



Islamabad POST

Friday, March 25, 2022

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

“Accidental Missile misfire” shows India is an “irresponsible state”

Detailed News On Page-08

Ukraine war; Putin made ‘big mistake’

Detailed News On Page-08

‘Ramiz Raja didn’t want to work with us’

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Pakistan to strengthen Ummah's voice: PM

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday said Pakistan, as the new chair of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), would strengthen the voice of the Muslim world at the global platform. “As CFM Chair, Pakistan will promote partnerships for unity, justice, and development to strengthen the voice of the Ummah globally,” he said in a tweet.

Zardari, Bilawal chair Party meeting

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Former President of Pakistan and President of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamen-tarians, Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari jointly chaired a meeting of the Parliamentary Party of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians at Zardari House Islamabad. The meeting of the parliamentary party was attended by all the members of the NA belonging to the party. In the meeting, Asif Ali Zardari and chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari gave important instructions to the members of parliament of PPP parliamentarians.

Pakistan wants to promote peace: FO

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Office Spokesperson Asim Iftikhar has said Pakistan wants to promote peace, stability and friendly neighbourhood, and development without becoming part of any bloc. Addressing a news briefing, he said Pakistan invited China as a special guest to the recently concluded 48th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC as Beijing wants to promote cooperation with the OIC countries.

‘MPs bound to abide by party policy’

Chief Justice Bandial says that Article 63(A) is a “discipline of the emerging political system”

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The lawmakers are bound to follow the policy of the political party they are affiliated with, Justice Muneeb Akhtar of the Supreme Court said Thursday during the hearing of presidential reference seeking interpretation on Article 63(A). A five-member larger bench of the apex court, headed by Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Aijazul Ahsan, Justice Mazhar Alam, and Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel is hearing the reference along with a plea filed by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) against public gatherings of the Opposition and the government in the federal capital – ahead of the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan. “Lawmakers have to vote in accordance with their party’s mandate. They have to follow the party policy. Full stop, that’s it,” Justice Akhtar said. However, he noted that no MNA can be tagged as “good boy or bad boy”. Meanwhile, Justice Mandokhel remarked that the Article 55 stipulates that all the parliamentary proceedings should be done through voting. Whereas CJP Bandial stated that Article 63(A) is a “discipline of the emerging political system.” “The article binds the lawmakers to stand by their party no matter even if they are

Continued on Page 06

Verdict to determine country’s political future, says Fawad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Thursday said verdict of the apex court on the Presidential Reference seeking interpretation of Article 63-A of the Constitution would determine the country’s political future. “Pakistan’s fate and political future are linked with this case,” Fawad said and hoped that the apex court would give a clear line to halt the scourge of horse-trading once and for all. Talking to the media persons outside the Supreme Court along with Energy Minister Hammad Azhar, Fawad referring to the Sindh House episode said, “it is imperative to put an end to the trade of consciousness and sale-purchase of the vote to ensure a transparent democratic system.” Fawad said the reference filed by the government under Article 186 of the Constitution was meant to get

Continued on Page 06

Govt minister hints at early general polls

Rasheed's comments come as the political temperature continues to move up



ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed said Thursday the country might move towards early elections, but maintained that Prime Minister Imran Khan would defeat the Opposition’s no-confidence motion. “I want Pakistan and democracy to progress. The situation in the country is moving towards betterment with every passing day,” the interior minister said while addressing a press conference in Punjab’s capital. Rasheed’s comments come as the political temperature continues to move up, especially in Punjab and the Centre, after the Opposition filed a

Continued on Page 06

Consultations underway, says MQM-P

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: MQM-P leader Aminul Haq on Thursday said consultations are still ongoing with the government and the Opposition, as the latter woos the government’s allies to oust Prime Minister Imran Khan ahead of the voting on the no-confidence motion. Speaking to a private news channel, the leader said that MQM-P is a separate party and makes its own decisions when asked if all the allies would announce a final decision together. Meanwhile, sharing a picture of the meeting on its official Twitter handle, the MQM-P revealed that during the meeting, Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, Aamir Khan, Aminul Haq, Wasim Akhtar, and Javed Hanif were present. Meanwhile, PPP’s Asif Ali-Zardari, Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari and Murad Ali Shah were also present during the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: The visiting Chief of the Turkish General Staff, General Yasar Guler calls on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr. – DNA

4 Jawans martyred in Hassan Khel

Due to alertness and timely response of the troops, the infiltration attempt was foiled

NEWS DESK

RAWALPINDI: Four soldiers were martyred as they foiled the plans of a group of terrorists who were attempting to enter Pakistan from Afghanistan. According to Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the terrorists had “attempted to infiltrate” Pakistan from Afghanistan on the midnight of March 23-24 in the Hassan Khel area of North Waziristan district. “Due to alertness and timely response of the troops, the infiltration attempt was foiled. Terrorists retaliated with fire which was reciprocated in a befitting manner,” said the ISPR statement. The terrorists, after failing to enter the country, fled away. And as per intelligence reports, they “suffered heavy casualties”. The four soldiers who embraced martyrdom during the exchange of fire were identified as 34-year-old Lance Havaldar Wajahat Alam of Ghizer in Gilgit Baltistan, 25-year-old Sepoy Sajid Inayat resident of Sheikhpura, 32-year-old Sepoy Maqbool Hayat, resident of Ghizer in Gilgit Baltistan, and 22-year-old Sepoy Sajid Ali resident of Skardu. “The Pakistan Army is determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve,” vowed the ISPR.

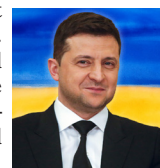
Western states pledge more aid for Ukraine

NATO, G7 and the EU announced new battle groups to be stationed in four Eastern European countries

MONITORING DESK

BRUSSELS: Western leaders meeting in Brussels on Thursday agreed to strengthen their forces in Eastern Europe, increase military aid to Ukraine and tighten their sanctions on Russia as Moscow’s assault on its neighbour entered its second month. In a display of unity at an unprecedented triple summit of NATO, the G7 and the European Union, the military alliance announced new battle groups to be stationed in four Eastern European countries. The United States and Britain expanded their sanctions blacklists. Countries announced new packages of military and humanitarian aid and promises to take in refugees. The EU a NATO summit in Brussels, Zelenskiy said was due to announce steps to wean itself off Ukraine needed fighter jets, tanks, anti-ship Russian energy. “We agreed to strengthen our weapons and improved air defence to repel Russian troops as the war enters its second month.

Zelensky asks NATO for more military support



NEWS DESK

KVIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy appealed to NATO leaders on Thursday to increase military support for his country against Russian forces that he warned would next target alliance members in eastern Europe including Poland. Addressing a NATO summit in Brussels, Zelenskiy said weapons and improved air defence to repel Russian troops as the war enters its second month.

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

Est. 1860

MURREE BREWERY
ISO 9001, 14001, HACCP & OHSAS Certified Company

MURREE SPARKLETT'S

Bottled Drinking Water

WATER
the most Precious Currency of all !

Also Available in Glass bottle

f murreebrewerycompany www.murreebrewery.com

Inside...

Business community to help in economic development: FCCI – Page 02

Pakistan to gain influence in world with strong economy – Page 03

Chinese-scholarship holder Pakistani youngster embraces great changes – Page 04

OIC’s Islamabad meet – salience and significance – Page 05

International Investment Forum kicks off in Tashkent – Page 06

Sino-Pak dairy co-op industry to bring industrial upgrading – Page 07

Huge prospects of Pak, Africa co-op: Guinea FM – Page 08

Pakistan-Turkish top mily brass discuss defense ties

General Yasar Guler, Chief of General Staff Turkish Armed Forces called on General Nadeem Raza, CJCS



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Turkish top Military leadership exchanged views on issues of mutual interest and existing defense ties on Thursday. General Yasar Guler, Chief of General Staff Turkish Armed Forces called on General Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi. Besides security and regional issues, particularly the latest developments in Afghanistan, matters relating to enhancing the level and scope of bilateral military engagements and cooperation were discussed. Both sides reaffirmed the commitment; that being ‘all-weather’ friends, Pakistan and Turkey would continue to forge deeper strategic ties. Earlier, upon arrival at Joint Staff Headquarters, a smartly turned-out tri-services contingent presented ‘Guard of Honour’ to the visiting dignitary.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Turkish top Military leadership exchanged views on issues of mutual interest and existing defense ties on Thursday. General Yasar Guler, Chief of General Staff Turkish Armed Forces called on General Nadeem Raza, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, at Joint Staff Headquarters, Rawalpindi. Besides security and regional issues, particularly the latest developments in Afghanistan, matters relating to enhancing the level and scope of bilateral military engagements and cooperation were discussed. Both sides reaffirmed the commitment; that being ‘all-weather’ friends, Pakistan and Turkey would continue to forge deeper strategic ties. Earlier, upon arrival at Joint Staff Headquarters, a smartly turned-out tri-services contingent presented ‘Guard of Honour’ to the visiting dignitary.

Continued on Page 06

Business community to help in economic development: FCCI

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD. Four agreements were inked during the last day of the 3-day Pakistan Economic Conference (PEC) which would open new avenues of foreign and local investment in the IT (Information Technology) sector. Addressing the concluding session of the conference organized by the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) group leader Mianjaved Iqbal termed it as a total success which

chamber's Presidents from all over the country were also invited to take home the message of innovation in businesses and replicate the new business models in their respective areas. He suggested that follow-up meetings of this mega event must be arranged regularly with periodicity of yearly or quarterly meetings on innovative and emerging technologies relating to businesses. He was appreciative of the first session of PEC on Islamic banking which was largely attended during

all emerging businesses were discussed in detail in addition to the traditional textile sector. He said that during this conference a wide range of subjects was covered including Islamic banking, IT, E-commerce, new technologies, software houses, use of social media in businesses, agriculture and value addition in this segment, health, health care facility, pharmaceutical industry and export of medicines, SME sector, main streaming of female entrepreneurs,

added that it would spur the IT related activities in this region and would also help traders to start online businesses along with their traditional ways of selling and purchase. He said that the four agreements were inked between BlockChain Company with CFO Club of Pakistan and Genius Minds etc. It was told that Sitara group has established the first IT Park in Faisalabad which has sufficient space to accommodate individuals and IT related companies with a



has provided a unique opportunity to the participants to share their ideas and experience in addition to motivating traders to switch over to the manufacturing sector. He said that the business community is fully prepared to play its role for the economic development of Pakistan and we have decided to utilize our own resources instead of depending on the Government. He said that the business community itself bears the entire expenses of PEC while

sideline meetings as majority of the businessmen are inclined to shun traditional and adopt Islamic banking which is in consonance with their religious, social and moral values. "The participants also provided an opportunity to directly interact with the religious scholars to dispel their reservations about the Riba based economy", he added. He said that the basic theme of this conference was "Take your businesses to the next level" and in this connection

tourism, franchise, business model and special economic zones. Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh President FCCI said that this conference has started yielding positive and productive results immediately with the start of this meeting. "FCCI has decided to launch a 'joint venture company' in collaboration with pancloud to fulfill the financial needs of talented youth that has expertise in IT sector and could play their role in giving a quantum jump to the IT exports", he said and

facility of plug and play. Mr. ArifEhsan Malik Chairman APBUMA underlined the importance of the SME sector and said that the Government must dole out targeted subsidies to the small and medium entrepreneurs. He said that the SME sector has limited financial resources and hence they may also be allowed to import cheap used machinery. During the last day of this conference special sittings were arranged on real estate, business models and special economic zones.



LAHORE: Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed called on Chief Minister Punjab Sardar Usman Buzdar at CM House. – APP

DC Peshawar holds Revenue Darbar

PESHAWAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Peshawar, Shafiuallah Khan held a Revenue Darbar here on Thursday for the facilitation of the people in resolution of their problems and provision of copies, fardaat and other documents. Besides, Deputy Commissioner, all administrative officers, tehsildars, naibtehsildars, sub-registrars, Gardawars, patwaris and others attended the darbar. During Revenue Darbar, 94 applicants met with the Deputy Commissioner and other officers to highlight their problems. Most of the applicants were provided copies on the spot. Similarly, in most of the cases, the Deputy Commissioner directed the correction of their names in record. – APP

DC directs Agri Deptt. to work hard for achieving Govt. targets

YOUSUF BHUTTA

GUJRAT: Deputy Commissioner Dr. Khurram Shehzad said that 17,460 farmers across the district have applied for Kisan Cards while 8,000 farmers have already been provided the Kisan Cards. "Those selling expensive and counterfeit fertilizers were fined more than Rs 644,000, while cases were registered against seven persons. Modern machinery for paddy cultivation is being provided at 50% subsidy for the development of agricultural sector."

He expressed these views while addressing a meeting of District Advisory Committee on Agriculture, which was attended by Deputy Director Agriculture Warraich, Additional Director Livestock Dr. Tahir Aziz and other officials. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Khurram Shehzad said that modern agricultural implements were being provided to farmers for cultivation of wheat and paddy to increase agricultural production. He further said, "The Punjab government will provide subsidy of Rs 1.5 million on rice trans-

planter, Rs 172,000 on rice straw chopper, Rs 110,000 to Rs 262,000 on other agricultural implements including nursery raising machine." Effective crackdown should be continued against those who were receiving high prices of fertilizers and those who were producing fake fertilizers, he added. He directed the officers of Water Management, Agricultural Chemist and other allied departments to utilize all the resources and capabilities to achieve the targets set by the Punjab Government.

Pashto poet Ghani Khan remembered

PESHAWAR: The scholars and poets, journalists and people from different walks of life Thursday paid tribute to well acclaimed Pashto poet and philosopher, Ghani Khan here on his 26th death anniversary. Late Ghani Khan was also known as the "Lunatic Philosopher" for his unique style, poetic depth, individuality, diversity and transcending imagination- the matchlessness traits only owned by him. In order to pay tribute to the acclaimed Pashto poet a ceremony was organised by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) at Ghani Khan DheriCharsadda - the final abode of the poet.

In the ceremony, well known poet of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including AbasinYousafzai, historian Prof Dr Waqar Ali Shah, DrSamuiddin, DrTanha, Professor Dr Noor-Ul-Amin, KalsoomZaib, DrFarkhanda Hayat, Poet Iqbal HussainAfkar, Sheikh Shaukat Hayat, Senior Journalist RokhanYousafzai, Manager Culture and information Hamayoon Khan, Deputy Manager Media and Marketing ZeeshanMajeed besides academicians, elders from District Charsadda and high government officials participated in large numbers. Addressing the ceremony, Professor DrAbseenYousafzai said that Ghani Khan suffered great hardships, including rigorous imprisonment while opposing British imperialism, stood like a rock and used the power of pen to raise awareness among his people of the freedom from the colonial power. – APP



WAZIRABAD: SHO Railway Police Rehmatullah Gujjar returning stolen mobile phone to French citizen. – DNA

2nd Pakistan Mountains Pride Awards on March 31

ISLAMABAD: Eight dedicated professionals serving the mountain communities and putting their best efforts into the conservation and development of mountains' natural resources, mountaineering and promoting mountain music will be awarded the 2nd Pakistan Mountains Pride Awards (PAMPA) on March 31. A grand ceremony will be organised by the Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) in Islamabad with the support of National Rural Support Programme (NRSP), Oil and Gas Development Company Ltd (OGDCL) Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) pro-

gramme, and the Westminster Academy. Devcom-Pakistan launched Pakistan Mountains Pride Awards in 2019 to recognize the services par excellence of the individuals that they have rendered over the years to the mountains of Pakistan and its communities. The five categories of PAMPA include Agostino Da Polenza Mountain Conservation Award, Shoaib Sultan Khan Community Development Award, Nazir Sabir Mountaineering Award, Ashraf Aman Sustainable Mountain Tourism Award, and Ustad Jan Ali Mountain Music Award. The winners for second PAMPA are Zahid Baig Mirza (National) and Kh-

waja Lashkar Hussain Azad from AJK (Regional) for mountain ecosystems conservation, Bibi Hussan (Gulmit) and Hasina Haider (Shiger) for their services to mountain women development, Sirbaz Khan for scaling most of the highest peaks, Muhammad Iqbal for his lifelong services to promote sustainable mountain tourism in Gilgit-Baltistan, and the legendary musicians and singers for promoting mountain music. The winner will receive a 3-D model trophy of the K2 base camp developed in 12x8x9 inches dimensions that would depict the dedication, zeal and zest of the winners. – Agencies

100% increase in KPRA revenue collection

DNA

PESHAWAR: Due to tax reforms of the provincial government, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) has doubled its annual revenue in the last financial year as compared to 2018-19 and 2019-20 whereas annual income of KPRA is expected to triple by the end of this fiscal year. The total annual revenue of KPRA for the financial year 2018-19 was Rs. 10.4 billion, and for the year 2019-20 was Rs 17.1 billion and Rs 21.00 billion for the year 2020-21. Similarly, KPRA has recovered Rs. 21.1 billion during the last eight months of the current fiscal year whereas its annual revenue is expected to reach up to Rs. 30 billion by the end of this fiscal year. This was told in the 10th meeting of the policy making council of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority held here on Thursday with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan in the chair. The forum was informed that KPRA has made significant improvement in the ratio of filing and tax registration in addition to improvement in revenue collection. As many as 78 percent increase has been recorded in the ratio of filing during the year 2019-20 as compared to 2018-19 whereas 90 percent increase has been made in filing during the year 2020-21.

DC for intensive measures to eliminate dengue

He said that performance of anti dengue teams would be monitored strictly and no lethargy, negligence and delinquency would be tolerated in this regard, he added

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ali Shehzad has directed the departments concerned to take intensive measures for elimination of dengue once for all. Chairing a meeting of District Emergency Response Committee for Anti

Dengue here on Thursday, he said that dengue was a chronic issue and the government was utilizing all available resources to eradicate it permanently. He directed the surveillance teams to accelerate their efforts to detect dengue larva and eradicate it on top priority basis. In this connection, seminars and meetings would also be arranged in addition to displaying banners and posters to sensitize the citizens so that they could also contribute their role in dengue elimination, he added. He said that performance of anti dengue teams would be monitored strictly and no lethargy, negligence and delinquency would be tolerated in this regard, he added. He also directed the in-charges of Tehsil level Emergency Response Committees to convene their meeting twice in a week so that desired results of anti dengue drive could be achieved.



Chairman CDA Amir Ali Ahmed inaugurates Pakistan Movement Park

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Capital Development Authority inaugurated Pakistan Movement Park in Sector H-8 Islamabad on the occasion of Pakistan Day to provide entertainment and information facilities to the citizens of Islamabad and the next generation. The park is built under the shadow of the largest Pakistani flag. The park built along with Islamabad Highway in Sector H-8, has a walk-through history museum as well as two-dimensional and 3D-designed walls on which the history of Pakistan dates back to its inception. The biggest migration has also been pictured so that the new generation can have a historical awareness of Independence of Pakistan and to remember the great sacrifices made during the migration. The park has been built with the idea of providing educa-

tional as well as entertaining information to the people as directed by the management of Capital Development Authority as the park will also provide

educational information to the people as an open museum. The purpose of building Park is to highlight sacrifices made during the Pakistan Movement and

the biggest migration in history could be passed on to the new generation in terms of education and information. This park is the first of its kind



in Pakistan which has been built in this style. A proposal to digitize images of sacrifices made during the Pakistan Movement in the park is also under consideration. In addition, in the light of the direction of CDA's Management, work is in progress to provide other facilities in the park, including swings, walkways, jogging track, cycling track for children to play. In order to keep the environment green and fresh, seasonal flowers of different colors are also being planted in the park so that the citizens visiting the park can fully enjoy the atmosphere. Apart from this, benches, lighting, security, parking and other necessary arrangements for sitting in the park are also being made expeditiously. On this occasion, the management of the Capital Development Authority said that providing a healthy environment to the citizens of Islamabad is one of the top priorities of the organization.

Islamabad POST Available in following cities

ISLAMABAD
Qamar News Agency
03105460372

RAWALPINDI
Asim News Agency
03435802610

KARACHI
Nazir Siyal
03337554016

PESHAWAR
Zarbagh News Agency
03005412069

FAISALABAD
Ishfaq Mughal
03007689850

GUJRAT
M. Yousuf Bhutta
03338436820

JHELUM
Iqrash News Agency
03005412069

KHARIAN
Ijaz News Agency
03068863870

LALAMUSA
Gulzar Ahmed Noshi
03359494788

SARA-I-ALMAGIR
0300 5428178

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.....	561116
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

Pakistan to gain influence in world with strong economy

“Your immortal sacrifices for the country will never be forgotten,” he told the troops. He said Pakistan Army was the only military in the world that fought the war against terrorism and extremism in a “proper and effective manner”

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday expressed confidence that Pakistan would gain an influence in the world by making its economy stable and maintaining a strong defence line. “Through its integrity, economic stability, strong defence and national unity, Pakistan will emerge as a country with an impact in the world,” he said in his address to the military officers and soldiers, here at the Parade Ground.

The president joined the troops at the Bara Khana – a traditional joint feast for the officers and soldiers of all ranks, held at the culmination of the arrangements for the Pakistan Day parade. President lauded the finest arrangements made by the administrators of the parade on March 23, which was also



witnessed by foreign delegates including the foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Countries. President Alvi stressed a constant vigilance to counter nefarious designs of the enemy and called for effectively addressing the emerging challenges, particularly cyber warfare. Dr



Alvi paid glowing tribute to the country's armed forces for defending the frontiers and for their immense contribution to the sovereignty of the homeland. “Your immortal sacrifices for the country will never be forgotten,” he told the troops. He said Pakistan Army was the only military

in the world that fought the war against terrorism and extremism in a “proper and effective manner”. He mentioned that the army always provided relentless services to the nation in times of natural disasters, may it be earthquakes or floods. “We are proud of our army and believe that

a strong army is vital for a strong nation,” he said. He said the Pakistani nation had emerged resilient and steadfast after passing through several difficult times in its history. He urged the Pakistani nation to have pride in its own values, which were imbued with Islamic culture and ethics,

and not to let the criticism of the world distract them from their goals. The president recalled that in response to India's nuclear test in 1974, Pakistan strengthened its defence line by achieving atomic deterrence in a short span of seven years. In the wake of the global refugee phenomenon, he pointed out the hypocrisy of the ‘champions of the world human rights’ that let the migrants drown in the Mediterranean Sea. Contrary to this, he said, Pakistan hosted around four million refugees from Afghanistan for over 40 years. “This spirit of compassion and humanity makes the Pakistani nation stand tall amongst the comity of nations,” he said. Earlier, President Alvi distributed shields to administrators of the Pakistan Day parade on making excellent arrangements.

PSX witnesses bullish trend, gains 318 points to close at 43,522 points

ISLAMABAD: The KSE 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Thursday, gaining 318.76 points, with a positive change of 074 percent, closing at 42,522.55 points against 42,203.79 points on the last working day. A total of 149,788,966 shares were traded during the day compared to the trade of 138,281,102 shares the previous day whereas the price of shares stood at Rs5.640 billion against Rs5.005 billion on last trading day. As many as 334 companies transacted shares in the stock market, 178 of them recorded gain and 132 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 24 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were Treet Corp with a volume of 20,763,000 shares and price per share of Rs30.90, TRG Pak Ltd with a volume of 10,204,425 and price per share of Rs 76.38 and Telecard Limited with volume of 9,403,840 and price per share of Rs10.39. Unilever Foods witnessed a maximum increase of Rs550.50 per share, closing at Rs24,000 whereas the runner up was Rafhan Maize, the share prices of which climbed up by Rs286.67 to Rs11,690. Wyeth Pak LtdXD witnessed maximum decrease of Rs35.38 closing at Rs 2060.57 followed by Shield Corp, the share price of which declined by Rs25.91 to close at Rs319.74. – APP

Ali declares OIC moot as great achievement

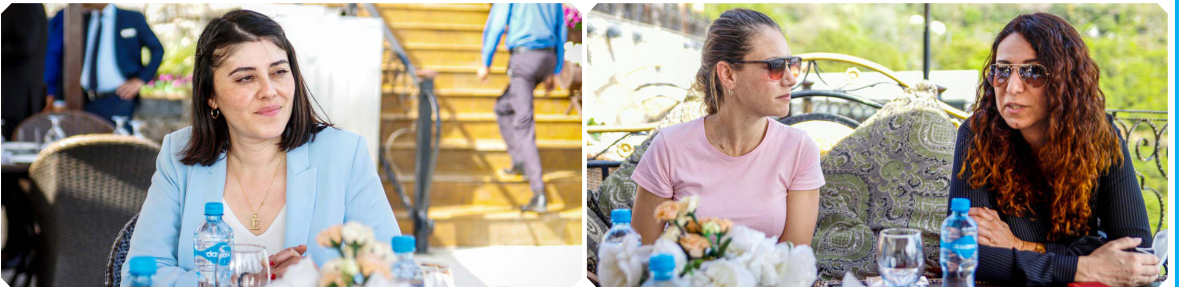
ISLAMABAD: Minister of State on Parliamentary Affairs Ali Muhammad Khan on Thursday said that the holding of 48th session of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) conference in Pakistan was a great success for entire nation. The way whole nation celebrated 23rd Mach (Pakistan Day) was remarkable and presence of all foreign ministers of Islamic countries on parade avenue was unprecedented, he said while talking to PTV news. He said that March 23 reminds us the matchless sacrifices of our forefathers and renewal pledge to take country on new heights of progress. Ali Muhammad said that Prime Minter Imran Khan highlighted Indian brutalities in occupied Jammu Kashmir before the world and the resolution against Islamophobia was result of his relentless efforts. We are heading towards welfare state by taking multiple steps which have not been taken by previous leaders, he added. – Agencies

12 fresh Covid cases reported in capital

ISLAMABAD: Health officials on Thursday said that 12 new Coronavirus cases were reported in the federal capital during the last 24 hours. According to an official of the National Command and Operation Center (NCO), as many as 18 cases were reported on Wednesday while 10 cases were reported on Tuesday. He said so far 135,003 cases were reported from the

federal capital and 1,022 deaths were reported from Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) while 133,799 patients had been recovered completely. He said that the government has already waived off the booster shorts fee for those visiting abroad, and now they can get a free booster while showing their documents. This booster was free for the general public, he added. – APP

DELEGATION OF TRNC AT MONAL



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Turkish Cyprus enjoying lunch at Monal restaurant. The delegation was in Pakistan to take part in the OIC meeting. – DNA

OIC institutions for Sci-Tech approve multiple joint projects

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: On the sidelines of the recently concluded OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting, the Steering Committee for implementation of the OIC Science, Technology and Innovation Agenda 2026 held a day-long meeting at the COMSTEC Secretariat in Islamabad on 24th March 2022. The purpose of the meeting was to review the progress and to plan various science and technology related initiatives for the member states. The meeting organized and chaired by COMSTEC was attended by all the leading institutions and specialized organizations of the OIC that focus on different areas of science, technology,



innovation, and their applications to society. Besides COMSTEC, which is the OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, and is hosted by Pakistan, the heads and representatives of twelve OIC organizations participated physically, while two other organizations participated online. The Committee approved an extended Plan of Action based on joint initiatives involving various member organizations and partners in areas such as higher education and research, health, medicine, vaccine development, food



security and water resources, emerging technologies, promoting innovation, and the organization of science competitions, etc. Of special consideration for the meeting was the decision to focus strongly on the lesser developed African countries and to create programmes for the development of their manpower and useful technologies. The meeting strongly endorsed the need not only to support projects that channelize science and technology for development, but also to create programmes that inculcate the spirit of inquiry and creativity in our youth.



The Coordinator General of COMSTEC, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary welcomed the participants and reviewed the working of the Committee for the past few years and the plans for the future. He also presented to the Committee the prototypes of the ongoing COMSTEC initiative on preparing STI reports for each of the OIC member states. The representative from SES-ERIC also presented a detailed statistical report on the general development of STI in member states based on the analysis of various representative parameters.

Five more diagnosed with virus in Rwp

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Five more patients were tested positive for the fatal coronavirus during the last 24 hours in the district, with two belonging to the Potohar town and Taxila and one from Rawalpindi Cantt. According to the daily situation report issued by the District Corona Management centre on Wednesday, three confirmed patients were admitted to three health facilities, including one in the Institute of Urology, Fauji Foundation and Bilal Hospital each. The report updated that two patients were stable, and one was on double oxygen support. Around 6,547,701 people, including 44,704 health workers, had been vaccinated against the fatal disease since the start of the vaccination drive from March 10, 2021,” it informed. In addition, District Health Authority updated that during the last 24 hours, 1,137 samples were collected, out of which 1,132 were declared negative, while the positivity rate was recorded at 0.44 per cent. In addition, the report added that 71 people were quarantined, including 67 homes and four isolation centres. – APP

ANF recovers drugs

ISLAMABAD: The Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) and Airports Security Force (ASF) on Monday recovered drugs from two passengers during search operation here at the New Islamabad International Airport. According to ANF spokesman, the ANF and ASF seized heroin from a Birmingham-bound passenger. The accused Sibgatullah had skillfully hidden 1kg 970 grams of heroin in a packing hotpot and was on his way to Birmingham on flight EY 232. In another operation, a large quantity of narcotic pills were recovered from a passenger named Muhammad Azam. The accused had hidden 18,680 clonazepam tablets in a packet of Rewari. The accused was on his way to Jeddah from flight number GF 771. Further investigation was underway and cases have been registered against them under the Anti-Narcotics Act. – APP

Tiktoker arrested for filming videos in police uniform

The Punjab police department had barred all cops from using TikTok during duty hours

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi police arrested on Thursday a man for filming TikTok videos donning police uniforms, ARY News reported. According to police, the man used to record videos in police uniform and then upload them on TikTok – a social media platform. The police have registered a case against TikTok and launched further investigation. In a similar case, a girl landed in trouble after filming a TikTok video in a police uniform. A girl namely Amber shared a video in a police uniform which went viral on social media. Okara police registered a case against the girl. It is pertinent to mention here that the cops in Punjab have also been banned from posting on the short video-making app, TikTok. The Punjab police department had barred all cops from using TikTok during duty hours. The new rules were communicated in a letter issued by AIG Operations to all RPOs. The police department had warned that if a video of any officer goes viral on a social media app, strict departmental action will be taken. – APP

OIC to play effective role in economic integration

The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs said that both sides are working to enhance bilateral economic, trade, diplomatic, political and cultural cooperation, and new avenues of cooperation will open up in this regard in the future

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Asian Pacific and African Affairs of Indonesia, Abdul Kadir Jailani on Thursday said that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) platform can play an effective role in economic integration as well as economic relations in the Islamic world. The OIC also promotes political, diplomatic, cultural and economic co-operation among Islamic countries, bringing them closer together. By increasing economic and trade cooperation, the Islamic countries of different regions of the world can provide major opportunities for mutual economic and investment. He said that Pakistan and

Indonesia are the two largest Islamic countries in terms of population with a combined population of 500 million, which is a potential market for economic and trade cooperation and could open new avenues for bilateral economic co-operation. Bilateral trade volume between the two countries is \$2.6 billion, which is likely to increase further in the near future, he said. The Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs said that both sides are working to enhance bilateral economic, trade, diplomatic, political and cultural cooperation, and new avenues of cooperation will open up in this regard in the future. He said that Indonesia could provide Pakistan with opportunities for trade and economic activities in the Association of South East

Asian Nations (ASEANs) market with a population of 750 million, which would enhance the growth of trade between the two countries. Indonesia can be a gateway for Pakistan in ASEAN countries in this regard, he said. The Deputy Foreign Minister said that ASEAN is currently an emerging economic bloc in the world economically and commercially with free trade and other agreements with various countries including China and Pacific Asia through which Pakistan can reap the benefits through Indonesia. He said that Pakistan and Indonesia already have a preliminary agreement on the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), which has boosted bilateral trade in various sectors. Talks are un-

derway between the two sides to promote trade between the two countries, which cannot be ruled out in the future as the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will be signed between the two countries. He said that after signing of the FTA, bilateral trade and economic activities between both of the countries will be increased. Answering a question about the current situation in Afghanistan and the role of the OIC, he said that in order to control the current situation in Afghanistan, the Islamic countries discussed the future course of action on Afghanistan in the OIC meeting and stressed upon on implementation of the decisions. He said that in this regard, an economic package for Afghanistan's economic and

social stability has also been discussed and it has been decided to set up an 'OIC Trust for Afghanistan.' Abdul Kadir Jailani said that the OIC has also decided to appoint a special envoy to Afghanistan, who would keep the OIC member states informed of the situation in Afghanistan from time to time. Talking about the promotion of tourism in Pakistan and Indonesia, he said that there are many opportunities for the promotion and cooperation of tourism in both the countries and tourism is an important sector of Indonesia's economy. He said that Pakistan is a very beautiful country and it is rich in natural beauty as there are witnessed some beautiful views of nature .

Briefs

Huge number of people to attend PTI March

ISLAMABAD: Senior Leader Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Amir Mughal has said that a huge number of people would attend PTI March 27 historic public meeting to be held here at Parade ground. Addressing a ceremony organized in connection with Pakistan Day celebrations, he said that PTI would organize the biggest public gathering at Parade ground. He said that more than one million people would participate in the huge public meeting, adding that they would instill their full confidence in Prime Minister Imran Khan as their genuine leader. He said that people would come from across the country at mega public meeting of PTI. Mughal said that corrupt politicians who wanted to blackmail the government but they will face defeat in a so-called no-confidence motion. He said that huge number of PTI workers of twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi would also participate in the public meeting, adding that in this regard preparations was in full swing. – APP

President confers non-operational mily awards

DNA

ISLAMABAD: President of Pakistan has conferred Non-Operational Military Awards upon officers of Pakistan Air Force on the occasion of Pakistan Day. Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Nadeem Sabir, Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Qiaser Janjua and Air Vice Marshal Shams-ul-Haq have been awarded Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military). Moreover, 21 Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military), 18 Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military) and 13 Imtiaz Asnad have also been conferred.

MB provides Shariah-compliant solution

ISLAMABAD: Meezan Bank - Pakistan's first and largest Islamic bank has successfully instituted an Islamic alternate to Inland Bill Discounting Facility (IBDF) for Huawei Technologies Pakistan (Pvt.) Limited – a first-of-its-kind transaction in the Islamic banking industry, developed as a Shariah-compliant alternate to a local bill discounting facility. The first drawdown under the facility was made against a deferred payment inland Letter of Credit (LC) opened by Pak Telecom Mobile Limited (Ufone) in favor of Huawei, said a news release. The transaction has been developed by the Bank under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Muhammad Imran Ashraf Usmani – Vice-Chairman Shariah Board, Meezan Bank, after a series of deliberations and persistent efforts. – APP

CPO visits Chauntra police station, Chakri post

DNA

RAWALPINDI: City Police Officer (CPO) Omar Saeed Malik on Thursday visited Police Station Chauntra and Police check post Chakri and inspected the front desk, lock up and records. The City Police Officer visited Chauntra Police Station and Police check post Chakri alongwith SSP Investigation Ghazanfar Ali Shah, SP Saeed Malik on Thursday visited Police Station Chauntra and Police check post Chakri and inspected the front desk, lock up, records, also check cleanliness and police station building. "The police station is a basic unit for providing justice to the people. According to the vision of the Inspector General of Police Punjab, prompt redressal of the grievances of the citizens will be ensured. All necessary steps are being taken to further improve service delivery", he said on the occasion.

Chinese-scholarship holder Pakistani youngster embraces great changes

There are many similarities between Pakistani and Chinese culture. I think a language acts as a bridge between two countries. To better understand each other's feelings, one of the nicest ways to make the connection stronger is to communicate in their language"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A Chinese-scholarship holder Pakistani youngster from a small town embraced great changes in life, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Thursday. The 30-year-old Malik Usama Hamid comes from Sharakpur Sharif, a small city close to Lahore proud of his life as he learnt Chinese language and culture. "I got that scholarship opportunity with complete foreign studies expenses that was an amazing and life-changing moment which he will never forget," Malik said. China has become a popular education destination for Pakistani students, according to China's Ministry of

Education, the number of Pakistani students has risen in China with a series of preferential policies offered by the Chinese government after the launch of CPEC, a pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative. Many students have been facilitated to obtain scholarships under such a program. "As we know, the Chinese language is one of the most difficult languages to master in the world. Reading, writing and typing in Chinese are all what I learned in China. There are many similarities between Pakistani and Chinese culture. I think a language acts as a bridge between two countries. To better understand each other's feelings, one of the nicest ways to make the connection

stronger is to communicate in their language." Touching on ways to learn Chinese, Malik said that he adopted a mode of learning, that is, to watch Chinese cartoons. "In Chinese cartoons they use very daily routine words that were with English and Chinese simplified Pinyin subtitles. So that makes it very easy to understand the Chinese language." "During my education in China, I learned their language, culture and values which enabled me to understand them closely. It was a very proud moment for me after completing my degree. I was motivated by my teachers and classmates in Beijing Language and Culture University, and passed the level of language proficiency test HSK-6," Malik said proudly. After two years of study in China, he returned to Lahore and worked as a full-time translator for Challenge Fashion. With his hard work, he gradually grew with the company from an interpreter to planning department manager, and now he works as an assistant to the director. Challenge Fashion, a Shanghai-based company, has invested more than US\$150 million in an industrial park on Lahore's border with Kasur. The industrial park is set to house state-of-the-art fabric units, dyeing facilities, and garment manufacturing units for exporting sportswear from Pakistan to the Americas, Europe, Asia-Pacific, and other regions of the world.

Having worked in different departments within the company, Malik has gained knowledge of the whole production process and management. One of his priorities is to reduce the communication gap between Chinese and Pakistani staff. "I don't face much difficulty because I am well equipped with Chinese and Pakistani culture as compared with others. Our company is always ready for innovation and new things because it has a vision of becoming the best textile company. I am lucky to become a part of this vision and contribute further," said Malik. During the pandemic, Malik said proudly that his company was always there to help the society as well as

employees. "We gave many masks, personal protective equipment and other prevention materials to the government and society for the precautions of COVID-19. We also gave the full amount to every staff member and never fired anyone even during the toughest times. This is the vision of our company - caring for people and society." Challenge Fashion also plays a vital role in Pakistan's economy as well as providing lots of employment opportunities. Now, having worked for the company for about four years, Malik has become a key staff member. He's grateful to CPEC for the chance to realize his dream, and CPEC also awarded him for his contribution.

employees. "We gave many masks, personal protective equipment and other prevention materials to the government and society for the precautions of COVID-19. We also gave the full amount to every staff member and never fired anyone even during the toughest times. This is the vision of our company - caring for people and society." Challenge Fashion also plays a vital role in Pakistan's economy as well as providing lots of employment opportunities. Now, having worked for the company for about four years, Malik has become a key staff member. He's grateful to CPEC for the chance to realize his dream, and CPEC also awarded him for his contribution.

Balloting of plots held

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Balloting of plots for Nova City Peshawar, Peshawar Division was held today at Pakistan Sweet Home Islamabad on the occasion of Pakistan Day. The lucky allottees of the 125 yardsm 250 yards and 500 yards plots have been given two Umrah tickets. Nova Group Chairman Chaudhry Junaid Afzal announced the names of the three lucky winners of Umrah tickets through lottery. According to the balloting results, two Umrah tickets were given to Junaid Iqbal from Islamabad in the 125 yards plot category, Saifullah from Peshawar in the 250 yards category and two Umrah tickets in the 500 yards category to Jamshed Ali from Para Chinarr. It is important to note that the draw for Umrah tickets was started by the children of Pakistan Sweet Home by pressing a button. Speaking on the occasion, Zamrud Khan, Chief Executive of Pakistan Sweet Home, congratulated the management of Nova City Peshawar, Peshawar Division and said that giving Umrah tickets to new members through lottery is a new and beautiful tradition. It is safe to say that just as the management of Nova City, Nova Division is setting a new tradition in this regard, so too the management will build a magnificent project meeting the expectations of its members. Addressing the gathering, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Education Minister Shahram Turki said that the name of Pakistan Sweet Home and its Chief Executive Zamrud Khan has become a part of our history in securing the future of the new generation in Pakistan. He said that the way in which children were provided opportunities to move forward along with security in Pakistan Sweet Home is a role model for others. The provincial education minister termed the magnificent projects like Nova City Peshawar, Peshawar Division as a good omen for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and said that Junaid Afzal, chairman of Nova Group, has proved to be a big investor in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that now conditions are favorable there. And business friendly.

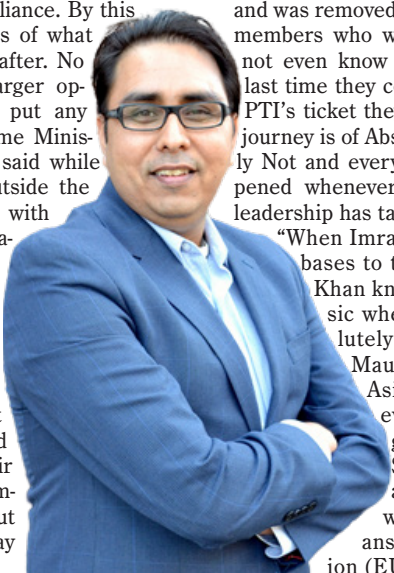
DELEGATION OF YEMEN AT MONAL



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Yemen enjoying Monal cuisines. The delegation was here to participate in the OIC Foreign Ministers Conference. – DNA

People to decide between righteous-wickedness: Gill

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Political Communication Dr. Shahbaz Gill on Thursday said the war between Imran Khan and opposition was of righteous and wickedness and people would decide whom they stand with. He said the PPP leader Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had said that they were not part of the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM). "Bilawal said we are not part of PDM but of larger opposition alliance. By this we can see the cracks of what was going to happen after. No one from PDM or larger opposition alliance can put any allegation against Prime Minister Imran Khan," he said while speaking to media outside the Supreme Court along with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain and Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar. "We were wrong to give them (PTI members against the party) tickets and they have sold their morals and were blaming the government but they have nothing to say morally", he added.



Gill said it almost four years since PTI government has come into power but no evidence of corruption has come forward against Prime Minister Imran Khan like it used to pop up in previous government's tenures. He said nobody of PTI has been dismissed by courts on corruption charges. Like Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Maryam Safdar who had funds under her in the PML-N government and was removed by the court. Gill said PTI members who were against the party are not even know in their own cities. "The last time they contested elections without PTI's ticket they got very less votes. This journey is of Absolutely Yes from Absolutely Not and everyone knows what has happened whenever an independent Muslim leadership has taken a stand on something. "When Imran Khan was asked to give bases to the US he said No. Imran Khan knew he had to face the music when last year he said Absolutely Not. On the other hand Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Asif Ali Zardari say that you even hit a drone but just give us a chance. Hamza Sharif or Shahbaz Sharif also have a problem of why we gave a legitimate answer to the European Union (EU)," he said. – DNA

Three labs of COE to be inaugurated on Friday

ISLAMABAD: National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC) Centre of Excellence in Modern Technologies has been established and scheduled to be inaugurated on Friday. According to a press release on Thursday, this Centre of Excellence (COE) has been established with cooperation of GIZ, including the funding from EU, Norway and Germany. In this Centre of Excellence, NAVTTTC is going to impart training in employable and Modern Technologies. NAVTTTC was tasked by the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training for establishment of COE Islamabad with multiple labs in modern technologies in April 2018 through donors. Currently 3 Labs are fully functional with equipment ie Mechatronics, IT and CNC lab. The remaining 11 labs are partially completed by GIZ. – APP

Shazia Marri criticizes over Prime Minister Imran Khan's Speech

ISLAMABAD: Central Information Secretary of PPP-P and member of the National Assembly Shazia Atta Marri has said that hypocrite person like Prime Minister Imran Khan is trying to hide himself under the cover of religion and he had promised to provide houses and jobs to the people but instead of it, Imran Khan had snatched employment and houses from people. He also deprived thousands of employees of Steel Mill from their jobs and made them unemployed. This she has said in a reaction of Prime Minister Imran Khan's speech here today. While slamming PTI leadership, Ms Marri said that Imran Khan also made fake promise to provide 5 million houses and 10 million jobs but thousands of houses of the poor people were demolished in the name of encroachment by him. Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's historic long march from Karachi to Islamabad had ruled against evil and the biggest dacoit of the history could not mislead the innocent people by making a crying face. She added that Imran Khan has been driven insane by greed for a chair and hunger of power while people are praying for the ouster of Imran Khan's government and he has no constitutional or moral justification for staying more days in power. – DNA

Hammad terms opposition movement attack on country's emerging economy

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar on Thursday while terming the opposition movement attack on country's emerging economy said that it would also fail. The opposition political movement was not mere an attack on politics rather it was an effort to attack the country's emerging economy, he said while talking to media persons along with Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhary Fawad Hussain here outside the Supreme Court Building. He said the country's economy was growing

at over 5 per cent for the last two consecutive years. The World Bank in its report also declared that there was lowest unemployment in Pakistan as compared to other countries of the region, he added. He said the incumbent government put the national economy on right track which had left on verge of bankruptcy by PML-N. The minister said large scale manufacturing witnessed over 8 per cent increase while country's export has reached to \$30 billion. – APP



Murree Brewery Company Limited located in Rawalpindi is an icon reflecting the past and the present history of the subcontinent.

Murree Brewery Company is pleased to invite friends from diplomatic missions to visit us and share the experience of our efforts towards keeping it afloat for over 160 years of operation.

We cordially invite diplomatic missions to visit us on any Saturday from 10 am to 1:30 pm to enjoy our hospitality and our products tasting. However, since, we are located in the Red Zone / Prohibited area and it will be mandatory to obtain No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs well in advance of the intended visit date. We look forward to welcoming you all soon.

For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman
Mobile: 0300 8553342

March 23 – an undeterred resolve to fly high

ISLAMABAD: Right from the adoption of Pakistan Resolution in 1940 and creation of a motherland in 1947 down to the 82nd Pakistan Day celebrated Wednesday, the nation showed utmost resilience to stand tall among comity of nations. It dared wars, intrigues and sabotage activities by its enemies besides natural calamities like floods, earthquakes, economic crises and above all the challenges of terrorism and Covid-19 pandemic, manifesting its unflinching resolve to secure its independence. Inspired by determination of founder of the Nation Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah and philosophy and knowl-

edge of Allama Dr Muhammad Iqbal the nascent nation soon after independence faced the enormous challenge of the biggest migration of human history sacrificing their dear ones, properties and valuables. Challenges were enormous and resources were meager but Muslims of Sub-Continent braved all odds to present an invaluable gift to coming generations by freeing them from cruel clutches of colonial regime. Experiencing numerous ups and down and amidst a common notion that country could not last for long, Pakistan still exists on the world map as its people are preparing to celebrate Diamond Jubilee of their Inde-

pendence this year. Pakistan Day marks the golden resolve of our great grandfathers who without any shred of doubt resolved to demand a separate homeland where they could freely practice their moral, cultural, spiritual and religious customs and traditions. Celebrated with a rejuvenated resolve and determination, this day reminds us the commitment to protect and safeguard geographical, constitutional and moral values as enshrined in the legacy of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. The country over a tedious voyage of survival and freedom witnessed unprecedented bloodshed and wounds inflicted by its

enemies, but it stayed the course and proved wrong all concocted false prophecies of inimical forces with its indomitable courage and valor standing firm to counter every crisis. At the night of partition was drenched into a bloodbath machinated by the extremist Hindu mindset to bring the newly liberated Pakistan on knees but God had more in his store to prove them wrong. Nature bestowed this nation with fertile land, favorable weather, valiant armed forces, great scholars and scientists and today Pakistani is the sole nuclear power of Muslim Ummah and one of the seven who detonated nuclear device. – APP

Afghanistan's problems

WHEN 98% of the population is short of food, all that is left is hope. In Afghanistan there is not much of that either. On Wednesday, the Taliban abruptly reversed their decision to let girls return to secondary school; the last-minute chaos appears to reflect internal disagreements. Tears fell as pupils arrived in classrooms for the first time since the Taliban takeover last August, only for their dreams to be shattered once more. But Afghans' struggle for their freedoms and rights comes alongside their struggle to survive. David Miliband, head of the International Rescue Committee, warned earlier this year that hunger could kill more Afghans than war did over the past two decades. The US economic blockade of the new regime was a devastating blow that came on top of drought, the sudden withdrawal of the foreign aid on which the country long relied and Taliban incompetence. The easing of restrictions to allow humanitarian aid has been essential. The UK is cohosting a UN pledging conference later this month, seeking to raise \$4.4bn (£3.3bn). But as the Afghanistan Analysts Network warned recently: "This is not an economic crisis that has mainly hit the poor and the vulnerable and it cannot be addressed by emergency food aid alone. At its most basic level, the economy needs its cash to flow again – salaries, bank assets, remittances – as soon as possible." Humanitarian relief cannot substitute for a functioning economy, and it will not last for ever. The US approach has been like offering wood to patch one or two sections of crumbling floor while bulldozing the house's foundations. It deserves no credit for offering to deliver some of Afghanistan's frozen assets in the form of aid (while hiving off half, pending legal action by relatives of 9/11 victims). A recent move to allow commercial and financial transactions with Afghanistan, including the transfer of money to civil servants, is more promising. But it is only a beginning. Afghans and others have worked tirelessly to establish potential ways to restore liquidity without simply handing everything over to the Taliban. Finding a solution is far from straightforward. But as the new regime punishes the people, the west must not contribute to the suffering.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 272

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



Double standards on war crimes

THE US has formally accused Russian forces of committing war crimes in Ukraine and said it would pursue accountability "using every tool available". "I can announce that, based on information currently available, the US government assesses that members of Russia's forces have committed war crimes in Ukraine," Blinken said. The announcement follows a week after Joe Biden's off-the-cuff remark that he considered Vladimir Putin a war criminal. Branding of Putin and Russian forces as war criminals by US President, who lobbied for the Iraq war and staunchly supported the 20 years of carnage in the Middle East, is one more example of the hypocritical moral posturing sweeping across the United States. If the world demand justice for Ukrainians, it must also demand justice for the one million people killed, 400,000 of whom were noncombatants by US invasions, occupations and aerial assaults in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, and Pakistan. We must demand justice for those who were wounded, became sick or died because US destroyed hospitals and infrastructure. We must demand justice for the 38 million people who have been displaced or become refugees in Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, the Philippines, Libya, and Syria, a number that exceeds the total of all those displaced in all wars since 1900, apart from World War II. Tens of millions of people, who had no connection with the attacks of 9/11, were killed, wounded, lost their homes, and saw their lives and their families destroyed because of US war crimes. Who will cry out for them? Why this double standard on war crimes?

OIC's Islamabad meet – salience and significance

Shah Mahmood Qureshi



Pakistan is once again honoured to host the 48th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) on 22-23 March 2022. In line with the guiding principle enshrined in Pakistan's own Constitution, the over-arching goal of the Islamabad Conference will be "to preserve and strengthen fraternal relations among Muslim countries based on Islamic unity"

FIFTY-three years ago, Muslim countries from Asia and Africa established the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to help realize Palestinian rights and freedom. Later renamed as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the OIC has since evolved into the second largest international organization after the United Nations, representing 57 countries and nearly 2 billion people from four continents. United by faith and shared civilizational and cultural heritage, the OIC is an important global stakeholder on political, social and economic issues of our time. As a founding member, Pakistan has always demonstrated its strong support for the OIC objectives, ideals and aspirations. From hosting OIC summits and ministerial meetings to reforming and strengthening of its institutions, from mobilizing political support to catalyzing humanitarian assistance, Pakistan has been a proud and leading partner in OIC's journey that spans more than half a century now. Pakistan is once again honoured to host the 48th Session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) on 22-23 March 2022. In line with the guiding principle enshrined in Pakistan's own Constitution, the over-arching goal of the Islamabad Conference will be "to preserve and strengthen fraternal relations among Muslim countries based on Islamic unity". Since the founding days of the OIC, the Muslim countries have come a long way in harnessing their immense human potential and natural resources. The OIC institutions have played an important support role in these advancements. Yet, much more needs to be done to meet the development aspirations of our peoples in a fast changing world. Together, the OIC countries represent nearly a quarter of the world population, but contribute just over 8% to global GDP. From the West African coasts to East Asia, our countries possess rich natural resources and human talent; dynamic start-ups, entrepreneurs and scientists; and huge untapped opportunities for trade through land, sea and digital connectivity. Our geographic contiguity represents both opportunities and challenges. The contemporary global conversations from geopolitics and securi-

ty to economy, climate change, public health and SDGs are as relevant to us as any other groupings or countries. Today, bulk of the displaced persons – refugees and migrants seeking better opportunities, originate from Muslim countries. Many of these are young people with skills and education. At the same time, the OIC countries, as exemplified by Pakistan, are also the largest and most generous hosts to refugees and people displaced by conflict. The Islamabad meeting will take place in the backdrop of devastating social and economic impacts of Covid-19. Many OIC member states have borne the brunt of this pandemic. While the global average GDP per capita in 2020 declined by 4.2 per cent, the average GDP per capita of OIC member states dropped by 7.4 per cent. At the individual country level, 39 OIC member states recorded a negative growth rate in 2020. As the global discourse on recovery from the pandemic gains momentum, the OIC ministerial meeting will provide a platform to assess its impacts and catalyze support for enhanced development finance, vaccine equity, and a more equitable global trading, financial and taxation order. Galvanizing economic, financial, technological, scientific and humanitarian partnerships between and among our countries would be a key focus of the 48th CFM in Islamabad. The OIC countries have been ardent supporters of respect for international legality, norms and principles, as enshrined in the OIC and UN charters. Yet, many in the Muslim world have been victims of the inconsistent application of these norms and principles. Among others, the people of Palestine and Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) have, for decades, braved illegal occupation, injustice and grave violations of human rights. Both have been denied their inalienable right to self-determination to determine their own destiny. The Islamabad Conference, I am sure, will reiterate OIC's unambiguous and resolute support for the just struggles of Palestinians and Kashmiris in accordance with international law and relevant UN resolutions. The meeting will also address other situations where Muslim populations are faced with devastating ef-

fects of conflicts and humanitarian emergencies. In Afghanistan, the people are confronted by the twin challenge of economic collapse and humanitarian crisis. In December 2021, Pakistan hosted an Extraordinary Session of OIC Foreign Ministers to help raise international awareness and galvanize global response. The recent developments in Europe must not divert the international community's attention from Afghanistan and dilute support for the Afghan people. Discrimination and violence against people of the Islamic faith have surged in many parts of the world, ranging from the horrific attacks on the mosques in Christchurch in 2019 to the on-going stigmatization and 'othering' of Muslims, including women and girls. We are witnessing the worst form of Islamophobia in our immediate neighbourhood. The world must come together to effectively counter this phenomenon. I am heartened that as a result of passionate advocacy by Prime Minister Imran Khan and efforts undertaken by Pakistan and other partners through the platform of OIC, the UN General Assembly has unanimously adopted a landmark resolution to proclaim 15 March as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. This reflects the sentiments of Muslims all over the world. The OIC was founded on the noble Islamic values of peace, compassion, tolerance, justice and human dignity. These values provide enduring foundations to foster Islamic fraternity, and cooperation that can withstand the tests of all times. The Islamabad meeting will review and reflect on the common challenges confronting the Muslim Ummah. Working together with our OIC friends, it would be our endeavour to shape unified and timely responses to those challenges and harness close cooperation and collective action for our shared benefit. I look forward to welcoming our brothers and sisters, who would also be our honoured guests at the Pakistan Day Parade as part of celebrations of 75 years of our independence. Partnering for Unity, Justice and Development, we are determined to forge ahead to promote the best interests of the Ummah.

– Courtesy Tribune

OIC and Kashmir

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



The Organization of Islamic Conference could not raise the issues of Muslim particularly Kashmir issue in order to make the Muslim world understand and settle. Kashmir is one of the most long standing disputes waiting for the settlement. The United nations have passed several resolutions but due to lack...

PAKISTAN hosted 48th session of the Council of Foreign Minister (CFM) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on 22, 23 March 2022. The theme of the conference was "Partnering for the Unity, Justice and Development". The State Councilor and Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi also attended as a special guest. Senior officials from non-OIC countries and senior representatives from regional and international organizations, including the United Nations, the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council also attended the conference. The CFM reviewed the "critical human rights and humanitarian situation" in Indian-administered Kashmir, while the Ministerial Meeting of OIC Contact Group for Jammu and Kashmir also was on the sidelines. The OIC is a diverse and very colorful world with diverse cultural, economic, political and social differences. The Muslim world has always been at the center of global politics and economics since its emergence in the early 7th century. Although the Muslim world is a center of world politics, economics and history but unfortunately, it is a host of current popular conflicts. There are certainly various reasons for this growing tension and political turmoil, from economics and politics to religion. Energy is certainly at the center of these problems, because it is the main source of power in this new era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Energy-rich countries, whether oil or gas, dominate the region's focus. Moreover, most of these energy-rich but relatively weak economies are Muslim countries. The Organization of Islamic Conference could not raise the issues of Muslim particularly Kashmir issue in order to make the Muslim world understand and settle. Kashmir is one of the most long standing disputes waiting for the settlement. The United nations have passed several resolutions but due to lack of enforcement mechanism of peacekeeping and peace building efforts all in vain. Pakistan also has repeatedly tried unsuccessfully to gain international support against Indian occupation on Kashmir, while India insists that the repeal of Article 370 and the division of the former state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories is its internal matter. For the past seven decades, they have been fighting for their inalienable right to self-determination, India's actions violated UN Security Council resolutions and increased the risk of a confrontation between the two countries. While India insists that the repeal of Article 370 and the division of the former state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union

Territories is an internal matter, Pakistan has repeatedly failed to garner international support against India. OIC has generally supported Pakistan's position on Kashmir and issued statements criticizing the alleged Indian "atrocities" in the State / Centrally Administered Territories. For the last three decades, these announcements have become an annual ceremonial, meaning nothing to India. After India repealed Article 370 in Kashmir, Pakistan lobbied the OIC to condemn the move. Surprisingly for Pakistan, the top leaders of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, both Muslim countries, issued scathing statements and did not criticize New Delhi as strongly as Islamabad had hoped. Over the past year, Islamabad has tried to provoke sentiment in Islamic countries, but only a few of them, Turkey and Malaysia, have openly criticized India. In 2019 Macca Summit, the OIC criticized the alleged Indian "atrocities" in the state. In 2018, the OIC General Secretariat "strongly condemned the killing of innocent Kashmiris by Indian forces in Indian-occupied Kashmir", calling "direct firing on protesters" an "act of terrorism". It called on the international community to play its role in reaching a just and lasting solution to the Kashmir issue. However, at the 2018 meeting in Dhaka, "Jammu and Kashmir" was included in only one of the 39 resolutions passed, along with 12 other states or territories around the world. Pakistan accuses Bangladesh of circulating text too late even a resolution passed the day after Swaraj's speech in Abu Dhabi condemned "atrocities and human rights violations" in Kashmir. The OIC Foreign Ministers' 2017 meeting expressed "deep reaffirmation of the unwavering support of the people of Kashmir for their just cause" and "deep concern over the grave human rights violations by the Indian occupying forces since 1947". India has consistently emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir is "an integral part of India and is strictly India's internal affairs." The argument with which India has made claim it is untrue because Kashmiris accepted. New Delhi has maintained its "consistent and notorious" position that the OIC did not have a concrete position. India went a step further, saying sectarianism was being used by its neighboring country "which has a disgusting record of religious tolerance, fundamentalism and persecution of minorities." India has good relations with almost all of its member countries. Relations with the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have improved significantly, especially in

recent years. The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, was a very special guest at the 68th Republic Day celebrations in 2017. For the first time, India rolled out the Republic Day red carpet for a leader who it's not his head. He was neither the head of state nor the head of government. The Crown Prince had previously visited India in February 2016, following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United Arab Emirates in August 2015. In 2019, just days before the OIC's invitation to Swaraj, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman visited India. The invitation could be a significant result of the Muhammad Bin Salman's visit, as well as an indication of India's good relations with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The OIC includes two of India's closest neighbors, Bangladesh and the Maldives. Indian diplomats say the two countries privately acknowledge that they do not want to complicate their bilateral relations with India over Kashmir, but want to play games with the OIC. Therefore, India has rightly rejected the OIC's latest attempt to reconcile its position on Jammu and Kashmir. At the same time, it wants to join the OIC through key members to counter Pakistan's position on Kashmir and the geopolitical interests Islamabad has in South Asia. Now again Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan raised the issue of Kashmir in the Organization of the Islamic Conference and criticized India for its "illegal" decision to repeal Article 370. He highlighted the challenges facing the Muslim community, the conflicts in the Middle East, and the "denial of the right to self-determination" for the people of Palestine and Kashmir. He further stated that Muslims have failed to raise the voice for both the Palestinians and the people of Kashmir. The Ummah did not take these issues seriously and we are a divided. While India has expressed its desire for normal neighborhood relations with Islamabad in an environment free from terrorism, hostility and violence, it has made it clear that Jammu and Kashmir was, is and always will be an "integral part" of the country. The latest statements of OIC on Kashmir are a reminder of the need to be attentive to regional and geopolitical developments and not to be relaxed as they were in the past. However, the ICO is a political organization and the changing geopolitical dynamics and events in the world may affect its position on issues relevant to South Asian Region particularly on Kashmir. Despite the ups and downs in Pakistan's relations with major Islamic countries, Pakistan is part of the OIC and is of concern to India.

Briefs

'MPs bound to abide by party policy'

FROM PAGE 01
unhappy with it."At this, Attorney General of Pakistan (AGP) Khalid Jawed Khan said the country's political system is based on Article 63(A) or Article 95 – whose violation could collapse the entire system. Following the attorney general's response, the bench members flooded the court with questions. Moving on, the AGP said according to a judgment of the apex court on Article 17(2), the vote on an individual has no substance – it is considered collective and part of the party. At this, the chief justice said the court was still deliberating over the arguments being presented to it."All of these [arguments] are of extreme importance," remarked the top judge. Justice Mandokhel, contrary to Justice Akhtar, said voting is an individual right and the parliamentarian is not bound by the party. Meanwhile, Justice Ahsan asked whether a lawmaker could vote outside party lines. At this, Justice Akhtar said political parties are an institution and violating their discipline could weaken or even destroy them. Justice Mandokhel asked the AGP whether a party member could leave a party if it takes wrong decisions. AGP Khan said that if a member wants to part ways with the party then they should submit their written resignation. At this, CJP Bandial said: "This means that if a person defects from their party, they will have to face consequences." While Justice Ahsan observed that if such a thing happens, then a new Pandora's box will open for the government as it already has a thin majority in the National Assembly. Justice Akhtar reiterated that if every member starts deciding their own policy, then the political party would turn from an institution to a mob. CJP then asked the AGP whether floor-crossing was allowed in other democratic countries or not. Responding to the chief justice, AGP Khan said: "In other countries, prices go down before Christmas. In our country, prices double during Ramadan."

Verdict to determine country's...

FROM PAGE 01
replies to those unanswered questions, mainly related to the horse-trading. He said the Attorney General for Pakistan's stance, which he argued in the court, was that an MNA's vote belonged to his party and a collective one and he was not an ordinary voter. "When a person gets elected as a legislator on a specific party ticket, his/her vote should be considered as a collective one and on a party's behalf," he added. "If there is no restriction on such vote then what was the purpose of the Article 63-A in the Constitution," he questioned. Fawad said there was consensus that National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser would decide whether the vote of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's dissidents be counted or not. "Our stance is that the disqualification should be for a lifetime and these are the points on which the attorney general is arguing the case... will take time, but this case will prove to be a base of country's future politics," the minister remarked. Had the Election Commission of Pakistan taken action against the alleged horse-trading in the recent Senate elections, he said the horse-trading would have come to an end. After the alleged horse-trading in the Senate, he said, the apex court had directed the ECP to ensure traceability of the vote so that the action could be taken against the vote-sellers. The ECP did not implement the direction of the apex court which led to opposition-sponsored special markets which they established to buy loyalties, he added. Fawad said the apex court's decision on the reference would change the political landscape in the country. It would be a "big step" if a parliamentarian was disqualified for a lifetime over horse-trading. Addressing the dissident MNAs of PTI, he said if anybody had reservations with the prime minister, he should resign first and then return to the Parliament after contesting the election again.

Malaysian women baseball team arrives in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Malaysian women baseball team came to Pakistan Islamabad on March, 24. They were received by chairman Islamabad baseball Association Arif Shehzad and Dedy Faisal deputy head of Mission at Airport. Then they were sent to Lahore by road, where they will play friendly series till March 30. And will leave back on 31. Malaysian team leader and coach are hopeful to have strong and healthy matches.



International Investment Forum kicks off in Tashkent

A plenary session was held in the presence of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who delivered a speech, as part of the opening ceremony of the forum

NEWS DESK

TASHKENT: The opening ceremony of the first Tashkent International Investment Forum was held in Uzbekistan on March 24. Tashkent International Investment Forum is a new platform for the Central Asian region, in the format of which Uzbekistan's investment potential will be presented to international investors and businessmen. The heads and representatives of official structures, big investment, financial and economic organizations and the companies from foreign countries, including Azerbaijan, interested in integrating into the dynamically developing market of Uzbekistan and other Central Asian countries are taking part in the event. A plenary session was held in the presence of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who delivered a speech, as part of the opening ceremony of the forum. President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Odile Renaud-Basso, head



of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Masatsugu Asakawa, Deputy Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Xiangchen Zhang, Minister of Investment of Saudi Arabia

Khalid Al-Falih also attended the opening ceremony. The event was moderated by the Managing Director of the Communications Department at EBRD Jonathan Charles.

The conditions created in Uzbekistan for the development of business, transport infrastructure, green energy, the financial market, as well as benefits and preferences for attracting

investments in tourism, production of building materials, textile and leather products, agriculture, etc. will be discussed at the forum, which will last until March 26. The signing

ceremonies of investment and trade agreements will be also held. The program of the forum includes round tables on such topics as "Transformation of trade flows in Central Asia and their capitalization", "Economy of poverty", "Maintaining macroeconomic stability during reforms", "New education and the future 50+", "Country platform on Uzbekistan". There are such panel discussions as "Digitalization of transport systems", "Horizons for attracting investments in the tourism sector", "Development of value-added products", "Green energy for future generations", "Trade liberalization and economic integration", "Potential of the Republic of Uzbekistan as a regional industrial hub", "Industry 4.0", "Investment potential of Central Asia", "Financial market as a driver for the development of the capital market", "Renovated production and new markets for the agricultural industry", "New stage in the development of transport and logistics infrastructure".

Steve Smith becomes the fastest to reach 8,000 Test runs



LAHORE: Australian Vice-captain Steve Smith becomes the fastest man to score 8,000 runs in Tests. The 32-year old achieved the milestone in 151 innings, beating the record of Sri Lankan legend Kumar Sangakkara (152 innings). The ongoing historic Benaud-Qadir Trophy has broken several records during the series. Smith required 66 runs in two innings to beat the record of former Sri Lankan captain. The right-handed batter scored 59 runs in the first innings of the third Test and added another 17 runs in the second innings to achieve the feat. Here's the number of innings it took the top-five batsmen to reach the 8,000 Test run milestone: Steve Smith made his Test debut against Pakistan at Lords in 2010. Ironically, Azhar Ali from Pakistan also made his Test debut with Smith, and 12 years later, both players reached their milestones in the same match against each other. Earlier in the Test match, Azhar Ali became the fifth Pakistani batter to score 7,000 runs and coincidentally Smith became the fastest batter to score 8,000 Test runs in the same match. The third Test is evenly poised as all three results are possible. Australian captain Pat Cummins declared the innings with 227 runs on the board, setting a target of 351 for the hosts with 120 overs remaining in the game. The series is 1-1, and the Lahore Test will be the series decider. – Agencies

'Ramiz Raja didn't want to work with us,' shares Misbah-ul-Haq

"Ramiz Raja came up with his own vision. He didn't want to work with us so we thought to resign," Misbah-ul-Haq revealed

SPORTS DESK

KARACHI: Former Test cricketer Misbah-ul-Haq shared that the current Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Ramiz Raja didn't want to work with him and Waqar Younis - then national team's head coach and bowling coach respectively. In an interview with American media, Misbah said Ramiz came up with his own vision, so they decided to step down with respect. "There wasn't any difference between us and Ramiz Bhai," said Misbah, who alongside Waqar stepped down from his post in 2021 just before the home tour of New Zealand which didn't happen on security grounds. "See, we were a part of previous management who brought us with a vision and we worked together. Ramiz Bhai came up with his own vision. He didn't want to work with us so we thought to resign," he revealed. To a query about Ramiz's performance so far as PCB chairman, Misbah feels that



he understands players' issues being a cricketer himself better than anyone else. "I think Ramiz Bhai knows the problems of cricketers. He understands Pakistan cricket being a part of it for so many years. Who can do a better job than him at PCB's office," he said. "From pitches to financial aspects of players, Ramiz Bhai knows everything so well and he can take things forward. Also, he has done commentary for many

years, so it is helpful for him to build relations with other countries," he added. Ramiz became PCB chairman in 2021 after Ihsan Mani refused to take an extension in his tenure. After the former cricketer resumed the chairman's office, several changes were seen in the management, starting from the resignations of Misbah and Waqar. Speaking about pitches-controversy, Misbah said Pakistani pitches have had

the same behavior over the years. "Pakistani pitches have remained the same over the years. I believe the weather is quite influential on the pitches here. But, it is not something new," he stressed. "Pindi Stadium's wicket can be made either pacy or batting-friendly. You can't make a spin-friendly wicket there. In Karachi, I was expecting a result but Australia played very well to outclass Pakistan in the first innings".

Pakistan-Turkish top moly brass

FROM PAGE 01

Separately, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force met Chief of Turkish General Staff and Air Officer Commanding 22 Group, Royal Air Force in two separate meetings. Matters of professional and mutual interest were discussed during the meetings. Chief of the Turkish General Staff, General Yasar Guler commended the professionalism of PAF and acknowledged its developing indigenous capacity in aviation industry. Air Chief said that Pakistan and Turkey had longstanding religious, cultural and historical bonds which were manifested through strong ties between the Air Forces of two countries. The Air Chief reiterated his resolve to further enhance the existing bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries. In a separate meeting, Air Officer Commanding 22 Group of Royal Air Force, Air Vice Marshal Richard Maddison OBE also called on Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force. Air Chief said that Pakistan values its strong diplomatic, economic and defence relations with United Kingdom. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role in regional stability.

Western states pledge...

FROM PAGE 01

We also agreed to give further support to Ukraine and to continue to impose costs on Russia," NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said after leaders gathered at NATO headquarters. Still, those pledges stopped short of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's calls for a full boycott of Russian energy products and a no-fly zone over Ukraine, where thousands of people have been killed, millions become refugees, and cities pulverised since Russian leader Vladimir Putin unleashed his invasion on Feb. 24. UNICEF said on Thursday more than half of Ukraine's children had now been driven from their homes. In the besieged southern port of Mariupol, hundreds of thousands of people have been hiding in basements with no running water, food, medicine or power.

Zelensky asks NATO for more...

FROM PAGE 01

"I am sure you understand that Russia has no intention of stopping in Ukraine," Zelenskyy said in a video address that was released by the Ukrainian presidency. "It wants to go further. Against eastern members of NATO. The Baltic states. Poland for sure." Zelenskyy said he was grateful for the support Ukraine had received from individual NATO member states. "But NATO has yet to show what the alliance can do to save people," he said. "It feels like we're in the grey zone between the West and Russia, but we're protecting all our and your shared values."

Govt minister hints...

FROM PAGE 01

no-confidence motion against the premier. The government's ally in the Centre, the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA), has assured PM Imran Khan of complete support ahead of the no-trust motion, while other allies – BAP, MQM-P, and PML-Q – are still indecisive. Moving on, the interior minister said the nation would only hear "good news" from now, as he claimed that the government was also in talks with the Opposition members. "We also have [support] from the Opposition members who will not vote during the no-confidence motion. We have the support of those Opposition members who are responsible," Rasheed said. The interior minister also told the "turncoats" that if they were of the view that switching parties would help them gain more respect, they were wrong – "it isn't like that".

Imam, Abdullah provide good start to Pakistan

Pakistan-born Khawaja, raced to his 12th Test hundred after Australia lost David Warner before Lunch and Marnus Labuschagne earlier after the first session on day 4 of the final Test

DNA

LAHORE: Imam-ul-Haq and Abdullah Shafique provided a good 73-runs start to Pakistan after they were set to chase 351 runs in a series-deciding Test here at Gaddafi Stadium. Imam and Abdullah took responsibility after Pakistan went out to bat for the last time in this historic Test series. The left-right-hand combination powered Australian bowlers while staying at the crease for 27 overs, scoring 73-0 with a run-rate of 2.70. Imam remained not out for 42 off 93 including four boundaries whereas Abdullah made 27 laced with three boundaries and a six. Earlier, phenomenal Usman Khawaja scored his second hundred on this historic Pakistan vs Australia Test series. Australia declared at 227/3 after playing for 60 overs. Khawaja remained not out for 104 while Travis Head scored 11 runs. Naseem Shah bagged Steve Smith (17) just a while ago after which the visitors must

have thought of declaring the innings. Pakistan-born Khawaja, raced to his 12th Test hundred after Australia lost David Warner before Lunch and Marnus Labuschagne earlier after the first session on day 4 of the final Test. The left-hander left Pakistani bowlers clueless to get his wicket as he took 171 balls to reach yet another hundred



on this tour, laced with eight boundaries. Khawaja of Australia settled down superbly to dent the chances of Pakistan to save the home Test series. Nauman Ali did a little effort to trap him by putting pressure but ended up taking the wicket of Labuschagne. The world's number one Test batter scored 36 off 58 including six boundaries. Steve Smith remained not out for 12 when Australia walked off for Tea. Earlier, Shaheen Shah Afridi struck in second last over before Lunch as Australia were forced to finish the first session on day 4 at 97-1. A reverse swing delivery did the work for Pakistan as they managed to get in-form Warner out after he scored 51 off 91 balls including six boundaries and a maximum. Resuming the fourth day at 11-0, Australian openers Usman Khawaja and Warner added 86 runs together. The duo continued their dominance in this Test and smashed the hosts for 10 boundaries altogether. After bowling out Pakistan for 268 runs the other day, Australia looked in complete control of the title-deciding Test.

Briefs

Ukraine crisis is a war without victors

ANKARA: The Ukraine war is a "war without victors," Turkey's envoy to the United Nations Feridun Sinirlioglu said Wednesday, calling for an immediate end to the fighting as Russia's war nears one month. Speaking during a U.N. General Assembly special session on Ukraine, Sinirlioglu said the war is the result of the "blatant violation" of international humanitarian law by Russia, which he called "unacceptable." "It is a war without victors. A war that should have never started. A war which should cease immediately," said the Turkish envoy. Describing the situation in the besieged city of Mariupol as "heartbreaking," the envoy said, "the victims of this violence are innocent people, first and foremost women and children." He said 40 million Ukrainians are suffering inside their country and "they need our help," adding that 10 million others have already been displaced. "For our part, we will not give up on our brothers and sisters in Ukraine," he said. "As the host country to the largest refugee population in the world, we know what it means to flee the horrors of war." Sinirlioglu also asked for support for a draft resolution, "Humanitarian consequences of the aggression against Ukraine," in the "spirit of the founders of the United Nations, in our common quest for peace and respect for human rights, and, in our shared duty to humanity." — Agencies

Turkey is aging faster, new figures show

ANKARA: Turkey's elderly population has increased by 24% in the past five years, with people aged 65 and above constituting 9.7% of the total population in 2021, official statistics released on Friday indicated. Statistics by the Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat) showed that the number of elderly people reached more than 8.2 million in 2021 from 6.6 million in 2016. Women make up the majority of the elderly population as their lifespan on average is longer than men in Turkey. Turkey once boasted one of the youngest populations in Europe, but the proportion of the elderly population is rapidly increasing. Indeed, projections show it could reach 11% within the next three years and exceed 16.3% by 2040. The majority of senior citizens are those between the ages of 65 and 74, around the age of retirement and the average life span in the country. TurkStat said in a press release on Friday that the age structure of Turkey's population was changing and noted that passing the threshold of 10% for elderly people in the total population was an indicator of an aging population, something Turkey is too close to now. The institute, however, added that it was part of a "global aging process." "Turkey's age structure curve changed with advances in public health, better living conditions, increases in welfare levels and life expectancy along with decreasing rates of fertility and mortality," it said. — APP

Sino-Pak dairy co-op industry to bring industrial upgrading

Diversified demands for high-quality dairy products in China also provide a new development direction for Pakistan's dairy industry

DNA

BEIJING: Sino-Pak cooperation on dairy industry will bring industrial upgrading to Pakistan, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Thursday. According to the report, Chinese enterprises welcome Pakistani dairy products in the Chinese market. In this way, Chinese consumers' demands for high-quality dairy products will be satisfied. Meanwhile, Pakistan's economic development, industrial upgrading and industrial chain extension can be expected in the process. "We've learned that Paki-

stan is the most important exporter and producer of dairy products in South Asia. I think Pakistan's high-quality dairy products will be of great strategic significance to us. We are willing to explore more about Pakistani dairy industry to see if we have the opportunity to be part of it," Li Yunjie, Overseas Business Manager, Bright Dairy & Food Co., Ltd. told CEN. From 2011 to 2020, China's dairy imports rose at a compound annual growth of 12.3%, and the demand is still expanding. Diversified demands for high-quality dairy products in China also provide a new development direction for



Pakistan's dairy industry. More than milk powder and liquid milk, high value-added dairy products such as whey, cheese, butter and cream are also in high demand in the Chinese market. "Based on our statistics

and analysis, cheese and cream are expected to have the fastest growth in China," Li Yunjie said. Currently, China's dairy imports mainly come from New Zealand (40.44%) and the Netherlands (17.15%) and

Australia (7.38%). In the recently published China Dairy Industry Report, more cooperation on dairy industry among countries along the Belt and Road route is encouraged. It may be mentioned that animal husbandry is one of the pillar industries in Pakistan. Specifically, Balochistan, where Gwadar Port under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is located in, is with unique advantages of breeding beef cattle and dairy cows.

Animal husbandry occupies 47% of Balochistan's gross agricultural output. With over 93% of the land for grazing, and six eco-agriculture districts, livestock

breeding, dairy processing and animal by-product processing can be well developed there. There's potential for investment in organic meat processing and exports, modern livestock breeding base, fur product processing, camel meat and milk processing and sausage.

At present, the construction of epidemic-free area in Gwadar Port is progressing in an orderly way. If the industrial chain of China can be extended to Pakistan, it is expected to achieve win-win outcomes for the dairy industry of both countries. Chinese investors and Pakistani dairy producers can't afford to miss this opportunity.

Bread prices in Yemen rise by 35%

DNA

SANAA: Bread prices in Yemen have spiked up to 35 percent, according to the UK-based international humanitarian organization Oxfam on Thursday. "The human cost of the war in Yemen is rising sharply as the conflict enters its eighth year, with the number of civilian deaths increasing sharply, hunger on the rise and three quarters of the population in urgent need of humanitarian support," Oxfam said in a statement. It added, "In Sanaa I, bread went up 35 percent over the week that fighting broke out." The NGO said Yemen imports 42% of its grain from Ukraine, but the Russian war on the country has disrupted the supplies of grain and cooking oil to the war-torn Arab country.

Russia's war on Ukraine, which began on Feb. 24, has been met with international outrage, with the European Union, US and UK among others implementing tough financial sanctions on Moscow. At least 977 civilians have been killed during the war and 1,594 injured, according to UN estimates. Another crisis in Yemen that has been worsened by the Russia's war on Ukraine is the fuel crisis, Oxfam said. "Seven long years of war have also caused a fuel crisis. Prices have risen 543% since 2019, trebling in just the last three months. Queues at petrol stations are so long that it can take three days to reach the forecourt," it added.

The UN is set to launch an appeal for an almost \$4.3 billion aid package for war-stricken Yemen to help over 17 million people in the country. Yemen has been engulfed by violence and instability since 2014, when Iran-aligned Houthi rebels captured much of the country, including the capital Sanaa. The conflict has created one of the world's worst man-made humanitarian crises, with 23.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection and more than 19 million are in danger of starvation, according to latest UN estimates.

Russian strikes kill 128 children

KYIV: A total of 128 children have been killed in Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine as of Thursday, according to Ukrainian officials. Also, more than 172 children have been injured in the conflict since it began late last month, the Prosecutor General's Office said in a statement.

Russian shelling damaged 566 educational institutions, 73 of which were completely destroyed, it added. At least 977 civilians have been killed so far in Ukraine and 1,594 injured, according to UN estimates. It has warned, however, that the exact toll is likely much higher as it has not been able to gain access to areas of increased hostilities. Over 3.6 million Ukrainians have also fled to neighboring countries, according to the UN refugee agency. — APP

Nepal artist breathes life into sacred painting tradition

LALITPUR: With a shaved head and an empty stomach, artist Ujjay Bajracharya dips his brush to line the eyes of the deity Tara as a soothing Buddhist hymn warbles in the background. The 40-year-old is applying the final strokes to his paubha painting, a devotional art form known for its minute detail, intense colours and the strict purification rituals traditionally required of its practitioners. It took three months for Bajracharya to complete his rendition of the Green Tara, a goddess of compassion revered by Buddhists and Hindus in Nepal. Before work began, he shaved off his hair and clipped his nails, while a Buddhist priest blessed his canvas and selected a day auspicious enough for the artist to commence his labours. Bajracharya woke up early each morning and did not eat until his day's work was over, adopting a strict vegetarian diet that also excluded garlic, tomatoes and onion when he broke his fast. "My body felt light and I felt more focused and motivated to paint," he told AFP. "Changing my lifestyle was a bit difficult at first but I had the support of my family and friends, so that helped me stay disciplined." Paubha remains a common painting method in Nepal but the austere religious observances once followed by its artists have fallen out of practice. Bajracharya's adoption of these rituals began last year, when he approached a museum in the capital Kathmandu about painting another Buddhist deity while adhering to the forgotten traditions. Rajan Shakyia, founder of the Museum of Nepali Art, said that they immediately agreed to the idea of reviving the practice. — Agencies



ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Co chairman Asif Ali Zardari along with JUI F Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman meeting with PML President Shehbaz Sharif at latter's residence. — DNA

Pakistan Day celebrations held in Pak embassy Jeddah

DNA

JEDDAH: The Consulate General of Pakistan organized a flag hoisting ceremony to mark Pakistan Day. Consul General Khalid Majid hoisted the National Flag in the backdrop of the National Anthem of Pakistan. Later on, special messages of the President, the Prime Minister, were readout. In his address, Consul General, Khalid Majid congratulated the Pakistani community on the occasion and highlighted the significance of the

day. He underlined Pakistan's regional and global importance by its history, geo-strategic location, rich human and natural resources. It was highlighted that the Government of Pakistan is aware of the current challenges facing the country and has adopted a comprehensive set of economic and structural reforms to lay the foundations of sustainable socio-economic development. Rich tribute was paid to the heroes of the Pakistan movement as well as those who made significant contributions

towards the national objectives, stability, and progress of Pakistan. The Consul General highlighted Pakistan's strong relations with the brotherly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and praised the contribution of the Pakistani community in further strengthening Pak-Saudi relations. Children from Pakistan International Schools, Rehab, and Azizia, delivered speeches and performed tableaux. The event ended with cake cutting a collective prayer for the prosperity of Pakistan.



WHO calls for more investments in TB services, research

UNITED NATIONS: The World Health Organization (WHO) has called for an urgent investment of resources, support, care and information into the fight against tuberculosis (TB). Although 66 million lives have been saved since 2000, the COVID-19 pandemic has reversed those gains, the Geneva-based UN agency said. For the first time in over a decade, it said, TB deaths increased in 2020. Ongoing conflicts across Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East have further exacerbated the situation for vulnerable populations. Global spending on TB diagnostics, treatments and prevention in 2020 were less than half of the global target of US\$ 13 billion annually by 2022. For research and development, an extra US\$ 1.1 billion per year is needed. "Urgent investments are needed to develop and expand access to the most innovative services and tools to prevent, detect and treat TB that could save millions of lives each year, narrow inequities and avert huge economic losses," WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said in a statement. — APP

Europe keeps doors open for Ukrainians

GENEVA: The number of civilians fleeing Ukraine to take refuge in neighboring European countries has continued to rise. While many Ukrainians have taken shelter in neighboring countries in Eastern Europe, others have crossed into Western Europe and the Middle East. According to data from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), more than 3.62 million people have left Ukraine since the beginning of the war with Russia on Feb. 24. Top destination: Poland As of Thursday, more than 2.14 million Ukrainians made their way to Poland, while 555,021 went to Romania, 371,104 to Moldova, 324,397 to Hungary, and 256,838 to Slovakia. An additional 271,254 got to Russia and 4,938 to Belarus. In total, 3.6 million people have fled Ukraine, while 6.5 million have become internal refugees after being uprooted from their homes in active conflict zones and taking refuge in other cities further away from the battlefield. Other countries hosting Ukrainian refugees include Estonia with 25,000, France with 17,000, Germany with 147,000, Italy with 65,000, Latvia with 6,300, Lithuania with 27,000, Switzerland with 11,000, and the UK with 21,000. Additionally, 750 have gone to Australia, 10,000 to Israel, and 58,000 to Turkey. In Poland, arriving Ukrainians are provided shelter at certain centers designated by local administrations, while many Polish households have also opened their doors to those refugees who lack a place to stay of their own in the country. Ukrainian refugees are eligible for a direct residence permit and can work in Poland for up to 18 months. In Spain, where approximately 100,000 Ukrainians live, the government announced that it would facilitate entry and official procedures for those who come to the country from Ukraine due to the war. Special status in Switzerland, US The Swiss government recently approved a decision to grant special status to Ukrainian refugees arriving in the country, as well as to provide them accommodation, health, education, and financial assistance. The US Department of Homeland Security also announced that refugees from Ukraine would be given "temporary protection status." — Agencies

SCO opposes confrontation in global issues

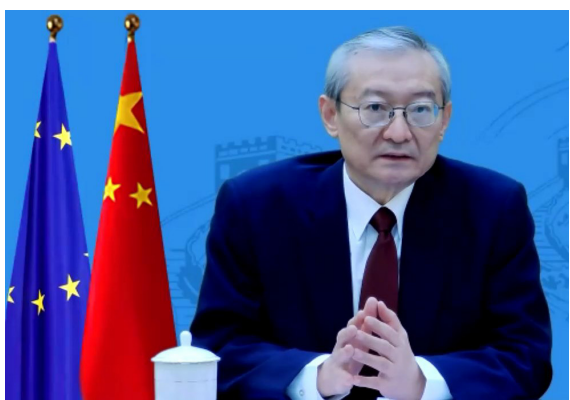
FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) opposes attempts to resolve regional and global issues through bloc policies and confrontation, SCO Secretary General Zhang Ming said in an interview with Russian media. "The SCO pursues the principles of non-alignment and not being directed against other countries and regions, and also opposes attempts to resolve regional and global issues through bloc policies, ideologization and confrontational thinking," he pointed out. According to the secretary general, "the SCO has always been committed to playing a constructive role

in responding to common threats and challenges." Zhang Ming also emphasized that the SCO was not a military alliance and there were no confrontational aspects to its foundations. "SCO member states are committed to strengthening

mutual trust, good-neighboring relations, friendship, regional peace, security and stability, as well as to facilitating the economic, social and cultural development of member states through cooperation," the secretary general noted.

He stressed that those ideas were concentrated in the "Shanghai Spirit" (the concept of international relations on which cooperation within the SCO is based) and constituted a unique generic feature of the SCO's spirituality. The member-states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) are actively considering the issue of obtaining observer status by Armenia and Azerbaijan, SCO Secretary General Zhang Ming has said. Ming stated that "As for the issue of obtaining observer status by Azerbaijan and Armenia, the SCO member-states are actively considering it. In this regard, I am optimistic although at the moment I can not name the exact time."



MARCH 2022

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

Find us on:
www.centrelines.com.pk
www.dnanews.com.pl
www.islamabadpost.com.pk

@Postislamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of

Islamabad POST

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



Briefs

PIA to
launch flight
operation
to Australia
from April 22

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) will launch the flight operations to Australia from April 22. There will be direct flights from Lahore to Sydney on Friday. Flights from Sydney to Lahore will be operated on Sunday.

Direct flights to Sydney will save time and provide the passengers with the facility of carrying more luggage with them. For Sydney, economy class passengers will be allowed to carry 45 kg, while business economy passengers will be allowed to carry 55 kg.

PIA Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Air Marshal Arshad Malik, while reviewing the finalization of flight operations arrangements, directed the marketing and front line teams to provide the best services to the passengers. PIA has planned to expand its network after easing COVID-19 restrictions on the aviation industry, recently launched flights from Karachi and Lahore to Baku. The national airline has also planned to add more locations to its network.

Govt ready
to break
federation,
blame PPP
leaders

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The leaders of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) on Thursday blamed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government in the Centre for being ready to break the federation. During a media talk in Islamabad, PPP vice president Sherry Rehman maintained the government have got no surprise to give except resorting to violence and baton-charge.

"It is the opposition that will give surprise to the government," she claimed and expressed her hope that matters with Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) would soon be settled. She also blamed the government for orchestrating attacks on the Parliament Lodges and the Sindh House. PPP leader Naveed Qamar termed a violation of the Constitution the only escape from the no-confidence motion.

PPP leader Faisal Karim Kundi said that the nation would soon hear good news, adding that the National Assembly speaker had become a controversial figure. "The opposition has lost trust in the National Assembly speaker," he added.

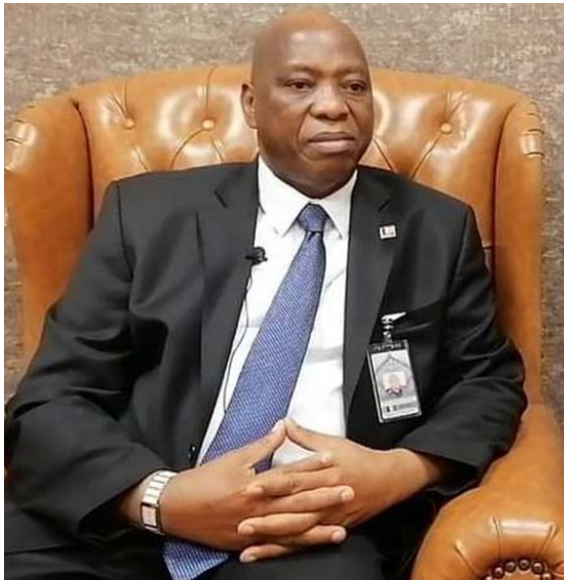
Nearly 3.7
million
people flee
Ukraine: UN

GENEVA: Nearly 3.7 million people have fled Ukraine since Russia's invasion a month ago, the UN said Thursday, warning that half of the country's children are now displaced. The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, said 3,674,952 Ukrainians had fled the country – an increase of 48,406 from the previous day's figure.

In total, more than 10 million people – over a quarter of the population in regions under government control before the February 24 invasion – are now thought to have fled their homes, including nearly 6.5 million who are internally displaced. Ukraine's refugee crisis is Europe's worst since World War II, and nearly half of all those who have been displaced are children. The UN children's agency Unicef said Thursday that a full 4.3 million children – more than half of Ukraine's estimated 7.5 million child population – had been forced to leave their homes. More than 1.8 million of those children have become refugees, while another 2.5 million are displaced inside their war-ravaged country, it said. – APP

Huge prospects of Pak,
Africa co-op: Guinea FM

Foreign Minister said till now more than 800 African diplomats had undergone training at Foreign Service Academy in Islamabad. Thousands of African students had studied in the universities and educational institutions of Pakistan



NUAMAN ISHFAQ MUGHAL

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea Morissanda Kouyaté said huge prospects of cooperation existed between Pakistan and the African continent. In a special interview to Nuaman Ishfaq Mughal, on the sidelines of the 48th session of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers, the Foreign Ministers of Guinea appreciated that Pakistan was diversifying its foreign policy and looking towards Africa to strengthen relations with the African continent in the spheres of politics, culture, trade and defence. He said, "We, in Africa, are waiting for a country like Pakistan which has a high level of technology." He added, "African Union will welcome the participation of Pakistan to reinforce the cooperation of the African continent and Pakistan." The Foreign Minister of the Republic of Guinea Morissanda Kouyaté also thanked the Government of Pakistan particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan for the warm hospitality during his stay in Islamabad. Later at night, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi hosted dinner in honour of the Foreign Ministers of Africa. He congratulated the President of

Senegal for assuming the chair of the African Union. Foreign Minister said till now more than 800 African diplomats had undergone training at Foreign Service Academy in Islamabad. Thousands of African students had studied in the universities and educational institutions of Pakistan. He added out of 57 members of the OIC, 28 countries belonged to Africa. Meanwhile, Minister for Foreign Affairs Shah Mahmood Qureshi said prospects of cooperation existed between Pakistan and Africa in the fields of pharmacy, agriculture, and technical training. Speaking at a dinner hosted here in honour of the Foreign Minister of Africa, the minister congratulated the President of Senegal for assuming the chair of the African Union. He appreciated the outgoing President of Congo who was relinquishing the chair of the African Union. He said Pakistan always supported the freedom movements of African countries and took part in the peace-keeping operations of the United Nations in Africa. He mentioned the governments engage African policy and the steps taken to strengthen relations with the African continent in the spheres of politics, culture, trade, and defense. He talked about the Pakistan-Africa trade conferences held in Nairobi and Lagos. The next trade conference will be held in Johannesburg in September 2022, he told.

Putin made 'big
mistake' invading
Ukraine, says
NATO chief

BRUSSELS: NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg on Thursday accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of making a "big mistake" by invading Ukraine, as leaders gathered to discuss overhauling the alliance's eastern defences.

"President Putin has made a big mistake and that is to launch a war against an independent sovereign nation. He has underestimated the strength of the Ukrainian people, the bravery of the Ukrainian people and their armed forces," Stoltenberg said ahead of a NATO summit in Brussels. Stoltenberg said the leaders of the US-led military alliance would "address the need for a reset of our deterrence and defence in the longer term", starting with agreeing new deployments to eastern members Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Bulgaria.

NATO has already rushed tens of thousands of troops to its eastern flank in the wake of Russia's invasion to counter the threat of any spillover from the conflict into alliance countries. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, whose country is not in NATO, is set to appeal for more weapons and greater intervention in a video address to leaders as he seeks to cajole the West into a tougher response. "We are waiting for meaningful steps. From NATO, the EU and the G7," Zelensky said ahead of the day of summits of all three organisations in Brussels.

"At these three summits we will see: Who is a friend, who is a partner, and who betrayed us for money. Life can be defended only when united." NATO leaders are vowing to bolster weapons deliveries to non-member Ukraine and supply protection against chemical and nuclear threats from Russia. But the alliance has rebuffed pleas from Kyiv to impose a no-fly zone to help halt Russia's onslaught for fear of getting dragged into a "full-fledged" conflict with Moscow. "We have a responsibility to ensure that this conflict does not escalate beyond Ukraine that will cause even more suffering, even more death, even more destruction," Stoltenberg said. US President Joe Biden warned before heading to Europe of a "real threat" that the Kremlin could use chemical weapons in Ukraine. Stoltenberg told journalists that "any use of chemical weapons would fundamentally change the nature of the conflict". "It will be a blatant violation of international law, and it will have widespread and severe consequences." – APP

Gov't committed
to complete IMF
programme in Sept

ISLAMABAD: The government on Thursday expressed its resolve to successfully complete the programme of International Monetary Fund (IMF) in September and said that the ongoing 7th review with the IMF team was going on as per schedule. Clarifying some news items speculating recently about the on-going 7th review under IMF's Extended Fund Facility (EFF), the ministry of finance in a statement said that negotiations under the 7th review were continuing as planned and the two sides remained engaged on a regular basis at a technical level through virtual meetings and data sharing. The focus of negotiations under the 7th review has been on the agreed targets between the two sides, as well as the recently announced relief and industrial promotion packages. "There is a consensus that all the end-December agreed targets have been achieved, while progress on other actions mentioned in the Memorandum on Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP) for the 6th review has also been found to be satisfactory," the statement added. – APP

China's foreign minister
visits Afghanistan

DNA

KABUL: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited Kabul on Thursday, a spokesman for Afghanistan's foreign ministry said, the highest-level visit by a Chinese official since the Taliban took power last year and a day after many in the global community were angered by the group's closure of girls' high schools. Wang met with acting Afghan foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi to discuss political and economic ties, including starting work in the mining sector and Afghanistan's possible role in China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative, according to a statement from an Afghan foreign ministry spokesman. China is among just a handful of countries, including Pakistan and Qatar, that has sent a minister to Afghanistan since the Taliban took over the country in August.

Foreign governments, including Beijing, have held back on formally recognising the Taliban administration, with many saying the Taliban need to prove their commitment to human rights, counter-terrorism and inclusive governance. The visit came after widespread global condemnation of the Taliban administration a day earlier, when it unexpectedly ordered girls home from high school, an abrupt U-turn on policy after having said earlier in the week school would be open to all students. China will host a meeting of regional foreign ministers later this month, and the statement said Muttaqi would also participate in the meeting. "Minister Muttaqi added that the security brought about by the new (government) lays the foundation for foreign investment, including for China, in Afghanistan that ensures their interest besides cooperating with Afghans in economic growth & stability with the full support of the new gov," foreign ministry spokesman Abdul Qahar Balkhi said.

Sohail Altaf receives
Governor Award

LAHORE: In a ceremony held at Governor House on the occasion of Pakistan Day, Punjab Governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar awarded Governor's Award to Chief Business Advisor for Federal Tax Ombudsman, Group Leader of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and former President



Sohail Altaf. This award has been given in recognition of his meritorious services to the business community. Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce President Nadeem Rauf has felicitated Sohail Altaf for receiving the Governor's Award. In a statement, he said that it was a matter of honor and pride for the Rawalpindi Chamber. Sohail Altaf's services are invaluable to the business community whether it is tax matters or FBR, Expo Centers, IT Park, Policy Making, Budget, SMEs and Cottage Industry or Industrial Zones, Sohail Altaf has always played a leading role, he added. – DNA



Missile "misfire" shows India an "irresponsible state"

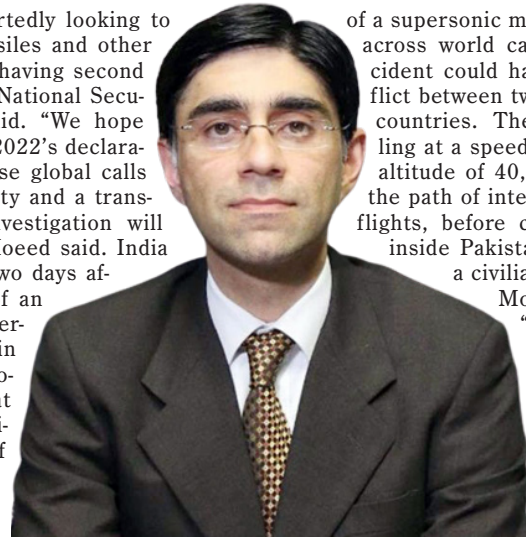
Dr Moeed Yusuf cautioned the world community that the "lack of any Indian response to Pakistan's call for joint investigation and lack of information about India's so-called internal inquiry was a wake-up call for them"

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: National Security Adviser (NSA) Dr Moeed Yusuf Thursday said the recent missile "misfire" from India proved that India was "an irresponsible state with nuclear weapons" and the threat it posed to regional security must remain an issue of international concern.

"Make no mistake, India has become an irresponsible state with nuclear weapons and the world is beginning to recognise Pakistan's longstanding concern on this count," Dr Moeed Yusuf said in a tweet. He noted that the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in its 48th session highlighted the threat to regional security, due to its recent missile launch that landed in Pakistan. "It is also only natural that countries

who were reportedly looking to buy Indian missiles and other equipment are having second thoughts," the National Security Adviser said. "We hope that OIC CFM 2022's declaration will increase global calls for accountability and a transparent joint investigation will be ensured," Moeed said. India on March 11, two days after the crash of an unarmed supersonic missile in Pakistani territory admitted that it was an "accidental firing of a missile". The irresponsible handling



of a supersonic missile sent jitters across world capitals as the incident could have led to a conflict between two nuclear-armed countries. The missile travelling at a speed of Mach 3 at an altitude of 40,000 feet crossed the path of international civilian flights, before crashing 124 km inside Pakistan, and damaged a civilian building.

Moeed Yusuf said "The missile 'misfire' from India must remain an issue of international concern. Indian attempts to brush it off cannot mask the

gravity of the episode." Director-General of Inter-Services Public Relations Lt General Babar Iftikhar, in a press briefing on March 10, said, "Pakistan strongly protested this flagrant violation and cautions [India] against recurrence of any such incident in the future."

He said the Pakistan Air Force monitored the complete flying path of the object, from its point of origin near Sirsa in India to its point of impact, near Mian Channu and "initiated requisite tactical actions".

Dr Moeed Yusuf cautioned the world community that the "lack of any Indian response to Pakistan's call for joint investigation and lack of information about India's so-called internal inquiry was a wake-up call for them." "This reflects the mindset of the Modi regime and the character of the Indian state today," he said.

US sanctions
Russia
lawmakers,
defence
contractors

BRUSSELS: The United States on Thursday announced a fresh wave of sanctions against Russian lawmakers, oligarchs and defence companies in response to the invasion of Ukraine, the White House said. The measures, which involve freezing US-held assets, single out 328 members of Russia's lower house State Duma, and 48 defence companies "that fuel (President Vladimir) Putin's war machine", according to a statement released as US President Joe Biden attended summits in Brussels focused on the war.

Also targeted is Herman Gref, chief executive of Russia's largest financial institution Sberbank. "I'm announcing additional sanctions on over 400 Russian elites, lawmakers, and defence companies in response to Putin's war of choice in Ukraine," Biden tweeted. "They personally gain from the Kremlin's policies, and they should share in the pain," he said. – APP

PTI disowns
11 accounts
in foreign
funding case

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Petitioner in PTI foreign funding case Akbar S Babar on Thursday demanded resignation of party leaders Asad Qaiser, Shah Farman, Imran Ismail and Mehmod ur Rasheed. Talking to media he said that the PTI kept owning 11 accounts before the scrutiny committee hearing for four years, has on March 15 disowned these accounts in the election commission.

"These 11 accounts were opened and operated by these party leaders", Akbar Babar said. "PTI documents, submitted to the election commission is an indictment against the top leadership of the party," he said. Babar said that all allegations have been proved in the scrutiny committee report. "Imran Khan now have no moral justification to keep the prime minister's office. He should tender resignation from this August office, he said. He also called the party's workers to get united to steer the party on the right path.

Akbar S. Babar, a former member of PTI had filed the case in 2014. The petitioner claimed that the PTI received \$7.3 million in funding from foreign sources including offshore companies. Babar claimed that the party gave fake certificates to the ECP.

More than
30 killed in
attacks in
C. Somalia

MOGADISHU: The death toll from twin attacks in central Somalia on Wednesday night has climbed above 30, the police chief in Beledweyne district told AFP on Thursday. "We are still trying to establish the overall number of casualties, but so far we have confirmed that more than 30 people were killed in the second blast alone, which was caused by a car bomb," said Colonel Isak Ali Abdulle.

"The terrorists carried out the first attack using a suicide bomber and readied a car loaded with explosives in front of a hospital to cause more casualties," he said. "These were devastating simultaneous attacks which damaged property as well as causing mass civilian casualties."

The first attack in Beledweyne killed two local lawmakers, including Amina Mohamed Abdi and several of her guards as she campaigned for re-election.

The second occurred minutes later outside the hospital and left cars in charred, twisted ruins. The attacks occurred the same day as three people were killed near Mogadishu's airport in an attack claimed by the Islamist insurgent group Al-Shabaab. The Al-Qaeda-linked militants frequently attack civilian, military and government targets in Somalia's capital and outside. – APP