They also include convictions for targeting government personnel and vital economic sites, the killing of law enforcement officers and maiming their bodies, and planting land mines to target police vehicles," the SPA said. "The convictions include crimes of kidnapping, torture, rape, smuggling arms and bombs into the kingdom," it added. Of the 81 people killed - the king-

dom's highest number of recorded executions in one day - 73 were Saudi citizens, seven were Yemeni and one was a Syrian national. SPA said all those executed were tried in Saudi courts, with trials overseen by 13 judges, held over three separate stages for each individual. "The kingdom will continue to take a strict and unwavering stance against terrorism and extremist ideologies that threaten stability," the report by SPA added. The wealthy Gulf country has one of the world's highest execution rates, and has often carried out death sentences by beheading.

Economy on path of sustainable growth: PM

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has directed all the elected representatives of PTI to strengthen their engagement with the people to make them aware of the various government initiatives for socio-economic development. He was talking to Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Haider Zaidi and different members of National Assembly from Peshawar, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Chakwal and on women reserved seats, with whom he held separate meetings in Islamabad. The Prime Minister said successful economic policies of the government have stabilized country's economy and now we are at path of sustainable growth. The Prime Minister also directed them to aware the people of the fact that the government is fully aware of their plight. He said the government is taking all possible measures to protect people from the negative effects of import inflation due to the historic rise in prices of essential commodities in international markets. Imran Khan said that the pro-people measures include reduction of 10 rupees per liter price of petrol and diesel and reduction of 5 rupees per unit price of electricity. In addition, 100 percent tax rebates for IT companies and freelancers, 100 percent foreign exchange holdings and investment in IT startups to promote information technology in the country and create vast employment opportunities for youth. Moreover, under the Kamyab Pakistan program, in the next two years 407 billion rupees will be distributed for businesses. Under the Ehsas program, the monthly stipend has been increased from 12,000 rupees to 14,000 rupees while 38 billion rupees has been allocated for 2.6 million scholarships. - DNA

Spain to play role to curb poverty in south Punjab: Envoy

MULTAN: Ambassador of Spain to Pakistan Manuel Duran Gimenez-Rico said that Spain would continue to cooperate with Pakistan in different fields including agriculture, textile, civil engineering, housing and many other sectors. He said this during his tour at Rumi Fabrics here. The ambassador observed that he was visiting South Punjab

to introduce local products to Spain. He remarked that Spain would also perform role in addressing the issue of poverty in the region by facilitating in job creations. He said, "Spain always cooperated to promote business activities in Pakistan. We believe that the quality of Pakistani products was much better than the products produced in the region". Known Industrialist Jalaluddin Rumi also maintained that the local products were popular across the globe. Rumi Fabric made name by fulfilling orders during peak of coronavirus, said the industrialist. Rumi also informed that there was immense potential in agriculture, livestock, fisheries and fruit orchards. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Saeed and Ambassador of Morocco Mohammed Karmouné witnessing 5th International Army Team spirit competition. - DNA

5th PATS Competition ends at NCTC Pabbi

The closing ceremony was also attended Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Saeed Al Maliki, Ambassador of Morocco Mohamed Karmouné, observers and Defence Attaches' from participating countries

RAWALPINDI: The closing ceremony of 5th International Pakistan Army Team Spirit (PATS) Competition-2022 was held at National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC) Pabbi. Inspector General Training and Evaluation Lieutenant General Syed Muhammad Adnan was Chief guest on the occasion, said an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release. As many as eight Pakistan Army and eight international teams including Jordan, Morocco, Nepal, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Kenya, Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka participated in the competition. The Chief Guest distributed prizes and medals to the participants of the competition. Multan Corps won the competition while Rawalpindi Corps clinched 2nd position. Amongst international teams gold medals were won by Nepal, Turkey and Uzbekistan, silver medals by Kenya, Morocco and Sri Lanka while Jordan and KSA teams won bronze medals. The closing ceremony was also attended Saudi Ambassador Nawaf Saeed Al Maliki, Ambassador of Morocco Mohamed Karmouné, observers and Defence Attaches' from participating countries. It is worth mentioning that the competition spanned over 60 hours from 7 to 9 March including various events in most difficult environment. The teams were evaluated for physical endurance, mental agility and tactical proficiency. - APP

PPP demands PM's name on ECL, speaker's resignation

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leaders have demanded putting prime minister's name on Exit Control List (ECL) and also asked National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser to step down for being 'biased' or the opposition would remove him through a no-confidence motion. Addressing a joint press conference in Islamabad on Sunday with Syed Naveed Qamar and Faisal Karim Kundi, PPP Senator Sherry Rehman directed her criticism to Prime Minister Imran Khan and said that his countdown had begun. "It's opposition's super over now as the entire country has expressed its distrust in the government," she pointed out. She stated that the PPP would never resort to abuses, asking the

government not to take the country towards a constitutional and political crisis. She lambasted the government's failure to timely understand the gravity of India's 'accidental' missile landing in Pakistan and said: "A nuclear missile fell in our territory. Why did the government take four days to fully understand the gravity of the situation?" She also came down hard on the government's failure to handle the worsening economic affairs and said: "Now even the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has expressed its disability to do something." The PPP Senator also deplored a federal minister's statement of becoming a suicide bomber against the opposition and said that the government ministers were even ready to burn their own home and the country. "They have led the country to crises. Their government is now falling apart," she stated. Former National Assembly deputy speaker Faisal Karim Kundi said that the government was making attempts to hoodwink overseas Pakistanis again. He also blamed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government for using delaying tactics in foreign funding case and added: "To date, the National Assembly speaker has not revealed who installed cameras in the Parliament." He also demanded that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) conduct hearing of the foreign funding case on a daily basis. He asked National Assembly Asad Qaiser to resign or he would be removed through a no-confidence motion otherwise.



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