



Islamabad POST

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Ukraine-Russia crisis reveals Islamophobia, cultural racism

Detailed News On Page-06

China must not be 'affected' by sanctions

Detailed News On Page-08



Japan embassy starts calendars exhibition

Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

PTI jalsa not meant for clash

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Tuesday said that purpose of PTI public meeting in Federal Capital was not the confrontation with any political party. In a tweet, he said PML-Q president Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain was dignified personality and Prime Minister always had regard for him. He said that Tehreek-e-Insaf was a democratic party. "We do not engage in extremism in politics, nor do we believe in confrontation," said Chaudhry Fawad. - APP

Directs MNAs to ensure presence

NAZIR SYIAL

KARACHI, Faced with the challenge of making the no-confidence motion against the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government successful, former president and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari has directed the PPP MNAs to ensure their presence in the National Assembly (NA) on the day of voting on the motion. Zardari has conveyed to the party MNAs in writing that if they vote against the party lines or simply abstain on the big day, action will be taken against them.

Missile incident an accident: US

DNA

WASHINGTON: The United States Department of State has declared the recent incident of Indian violation of Pakistani airspace by launching a projectile into Pakistan "nothing but an accident." We don't have a comment beyond that," Prince said during a briefing with reporters on Monday. When asked if Price on behalf of the State Department has raised concerns on reports of Uranium theft, he said that he "is not familiar with that particular incident."

Indian missile issue

Mily brass expresses concern

The conference was of the view that the accident, as claimed by India, could have resulted in a major disaster

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

RAWALPINDI: The Corps Commanders' Conference warned on Tuesday that the "accidental" firing of a missile by India could have acted as a "trigger" that would have "seriously" endangered regional peace and strategic stability. According to a statement by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa chaired the 248th Corps Commanders' Conference at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi. The military's media wing said that the forum was given a comprehensive briefing on important global and regional developments, the internal security situation in the country, and progress on the western border management regime. The ISPR said that the country's top military brass expressed "concern" regarding recent "accidental missile firing" by New Delhi. The

Continued on Page 06

'Propaganda must be countered collectively'

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Tuesday emphasized that misinformation and propaganda by inimical forces threatens national cohesion which must be identified and countered collectively through a unified response. The Army Chief was addressing the induction ceremony of SH-15 Artillery Guns in Corps of Artillery during his visit to Lahore, said an Inter Services

Continued on Page 06

Chaotic politics to lead country toward turmoil : Rashid

Minister says PTI members and allies would fully support PM Imran Khan



ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed on Tuesday advised the opposition to refrain from doing chaotic politics, otherwise they would have to face its consequences. Talking to the media, he said that elements trying to create chaos, would have to wait for the next 10 years due to their politics of agitation. He said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)

Continued on Page 06

Shujaat urges govt, opp to call off rallies

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) President Chaudhry Shujaat has advised the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) and opposition to call off their respective power shows, which they plan on holding at Islamabad's D-Chowk on the eve of a no-trust vote against Prime Minister Imran Khan in the National Assembly. In a statement issued on Tuesday, Shujaat appealed to both the sides to immediately announce the cancellation of their rallies in the "greater interest

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Nepal Tapas Adhikari in a meeting with former Prime Minister and PMLQ leader Ch. Shujaat Hussain. - DNA

Nepal envoy calls on Ch. Shujaat
Both sides discuss strengthening of SAARC

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Nepal Tapas Adhikari called on the former Prime Minister of Pakistan and President of Pakistan Muslim League (Q) Ch. Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain in Islamabad. During the meeting, they discussed the matters related to Nepal-Pakistan bilateral relations and the ways to further strengthen it, regional cooperation in South Asia and SAARC.

PM ready to hold debate on 3.5 years

"I challenge the entire opposition to compete with us in anything. We are ahead of you" said the Premier



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Tuesday challenged media organisations, economists and opposition parties to debate with the government over its performance in the last 3.5 years, saying that "nobody served

Continued on Page 06

MNAs express full confidence on PM Imran

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Members of National Assembly (MNAs) during a meeting with Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan expressed full confidence. Members of National Assembly called on PM Imran Khan on Tuesday. During the meeting, all members of the National Assembly expressed full confidence in the Prime Minister. The issues pertaining to progress on development projects in the respective constituencies were discussed. The Prime Minister directed the members of the National Assembly to

Continued on Page 06

President Alvi, others acquitted

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: An anti-terrorism court on Tuesday acquitted President Arif Alvi in the Parliament attack case along with Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. Senior party leadership, including Planning Minister Asad Umar, Defence Minister Pervez Khattak, Education Minister Shafiqat Mehmood and Provincial Minister Shaukat Yousufzai have also been acquitted in the case. ATC judge Mohammad Ali Warraich announced the ruling today. The court also acquitted now disgruntled members of the PTI, Jahangir Khan Tareen and Aleem Khan, in the 2014 case, amidst no objection from the prosecution. The president and several others were booked in the PTV and parliament attack case in 2014 during PTT's sit-in against the then PML-N government. Earlier, President Alvi had refused to avail immunity in the Parliament attack case and opted to appear before an ATC. The president had filed an appeal stating that he would not be availing his immunity and said that Islam does not allow pardons.

Imran Khan is in trouble, says Elahi

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PML Q leader and Speaker of the Punjab Assembly Ch. Pervez Elahi has said Prime Minister Imran Khan is in trouble as opposition parties have almost decided to support the no-trust move. In a recent statement Ch. Pervez Elahi said all opposition parties offered us something except the govt and Imran Khan. He added, now it seems that the prime



minister has missed the train. He said they have almost decided their future course of action. They are only waiting for the MQM to make its mind. He said MQM had some differences with Asif Zardari. 70 per cent of the differences have been addressed. He added, in case we reach an agreement, Asif Zardari shall be our grantor.

Inside...

Tax ombudsman to give relief to Suzuki car purchasers - Page 02

Chief Selector PCB seeks business community's coop - Page 03

Govt to launch satellite based forest report: Amin - Page 04

Putin hums 'Georgia on my mind' - Page 05

Babar hundred stalls Australia's victory march - Page 06

CPEC is not China-centric; it is open to the world: Khalid - Page 07

Two Japanese Calendars Exhibitions inaugurated - Page 08

Pak to act as a bridge for Muslim unity: FM



CENTRELINE REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Tuesday said at the platform of the upcoming 48th meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Islamabad, Pakistan would act as a bridge to promote unity among the Muslim countries and contribute towards finding a way together on common issues facing the Islamic world. "Pakistan wants to promote

Continued on Page 06

Qureshi talks to FMs of Indonesia, Malaysia

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi held telephone conversations with Retno Marsudi, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Indonesia and YB DATO' SRI Saifuddin Abdulla, Foreign Minister of Malaysia, separately. During the call with his Indonesian counterpart, the two sides exchanged views on wide range of topics of mutual interest. They agreed to further strengthen bilateral ties covering political, trade and economic matters, as well as cooperation

Continued on Page 06

MARCH 2022

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ISLAMABAD: Leader of the opposition in the Senate Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani addressing as chief guest at the book launching ceremony "Main aur mera Pakistan" by Anwar Saifullah Khan. — APP

Four persons killed over property dispute

YOUSUF BHUTTA

GUJRAT: A mother and her three children were brutally killed in village Shampur of Kharian Tehsil over a property dispute here on Tuesday. It is reported that a man Safdar stabbed his two nieces and nephew to death with sticks in a domestic dispute over distribution of property. The victims were identified as Shakila Bibi, aged-34, Roshan, aged-14, Ayesha, aged-10, and Maryam, aged-4. According to DPO Gujrat Umer Salamat, Gujrat Police have, in an immediate operation arrested accused Safdar Hussain on the spot. Meanwhile, IG Punjab Rao Sardar Ali Khan took notice of the tragic incident of killings and demanded a report from RPO Gujranwala. Police and forensic teams have gathered evidence from the scene. The DPO has said that strict legal action will be taken against the arrested accused and punishment will be meted out to him.

More than one lakh dialysis in Kidney Center
Delegations will travel to Europe and the United Arab Emirates in May to raise funds for the Kidney Center. The number of dialysis machines has risen to 43 after donors donated two new machines. These views were expressed by Deputy Commissioner / Chairman Dr. Khurram Shehzad while addressing a meeting of the Board of Governors. The meeting was attended by Chaudhry Muhammad Ijaz, Javed Butt,

Sajid Rathore and other while President Kidney Center Mian Muhammad Ijaz gave a briefing on the activities of February. In the meeting, Chaudhry Azhar Hussain was nominated as Vice President and Dr. Rohail Sarwar as Member. Overseas Pakistanis, based in England, Mirza Yousuf and a local physician Dr. Rohail Sarwar each handed over one dialysis machine for the Kidney Center to the chairman and board members. Deputy Commissioner / Chairman Boards of Governors Dr. Khurram Shehzad said that dialysis of 115 persons is being done every day in the Kidney Center and most of these expenses are covered by donations from philanthropists but some people also pay in full or in part. He said that in view of the continuous increase in the expenses of the Center, a full-fledged campaign would be launched to send delegations abroad for fund raising and also to collect donations at home. He said that shifting to solar energy would save millions of rupees in electricity bills of Kidney Center. Earlier, President Kidney Center Mian Ijaz Ahmed while giving a briefing said that 2200 dialysis were done in February. He further told that the Kidney Center had an income of Rs. 7,278,912; out of which Rs. 3,606,000 were collected in the form of Zakat, Rs. 2,494,250 was collected in donations while Rs. 654,500 were received for dialysis expenses. A number of 102,022 patients have been given the facility of dialysis from the year 2016 till now, he added.

Haji Zubair Ali takes oath as City Mayor Peshawar

DNA

PESHAWAR: Newly elected City Mayor Peshawar, Haji Zubair Ali and chairmen of six tehsils of district Peshawar took oath of their offices here on Tuesday.

In this connection an impressive oath taking ceremony was held here in the office of the Commissioner Peshawar Division wherein Deputy Commissioner Peshawar, Shafiullah Khan administered oath to City Mayor Peshawar and chairmen of six other tehsils of the district. Besides, Commissioner Peshawar Division, Riaz Khan Mehsud and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Peshawar, Shafiullah Khan, the provincial ameer of JUI-F, Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman and former City District Nazim, Haji Ghulam Ali, the office bearers and workers of various political parties also attended the ceremony. Others who took oath of their offices were Haroon Sifat as Chairman, Tehsil Pishatkara, Faridullah Khan (Tehsil Mathra), Kaleemullah (Tehsil Shahalam), Arbab Omar (Tehsil Chamkani), Abdul Hafeez Afridi (Tehsil Hassan Khel) and Mufti Tila Mohammad as chairman Tehsil Badinbar respectively.

Talking to the media after taking the oath of office, City Mayor, Haji Zubair Ali vowed to take all stakeholders of the city on board for the resolution of the problems faced by the people.

UAE royal family member met with Governor KP

PESHAWAR: Member of United Arab Emirates (UAE) Royal family, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Qasbi visited Governor House here Tuesday and met with KP Governor, Shah Farman. Matters relating to utilization of KP natural resources and cooperation the two countries to boost trade activities were discussed in the meeting. The Governor informed the visiting dignitary about investment opportunities and the production of saffron, olives and honey in the province. He said that KP was gifted with many of natural resources that are being highly praised in the world due to quality and standard. He said that UAE should invest and take benefit of these natural resources. Sheikh Abdul Aziz praised KP for producing high quality olives and honey and expressed interest to invest in the sector. — APP

Tax ombudsman to give relief to Suzuki car purchasers

The FTO said he ruled that charging old rate was illegal and it should be refunded to the complainant

DNA

LAHORE: Federal Tax Ombudsman Dr. Asif Mehmood Jah has said that his department would implement the relief given to thousands of Suzuki car purchasers by the president by declining the FBR appeals seeking sales tax at old rate of 17 per cent. He was chairing a special meeting on budget proposals of the advisory committee which was participated in by Women Chamber of Commerce President Saima Ali Dada, Sialkot Women Chamber of Commerce President Shamim Aftab, Multan Chamber of Commerce President Khawaja Hussain, Sialkot Chamber of Commerce President Imran Ahmad, Senior Vice President of the Lahore Chamber of

Commerce and Industry Aziz Chan, Chairman of the Aptma North Zone Hamid Zaman and noted industrialists, lawyers and businessmen's representatives from across the country. Addressing the meeting, FTO Dr Asif Mehmood said the president had allowed new Suzuki car buyers to pay the sales tax at 12 per cent, which was reduced by the government in supplementary budget in February from 17 per cent. He said he had ruled that buyers should be given the benefit of reduced tax in case of late delivery, like such buyers were charged the increased rates at the time of delivery. The issue was raised by hundreds of car buyers complaining that the car company charged the old 17 per cent tax despite delivering the cars after the budget approval. They argued that

since the company was responsible for delayed delivery, the current tax should be charged. The FTO said he ruled that charging old rate was illegal and it should be refunded to the complainant. Similarly, he said the decision on declaring illegal income tax on salaried persons (10 per cent on filers, 20 per cent on non-filers) below 600,000 rupees annual income would benefit millions of people. It was on application by a Radio Pakistan journalist on temporary employment complaining that 17 per cent tax was deducted from his salary every month because the FBR didn't consider him in salaried class, which was in violation of section 12 of the Income Tax Ordinance. This decision would benefit all the contractual employees.



Fazl ur Rehman playing evil politics: Tanveer Ilyas

STAFF REPORTER

ISLAMABAD: President Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and most senior government minister Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that the people of Azad Kashmir would participate in the PTI's D-Chowk gathering on March 27 more than other provinces and Gilgit Baltistan. He expressed these views in his media talk here in Islamabad. Sardar Tanveer Ilyas Khan said that Molana Fazlur Rehman's politics was full of evil. He said Molana had gone far from the ideology of his superiors, adding that contrary to the spirit of religion, ministry, money, position and protocol had become his motto. He further said that he played the role of facilitator of India in the illegal move of Articles 370 and 35A in Kashmir and now he would play the role of facilitator again by announcing a long march during the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) conference in Islamabad.



The president of PTI AJK further stated that workers from all over Pakistan including from AJK would come to Islamabad on 27th March to express solidarity with Prime Minister Imran Khan. He said that people would come from every tehsil, district and every union council of Azad Kashmir and the number of people coming from Azad Kashmir will be much more than other provinces and Gilgit Baltistan. Commenting on opposition parties' march in Islamabad, Sardar Tanveer

Ilyas said that the drama that the opposition parties have been in power for 30 years, and when they step down, they get sick," he said. He went on to say that Pakistanis needed a leader whose life and death was for Pakistan and the Pakistani nation and all these qualities were only in Imran Khan. He also said that Imran Khan could have lived anywhere in the world if he wanted, but he preferred the tough path of fighting for the respect of his nation. Commemorating his role for highlighting the Kashmir issue globally, Sardar Tanveer Ilyas said, Prime Minister Imran Khan, being the ambassador of the Kashmir issue raised the voice of Kashmir in every forum of the world and Kashmiris were standing behind him. Commenting on Pakistan Muslim League Quaid-e-Azam (PML-Q), he said that he had a long-standing relationship with the leadership of PML-Q and he had faith that the Chaudhry brothers would support the government unconditionally.

Punjab govt provide best medical facilities to people

FAISAL MUNIR

ATTOCK: Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Noor ul Amin Mengal has said that our mission is to provide best medical facilities to the people on the direction of Punjab government. Every possible step is being taken to provide basic facilities to the people. He expressed these views during a surprise visit to Attock on Tuesday. Deputy Commissioner Attock Muhammad Naeem Sindhu, Assistant Commissioner Attock Muhammad Saleem Raja, Deputy Director Public Relations (DGPR) Shehzad Niaz, Dr. Jawad Elahi and other officers were also present on the occasion. Commissioner Rawalpindi Division also visited Deputy Commissioner's Office, District Emergency Operations Center, Ehsas Kafalat Center, Mother and Child Care Hospital, Government Asfandyar Bukhari District Hospital, Haji Shah Road, Mall Sarwala and Darulaman. During his visit to the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Commissioner Rawalpindi visited various departments. Deputy Commissioner Attock briefed him about the sectors. During the visit to District Emergency Operations Center, Commissioner Rawalpindi was informed that this center has been set up under the supervision of PDMA Punjab. From where natural disasters and festivals will be monitored throughout the district and control rooms will be set up. Commissioner Rwp Noor ul Amin Mengal also visited Ehsas Kafalat Center where the concerned officers briefed him about the details of the beneficiaries of the center and also provided details about the operation of Ehsas Kafalat Center. While giving a briefing at Government Asfandyar Bukhari District Hospital, MS Dr. Jawad Elahi apprised the Commissioner Rawalpindi about the administrative matters and construction work of the hospital. During a visit to Mother and Child Care Hospital, Commissioner Rawalpindi was informed that this hospital is being prepared at a cost of billions of rupees.

Closing ceremony held for sports competitions

KAMRAN GUJJAR

JHELUM: Closing ceremony of annual sports competition organized by Head Teachers Association was held at Government Islamia Girls High Secondary School No.3. In which Deputy Commissioner Jhelum Numan Hafeez attended as a special guest. Apart from this, CEO Education Chaudhry Maroof, District Education Officer (DEO) Syed Wilayat Ali Shah, Principal Safia Cheema including a large number of other teachers and students attended. Deputy Commissioner Numan Hafeez has said that extra-curricular activities highlight the hidden talents in the young generation, which give them a new spirit of competition and give them opportunities to express their abilities. He said that in today's era girls are going ahead in the sports field against boys, he said we need to convince the children that social media should be used carefully and instead participate in physical activities. Trophies were distributed among successful students at the end of the ceremony. Best school award of 2022 received by Government Girls Higher Secondary School Dina.



A strong blizzard stranded tourists in Murree

AAMIR ABBASI

MURREE, Queen of Hills, is located in the Himalayan range. It's a lovely and gorgeous mountain resort where tourists chosen to live and enjoy the snowfall after months of tedious chores. It is 30 kilometers northeast of Islamabad and has a population of 233,471. The best time to enjoy snowfall in Murree is from the 22nd of December until the end of February. Troubled tourists trapped in the snow-storm also fell into the trap of hotel mafia which further increased their anxiety. Tourists alleged that hotels were overcharging and pushing them to check out during the road closure meanwhile services were not being given despite the high cost. According to certain visitors, foodstuff prices have risen sharply, due to extreme snow-storm. Murree's local government faced

a huge challenge in providing low-cost room rent and cheaper food. Every tourist has the right and want to stay in a hotel that is affordable. Pakistan is a Muslim majority country, and it was disheartening to learn that many visitors from all over the country had flocked to the tourism site, been badly treated by the hotel mafias, who, rather than extending assistance in times of trouble, cashed in on every opportunity to earn as much profit as they could. Regrettably, stuck tourists were charged excessive prices by hoteliers. On contrary, when blizzard forecasts grew alarming in non-Muslim nations, such as America and Europe, several families booked into hotels instead of taking shelter at home since the hotels offered a discounted rate with wonderful facilities. Offering a discount hotel prices after a storm benefits customers and can build goodwill & it is a lesson for us (Muslims). Finally, following some suggestions are offered to the government to provide maximum facilities to the tourists at affordable rates and to

create a Murree-friendly environment so that the malice created by these conspiratorial elements and mafias may be eradicated. The government should enact strict legislation to control the hotel mafia in Murree and fix room bookings and food rates that are suitable for the tourists. Construction of new hotels should be banned and hotel owners should be required to arrange parking or else their hotels will be closed. The manual income sheets of all the hotels in Murree should be abolished as the owners of these hotels hide their real income from the government. Government should regulate hotels rates & all hotels in Murree should therefore link the point of cash receive with FBR as POS system so as to increase the tax net of the government and there is no further line to stop this inhuman mafia. The booking process should be done in advance so that the tourists are satisfied with the

booking rate and then they do not object to the hotel rates. And at the government level, there should be a complete look at hotels and every illegal act of hotels should be stopped so that neither the state nor the people of Murree are discredited. The FBR should immediately investigate the assets of Murree hoteliers and collect taxes from them by estimating their income and expenses so as to benefit the state and prevent tax evasion. Pakistan is a suitable country for tourism and Murree is a close tourist destination for tourists so the government should formulate a comprehensive policy for the promotion of tourism in Murree and provide full press security for the protection of tourists. The Army is a disciplined body and is capable of dealing with any calamity therefore the government should take the Pakistan Army on board and involve it in the policy matter to deal with such unforeseen calamities. — The writer is a law student

Shopkeepers fined over profiteering

FAISALABAD: The price control magistrates imposed Rs 97,000 fine on 47 shopkeepers on the charge of profiteering in the district during the past 12 hours. A spokesman for the administration said on Tuesday that price control magistrates inspected various shops in different markets and bazaars of Faisalabad. — APP

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

MARCH

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



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIA Flight Info.....114
PIA Cargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange 9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
CAA.....9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....5611111
MH.....5611116
Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
DHQ.....5556311-4
RGH.....9290301-7
Holy Family.....9290322-7
PIMS.....9261170-79
Polyclinic.....9218300-09
Shifa International.4603666



Departments

CDA.....9221334-43
CDA.....9208301-04
Met Office.....9250360-6
RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224
Potohar Town.....9209224
Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kazakhstan Erjan Oystapa, Sohail Altaf, Shahid Saleem and others posing for a picture on the occasion of a dinner hosted by Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in honour of Zahid Latif Khan on his elevation as the President of Lahore Stock Exchange. Zahid was recently elected as the Chairman of Islamabad Stock Exchange REIT as well. – DNA

Chief Selector PCB seeks business community's coop

M Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the global sports industry was worth over US\$ 400bln and Pakistan could bring significant improvement in its economy by promoting sports including cricket

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Waseem, Chief Selector, Pakistan Cricket Board said that the business community was playing key role in the economic development of the country and they should come forward to patronize cricket in clubs, schools and regions that would help in grooming the new talent and promoting cricket in the country. He said this while addressing the business community at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI). Muhammad Waseem said that finance was key for promoting any sport including cricket and the role of the business community was very important in patronizing sports activities to bring out new sporting talent in various fields of games including cricket. He said that realizing the important role of the business community for sports, Chairman PCB Ramiz Raja has started to reach out to them so that they could contribute



to strengthen cricket in the country. He said that international cricket has now come back to Pakistan and this year's calendar was already fully packed. He said that ICCI members would be invited to cricket matches so that they could play a role to

promote sports culture. Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the global sports industry was worth over US\$ 400 billion and Pakistan could bring significant improvement in its economy by promoting sports including cricket. He said that survival and growth of many businesses depended on the sports industry and promotion of cricket and other sports would facilitate the better growth of many industries and businesses. He appreciated the great efforts of Ramiz Raja, Chairman PCB and Muhammad Waseem Chief Selector PCB for reviving international cricket in Pakistan. He said that a healthy body produced a healthy mind and added that ICCI has formed a Sports Committee to focus on promoting sports activities in the business community. He assured that ICCI would cooperate with PCB in further promoting cricket in the region. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Asher Hafeez Convener ICCI Sports Committee, Muhammad Naveed Malik former Senior Vice President and others also spoke at the occasion and stressed for the need of closer cooperation between ICCI and PCB to promote cricket in this region.

Health facilities for CDA staff, residents being improved

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Management of capital development authority is taking various measures to improve and enhance the health facilities for employees of CDA and residents of Islamabad. In this regard Capital Development Authority Hospital which from the last two decades had not only being run out of capacity but was also facing the shortage of staff. However, in 2020 the chairman CDA ordered to construct a new block having the capacity of nearly 200 beds to cater for more CDA employees and residents of Islamabad. The project was started in 2020 and now it has been completed in a record time. Moreover, the incumbent management has not only paid attention on the civil works but after the lapse of 17 years fresh Medical Officers have been appointed

to raise human resource capacity of the hospital. According to the details, newly appointed staff at CDA hospital includes 33 staff nurses, 33 MOs while 12 specialists of various medical fields have also been appointed. The new hospital block will become functional from Thursday as the recruitment is already done and equipment is installed. The civil works had already been completed. The SAPM on CDA and chairman addressed to the newly recruited medical doctors. Executive Director Dr Fazal e Maula were present at the occasion. The chairman CDA welcomed the new staff members and motivated them to work to the best of abilities. He advised them to take this task more than a career but as a dedication. SAPM also thanked the chairman and CDA team for bringing up this facility in record time for residents of Islamabad.

Science Diplomacy Perspectives journal lauded

ISLAMABAD: The ministry of foreign affairs launched the inaugural issue of the international journal "Science Diplomacy Perspectives" in collaboration with COMSTECH on Tuesday. Coordinator General COMSTECH, Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary delivered the welcome address in the launching ceremony. He said that in the context of 48th OIC Council of Foreign Ministers meeting, to be held in Islamabad under the chairmanship of Pakistan, as well as at a defining moment in global history when new alliances are being formed by nations, launching of this journal has a special significance. Prof. Choudhary extended felicitations to the entire team of the science diplomacy division of ministry of foreign affairs on this excellent and timely initiative. He said it reflects the

importance which Pakistan places to the soft diplomacy. He informed that the current issue is a compilation of 17 scholarly articles on various aspects of science diplomacy, ranging from defining new trends in science diplomacy to central role of various technologies in diplomatic context. Prof. Choudhary highlighted that the journal has excellent reviews on China-Pakistan cooperation, agriculture biotechnology, cybersecurity, science and society nexus, as well as contributions of Pakistan's premier research institutions on global diplomacy. All are written by practitioners and experts of science diplomacy. Prof. Choudhary hoped to see this journal emerging as a leading impact factor treatise where foreign policy researchers, and seasoned diplomats feel proud to publish their work. – DNA

National Day of Ghana celebrated

The grand event was attended by a number of Foreign ambassadors and diplomats based in Islamabad. The attendees included Ambassadors of Italy, S. Korea, Indonesia, Nigeria, Somalia, Jordan Palestine and Romania while Diplomats from France, Somalia, Brition, Greece, Algeria, Egypt, and Azerbaijan were also present

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Honorary consul General Ghana Dr Shahid Rasheed Butt and vice consul Omar Shahid Butt hosted a grand reception at his residence in Islamabad on the auspicious occasion of National day of Ghana. The grand event was attended by a number of Foreign ambassadors and diplomats based in Islamabad. The attendees included Ambassadors of Italy, South Korea, Indonesia, Nigeria, Somalia, Jordan Palestine and Romania while Diplomats from France, Somalia, Brition, Greece, Algeria, Egypt, and Azerbaijan were also present. Attendees also included number of prominent personalities from Pa-

kistan including Former chairman enate Nayer bukhari, Former deputy speaker national assembly Faisal ka-reem kundi, Former deputy speaker National assembly wazir ahmed jog-zai, Former chief minister kpk pir Sa-bir shah, former law minister Zafar ullah khan Former Dg ISI General(r) Asad Duraani, former chief of Naval staff Admiral (r) Abdul Aziz Mirza, Former Air chief marshal (r) Sohail aman Former ambassadors Najam us saqib and Ali sarwar Naqvi. were also present. EX Dg IB colonel (r) col Bashir wali muhmand, Ex secretary petroleum Dr Gulfriz ahmed, Ex secretary Ramzan Ackzai, a number of bussiness personalities including Chief executive Quaid e azam hospital Dr shaukat bangash, shoab sheikh, kifayat malik, Faisal Riaz virk.



PAF jets leave twin cities' residents amazed

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Air Force (PAF) fighter jets, on Tuesday, attracted swaths of masses on Faizabad, Expressway interchanges and Shakarparian flyover while rehearsing aerobatics for the upcoming diamond jubilee of Pakistan Day.

The awe-inspiring maneuvers and enemy-terrifying roars of Pakistan Air Force jets received great public attention as rows of cars and crowds of pedestrians gathered to witness the breathtaking show of skill and power. The residents of sector I-8 went to their rooftops hoping to catch a glimpse of these jets and capture the aerobatic show and display of colors in their mobile screens. The people did not want to miss any second of this as they tried their best to shade their eyes from the sun with one hand while pointing towards the jets with the other. The students and children were equally thrilled as a thunder of these jets seemed to have invigorated a new hope and revived a sense of patriotism in them.

A group of people lost in the stunning performance of JF-17s, F-16s and Mirage fighter jets told APP, "Air-show has always been the best part of Pakistan Day celebrations. But we have become even more excited than before and are prouder of our Air Force ever since it downed the two fighter jets of Indian Air Force back in February 2019."

USC deploys ERP system

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Utility Stores Corporation of Pakistan has successfully achieved a milestone in ERP deployment by uploading the inventory of its stores and warehouses during the last three days successfully. Inventory enrollment process was diligently supervised across Pakistan, for which the stores operations had to be halted. The digitalization of operations will improve demand and supply as well as increase customer convenience. Some striking features of the on-line inventory system include smooth inventory management, ease of decision making, better demand and supply management, it will further ameliorate preparation and implementation of modern SOPs and ease the formulation of strategies to improve the overall performance of the organization through reports. This digital transformation shall revolutionize the shopping process at USC, which will also further facilitate in provision of Ehsaas Roshan-Riyat Discount programme along with government subsidies on five basic commodities including sugar, ghee, flour, pulses and rice. Utility Stores Corporation management remains committed to provide quality and affordable goods to its customers. – APP

AIOU provides last chance for admission in Masters

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has offered admissions to MA/MSc programs in the second phase of spring 2022 semester and according to the HEC policy, these admissions have been offered for the last time. These programs include Economics, Mass Communication, Pakistan Studies, Gender and Women Studies, Public Nutrition, Administrative Sciences, Sociology, Forestry Extension and Sustainable Environmental Design, Urdu, MCom, Arabic, History, Library and Information Sciences, Teaching of English as a Foreign Language (TEFL), Islamic Studies General, Islamic Studies including Quran and Tafseer, Islamic Law and Jurisprudence, Hadith and Seerat. Syed Zia Ul Husnain Naqvi, Director, Admissions has informed that AIOU will not offer these programs in the next semester as per HEC policy. Therefore, aspiring candidates must avail this golden opportunity till April 18, 2022. – APP

Briefs

All allies to support gov't: Shafqat

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Vocational Training Shafqat Mehmood on Monday said the allied political parties were fully intact with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government and they would support it on the matter of no-trust motion in the parliament. Talking to a private news channel, he said the opposition was a group of corrupts as they had always used their money, earned by illegal means for buying votes in every election of the country. The opposition parties would not succeed against the government on the issue of no-trust motion as they had defeated on many fronts before, he added.

The minister said the government will hold a public rally at D-Chowk on March 27. Shafqat Mehmood said the opposition was deliberately trying to sabotage the foreign ministers of member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Islamabad. Despite, all the corrupt leadership was united against the honest leader Imran Khan but they would fail to topple the incumbent government.

PTI all set to hold 'historic political power show'

ISLAMABAD: PTI Senator Faisal Javed Khan Tuesday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf will hold a historic political power show rally at the federal capital's D-Chowk on March 27 and the whole nation was standing firmly with Prime Minister Imran Khan while the opposition has no agenda for public welfare.

Talking to a private news channel, Faisal said it is impossible for the opposition to achieve the support of 172 members of the national assembly, adding, they could not secure even 72 votes in favor of a no-confidence motion. He lashed out that the opposition should get ready to accept another defeat in its no-confidence motion against the government, adding, their move would be failed. "PM Imran Khan was fighting against the corrupt mafia for the future of our youth, adding, coalition partners will not side with opposition parties against the no-confidence move as PTI with its partners are on the same page". He also hailed that Prime Minister Imran Khan was effectively raising the voice of Muslim Ummah and the people of Kashmir at the United Nations. He said hollow slogans of the opposition parties would be rejected by the people once again, adding, alliance amongst the opposition parties is temporary and will shatter soon. - APP

NIFTH to announce special programmes

ISLAMABAD: National Institute of Folk and Traditional Heritage-Lok Virsa would announce to arrange special programs for women entrepreneurs including female folk artists next week aiming to provide a platform where they could showcase their inner artistic talent. Talking to APP, an official of Lok Virsa Anwar-ul-Haq said, "Lok Virsa has been promoting folk singers and took a number of initiatives to promote rich regional folk music of different areas of Pakistan but this time particularly focused on female artisans." Adding he said, "Folk music of Pakistan is slow, relaxing, based on sweet lyrics representing the image of the local people Lok Virsa would ensure to work on female artisans for the promotion of their skills. Anwar further informed that Lok Virsa has taken a number of initiatives to promote cultural diversity, especially the rich heritage and folk of backward and neglected areas. He said Lok Virsa has been promoting folk singers and has taken a number of initiatives to promote rich regional folk music of different areas of Pakistan. Adding he said, it is very unfortunate that women are disappearing from folk music but Lok Virsa is making every possible effort to provide an enabling environment so the mantle of folk music is transferred to the coming generations. - APP

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Aftab Chaudhry along with business women posing for a picture on the occasion of a dinner hosted by Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in honour of Zahid Latif Khan on his elevation as the President of Lahore Stock Exchange. Zahid was recently elected as the Chairman of Islamabad Stock Exchange REIT as well. - DNA

Govt to launch satellite based forest report: Amin

Amin said due to the green vision of PM Imran, the country was declared forestry champion and leader in forestry initiatives at the global level and the United Nations Environmental Assembly made Pak one of the members of its eight-member body

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Climate Change Malik Amin Aslam on Tuesday said that the Ministry of Climate Change would launch State of the Forest Report annually, based on satellite monitoring to reveal change analysis of plantation sites after massive plantation and afforestation under TBTP project. Addressing a two-day consultative workshop on establishing geospatial platform for Pakistan's Ten Billion Tree Tsunami Plantation (TBTP) project, he said it was an historic day as International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) after collaborating with the Ministry for the flagship TBTP project's geospatial monitoring added another layer of transparency and credibility for the initiative.

Amin said due to the green vision of Prime Minister Imran Khan, the country was declared forestry champion and leader in forestry initiatives at the global level and the United Nations Environmental Assembly made Pakistan one of the members of its eight-member body. "The world has acknowledged the ecosystem and biodiversity conservation vision of Prime Minister Im-



ran Khan through the TBTP as a leadership model and direction", he said. The SAPM informed that the country has achieved the target 1.5 billion trees target under TBTP project. He mentioned that the Billion Tree Afforestation Project (BTAP) was the only government initiative that saved Rs 8 billion of national exchequer and achieved beyond its set target. He thanked the ICIMOD for their collaboration and remarked that the Centre was longstanding partner of the coun-

try in biodiversity conservation in the northern areas of the country. The SAPM mentioned that the workshop would help develop capacities of the provincial Forest Departments to work on geospatial monitoring technology. The Ministry had carried out satellite monitoring of 70 selected sites of TBTP that revealed 60% positive change after plantation on the sites. Director General ICIMOD Nepal Pema Gyamathso said the rich biodiversity and natural resource

of Hindu Kush Himalayan region were facing serious pressure due to environmental degradation.

The Hindu Kush Himalayan region possessed critical ecosystems that drives livelihoods of millions of people, he added. Gyamathso underlined that the BTAP project was a great example of ecosystem restoration. The Centre was committed to enhance national capacities in environmental and biodiversity conservation endeavours which would bring change in the lives of people living in Hindu Kush Himalayan region.

He also congratulated the SAPM on TBTP project's success and commended it as a model initiative. Additional Secretary Ministry of Climate Change Joudat Ayaz said the ICIMOD served as a regional data centre and model for data science.

The collaboration with ICIMOD would help improve the TBTP reporting through geospatial data, he added. He said the extreme natural events due to climate change incurred heavy economic losses of over Rs 365 billion to the country. The TBTP project was leading the country towards a climate resilient country. Chief of Party ICIMOD Birendra Bajracharya also addressed the workshop and expressed his views on the subject.

Campaign launched to enforce tobacco vendors act

ISLAMABAD: The civil administration Tuesday launched a campaign to enforce tobacco vendors act 1958 in the federal capital. Under the act, tobacco retailers are bound to get licenses and follow a number of conditions, including not selling tobacco products to teenagers or near educational institutions. Additional Deputy Commissioner (East) Shehryar Arif Khan formally launched the campaign by issuing the first tobacco seller license for the financial year 2021-22 at Sangam Market I/8-3 in a ceremony held here.

The Excise and Taxation Islamabad, in collaboration with the Ministry of National

Health's project "Tobacco Free Islamabad" issue licenses to

He noted that the World Health Organization had already recognized Islamabad as a smoke-free city. The move, he said, would not only help in compiling shopkeepers' data but also increase revenue of the department, besides controlling tobacco sale to youth. The ADC said licensing of tobacco sellers has proved to be a very effective way to curb the illicit sale of cigarettes in the federal capital. He said before taking legal action the excise team issued a warning to the vendors to get a license or renew the existing one within a week. - APP

No-trust move to face defeat: Fatyana

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's senior leader Riaz Fatyana Tuesday said that the government was fully confident to defeat no-confidence motion moved by the opposition parties against PM Imran Khan. The opposition would face disappointment and the govt would become stronger, he said while speaking to Radio Pakistan's current Affair programme. According to article 63-A of the Constitution, no member of the National Assembly can not cast vote against its own party in the no-confidence motion, he added. He said that if the disgruntled candidates cast the votes against PM Imran Khan, then it will be considered as a violation of the country's Constitution. - DNA

Pakistani expats stand by PM amid no-trust move

ISLAMABAD: Vice President of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Women Wing Chapter United Arab Emirates (UAE) Farzana Farrukh here on Tuesday said the Overseas Pakistanis stood by Prime Minister Imran Khan amid the no-trust motion moved against him by the joint opposition in the lower house of Parliament. "Prime Minister Imran Khan enjoys full support of the overseas Pakistanis who not only have full confidence in his dynamic leadership, but also believe that he is the only national leader who can steer the country out of the existing challenges," Farzana said in an exclusive talk with APP. She said a three-day Overseas Pakistanis International Convention (OPIC) was true manifestation of the solidarity expressed by the expats with the prime minister at the time when an amalgam of political parties ganged up against him. The VP appreciated the current government's steps for resolving the issues faced by the diaspora in the United Arab Emirates. To a question, she said that massive remittances were poured into the country from those Pakistanis residing in the UAE. As the whole world is a global village due to the internet and digital facilities and most of the document related issues of Overseas Pakistanis including NICOP, Passport, death and succession certificate, land record, Rohan digital accounts and other lot of facilities had been launched for them in this democratic set up. - APP

DOAM all set to preserve heritage sites

ISLAMABAD: Directorate of Archeology and Museums, KP (DOAM) is all set to preserve various archeological sites of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Takhti-Bai, Amluk Dara, a buddhist site at Swat Valley and several in other provinces aiming to promote traditional heritage of the country. Talking to APP, official of DOAM Mehmood Raza said, "Archeological conservation is a profession devoted to the preservation of the archeological record including large-scale features such as sites, structures, landscapes as well as artifacts". He said archeological remains are found throughout the of the country in areas of past and current human habitation. Archeological explorations uncover artifacts found in wide-ranging places, from objects buried deep under the sea and in the most extreme environments that humans have explored. Raza further informed that excavation allows us to learn a great deal about the history through studying archeological remains and their context, exposing artifacts that have been buried can cause rapid and irreversible deterioration. - APP

Pak among top climate affected countries

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is amongst the top ten countries on the globe experiencing frequent and intense climate change of events such as floods, droughts, cyclones, heavy rains, heat waves, extremely high temperatures, it was revealed in a recent report of Federal Flood Commission. "The average global temperature has increased due to increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere for last many years. During the last century, it had increased by 0.6 degree Centigrade and is likely to go up further by 1.0 o C to 4.0 o C till the end of the current century," it added. "The most recent extreme climate events witnessed in Pakistan are floods hitting various parts of the country during the monsoon season. The frequency of occurrence and intensity of floods has considerably increased during the past several years. The water security of the country is also threatened by the climate change" "The increasing temperatures in the northern mountains of the country are likely to result in glacier melting, thereby affecting the flows of Indus River System," said the report. - APP

ANF, ASF recover 1330kg heroin

ISLAMABAD: The Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) and Airport Security Force (ASF) conducted a joint operation at the Islamabad International Airport and recovered 1330kg of heroin from a passenger. According to Spokesperson ANF Headquarters Rawalpindi, the heroin was recovered from the trolley bag of a passenger named Muhammad Adil, who was a resident of Swabi. The 1,330kg of heroin was expertly hidden in a trolley bag of the accused who was on his way to Sharjah via flight number ER703. - APP

ITP devises special traffic plan for Pakistan Day Parade

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) have devised special traffic plan for convenience of road users in connection with the parade on March 23 and preparations for it. According to ITP traffic plan issued by the office of Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Rai Mazhar Iqbal, it has been announced that entry of heavy transport vehicles (HTV) will be banned in Islamabad on 16, 18, 20, and 23 March from 12 am to 2 pm. The recent announcement has also suggested alternative routes for Light Transport Vehicles (LTV) to avoid any inconvenience. All heavy vehicles will be stopped at Rawat T-Cross, Chungi No. 26, 9th Avenue, Metro Ground, Sabzi Mandi, and Satra Meel Toll Plaza. Restricted areas include the I-8 signal on IJP road, ADBP checkpoint on Murree Road, Khanna Pul Expressway, Zero Point Faisal Avenue, Garden Flyover, Best Western Hotel Murree Road, Chand Tara Chowk, and Dhokri Chowk. Light vehicles arriving from Lahore will be allowed to commute through Rawat T-Cross to get to Rawalpindi Saddar Road, Peshawar GT Road, and the motorway. Traffic coming from old Airport Rawalpindi will be able to access Expressway via Khanna Pul, Lehrtr Road, Captain Naeem Tufail Shaheed Chowk (Taramri Chowk), Park Road, Jinnah Road, Korang Road through Murree Road to get to G and F sectors of Islamabad and Srinagar Highway. The traffic will be able to make a turn from Malpur U-turn to reach Bharu Kahu and Murree. Vehicles from Srinagar Highway, heading towards Rawalpindi Airport and Lahore will use 9th Avenue, Murree Road, Rawal Road, will have to take a right turn from Koral flyover to get to Lahore. Only those individuals who have a permit will be able to travel on Expressway. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors of South Africa, Palestine and Jordan, Editor Daily Islamabad POST, Zahid Latif Khan posing for a picture on the occasion of a dinner hosted by Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in honour of Zahid Latif Khan on his elevation as the President of Lahore Stock Exchange. Zahid was recently elected as the Chairman of Islamabad Stock Exchange REIT as well. - DNA

DNA

PAF modernization

THE deployment of the China-built J-10CE fighter jet will give a significant boost to the Pakistan Air Force (PAF)'s combat capability and diversify its operational portfolio. The PAF officially inducted its first batch of six J-10CE fighter jets at a ceremony on Friday at its Minhas Airbase in Kamra, Punjab, which was attended by Prime Minister Imran Khan and senior government officials and military commanders. Imran Khan described it as a big movement for Pakistan after about 40 years when F-16 provided by the US were inducted into the Pakistan Air Force.

He also thanked China for providing the aircraft in a short span of about eight months when it often takes years to acquire modern jets.

In a veiled reference to India, Imran Khan said any country would have to think twice before harbouring any aggression towards Pakistan, asserting that the armed forces were well-equipped and trained to deal with any threat.

Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Babar Sidhu, said the J-10 was a fully integrated weapon, avionics and combat system and its induction into the PAF would further strengthen its professional capabilities.

The acquisition contract for the fighter jets was signed in June. Delivery of the first planes was completed in just eight months at unprecedented speed, a PAF announcer said at the ceremony. He said the J-10CE program was a symbol of the brotherhood, unity and trust of the two countries and the prompt delivery was a testament to the special relationship between the two countries.

"It is indeed a historic and proud moment for the entire Pakistani nation," the announcer said.

"The aircraft are fully loaded (with weapons), which gives a clear and loud message about the operational preparedness of the Pakistan Air Force."

Many experts believe that the J-10C is Pakistan's answer to the Rafale jets. While aggression and war is in no one's interest, balance of power and fleet modernization is a vital step in order to keep the enemies of Pakistan at bay.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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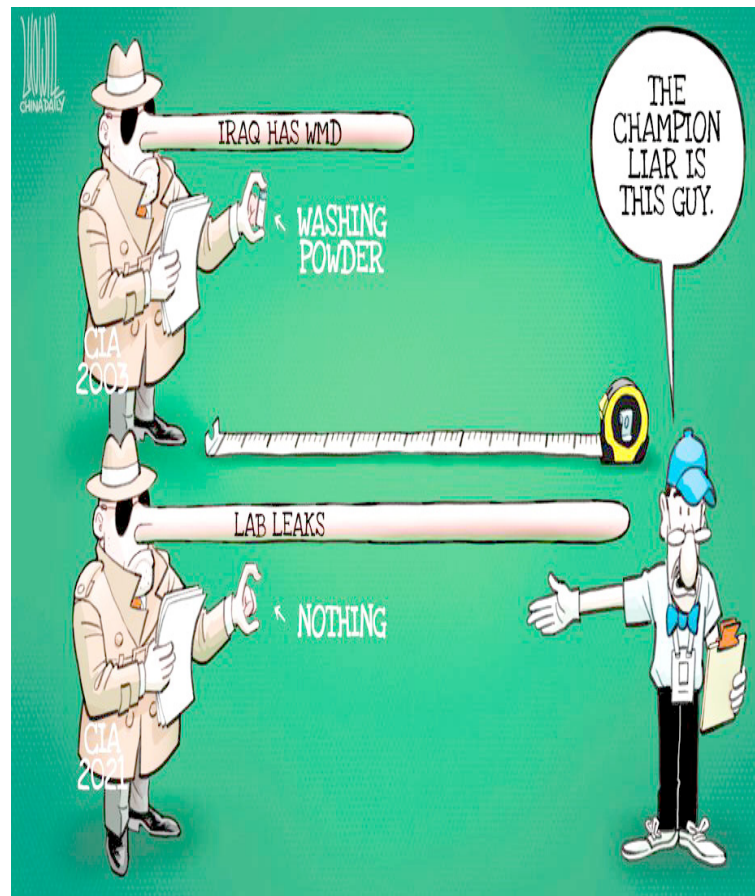
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Ukraine crisis

SINCE the war in Ukraine began, there have been so many worrying reports regarding civilian casualties, refugee crisis. More than three million people have fled Ukraine since Russia invaded on February 24, nearly half of them minors, with a child becoming a refugee every second, the UN said.

"We have now reached the three-million mark in terms of movement of people out of Ukraine," Paul Dillon, a spokesman for the United Nations migration agency (IOM), told reporters. Less than three weeks into the invasion, "three million lives uprooted. Three million women, children and vulnerable people separated from their loved ones," IOM chief Antonio Vitorino said in a tweet.

"We need an immediate cessation of hostilities." The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, meanwhile put the total number of refugees to date at 2.97 million. More than half of them, 1.8 million, have fled to Poland, it said.

The UN children's agency meanwhile said that more than 1.4 million of those who have fled are minors. "On average, every day over the last 20 days in Ukraine, more than 70,000 children have become refugees," UNICEF spokesman James Elder told reporters in Geneva.

That amounts to around 55 every minute, "so almost one per second," he said. As of Sunday, at least 636 civilians have died in Ukraine since the Russian invasion began, the UN Human Rights office (OHCHR) said in a statement.

This is an increase of 40 deaths compared to the previous daily update.

Among the dead are six girls, 10 boys and 30 more children whose gender is not known, the OHCHR says.

According to the agency, at least 1,125 civilians have been injured so far.

Since there seems no end to the war in near future, the worrisome situation for civilians and children specifically is expected to get worse. For whenever there is a war, it's the common folk that pays the most price.

Putin hums 'Georgia on my mind'

James Dorsey

"We are now in a situation where the British PM is heading over to Saudi to plead for oil from an autocrat that is dropping bombs on his neighbour because a different autocrat is dropping bombs on his neighbour"

WHAT did Russian President Vladimir Putin think when he ordered his troops into Ukraine? Ray Charles' 'Georgia on my mind' must have been humming in his head. A slightly altered version, 'Palestine on my mind,' was undoubtedly on Egyptian athlete Ali Farag's mind when he condemned the Russian invasion of Ukraine on Sunday as he won Britain's Optasia squash championship.

"We've never been allowed to speak about politics in sports, but all of a sudden, it's allowed. I hope people look at oppression everywhere around the world. Palestinians have been going through that for the past 74 years," Mr. Farag, the world's number two player, said in his acceptance remarks.

It was Yemen that New York Times sports reporter Tariq Panja thought of when he tweeted as British Prime Minister Boris Johnson prepared to visit Saudi Arabia. Mr. Johnson hopes to persuade the kingdom to increase its oil production to compensate for a loss of access to Russian energy due to

the Ukraine crisis.

"We are now in a situation where the British PM is heading over to Saudi to plead for oil from an autocrat that is dropping bombs on his neighbour because a different autocrat is dropping bombs on his neighbour," Mr. Panja said.

Invariably, comparisons hink. To be sure, unlike Russia, Saudi Arabia was invited by the internationally recognised government of Yemen even if that was more of a formality and changes little on the ground while Israel's conquest of the West Bank was not, like Ukraine, an unprovoked attack.

Nevertheless, Messrs. Farag and Panja make a valid point. Like the 1990 Kuwaiti invasion of Iraq, Ukraine has provoked widespread international condemnation.

Yet, the international community's response to Saudi Arabia's seven-year-old invasion of Yemen, sparking one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, and Israel's 55-year long occupation of the West Bank's, the world's longest of neighboring lands, as well as its blockade of Gaza, has been far more muted, if not supportive.

Messrs. Farag and Panja's point takes of added relevance given the fact that Mr. Putin has given a new lease on life to those that identify with the construct of the values of the West. Yet, Saudi Arabia and Israel, just like Poland, Hungary, and Turkey, troubled democracies with tarnished rights records that nonetheless support Ukraine, show that the application of those principles and values will inevitably be spotty and contradictory and involve uncomfortable and glaring compromises. None of that legitimises the actions of those who opportunistically are left off the hook.

Mr. Panja correctly highlights the irony that autocratic Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman who ordered the invasion of Yemen shortly after coming to office in 2015, is being asked to help clean up a mess created by an invasion launched by another

autocrat Mr. Putin.

To drive home the point of messy and questionable compromises, Saudi Arabia executed days before Mr. Johnson's expected arrival 81 people convicted of a variety of crimes, including murder and membership of a militant group. Those executed also included a fair number of Shiite activists. It was the largest mass execution in the kingdom's modern history. Similarly, Mr. Farag raised a valid point even if his statement was problematic. Rather than referring to continuous violations of international law associated with Israel's occupation of the West Bank and blockade of Gaza, Mr. Farag equated the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 with the Russian invasion. In doing so, he questioned Israel's right to exist rather than its continued control of lands designated as occupied and Palestinian in the international community's mind.

Mr. Farag's statement and the refusal by international sports associations, national leagues, clubs, and event organizers to allow Russian and Belarus athletes and teams to compete under their national flags laid bare hypocrisy and deliberately maintained fictions in the sports world.

Few will take issue with the rejection, yet it blasts a crater into the sports world's fictional insistence that sport and politics are separate and never should the two intertwine. If anything, Ukraine put that fiction to bed. Mr. Farag noted as much when he said that his statement was possible because the ban on athletes expressing themselves politically during sporting events was effectively lifted when it comes to Ukraine.

That leaves the question of why Ukraine but not Yemen or Palestine or, for that matter, the brutal repression of Turkic Muslims in China. It comes as little surprise then that Mr. Putin may hum 'Georgia, on my mind' while others hum 'Yemen and Palestine on my mind.'

The question of legitimacy

Raza Ali

The war in Syria, started in 2011, after the Western war machine had spread its tentacles all over the Middle-East, and a farce called "The Arab Spring" had systematically ruined a number of nations, and destabilized their states

THE legitimate government of Syria, under the leadership of Bashar Al Assad, this is a sentence, which sounds like a primal sin to the European and American ear.

Sitting in their heated apartments, watching their NetFlix, listening to paid and controlled corporate news sources, eating synthetic meat burgers and dressed in Chinese made clothes, bought using the resources looted by their respective states from countries like Afghanistan, Iraq, Mali, Mozambique, DRC, and many more, these, removed from reality, people think that they have the God given right to decide, who is legitimate, and who is not.

The war in Syria, started in 2011, after the Western war machine had spread its tentacles all over the Middle-East, and a farce called "The Arab Spring" had systematically ruined a number of nations, and destabilized their states.

The tactics of "Arab Spring" were very simple. Western backed Islamic extremists from across the world, especially from European training camps, were transported to any given country. As soon as the required personnel settled in, their lords signaled them to act and public protests were organized taking minor complaints as basis. This scheme started in Tunisia, then engulfed Egypt and took a stronghold.

Let us just remember what happened in Egypt. The only outcome of the Cairo disorder was the removal of Hosni Mubarak, who was replaced by a known religious fanatic called Mohammad Morsi. Then within a year Morsi was removed and the current President Abdel Fattah Al-Sissi took over. Just to home the point, Al-Sissi is a retired military officer. So where is the democratic uprising?

Now if you study the chain of events, you can understand that whatever happened in Tunisia or in Egypt, was just the groundwork needed to attack Libya from the west and the east. As soon as the jihadis were installed in Egypt and Tunisia, western backed paid rebels (just like the mercenaries in Ukraine today) started pouring into Libya from 2 sides and soon the Libyan law enforcement and military had a hard time combating this NATO planned covert invasion of a sovereign state. And then, we all remember, how the Nobel Peace Prize winning American President Obama enjoyed stumping his chest about bringing democracy to Libya and liberating the Libyan people.

Since the day, when NATO bombarded liberty and democracy on Libya, the Libyan state has disappeared, the Libyan people have lost all material prosperity, and national dignity. The only people having fun in Libya right

now are the leaders of militias, which were created and supported by NATO members.

So, when Russia, Iran and a few more sensible countries got directly involved in Syria to stop this madness, the Americans, the French and the British collectively went crazy and openly started supporting religious extremist groups in Syria. They even went to the extent that they bombed Syrian military positions, whenever the existence of ISIL came under question.

For those privileged western people, who don't remember, unless their government allows them to remember, please note that Syria is the most modest, completely non-fundamental, and a very progressive Muslim country.

So, for anyone with sanity intact, removing Bashar Al-Assad and pushing Syria into the same abyss in which Libya is right now, is not a solution. The BBC International fed, zombified citizens of Europe have all the right to be ignorant, but this does not give anyone the right to declare the Syrian government illegitimate.

By the way talking about legitimacies, I cannot help talking about the disappearance of the "legitimate" government of Afghanistan, led by Ashraf Ghani. He ran away, with tons of cash assets, and took his legitimacy with him. Currently Afghanistan is under Taliban control, and once again the western hegemony is sticking to their own theory of legitimacy. As a matter of fact I do not support Taliban rule, but the fact of the matter is that until the conditions are ripe and the system evolves into a situation, where some political debate and political processes can be conducted, Taliban are the only choice.

But, the Western countries have frozen Afghan assets, because they do not think that Taliban rule is legitimate. Have they thought about the lives of hundreds of thousands of children, who are starving, who have no access to healthcare, and who have no access to education, because of these imperialistic sanction on the country, from where the Americans and their NATO allies just ran away one fine day, because they could not carry-on their military failure anymore?

When the elected government of Ukraine was toppled by armed nationalist extremists, the western countries did not care about the legitimacy of Yanukovich's government. They did not care about the illegitimacy of Nazis taking over the government. They even sent people like John McCain to Kiev to incite violence. The current US undersecretary of state for political affairs Victoria Nuland took part in the incitement of fascism. But I never heard any western authority calling the actions of these officials, from America, as illegitimate.

It is time for the Western hegemony to recognize that they are incapable of deciding, solving or resolving world affairs. It is time for them to realize that they have to throw colonialism out of their minds, otherwise they might face the wrath of the oppressed, because the game is in the numbers and you are seriously outnumbered, my ignorant western hegemony.

It is time for the people of the western bloc countries to start understanding that they are not the center of the universe. They need to get down from their virtual high towers and need to face ground realities. The British, Americans or the French do not have any right to decide for, or on behalf of, the people of sovereign states. This western perpetual war against humanity has to come to an end, and the end is now.

Uncertainties remain over Turkey-Israel ties

Yasar Yakis

Turkish-Israeli relations have fluctuated for a long time and have never been cordial during the AKP's 20 years in government

ISRAELI President Isaac Herzog last week paid a two-day visit to Turkey in an effort to revive bilateral relations, which have remained dormant for more than a decade. There was nothing that prevented Turkey taking such a step earlier.

Bilateral relations between Turkey and Israel will be relatively easy to salvage if goodwill prevails on both sides, but it will be more difficult for Turkey to restore the lost support of the Jewish lobby in the US. Ankara needs the support of this lobby in achieving anything in Turkey-US relations. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's strong bias for Hamas is no secret. But we do not know to what extent he is prepared to revise this policy. In his address to the media after the summit, he reiterated, in Herzog's presence, Turkey's Palestine policy in favor of the two-state solution, as well as the importance that Ankara attaches to the preservation of the sanctity of Al-Aqsa Mosque. A big portion of this statement may be a message to the conservative members of the ruling AKP. Erdogan's anger at Israel's Palestine policy may resurface at any time.

Criticizing Israel is not a rare event in Turkey. Some criticisms are organized openly or at the hardly dissimulated instigation of the AKP or by small groups in the party acting on their own initiative. Temel Karamollaoglu, the chairman of the Felicity Party, which is a member of the six-party opposition bloc, criticized Herzog's visit, saying: "If Turkey's relations with Israel is normalized, this means that our relations with Palestine is deteriorating. No normalization should be allowed unless Israel withdraws from the Occupied Territories and a Palestinian state is established in these territories." The Felicity Party is supported by only 2.8 percent of the Turkish electorate, but Karamollaoglu is a respected veteran in the country's domestic politics.

Turkish-Israeli relations have fluctuated for a long time and have never been cordial during the AKP's 20 years in government. One may even say that this has been the most combative era. The ruling party's deep-rooted anti-Israel sentiments may have been the main reason. This is not a political attitude, but a confessional one. In addition, Erdogan's and Benjamin Netanyahu's horoscopes did not match.

However, Turkey now needs to mend relations not only with Israel, but many other Middle Eastern countries too. Egypt is dragging its feet to make sure that Turkey displays a stable attitude. Israel may do the same, since it is more hesitant than Egypt. It may have taken too long for Turkey to make this step toward Israel, but all's well that ends well. However, their relations may collapse again if the Turkish government repeats its earlier mistakes.

Erdogan mentioned in his address to the media that the two leaders talked about cooperation in the field of oil and gas in the Eastern Mediterranean and that the Turkish ministers of foreign affairs and energy were expected to visit Israel soon. Such cooperation may be detrimental to the initiatives Israel has undertaken with Greece, Egypt and Cyprus, but there is a new situation: The US has withdrawn its support for a common project to carry Eastern Mediterranean gas to Europe via a pipeline to be laid on the seabed because it was not expected to be profitable. But with the embargoes imposed on Russia by the US and certain EU countries, a pipeline that will go to Europe through Turkey may now become feasible and profitable.

Herzog, in his address to the Israeli media before departing for Ankara, kept expectations as modest as possible by saying: "We will not agree on everything, but we will try to restart relations." He has also said that the past disagreements between the two countries will not disappear by themselves. This was an invitation by the Israeli president for both sides to work earnestly to eliminate such problems. Another subtle detail in Herzog's statement was that he said his trip was being made in full coordination with the Israeli prime minister and foreign minister. The fact he made such a statement suggests there was an important reason to do so.

Turkish-Israeli relations seem set to improve, but it is difficult to guess how soon this may happen.

(Yasar Yakis is a former foreign minister of Turkey and founding member of the ruling AK Party)

—Arab News

Briefs

European leaders visit Kyiv

AGENCIES

LIVIV: Three European prime ministers headed to Kyiv by train on Tuesday for the first visit of its kind since war began, even as buildings there were ablaze and rescue workers were trying to pull survivors from the rubble of fresh Russian bombardment.

That foreign leaders could attempt to visit the Ukrainian capital was a striking symbol of Ukraine's success so far in fending off an assault that Western countries believe was aimed at seizing Kyiv weeks ago. "It is our duty to be where history is forged. Because it's not about us, but about the future of our children who deserve to live in a world free from tyranny," said Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, who crossed the border with Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala and Janez Jansa of Slovenia.

PM ready to hold debate...

FROM PAGE 01
Pakistan like we did". Addressing the Pakistan Overseas Convention in Islamabad, he said the opposition parties had been taking turns in governing Pakistan during the last 30 years but the PTI government would "prove" that it had brought improvements which no other party had.

"I challenge the entire opposition to compete with us in anything. We are ahead of you ... our government tried for the first time to elevate the lower class, there were no attempts in the past. [Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana] Fazlur Rehman sold religion for 30 years," he thundered.

"In my 3.5 years, [Russian President Vladimir] Putin has said you cannot disrespect Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) in the name of freedom of expression. [Canadian Prime Minister Justin] Trudeau has given a statement [against Islamophobia]. This has happened for the first time." The premier said there had been a debate at the United Nations and a resolution would be passed against Islamophobia, adding that it was "because of us" and how the government raised the matter at different forums.

MNAs express full...

FROM PAGE 01
intensity public relations and mobilize the workers in their constituencies.

On the occasion, the Prime Minister said that the popularity of PTI can be gauged from the large number of people participating in the recent meetings. The government has always worked for the rule of law and welfare of the poor and took the economy on the path of development.

He said that the government itself was bearing huge subsidy to provide relief to the poor. In our time record tax was collected which was spent on public welfare only. Government spending was cut so that the same money could be spent on development projects. The Corona epidemic deteriorated the international economy, but our government's policies were appreciated.

Qureshi talks to FMs...

FROM PAGE 01
at the United Nations, ASEAN, OIC and other multilateral fora. Two Foreign Ministers agreed to remain engaged on issues of common interest, both bilateral and multilateral. The Indonesian Foreign Minister extended a cordial invitation to Foreign Minister Qureshi to visit Indonesia. Accepting the invitation, the Foreign Minister agreed to visit Indonesia at a mutually convenient date.

In a telephonic conversation with Malaysian FM, the two Foreign Ministers exchanged views on a wide range of issues of mutual interest including bilateral ties covering political, trade and economic matters, as well as cooperation at the multilateral fora.

Babar hundred stalls Australia's victory march

Australia batted for 25 minutes on Tuesday before declaring their second innings on 97-2, challenging Pakistan to pull off the greatest fourth innings chase in Test cricket history

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: Babar Azam's glorious unbeaten 102 kept Pakistan alive but Australia remained on course for victory in the second Test in Karachi on Tuesday. Set a record victory target of 506, Pakistan lost two quick wickets but Babar would not go down without a fight.

The right-hander combined with opener Abdullah Shafique in a 171-run unbroken partnership for the third wicket in a spectacular rearguard spread over nearly 60 overs. Pakistan finished day four on 192-2, still 314 behind their target and needing something extraordinary on Wednesday to deny Australia a 1-0 lead in the three-test series. Babar's sixth Test century contained 12 fours. Abdullah was batting on 71, which included four fours and a six.

Earlier, Australia batted for 25 minutes on Tuesday before declaring their second innings on 97-2, challenging Pakistan to pull off the greatest fourth innings chase in Test



cricket history. Marnus Labuschagne fell for 44, while his Islamabad-born team mate Usman Khawaja followed his first innings 160 with an unbeaten 44.

After four maiden overs of pace bowling against Pakistan, Australia captain Pat Cummins unleashed spin from both ends and

was rewarded almost immediately. Nathan Lyon caught opener Imam-ul-Haq (one) plumb in front of the wicket for one in his first over. Cummins introduced Cameron Green after lunch and the all-rounder responded by ending Azhar Ali's 54-ball stay with his second delivery.

Azhar (six) ducked under a short delivery that never rose and was given lbw even though replays suggested the ball had brushed his glove before hitting him. Azhar had a long chat with Abdullah before he accepted the decision, perhaps wary of burning a second review after Imam had wasted one. Pakistan had to wait until the 26th over for their first boundary of the innings, when Babar drove Mitchell Swepson past point. Steve Smith dropped Abdullah, then on 20, in the slip and it proved a costly mistake as the opener closed in on his second hundred of the series.

Babar swept Swepson for two to bring up his first Test century in more than two years which earned him a standing ovation from his team mates.

OIC to focus on Islamophobia at upcoming meeting: Pak envoy

48th session of Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Council of Foreign Ministers to be held in Islamabad on March 22-23

MONITORING DESK

ANKARA: Pakistan will be hosting the 48th session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers on March 22-23 to further discuss topics on Islamophobia, Afghanistan, Kashmir and Palestine, according to Pakistan's ambassador to Turkey.

Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi told Turkish News Agency in an interview that this year's session also coincides with the Pakistan Day parade, where the OIC foreign ministers will be guests at the event as well.

"In 1940, the All-India Muslim League met in Lahore and decided that the Muslims of South Asia deserved and wanted an independent homeland of their own. Seven years later on Aug. 14, 1947, Pakistan came into being as a result of the resolutions adopted in 1940 on March 23," Qazi said.

Regarding the meeting's agenda, Qazi said it will encompass everything that is of interest to the Muslim world, with this year's theme "Partnership for uni-



ty, justice and development." "But specifically, Palestine will be discussed, Kashmir, and other important issues for our various member states. Islamophobia, the trend of hate speech against Muslims, negative stereotyping of Muslims, and the situation in Afghanistan and its humanitarian dimension will be discussed," he said.

Qazi recalled the extraordinary session of the OIC held in Pakistan in December 2021, which exclusively focused on the situation in Afghanistan and helping its citizens with the economic and humanitarian challenges

they were confronting.

"The situation in Afghanistan will be discussed. In fact, we will look at one of the conclusions of the December extraordinary session to establish a trust fund. We hope to be able to operationalize this trust fund at this coming meeting, so Afghanistan will be a very significant part of the extensive agenda of the meeting. Our main focus is to help our Afghan brothers and sisters overcome the humanitarian challenges," he said.

"The event will highlight the unity of the Muslim ummah in the face of very serious challenges facing the world. We will also be looking at a productive session. We expect to be adopting about 100 or so resolutions on various teams. It will be an important venue to give voice to the Muslim countries and their causes." "Imagine if the OIC was not speaking on the Palestinian and Kashmiri issues. One would see that the picture immediately changes. So sometimes unfortunately the OIC comes in for a bit of criticism on account of its perceived inability to solve various problems," Qazi said. — Anadolu

'Players should learn to deal with hostile fans'

INDIAN WELLS: Rafael Nadal on Monday expressed sympathy for Naomi Osaka following her tearful exit at Indian Wells but believes players should learn to deal with hostile fans. Four-time Grand Slam champion Osaka was reduced to tears by a heckler on Saturday as she crashed out of the tournament in a straight-sets defeat to Veronika Kudermetova.

It was another uncomfortable moment for Osaka, who put mental health in the spotlight last year after revealing she had suffered from depression.

Speaking after his 7-5, 6-3 third round win over England's Dan Evans on Monday, Nadal said he felt sorry for Osaka, who was subjected to a taunt of "Naomi, you suck" during her loss on Saturday. However the 21-time Grand Slam king said he believes that players should learn to be ready for hostile atmospheres. Asked for his opinion about athletes being subjected to negative comments from the crowd, Nadal replied: "These kinds of questions are tough to answer. The easy answer for me is 'I feel terrible about what happened, that never should happen.'"

However, Nadal added, "in the real world", abuse from spectators happens. "Even if it's terrible to hear from that, we need to be prepared for that, no?" he said.

"We need to resist these kind of issues that can happen when you are exposed to the people, no?" "I understand that probably Naomi, suffered a lot with these, probably kind of issues that she has, mental (health) issues. The only thing that I wish her is recover well from that and wish her all the very best. — Web Desk



PCB set to rename Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium

LAHORE: The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is set to rename the historical stadium of Lahore after almost five decades. The Gaddafi Stadium Lahore was named in honor of former Libyan President Muammar Gaddafi.

The iconic stadium of Lahore was initially named Lahore Stadium at the time of its construction in 1959. Later in 1974, the stadium was renamed by the Prime Minister of that time Zulfikar Ali Bhutto as Gaddafi Stadium after the former Libyan President visited Lahore and gave a speech in favor of Pakistan's right to pursue nuclear weapons at the Organization of Islamic Conference. However, the purpose of changing the stadium name is purely financial and not political. However, there were several attempts to change the stadium's name in the past after Gaddafi was forced out of power, but the name was unchanged as it had no association with the political leader. The PCB chairman Ramiz Raza told ESPNcricinfo that the board was negotiating with multiple sponsors for a while. One with the highest bid will win the right to have the stadium renamed after them.

"We acquired the services of YouGov to estimate the brand worth of our stadium and how much sponsorship deals would be worth," Ramiz said. National Stadium in Karachi and other major stadiums of the country will be renamed once sponsors are in line. "That's not just true of the Gaddafi Stadium, but also the NSK and others. We've been working towards this for a while, and the response from sponsors has been satisfactory. — Web Desk

Benzema breaks French record but limps off

NEWS DESK

PALMA, SPAIN: Karim Benzema became the highest French goalscorer in history on Monday after his double gave Real Madrid a 3-0 win over Mallorca, sending them 10 points clear at the top of La Liga.

But the Frenchman had to go off late on with what looked like an injury in his lower left leg, giving Madrid a serious headache before Sunday's Clasico against Barcelona.

Benzema's absence for the game at the Santiago Bernabeu would come as a serious blow to Madrid, after the striker continued his scintillating recent run with two more goals at Son Moix.

After scoring a hat-trick to help Madrid defeat Paris Saint-Germain 3-1 in the Champions League last week, the 34-year-old's penalty against Mallorca took his career tally to 412 goals, putting him one above Thierry Henry in the all-time list of French scorers. Benzema then made it 413 for him and



three for Madrid with a superb header late on, only to limp off in obvious discomfort.

Madrid's considerable advantage over Sevilla at the top of La Liga means the Clasico this weekend will not carry the significance of previous meetings, even if Barca's recent surge has had

some wondering if a comeback is still possible. Yet there will be no doubt Barcelona would love to rubberstamp their progress under Xavi with a victory at the home of their fiercest rivals while a win for Madrid would serve as further confirmation of their dominance this season.

Ukraine crisis reveals Islamophobia racism

"We believe that the struggle against rising anti-Islam sentiment is not only that of Muslims, but the issue of the whole of humanity. Otherwise, we cannot prevent Islamophobic attacks as witnessed in New Zealand in 2019 and in Canada in 2021"

FOREIGN DESK

ANKARA: The ongoing crisis in Ukraine has bared open anti-Islam sentiment as well as cultural racism, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday as anti-Russian sentiment is on the rise since Moscow's tanks rolled into Ukraine last month.

"The disgraceful discussions within the scope of the Ukraine crisis, reveal the dangerous levels that anti-Islam sentiment and cultural racism has reached. The hate atmosphere fuelled by irresponsible media outlets, negatively affects millions of people together with Muslims whose language, religion and culture are different," Erdogan said, speaking at the Second International Media and Islamophobia Forum in the capital Ankara.

Saying that Turkey does not accept discrimination among people, Erdogan added: "We believe that the struggle against rising anti-Islam sentiment is not only that of Mus-



lims, but the issue of the whole of humanity. Otherwise, we cannot prevent Islamophobic attacks as witnessed in New Zealand in 2019 and in Canada in 2021." A lot of the vitriol at protests across the world has indeed focused on President Vladimir Putin, who gave the order for Russia's assault. But sometimes ordinary Russians living abroad have become the targets.

In Germany, the windows of a shop selling Russian wares were vandalized, a restaurant refused to serve clients with Russian passports and a doctor refused to treat Russian patients. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov on Friday said there was "a growing atmosphere of hatred against Russians in several Western countries."

"It's very dangerous. Our fellow citizens have to be on the alert and vigilant," he said.

In Britain, home to an array of Russian oligarchs, a Conservative member of parliament Roger Gale, suggested every Russian living there should be expelled and "sent home."

Tensions are also rising in the three Baltic states and Georgia, which all have large Russian-speaking minorities dating in part from the Soviet era. In Georgia, real estate agents are asking the nationality of potential tenants. One recent vacancy announcement stated: "This flat is not to be let to aggressors. No Russians or Belarussians." Erdogan brought up the issue again recently during the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, saying fascist practices against Russian nationals and culture in Western countries can never be acceptable. "Islamophobia is continuing to poison all circles of communities from workers to public agents, from people in the street to pol-

iticians, spreading especially in Western countries like a pandemic that cannot be stopped," he continued to say in his video message to the Islamophobia forum.

Turkish officials have criticized their Western counterparts for remaining indifferent to anti-Muslim sentiment and fueling the ideology. Turkey has continuously called on world leaders to take action to stop the demonization of Muslims and has been taking action to tackle the growing problem.

According to a recently published report, titled "European Islamophobia Report 2020," Islamophobia in Europe has "worsened, if not reached a tipping point." Turkish officials, including President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, have frequently urged European decision-makers and politicians to take a stand against racism and other types of discrimination that have threatened the lives of millions of people living within the bloc's borders.

Mily brass expresses...

FROM PAGE 01
conference was of the view that the accident, as claimed by India, could have resulted in a major disaster. The forum emphasised that despite New Delhi's acknowledgement of the incident, "relevant international forums must take a serious view of the incident and subject the safety and security protocols of Indian strategic assets to deliberate oversight". "Such dangerous incidents can act as a trigger and seriously endanger regional peace and strategic stability," said the forum.

Propaganda must be...

FROM PAGE 01
Public Relations (ISPR) news release.

The COAS expressed satisfaction on induction of this most modern weapon system to meet the future battlefield challenges.

"Induction of these most modern guns with increased range, battle field mobility and accuracy will assuredly enhance operational preparedness of Pakistan Army," the COAS remarked.

Later, COAS visited Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS). On his arrival at LUMS, the COAS was received by LUMS Vice Chancellor Dr Arshad Ahmad Malik and faculty members. While interacting with students and faculty of LUMS, the COAS appreciated the role and contributions of LUMS in preparing future leadership of Pakistan.

Chaotic politics to...

FROM PAGE 01
members and its allies would fully support Prime Minister Imran Khan. Sheikh Rashid said political figures always stood by their allies in all seasons even in worst or challenging situations, adding that the nation did not forgive those who deceived their partners in difficult times.

The minister said Prime Minister Imran Khan would emerge victorious after the vote of no-confidence motion, adding: "We stand firm with Prime Minister Imran Khan-led PTI government in every situation".

Shujaat urges govt...

FROM PAGE 01
of the country". "Given the current situation in Pakistan, [we] cannot afford this dangerous confrontation," he said, adding that "the politics of rallies and numbers" by the opposition and government had further troubled the people already struggling in the face of inflation and poverty.

The PML-Q chief, who has been a key ally of the PTI so far, said it's usually the opposition parties that indulge in the "politics of rallies" but this time around the government was also holding public meetings in competition with its rivals.

"Holding rallies is not the government's job," he said. Shujaat warned that the politics of tit-for-tat could create "political chaos and a crisis", which would benefit Pakistan's "internal and external enemies".

Pak to act as a bridge...

FROM PAGE 01
unity among Muslims on this occasion and address other issues, particularly Islamophobia and hate speech," he said while addressing a press conference here at the Foreign Office, ahead of the OIC meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers on March 22-24.

FM Qureshi said Pakistan believed that the meeting was being held at a crucial time and added that "we need to make the Muslim voice heard at the international arena."

He said that so far, 48 confirmations had been received from the OIC member countries and added that 100 resolutions were expected to be tabled and agreed upon during the OIC-CFM meeting.

The proposed theme of the 48th Session, "Partnering for Unity, Justice and Development" fully encapsulates these priorities.

Briefs

Azerbaijan, UAE ink renewable energy accords

BAKU: Azerbaijan and the United Arab Emirates' Masdar company have signed four memorandums of understanding on cooperation in the renewable energy field. The signing ceremony took place during a press conference dedicated to laying the groundwork for the Garadagh solar power plant, which has a capacity of 230 MW. Azerbaijan's Deputy Minister Samir Veliyev and Masdar's Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the field of integrated renewable energy at sea.

Azerbaijan Railways HJSC Deputy Chairman Hijran Valehova and Masdar's chairman Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi signed a memorandum of understanding in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency. Moreover, the memorandum in the field of electricity generation from municipal solid waste was signed by the Azerbaijan Investment Company Executive Director Ulvi Mansurov and Masdar's Chairman Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi. In addition, the memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the field of renewable and clean energy in the Karabakh and East-Zangazur economic regions was signed. State Agency for Renewable Energy Director Tabriz Ammayev and Masdar's Chairman Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi signed the document. - APP

Bukhara hosts SCO coordinators meeting

BUKHARA: A meeting of the Council of National Coordinators of the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has completed its work in Bukhara, reports "Dunyo" IA correspondent. The meeting, held on March 12-14 under the chairmanship of Uzbekistan, was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Norov, national coordinators of the SCO member states, as well as heads of permanent bodies of the organization. At the meeting, the main attention was paid to the preparation of the upcoming meeting of the Council of Heads of SCO Member States on September 15-16, which will be held in Samarkand. The schedule of the main events of Uzbekistan's chairmanship in the SCO, as well as the algorithm for further coordination of draft documents developed on the initiative of the Uzbek side, were considered. Heads of delegations got acquainted with the rich tourism potential of Bukhara region. - APP

Germany to disarm far-right extremists

WEB DESK

BERLIN: Germany's top security officials announced a 10-point plan Tuesday to combat far-right extremism in the country that includes disarming some 1,500 suspected extremists and tightening background checks for those wanting to acquire guns. Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said the far right poses the biggest extremist threat to democracy in Germany and said authorities would seek to tackle the issue through prevention and tough measures.

"We want to destroy far-right extremist networks," Faeser told reporters in Berlin, saying this included targeting financial flows that benefit such groups, including merchandising businesses, music festivals and martial arts events. Authorities will work to remove gun licenses from suspected extremists, crack down on incitement spread online through social networks and combat conspiracy theories online. Faeser said an emphasis will also be put on rooting out extremists who work in government agencies, including the security forces. Reports about far-right extremists among the police and military in Germany have raised particular concerns because of fears that they could use privileged information to target political enemies.

CPEC is not China-centric; it is open to the world: Khalid
3,000 solar sets will be delivered and installed for needy residents of Gwadar from March 14

DNA

ISLAMABAD: CPEC is not China-centric; it is open to the world, said Khalid Mansoor, SAPM on CPEC Affairs while addressing CPEC Industrial Cooperation B2B Investment Conference (Sindh Chapter), according to Gwadar Pro. "I would like to right this misconception that CPEC is only China-centric. It is not, because even right now there are investors from the USA, Germany, United Kingdom, Canada and Netherlands and of course [there are] a number of SMEs investors. Some have already invested in Allama Iqbal Economic Zone," said Khalid Mansoor said adding "CPEC is open to all the investors from all over the world."

"CPEC phase one focused on early harvest projects and we were able to alleviate power crisis and develop infrastructure in Gwadar Port," noted Mansoor. Regarding infrastructure, many new motorways, highways and Urban Mass Transit have been completed while the Orange Line in Lahore and 820-km-long Pakistan-China Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) have already been laid, he revealed. "Now the focus is going to be on environmentally friendly projects and there are a number of hydropower projects in the final stage of completion", he added. Khalid Mansoor said that between 2015 and 2030 it is going to be a period of "maturity" which will provide a mechanism for sustainable economic growth, he said.

Gwadar gets 1st set of solar system
3,000 solar sets will be delivered and installed for needy residents of Gwadar from March 14 to help heel power inaccessibility and long-hour power outage, Gwadar Pro reported on Tuesday. The first solar installation has commenced from the home of the person whose children were killed in a bomb blast which ripped through at Gwadar Expressway in August 2021. In the first phase, a database of 1,000 people has been streamlined. The installations will be executed on a

day-to-day basis. In the next phases, the rest sets of solar plates will be doled out accordingly. The ceremony was held in the attendance of Gwadar Assistant Commissioner Athar Abbas, Commander 440 Brigade Brig Fahad Mansoor Kiyani, city notables and the general public. It is a continuation of China's humble act of gifting solar panels to marginalized people of Gwadar City taking a hit by unavailability of electricity over the last many years. In November 2019, China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment donated more than 3,200 sets of solar pho-

tovoltaic systems and LED lights to local people who were either suffering from worst power load shedding or living without electricity. "Thousands of Gwadar people are deprived of regular and sustainable supply of electricity. With the initiative of giving and installing solar system at grass root level, homes of locals are going to be lit-up," Gwadar Assistant Commissioner Athar Abbas told Gwadar Pro in an interview. "Since the installation of solar system is a very technical mechanism and the local people lack expertise to manage these procedures, market-based companies i.e. Reon Energy and Solcraft have been hired to make error-free installation in each house. This step will pave a way to gain op-

timum benefits and ward off hardware and software damage," he mentioned. China Overseas Port Holding Company's official Mr. Majid said that the entire process of gifting solar system to residents of Gwadar has come into force in collaboration with China, CPEC authority and local administration. The people-centric move was devised when PM Imran Khan along with Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong addressed a groundbreaking ceremony of several projects at Gwadar port on July 5, 2021. Later, it was confirmed to distribute 3,000 solar panels to people of Gwadar during the fourth meeting of PCRSC under the chairmanship of Federal Minister for Planning Development and Social Initiatives Asad Umar.

Indonesia's export value rises around 6.7%

JAKARTA: Indonesia recorded an export value of 20.46 billion U.S. dollars in February 2022, 6.73 percent higher than last month and 34.14 percent higher than the same month of last year, the Statistics Indonesia (BPS) said on Tuesday. BPS head Margo Yuwono told a press conference that exports of oil and gas as well as some products in the mining sector contributed the most to the higher value. The largest decline in exports was contributed by coffee and fruits, which decreased by 13.02 percent and 13.82 percent, respectively, compared to January, according to the BPS data. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin presided over Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet. - DNA

Investment in Pakistan a two-way "tango": Li Bijian

DNA

ISLAMABAD: "Investment is always a tango of two and disco of many and this requires joint efforts, dedication and support from all relevant parties," said Li Bijian, Consul General of China in Karachi while speaking to CPEC Industrial Cooperation B2B Investment Conference (Sindh Chapter). According to a Gwadar Pro's report, he urged the investors to choose better and more reliable partners and to carry out research before making decisions on investment. Mr Li said that Sindh enjoys better geological locations, fine infrastructures like highways, railways, seaports, expertise and experience in developing industry rules, and driving economic growth. "The province



is a better place to attract more foreign investment and conduct greater B2B cooperation," he said. "We encourage more Chinese companies to explore the investment opportunities in Pakistan, especially in Sindh," he said and advised Pakistani counterparts to conduct investment roadshows in China.

He said that the region has become home to many projects in the first phase of CPEC like many power plants and wind and solar plants. According to Li, thanks to the joint efforts by both sides of Pakistan and China, CPEC Phase One has recorded remarkable achievements in infrastructure cooperation like power and energy, road, and transportation. Most of the projects were implemented under the G2G framework, he said, adding that the second phase of CPEC has already started and the focus is industry, agriculture and socio-economic cooperation and B2B will be the main feature of cooperation. For CPEC Phase Two, he requested relevant federal and provincial departments to further contribute to the ease of doing business and to effectively address the hurdles of policy changes.

Iran foils sabotage plot at nuclear plant

TEHRAN: Iran has arrested several suspected members of a spy network linked to arch foe Israel, foiling its attempt to sabotage a key underground nuclear facility, state media reported. The announcement comes as Iran is engaged in talks with major powers on reviving a landmark nuclear deal abandoned by the United States in 2018. Iran has accused Israel of repeatedly targeting its nuclear facilities and scientists, most recently in an attempt to undermine efforts to restore the 2015 agreement, which was bitterly opposed by the Jewish state. The suspects "planned on sabotaging the Fordo facility

and were arrested by the intelligence services of the Revolutionary Guards", the official IRNA news agency reported late Monday. Fordo is an underground uranium enrichment facility located outside the central city of Qom, around 180 kilometres (110 miles) south of Tehran. IRNA did not specify the identity of the suspects or say how many were arrested. But it said that Israeli intelligence agents tried "to approach" an employee at Fordo after "recruiting" one of his neighbours, in order to gain information about advanced centrifuges at the facility. - APP

France offers asylum to Russian war protester

PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron said France is offering protection from the French embassy and asylum to the anti-war activist who interrupted a news program on Russia's state television, holding a poster protesting the war in Ukraine. An independent human rights group that monitors political arrests identified the woman as Marina Ovsyannikova. The group, OVD-Info, posted on its website that Ovsyannikova, who identified herself as an employee of the station, was taken into police custody. Macron said he will "propose this solution in a direct and very concrete manner" to Russian President Vladimir Putin in their next phone call. He condemned any detention of journalists and hoped that Ovsyannikova's situation will be clarified "as soon as possible." Macron spoke after visiting on Tuesday a facility housing Ukrainians fleeing war in western France. The country is getting ready to welcome "at least" 100,000 Ukrainians fleeing the war, he said. - Agencies

Ankara urges Yerevan to accept Baku's proposals

ANKARA: Turkey's Presidential Administration has urged Armenia to accept Azerbaijan's five basic principles for normalizing relations, Trend has reported. It stressed that these principles are a real push for regional peace and development, and their implementation is in Armenia's best interests. The Presidential Administration emphasized the importance of "opening of transport and communications, building other relevant communications, and establishing cooperation in other areas of mutual interest" for Armenia. The statement also acknowledged Turkey's ongoing support for Azerbaijan's efforts to ensure regional peace and stability. On March 14, Azerbaijan made public the five basic principles for normalizing relations with Armenia.

To recap, after submitting fundamental principles to Armenia on the normalization of relations between the two countries, Armenia turned to the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs for peace talks. Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov earlier told Anadolu news agency that Azerbaijan had sent a five-point proposal to Armenia to normalize relations and was awaiting a response from the opposite side. "The message is this: the factor of occupation is gone. In this situation, the Azerbaijani side, despite all the difficulties and problems of the past, is in favor of normalizing relations with Armenia," he said. He stressed that Armenia has not responded to Azerbaijan's proposal for almost a year. The minister described Azerbaijan's recent new proposal to Armenia as a sign of goodwill. - DNA

3M refugees have fled Ukraine: UN

GENEVA: The United Nations said Tuesday that the number of refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine has now reached 3 million. "We have now reached the 3 million refugees and among them 157,000 third-country nationals," said International Organization for Migration (IOM) spokesman Paul Dillon at a UN press conference. At the same time, UNICEF said, 73,000 Ukrainian children have become refugees every day over the last 20 days. UNICEF spokesman James Elder said: "Since Feb. 24, scores of children have been killed in Ukraine. Many more have been injured, and more than 1.5 million children have fled the country. "Putting this last statistic another way, on average, every day in Ukraine from the start of the war, more than 75,000 children have become refugees every day. This last number is particularly shocking. Every single minute, 55 children have fled their country." Elder said that meant that a Ukrainian child has become a refugee almost every single second since the start of the war on Feb. 24. The UN refugee agency said that almost 1.8 million of those refugees have gone to Poland, more than 453,000 to Romania, over 337,000 to Moldova, more than 263,000 to Hungary, and 213,000 to Slovakia. - APP

China admits Covid situation complex

BEIJING: Chinese health officials on Tuesday admitted the COVID-19 situation in the country is "grim and complex" amid a dramatic rise in daily cases. "The COVID-19 epidemic situation in China is grim and complex, making it more difficult to prevent and control," said an official of the National Health Commission. Out of 31 provinces in China, 28 have reported coronavirus cases since the past week. The official, however, said "the affected provinces and cities are dealing with it in an orderly and favorable way; thus, the epidemic overall is still under control." The Chinese mainland has reported 15,000 coronavirus cases during this month, the official said. "With an increasing number of positive cases, the difficulty in preventing and controlling the disease is also increased," the official added. Earlier, health officials said China on Tuesday reported 5,154 cases, including 1,647 "silent carriers". The infections has surged significantly for the first time in two years since the pandemic began, when the authorities imposed a strict 77-day lockdown to contain the coronavirus. The Jilin province in northeastern China, which has a population of more than 21 million people, has been the hardest hit by the latest wave of infections, with 4,067 coronavirus cases reported there alone. - APP

Uzbekistan-Bangladeshi consultations held in Tashkent

DNA

TASHKENT: Tashkent hosted the first round of political consultations with the participation of representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan and Bangladesh, reports "Dunyo" IA correspondent. According to Uzbekistan MFA, the delegations of the parties were led by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Furkat Siddikov and Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh Masud Momen. It should be noted that political consultations are being held for the first time in the history of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The parties discussed the current state and prospects for the development of cooperation between the two countries in political, trade-economic, investment, cultural-humanitarian and other spheres. The sides exchanged views on interaction within the UN and other multilateral structures. The importance of expanding the contractual and legal framework of interaction was noted. In this regard, an agreement was reached on the establishment of working groups with the participation of representatives of relevant ministries and agencies.

Azerbaijan, Iran mull joint dev't of oil fields

Alizada pointed out that as is known, within the meeting of the presidents of Azerbaijan and Iran in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, a contract was signed on the swap of Turkmen gas to Azerbaijan via Iran

DNA

BAKU: Azerbaijan and Iran conduct discussions on the joint development of oil fields in the Caspian Sea, Azerbaijani Ambassador to Iran Ali Alizada told Trend. In his words, there are some proposals from the Iranian side on the development of oil fields. Of course, he said, these proposals are evaluated by Azerbaijani relevant authorities. According to Alizada, the relevant bodies of Azerbaijan are currently conducting discussions with all parties on Azerbaijan's participation in the activation of the Persian Gulf-Black Sea route. A number of discussions on the establishment of the Persian Gulf-Black Sea route have already been carried out. In this regard, all issues have been considered by the proposed member states. Azerbaijan has also been proposed to take part in activating the route. If it serves the interests of our country, of course, Azerbaijan will participate in the activation of this route.

The ambassador also added that work is underway between Iran, Azerbaijan and Russia on a project to establish a North-South energy corridor. In this regard, on February 22, 2022, a meeting of the Persian Gulf-Black Sea route was held in Doha, Qatar and certain discussions were conducted. At the same time, bilateral meetings were also held between Azerbaijan and Iran and necessary discussions were conducted in this direction. Regular meetings are held in video format among the working groups of the mentioned countries. All three countries support the implemen-

tation of this project. The necessary work on this project must be implemented by the Monenco Iran Consulting Engineers Company. The relevant authorities of Azerbaijan will assess this. Currently, work is underway in this direction. We are confident that the project will be implemented in the near future. "Hopefully the construction of a new bridge over the Astarachay River on the border between Azerbaijan and Iran will be completed and put into operation in a short time. The construction of the mentioned bridge has already begun and is progressing rapidly. The new bridge will facilitate the movement of

both vehicles and people. Azerbaijan-Iran relations, trade and economic relations are developing every year. Taking into account the trade congestion on the borders, the governments of both countries have decided to build new bridges. One of them is the Astar bridge, the foundation of which has already been laid. We are confident that the bridge will contribute to the growth of trade and economic ties in the future," he said. Alizada pointed out that as is known, within the meeting of the presidents of Azerbaijan and Iran in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, a contract was signed on the swap of Turkmen gas to Azerbaijan via Iran. The project has been implemented since the beginning of this year. In this regard, there is great cooperation in both bilateral and trilateral formats. Azerbaijan and Iran conduct discussions on the joint development of oil fields in the Caspian Sea. There are some proposals from the Iranian side on the development of oil fields. Of course, these proposals are evaluated by our relevant authorities.



Briefs

Exercised our democratic right: Marri



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Central Information Secretary of PPP-P Shazia Atta Marri has said that we have exercised our constitutional and democratic right of no confidence motion against the atrocities of puppet Prime Minister Imran Khan while Chairman of PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held Awami long march against the bad economic policies of the federal government. She added that bringing a no-confidence motion on the table against incumbent Prime Minister Imran Khan is our constitutional and democratic right. Ms Marri uttered that depriving someone's from his or her constitutional right is a sheer violation of the Constitution. The puppet Prime Minister Imran Khan has lost his nerves and senses and he is no longer able to rule on the country. She further said that there were reports that Selected Prime Minister Imran Khan would be conspired against the opposition by initiating the fake NAB cases.

ECP throws out PTI's adjournment plea

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan has thrown out plea by the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf seeking adjournment of the foreign funding case against it. The Election Commission held hearing of the foreign funding case against the PTI on Tuesday. The PTI requested the commission to adjourn the hearing of the case. But Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja rejected the PTI plea saying the case had already been sub judice for the last 7 years and the party had been seeking delays again and again. PTI's lawyers Anwar Mansoor did not appear before the court. His assistant lawyer attended the hearing. He told the commission that Mr Mansoor had reached Islamabad from Karachi but he was suffering from high fever and could not attend the hearing. On this, the CEC remarked that during last hearing, Mr Mansoor told the commission that he was going abroad but he was still in Karachi. - APP

Pak concerned over decision of Karnataka Court on Hijab

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan expresses its serious concern at the ruling of the High Court of Indian State of Karnataka banning the wearing of 'hijab' by Muslim girls in educational institutions. The decision manifestly has failed to uphold the principle of freedom to religious practices and impinges on the human rights. Equally sad is the fact that the judiciary in India which is expected to act as a bulwark against dehumanization, stigmatization and discrimination against minorities has completely failed to uphold the principles of justice and equality. This decision marks a fresh low in the relentless anti-Muslim campaign where even the pretext of secularism is being weaponized to target Muslims. It is feared that the flawed ruling by the High Court would fast track the pace of marginalization of the minorities, especially Muslims and further embolden the Hindu-RSS zealots to target them with impunity. It is deeply concerning that the malicious trend of characterizing Muslims as 'others' or '20%' by prominent BJP leaders which was continuing with appalling impunity is now also being translated into decisions by the judiciary.

Two Japanese Calendars Exhibitions inaugurated

Ambassador WADA, while speaking at the inaugural ceremony said that the purpose for holding this exhibition is to introduce various facets of Japan to the people of Pakistan



DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Embassy of Japan held two Japanese Calendars Exhibitions 2022 in Islamabad in cooperation with the MEXT Alumni Association of Pakistan (MAAP), the Quaid-e-Azam University and the National Skills University. The exhibition at the Quaid-e-Azam University was inaugurated by H.E. WADA Mitsuhiro, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan together with the Vice-Chancellor of the Quaid-e-Azam University Dr. Muhammad Ali and other guests on March 15th. Another exhibition was inaugurated by Mr. IWASAKI Ryuji, Counsellor, the head of Cultural Section together with the Vice Chan-

cellor of the National Skills University Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar and other guests on March 8th. Dr. Zabta Khan Shinwari, the President of the MAAP and other members attended both ceremonies. MAAP is the organization of former Japanese Government Scholarship alumnus in Pakistan. The Japanese Calendars Exhibition is an annual feature of the cultural activities and is very popular among the people of Pakistan. This year, around 65 calendars have been put on display in the exhibition with the cooperation of Japan Calendars Association and various Japanese companies. The calendars exhibited showcase a vibrant depiction of the Japanese heritage and cultural identity by reflecting images from traditional to contemporary area

such as arts, sports, automobiles, nature, heritage and architecture of Japan. Ambassador WADA, while speaking at the inaugural ceremony said that the purpose for holding this exhibition is to introduce various facets of Japan to the people of Pakistan as a variety of calendars have been put on display which represent the beauty as well as the true life image of Japan. He emphasized the significance of this year's exhibition being held twice in Islamabad for the first time by mentioning that this is very good development as more and more Pakistani students can feel Japan so close at this exhibition. This development surely will resonate the celebration of the 70th anniversary, said the Ambassador. The Ambassador also

appreciated the support and cooperation extended by the MAAP, the Quaid-e-Azam University and National Skills University for holding this beautiful exhibition. Most of the calendars being displayed at the exhibition are produced by private Japanese companies, and are printed on recycled paper which is a fine example of Japan's efforts to be eco-friendly. As this year marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Pakistan, the Embassy of Japan together with the Pakistani partners is holding a variety of activities to commemorate the historic relations aiming to promote people-to-people interactions and mutual understanding among the peoples of our two nations.

Turkmenistan strongman's son wins presidential vote

ASHGABAT: The son of Turkmenistan's autocrat leader Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov won a decisive victory in presidential elections, officials said Tuesday, paving the way to hereditary succession in one of the world's most tightly-controlled countries. Serdar Berdimuhamedov, 40, won the ballot held on Saturday with 73 percent of the vote, the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) said in a statement on its website. Nine candidates stood in the poll in the isolated country of six million people, but few doubted that Berdimuhamedov's only son Serdar - who has pledged to continue his father's course - would take over the country's top job. Berdimuhamedov senior, who is now Turkmenistan's outgoing president, chair of the cabinet and senate chief, has been the regime's top decision-maker for the last 15 years. The strongman known as the gas-rich country's "protector" has dominated public life since the country's founding president Saparmurat Niyazov died in 2006 and tolerates no dissent. Last month Berdimuhamedov said he would step aside and allow "young leaders" to govern, triggering a snap vote. CEC officials took their time to announce the results of one of the world's most predictable elections, that saw Berdimuhamedov face off against relatively unknown civil servants and provincial officials. On Sunday the CEC's chairman Gulmyrat Myradov told journalists who had attended a press-conference in expectation of hearing the results that the results were being delayed due to "the need for a thorough count". In the end Berdimuhamedov junior's victory margin proved far lower than the 98 and 97 percent routs posted by his 64-year-old father in the hermit state's last two elections. - DNA

Cabinet approves increase in compensation for blast victims

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cabinet in its 67th meeting held here on Tuesday with Chief Minister Mahmood Khan in the chair approved giving compensation of rupees 2 million each to the heirs of those embracing martyrdom in the Koocha Risaldar gory incident while those with serious and minor injuries to be provided rupees 0.5 million and rupees 0.2 million respectively. The Chief Minister directed that the compensation cheques must be prepared within three days for their onward disbursement amongst the all concerned. The meeting besides the cabinet members was also attended by the Provincial

Chief Secretary, Senior Member Board of Revenue and Administrative Secretaries of various Government Departments. Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information & PRs Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif while briefing media persons about the decisions of the cabinet meeting at ITLA'A Cell informed that the cabinet also approved providing compensation of Rs. 1.00 million each to the heirs of 6 victims that fall prey to land sliding in Alpuri district Shangla recently. The Chief Minister, he said, has also directed for amendments in the Relief Act to enhance the existing ratio of various compensations. He further said that the Chief Minister directed the Ministers to ensure their attendance in the Provincial Assembly meetings regularly as important legislations are being made there. Similarly, the cabinet committees constituted for various matters were also directed to submit their reports during the next meeting of the cabinet. The CM, he further informed, has directed for including the bone marrow treatment in the Sehat Card to benefit the suffering humanity.

GDA to support govt: Dr Fehmida

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Minister for Inter Provincial Coordination (IPC) Dr. Fehmida Mirza on Tuesday said the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) would support the government, as the atmosphere created by opposition was not in line with the values of democracy. Speaking to media here about the no confidence motion against the Prime Minister Imran Khan, she said GDA will support government at this hour. "The atmosphere created by the opposition isn't in line with the values of democracy. We have to show political maturity and let democracy flourish," she said. Dr. Fehmida said the situation created and horse trading going on doesn't bode well for democracy. "Once we let go of constitution, we are staring at anarchy," she added.



BAHAWALPUR: President Dr. Arif Alvi inaugurating the Ehsas Saylani Langarkhana. - DNA

Political crises not in the interests of anyone

ANALYSIS

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Amidst serious economic crises, turmoil in neighbouring Afghanistan, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) threats and Russian-Ukraine war, confrontation for power between Premier Imran Khan lead government and opposition parties is intensifying with each passing day. In reaction of government's power show scheduled in Islamabad on March 27th, the opposition called for a similar sit-in gathering from March 23rd. Whatever might be expectations of the organizers from both sides but almost analysts and political affairs experts believe that now the "political rivalries turning into battling or confrontation which likely to fuel further almost security, administrative and economic challenges ahead to leadership." No one can neglect the worries of Premier Imran Khan and his aides in the wake of Resolution of No Trust - now pending before the National Assembly. A number of leading aides like Pakistan Muslim League

(QA) and Urdu speaking Mutahida Quami Movement (MQM) are now entering into deals with the opposition parties. But the major setback to premier Imran Khan is a "developing splintered group" within ranks of ruling Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf. Main financial sponsor of PTI and Imran Khan as well, Jehangir Tareen finally reached into deals and heals with opposition. Though strength of PTI dissidents couldn't be ascertained at this crucial stage but observers believe that it could cause ejection from Imran Khan and his aides from RULING CORRIDORS. Keeping in view gravity of the situation, only a dissent minded sober politician Chaudri Shujaat Hussain has requested both Government and opposition to postpone scheduled rallies in Islamabad. Though so far no one made a positive response from either side but Chaudri Shujaat Hussain's appeal is attracting attentions of almost peace loving democrats from all over the country. However, so far only Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) main rival to Pakistan People's Party in Sindh, reaffirmed its support through Federal Minister Dr. Fehmida

Mirza to Prime Minister Imran Khan. Whereas the negotiations with Baluchistan Awami Party, Jamhoori Watan Party and others are in progress. The number of games in existing circumstances seems terrible for Premier Imran Khan and his aide. Some of the circles close to Premier Imran Khan hinting at dissolution of assemblies, whenever the later feel "failure" in defeating of opposition's "No Trust" move against his government. It is premature to say something about future but the ongoing confrontation between government and opposition is very much harmful to the very interests of the country and its people. Rest of the world, especially US led allies, EU and even Russian Federation led socialists are also unhappy due to increasing trends of religious extremism in Pakistan. Pakistan spy agencies influence in internal affairs of Afghanistan by patronizing hardliner Taliban has also made uncertain the region in particular and rest of the world in general. On such grounds, maximum members of international community having reservations and didn't trust Pakistan. Position of China is different as its leadership having

reservations over Premier Imran Khan's CPEC policies. Compare to Imran Khan, previous PPP and PML(N) leadership shown maximum enthusiasm in early execution of CPEC project. Though Imran Khan alleged what he called involvement of EU members in opposition's No Trust Move against his government. But the ground reality is different. US led allies thinking on different lines. Saudi Prince in his recent statement has also shown resentment over Political crises in Pakistan. Prince Muhammad Bin Salam (MBS) has already developed further understandings with the Jewish Lobby by recognizing Israel. Premier IK is already in good links with the United Kingdom through his former in laws, who are considered much more important in the Jewish lobby. Evacuation of Premier Imran from the RULING CORRIDORS is not an easy task but efforts for the purpose on the part of opposition could plunge the country or its already fragile parliamentary form of democracy into irreversible crises, therefore, politicians from both sides needs to remain careful and alert at this crucial stage.

Farrukh wants ECP to hear PML-N, PPP funding case

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib on Tuesday appealed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to start early hearing of foreign funding case of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and Pakistan People's Party. "We have once again requested the Election Commission in writing that the PML-N and PPP foreign funding case should be heard as soon as possible," said the Minister of State while talking to media outside ECP here. The scrutiny committee should be activated immediately so that the committee completes its report, Farrukh Habib said. He said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was the first political party which launched political fund raising in Pakistan. Terming overseas Pakistanis as assets of the nation, he said that they were sending \$ 30 billion remittances annually, which stood at \$ 18 billion during PML-N era. 9 million overseas Pakistanis, he said have full confidence in Imran Khan and PTI's paid members pay membership fee on annual basis. The minister said there was propaganda against PTI that it has received illegal foreign funding which was totally baseless. Pointing towards the people standing around him, he said they were the people who gave foreign funds to the party.

No-trust motion leaves IMF-Pak talks in jeopardy

ISLAMABAD: A political crisis in the country is looming over the ongoing staff-level review talks between the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Pakistan, and a decision on the next loan tranche is likely after an outcome of the no-confidence motion due later this month, officials said on Monday. With no possibility of striking a staff-level agreement until the fate of the no-confidence move is settled, Pakistan and the IMF will continue holding ongoing parleys for an indefinite period to strike consensus on many thorny issues. Both the IMF and Pakistani authorities confirmed to The News separately on Monday that the ongoing talks were continuing, but none of them gave any time frame when these ongoing virtual talks for completion of the 7th review would be concluded, mainly because uncertainties persist on the political horizon. It has made it impossible for both sides to strike a consensus on a memorandum of economic and financial policy (MEFP) framework under the IMF programme. - APP

Pak urges UNSC to push India for joint probe

WEB DESK

UNITED NATIONS: Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has called on the United Nations to demand from India to hold a joint investigation into a missile New Delhi said it "accidentally" fired into its territory, rejecting the Indian move to hold an internal inquiry into the March 9 incident. "Such a serious matter cannot be addressed with the simplistic explanation proffered by the Indian authorities," the foreign minister said in a letter addressed to UN Security Council President for March, Ambassador Lana Zaki Nusseibeh (UAE), and Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, in which he shared Pakistan's concerns and demands about the violation of Pakistani airspace by India's "super-sonic missile". Pakistan, he said, strongly condemns this "blatant violation" of its airspace in contravention of international aviation safety protocols. "Such irresponsible incidents are also reflective of India's disregard for air safety and callous approach towards regional peace and stability." "This missile incident is consistent with India's irresponsible conduct and deserves to be addressed by the international community and especially the Security Council, with the sense of alarm and urgency which it deserves," FM Qureshi wrote.