



Islamabad POST

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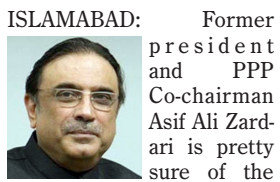
Detailed News On Page-07



Briefs

Zardari 100% sure of victory

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Former president and PPP Co-chairman Asif Zardari is pretty sure of the success of no-confidence motion saying that he is 100% sure that the motion will prevail. While talking to media at Parliament House on Friday, Asif Zardari who looked quite optimistic said if Speaker Asad Qaiser did not allow them to table the no-confidence resolution during the next assembly session, then the opposition would stage a protest along with journalists. "It's a pity that the Speaker again has remained partial today and he still adopted the same undemocratic behaviour as we have been witnessing for the last three years," he lamented. Zardari, who has remained active all these days meeting government allies and leaders of the opposition parties, stated that he was sure of the success of no-trust motion because he didn't play naive.

Ummah all praise for Pakistan

BUREAU REPORT



LAHORE: Special Representative to Prime Minister for Religious Harmony and Middle Eastern Affairs Hafiz Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi has said that the entire Muslim Ummah is lauding Pakistan for successfully organising the conference of foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Addressing a press conference here on Friday, he said the conference discussed Islamophobia and Kashmir issues in detail. He said that the results of the conference would soon be visible and now March 15 would be observed every year as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. Ashrafi said that India attempted to target the conference at Islamabad through negative propaganda; however, Pakistan thwarted its nefarious designs.

Holiday Notice

The offices of daily Islamabad POST shall remain closed on Saturday on account of weekly off therefore there will be no newspaper on Sunday. - Editor

No-Trust Motion NA session adjourned till Mar 28

The session was wrapped up almost immediately after it started with the recitation of Holy Quran

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The crucial National Assembly session to deliberate on the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan was adjourned as expected till Monday, March 28. The session was wrapped up almost immediately after it started with the recitation of Holy Quran with National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser in the chair. Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Inter-faith Harmony Noorul Haq Qadri offered Fateha for PTT's deceased MNA from Hangu, Khayal Zaman, others who lost their lives during Peshawar and Sibi terror attacks as per Qaiser's direction. Later, Qaiser adjourned the hearing till 4pm on Monday. "Since this is the tradition of this house, that whenever an respectable member [of the assembly] passes away, [the NA] session is adjourned till the next [working] day in their honour," Qaiser said. He said that the tradition has been followed nine times in the 12th assembly, four times in the 13th assembly.

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Dama Dam Mast Qalandar if NA Speaker plays 'foul'

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The opposition leaders on Friday lambasted National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser for, what they called, violating the law and the Constitution and warned the government of severe consequences if it again played foul on the coming Monday. Addressing the media outside Parliament after abrupt adjournment of the National Assembly (NA) session till March 28 [Monday next], Opposition Leader Shehbaz Sharif regretted the law had been trampled underfoot that day. "The Speaker was bound to convene the NA session on the no-confidence motion within 14 days," he stated.

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Fears up to 300 died in Mariupol theatre attack

NEWS DESK

MARIUPOL: Authorities in the Ukrainian city of Mariupol say they fear that up to 300 people were killed in the 16 March bombing of a theatre. Citing the accounts of those who were there at the time of the blast, Mariupol City Council made the claim on Friday morning. "Unfortunately, we start this day with bad news," the council said on its Telegram channel. "From eyewitnesses, information appeared that about 300 people died in the drama theatre of Mariupol as a result of a bombardment by a Russian aircraft. Until the last, I do not want to believe in this horror. Until the last, I want to believe that everyone managed to escape."

US and EU strike major LNG deal

BRUSSELS: The United States will work to supply 15 billion cubic metres of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the European Union this year to help it wean off Russian energy supplies, the transatlantic partners said on Friday. The EU is aiming to cut its dependency on Russian gas by two-thirds this year and end all Russian fossil fuel imports by 2027 due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Russia supplies around 40% of Europe's gas needs.

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with Ambassador of Japan, Wada Mitsuhiro. - DNA



ISLAMABAD: Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Opposition leader Shahbaz Sharif along with others talking to media outside Parliament House. - DNA

Fawad predicts end of opp. politics

Says massive public support for PM Imran Khan had left them in a state of shock

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain Friday predicted end of the opposition leaders' politics as the massive public support for Prime Minister Imran Khan had left them in a state of shock. "Have a look at the public gathering addressed by Imran Khan in Mansehra. Opposition Walo Ki Kanyo Abhi Sy Tang Rahi Hain [the legs of opposition leaders are shaking]," he said in a tweet which also entailed a short video clip of the Mansehra public meeting. "Look at their condition... the 'doll of plastic' has addressed to a three dozen people by inviting them to a lunch," the minister said while taking a dig at Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's Maryam Safdar. - APP

Qureshi-led delegation meets MQM-P leaders

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A government delegation led by Shah Mahmood Qureshi has held a meeting with Muttahida Quami Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) leaders in Islamabad. Shah Mahmood Qureshi along with Asad Umar and Pervaiz Khattak met the

Continued on Page 06

Independent member assures support: Bilawal

Chairman PPP says that the Speaker is a facilitator of Imran Khan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that the prime minister, Imran Khan is running away from the no-confidence motion. What kind of a captain runs away from contest? Chairman PPP talking to the media outside the Parliament building on Friday said that the Speaker is a facilitator of Imran Khan and is avoiding taking up no-confidence motion. In the name of tradition, he is trying to protect Imran Khan. Chairman Bilawal said that in June 2012, PPP's member National Assembly Fauzia Wahab had passed away and a new prime minister had to be elected. The PPP had fulfilled its constitutional responsibility. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that this government wanted to spread terror first by attacking Parliament lodges and then the Sindh House. The government wants to run away from the no-confidence motion but the opposition is united and will not let this selected person escape.

Continued on Page 06

Nawaz' plane could land anytime, says Maryam

ABIS RAZA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Vice President Maryam Nawaz Sharif has advised his party workers to be ready as Supreme Nawaz Sharif's plane could be landed at the old airport in Lahore anytime. She was addressing a party workers convention in Lahore on Friday and directed the PML-N cadre to join the long march to save the nation that will start tomorrow from here. Maryam said Prime Minister Imran Khan claims to have political cards but now his own party will remove him from power corridors as more than two dozen MNAs have left him. She said though PM Imran claimed daily that he has political cards but he should remember now that no one will come to save him.

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Pakistan rejects Indian reaction to OIC moot

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly rejects the totally untenable and irresponsible statement by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on the unanimously adopted outcomes and resolutions of the 48th Session of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Council of Foreign Ministers (OIC-CFM) held in Islamabad from 22-23 March 2022. According to Foreign Office, the OIC is the collective voice of the Muslim Ummah and the second largest international organization after the United Nations with 57 members and 6 observer states. The OIC has a long-standing principled position in support of the legitimate struggle

of the Kashmiri people for their right to self-determination granted to them by the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. While refusing to implement the UNSC resolutions, India has for decades tried to suppress the voice of the Kashmiris through brutal and indiscriminate use of force and gross and systematic violations of human rights in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

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Australia outclass Pakistan to claim Benaud-Qadir Trophy - Page 06

Pak students graduated from China engaged in tech transfer - Page 07

FS thanks OIC envoys on successful CFM meeting - Page 08

Naya Pakistan being raised upon opp. funeral: PM

"The new Pakistan will be one that Quaid-i-Azam struggled for and Allam Iqbal dreamt of," the prime minister said while addressing a rally in Mansehra

DNA

MANSEHRA: Prime Minister Imran Khan urged the nation on Friday to participate in the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf's (PTI) rally in Islamabad on March 27 to convey to opposition parties that their "funeral is being taken out upon which a naya (new) Pakistan is being raised". "The new Pakistan will be one that Quaid-i-Azam struggled for and Allam Iqbal dreamt of," the prime minister said while addressing a rally in Mansehra. He said he was inviting the entire nation to join the PTI's rally in the capital on March 27 to send out the message to opposition parties that it was standing with the truth and against "people like you (the opposition) who buy and sell consciences and destroy the country's system and democracy". The prime minister further said, "Allah

has not permitted us to stand back and say we are neutral when there is a war between good and evil." Earlier in his speech, the prime minister repeated his accusation of the opposition doing horse-trading ahead of a no-confidence vote against him and said "a mandi (marketplace) has been put up in Islamabad where people's consciences are being bought for Rs200-250 million." In such a situation, he continued, there would be a choice between two paths - the righteous one that was difficult and another that seemed easier but led to destruction. Then, collectively referring to Pakistan Democratic Movement President Maulana Fazlur Rehman, PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif and PPP Chairperson Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari as "three mice", PM Imran said that the trio of opposition leaders was "criticising you, scaring you, blackmailing you".



"But the path to greatness is the difficult one," he said, implying that righteous lawmakers should abstain from supporting the opposition when, allegedly, offered money to change sides. A man's respect, rizq and death were in Allah's hand, the premier said. "So none [has the power] to demean anyone," he added. The prime minister also alleged that the opposition's objective behind filing a no-confidence vote against him was to get corruption cases filed against them closed. "There is only one objective behind this no-trust war: that cases against them are closed and they be given an NRO (amnesty), as they were given during Gen Musharraf's era," PM Imran claimed, adding, "But the day I close these cases, I will be committing the biggest treason against Pakistan." Again referring to opposition leaders and the no-trust vote brought by them, he said the "three stooges, the

three mice are out to hunt me". "But I will defeat them," he said. The prime minister also alleged that opposition leaders, when they were in power, had looted the country's money and transferred it to bank accounts abroad, "which enslaved the entire nation". "And when I became the prime minister, I was resolute that I would not let the country become a slave to [any other entity]," he said, adding that "I will prove [this by ensuring] that the green passport is respected across the world." He further said the only way for Pakistan to progress was to abide by the principles laid by Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him) in the state of Madinah. "And only then the green passport will be respected in the world," he added. Listing different initiatives taken by his government, such as the issuance of health cards, PM Imran said the country was now on the path to becoming an example for the rest of the world.

TEVTA playing key role for skilled human resources

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD. More than one hundred passed out students of TEVTA have been offered employment during a job festival organized in the Government College of Technology Samanabad here yesterday. Inaugurating the job fair Mr. Aziz Director General placement TEVTA Punjab, said that TEVTA (Technical Education & Vocational Training Authority) has expedited its efforts to provide technical skills in addition to ensuring the speedy placement of passed out students in their relevant fields. As many as 26 different companies established their stalls in this job fair to offer jobs to the talented students. Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), Engineer Asim Munir District President BOD of the TEVTA

Faisalabad & Chiniot, Principal of the College and Mr. Asghar Chaudhary District Placement Officer TEVTA were also present during this meeting. Mr. Amir Aziz said that solid steps have been taken to provide skilled manpower to the existing and hi-tech industries being set up in Faisalabad. "It would not only provide jobs to the young students but also help in expediting industrial development in the country", he said and added that close cooperation of the private sector is imperative to achieve this cherished goal. He said that the job fair is a step to take Pakistan into the fifth industrial revolution. He said that passed out students could also start their own businesses to cater to the market needs in addition to fulfilling the needs of the industrial sector. Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh President FCCI said that close liaison between the industrial community and TEV-

TA is playing a key role in providing skilled human resources to the industrial sector which would play a key role in enhancing our productivity with a focused approach to increase national exports. Engineer Asim Munir appreciated the policy to continuously upgrade the syllabus of different trades to fulfill the fast-changing needs of the industrial sector. He termed youth as one of the most precious assets and said that trained and skilled manpower could not only fill the gap of skilled labor in the local industry but also open new avenues for their export to the potential markets. "In return they could earn and send back precious foreign exchange to the motherland", he added. Later President Atif Munir Sheikh along with Director General Amir Aziz and Engineer Asim Munir visited various stalls and appreciated the skills of the trained manpower nurtured by the TEVTA.



ISLAMABAD: SAPM Arbab Ghulam Rahim calls on Prime Minister Imran Khan. – DNA

Youth should direct energies towards positive activities



SAQIB MUSHTAQ

LODHAN. Member Punjab Companies Profits workers participation committee Govt of the Punjab Labour and HR department Kaynat Raza said that youth is our biggest asset and they should direct their energies towards positive activities. Graduates should become entrepreneurs non government can provide jobs for all students it is high time we realize its importance.

She also mentioned that online business are booming so young people with less capital should invest their time and energy in developing them. She emphasised on the role of Women that they should actively take part in the business so that women are empowered and independence is promoted in the country by playing their role country's economy so that it's progress is ensured. She said that our industry Shamim ghee Bahawalpur

has always helped children, youth and women and will continue to help them in future as well. She was attending Youth Expo arranged by LPP (Lodhran Pilot Project) in Bahauddin Zakariya University Multan as Chief Guest. Vice Chancellor BZU Multan Dr. Mansoor Akbar, Resident Officer BZU Tahir Mehmood, Director Student Affairs BZU Dr. Fawad Rasul, Director Student Affairs University of Karachi Dr.

Asim, Officials from LPP and members from different segments of society attended the event. Vice Chancellor BZU emphasised the importance of skill education and encouraged to learn more skills so they can grow professionally. MD Shamim industries Kaynat Raza appreciated the efforts of LPP and BZU and assured her full support for the betterment of students. Cash prizes were also distributed among students by Ms. Kaynat Raza.

Industrial sector wasting 3000MW electricity per annum

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Industrial sector of Pakistan is wasting 3000MW of costly electricity per annum only due to the use of low efficiency electric motors, said Engineer Ahmad Hassan Chairman FCCI (Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry) Standing Committee on Research & Development. Explaining the salient features of a research study

conducted by the FCCI, he said that the performance of electric motors commonly used in our industrial sector is only 30-40%, thus these are making huge financial losses and the Ministry of Science & Technology must take necessary measures to plug this visible loophole. He said that in China the Government has allowed manufacturing and use of electricity motors with at least 90% efficiency. "It is the main cause of minimal losses of electricity in that country", he said and added that Ministry should also clamp complete ban on production of low efficiency motors in addition to discouraging the import of redundant and obsolete electric motors that have become an unbearable burden on the national economy due to the wastage of precious electricity.



FAISALABAD: State Minister for Information & Broadcasting Farrukh Habib is addressing a public gathering in D-type colony to show PTI power before 27th March Public Jalsa at Islamabad. – DNA

Kyrgyz FM offers investment in tourism, power sectors

The LCCI SVP said that the shortest route from Chinese city of Kashgar to Kyrgyzstan is about 200 km, through two Kyrgyz passes of Torugart and Erkeshtam. These areas should be utilized to provide direct access of the warm waters of Gwadar port to Kyrgyzstan which is one of 45 landlocked countries in world



DNA

LAHORE: Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan Ruslan Kazakbaev Friday invited Pakistani investors to investment in the tourism and energy sector of Kyrgyzstan. He was talking to business community here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) where LCCI Senior Vice President Mian Rehman Aziz Chan presented welcome address while Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan Ulanbek Totuiev and LCCI Vice President Haris Ateeq also spoke on the occasion. The Minister said that Kyrgyzstan is famous for its tourism sector and its 90% area is mountainous. He

said that Pakistani investors should come forward and invest in hotels and resorts in Kyrgyzstan. He said that the energy sector of Kyrgyzstan has also a lot of potential. Pakistani investors can also invest in small hydel power projects. He said that his country is interested in transit trade through Pakistan and wants to use Pakistan's seaports. He said that meetings with the President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Pakistan were very positive. He hoped that these meetings would further strengthen the relations between the two countries. Mian Rehman Aziz Chan said that all the Muslim countries need to collaborate with each other and contribute every possible

effort to preserve and promote Islamic values of peace, compassion, tolerance, equality, justice and human dignity. Talking about Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan mutual relations, LCCI SVP said that both the countries have deep cultural, religious and diplomatic relations. In contrast to all these strong bonds and mutual relations, both countries have yet to become sound trading partners. He said that very few items are being traded between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan for the last many years. According to State Bank of Pakistan's statistics, Pakistan's exports to Kyrgyzstan were just 2 million dollars in 2020-21 while there were al-

most no imports made from Kyrgyzstan. The main reasons of such a low level of trade volume between two countries include limited knowledge about each other's markets and absence of sound banking channels. Mian Rehman Aziz Chan said that there is a great potential for Pakistan to increase its exports to Kyrgyzstan in the sectors of Value Added Textiles, Sports Goods, Surgical Instruments and Automotive Parts. Kyrgyzstan can also make use of the expertise of Pakistan in the IT sector. "Lahore Chamber has been advocating for exploiting the untapped potential of trade in Central Asian Republics. Kyrgyzstan and China share a long border.

Think about state before politics

DNA

LAHORE: PML-Q Deputy Secretary Information Khawaja Rameez Hassan while discussing the current political situation said that before politics we have to think about the state. He said that the country cannot afford political instability. Ending economic challenges should be the top priority. He said that the political forces should present a charter of solution to provide relief to the people.

Gomal varsity holds Jordanian culture event

PESHAWAR: Gomal University Friday held a colorful event on Jordanian culture at Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan Auditorium of the university where the traditional dances and songs by Jordanian students enthralled the audience. Gomal University has dedicated the week to foreign students under the theme of "Ethihad" so that foreign students could have an opportunity to celebrate their cultural activities. The ceremony was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Gomal University Prof. Dr. Ifthikhar Ahmed by cutting the ribbon. A large number of foreign and Pakistani students, including the Dean Faculty of Pharmacy, heads of all departments and teachers attended the ceremony which was organized by Dr. Haroon Khan, Coordinator, International Program Office, Gomal University. – APP

Ramadan Bazaars will be made functional from 25 Sha'ban: AC Gujrat

YOUSUF BHUTTA

GUJRAT: Assistant Commissioner Tehsil Gujrat Umer Draz Gondal has said that 6 Ramadan bazaars will be set up in Gujrat Tehsil to provide food items to the citizens at cheap rates during Ramadan. Ramadan Bazaar will be made functional from 25 Sha'ban. He expressed these views during a review meeting regarding arrangements for Ramadan bazaars. Additional Director Livestock Dr. Tahir Aziz, Deputy Director Livestock Dr. Rizwan, As-

sistant Director Agriculture Muhammad Athar, District Food Controller Nasrullah Malik, Chief Officer Metropolitan Corporation Qamar Zeeshan and representatives of business community participated in the said meeting. Assistant Commissioner Umer Draz Gondal said that Ramadan Bazaars will be set up at Old Vegetable Market, Shah Jehangir Road, Model Bazaar, GT Road, Zahoor Elahi Stadium, Kunjah, and Jalalpur Jattan. Fair price shops of Agriculture department will also be set up in Ramadan bazaars where fruits and vegetables will be available to the citizens at lower rates than the market. Grocery items including flour, meat and poultry products will also be provided in Ramadan bazaars. Assistant Commissioner Umer Draz Gondal directed all the officers to finalize the arrangements regarding Ramadan bazaars and make the best arrangements for the convenience of the citizens. The best arrangements should be made for the convenience of the citizens including shaded places and electric fans.

No confidence motion against PM to die itself next week: CM KP

MANSEHRA: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan here on Friday said opposition no confidence motion against the Prime Minister did not get support of people and the motion would die itself next week. Addressing a huge public gathering here that was also addressed by the Prime Minister, the Chief Minister said people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and lawmakers of Pakistan Tahreeke-Insaf were standing like a solid rock with Prime Minister Imran Khan. He said no confidence motion if opposition would die itself next week. The Chief

Minister KP without naming opposition leaders said the three mics had raised hollow slogans of bringing no confidence motion against him but failed. Mahmood Khan said he was enjoying two third majority in the KP Assembly and dream of the mics could not be materialized. He said people of Mansehra are politically matured and will repose full confidence in PTI on March 31 LG Elections. The CM said sea of people from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa will attend PTI public show on March 27 in Islamabad. He said people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are

standing with Prime Minister Imran Khan like a solid rock as he believed that he was the only leader, who can address their problems and take the country out of existence challenges. Saleh Muhammad, Member National Assembly said the PM has emerged a strong political leader that united Muslim Ummah while referring to the successful OIC meeting at Islamabad. He said people of Pakistan would reject politics of hypocrisy, loot and plunders of the mics and would participating in large number in the PTI show at Islamabad. – APP

KP CM condoles martyrdom of security forces

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan Friday condemned the cross border fire incident at North Waziristan and expressed grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of three security forces in the incident. In a message here, he extended sympathies to the bereaved families and prayed to Allah Almighty to grant courage and solace to them to bear the irreparable loss. He also prayed may Almighty Allah to raise ranks of the martyrs at Jannah. He said it was a highly condemnable incident and added that security forces have rendered supreme sacrifices for the sake of peace in the country. He is resolute in our commitment to rid Pakistan of all forms of terrorism and the entire nation is standing with security forces in war against menace of terrorism, he added. – Agencies

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National Days and Armed Forces Days

MARCH

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



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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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ISLAMABAD: A beautiful view of CDA spring plantation. – DNA

Govt asked to ensure availability of food items

ICCI Senior Vice President Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, former Senior Vice Presidents Muhammad Naveed Malik and Khalid Chaudhry, Malik Najeeb, Shoaib Malhi, Dildar Abbasi, Amir Baloch and others were also present on the occasion

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Shakeel Munir, has said that the month of Ramadan is approaching and he urged upon the government to ensure availability of all required food items in the markets and commercial areas during this holy month to save people from any problems. He stressed that all relevant departments of the government should take measures to ensure timely and abundant supply so that the people do not face any shortage of food items during the month of fasting. He said that due to the 48th OIC-CFM, long holidays were observed in the federal capital but due to these holidays the supply system of goods in markets and industrial areas was affected. Therefore, he urged that thorough arrangements should be made in advance for the smooth supply system in markets and industrial areas during any future long holiday that commercial and industrial activities may not suffer. He expressed these views while addressing as the Chief Guest at the inauguration of Corr Cafe at Gulberg Green Islamabad. ICCI Senior Vice President Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh, former Senior Vice Presidents Muhammad Naveed Malik and Khalid Chaudhry, Malik Najeeb, Shoaib Malhi, Dildar Abbasi, Amir Baloch and others were also present on the occasion.

Shakeel Munir said that the month of Ramadan is just a few days away so he requested the local administration of Islamabad to do everything possible to ensure adequate supply of food items to the fasting people during this holy month. He said that the demand for food items in Ramadan increases as compared to other days but due to any shortage, prices go up which causes problems to the people. He emphasized that all concerned government departments including ICT Administration, should take precautionary measures so that the people do not face unnecessary shortage of food items in Ramadan. The ICCI President also called upon the traders to ensure easy availability of food items to the people during the month of Ramadan. He further said that traders should cooperate with the government to overcome any shortage of required items during the holy month so that the people can be saved from all kinds of troubles. ICCI Senior Vice President Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh and Vice President Muhammad Fahim Khan said that the role of local administration is very important in making the supply system efficient during the month of Ramadan and expressed hope that the administration would play its active role in this regard. They also requested the market associations to cooperate with the local administration in ensuring the smooth supply of food items during the month of Ramadan.



CDA working to ensure uninterrupted water supply

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The administration of Capital Development Authority (CDA) is taking special measures to improve uninterrupted water supply and particularly for improving ground water level in Islamabad. In this regard, the CDA management has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with PCRW and a comprehensive plan for recharging groundwater has been formulated. After the preparation and approval of PC-1 of this project, tenders were published in the newspapers and the bids received after that were also opened. According to the details, with the assistance of PCRW, CDA Water Supply Department will construct 40 rechargeable wells in the first phase of this project out of which 35 rechargeable wells have been prepared while work on the remaining wells is in progress. Tenders have also been published in newspapers after completing other testing processes including identification of suitable

sites for more 60 recharge wells. These measures will not only help in controlling the ground water level but will also help in providing uninterrupted water supply to the citizens of Islamabad. These recharge wells will be constructed in Sector I-Series, G-Series, F-Series and other sectors of Islamabad. In addition, authority is also planning to construct more than 100 recharge wells in Islamabad in the second phase, which will be processed soon. Along with all these recharge wells, modern equipments will also be installed to keep the ground water clean collected from rain water. The first phase of the project will be completed before June on the direction of the management of the Capital Development Authority. In addition, the Water Supply Department of the Capital Development Authority has also identified defects in the water system at various places in the city, including water leakages, which were causing water loss, saving more than ten million gallons of water per day.

PDM, capital admin deadlock on Islamabad sit-in persists

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has reportedly turned down Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM)'s request for holding a sit-in in the federal capital. Sources privy to the development said that Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) senator Kamran Murtaza moved an application with capital authorities seeking to allow the sit-in in the federal capital. The capital admin turned down JUI-F's sit-in request and instead allowed the opposition alliance for holding power

shows between 25 and 27. The ruling party had been granted permission to hold its power show in Islamabad's Parade Ground, whereas, JUI-F was permitted to organise its public gathering at the H-9 plot on strict conditions. According to the conditions set by the local administration, political parties organising power shows in Islamabad shall not disturb or disrupt the fundamental rights of citizens and adjoining areas. The participants of the public gatherings will not be allowed to block any road including the arterial roads Srinagar Highway, Islamabad Highway/Expressway and Murree Road.

SOMALI DELEGATION AT MONAL



ISLAMABAD: A Somali delegation including the ambassador of Somalia to Pakistan enjoying a beautiful day at Monal. – DNA

Sanjrani meets with British investors

ISLAMABAD: A four-member delegation of British investors here on Friday called on Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani here at Parliament House on Friday and discussed ways for enriching bilateral cooperation in the field of investment. The delegation included Albert Barry lesse (MD Cribgogh ltd), Thomas Albert Lesse (MD Trulux Group), Jeremy Derek Moxey (Trulux Group), Andrew John Edwards (Trulux Group), said a news release. He apprised the delegation of Pakistan's friendly investment policies. – APP

RCB officials directed to control dengue in cantt areas

KHAYAM ABBASI

RAWALPINDI: The officials concerned of Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) have been directed to utilize all available resources to control dengue in cantt areas. Chairing a meeting held here on Friday, Additional Cantonment Executive Officer (ACEO) RCB, Naveed Nawaz said that negligence on part of officials concerned would not be tolerated and strict action would be taken against negligent officials. All officials will have to work beyond their duty to control the situation, he

added. The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner, Cantt Anisha Hisham, Additional Deputy Commissioner, General (ADCG) Marzia Saleem, Secretary Cantt Board, Qaiser Mahmood, Chief Public Health Officer, Amir Azeem, Public Health Officer, Shabbir Akhtar, Focal Person, Mazhar Hussain, Sanitary Inspector and Incharge Dengue Cell, Najam-ul-Hassan and others. The meeting discussed all possible measures to control dengue and decided that solid steps would be taken to prevent dengue in all housing societies in Cantt areas. Special teams

would also be formed on an emergency basis in view of the possible spread of dengue mosquitoes. The ACEO directed the authorities concerned that special attention should also be given to the public awareness campaign against dengue. He said 14 big nullahs of Cantt areas were being cleaned while the Chief Public Health Officer and Public Health Officer assured to expedite and improve the cleanliness process in Cantt areas. The RCB's garden branch and sanitation officials were directed to improve cooperation with anti-dengue teams, he added.

Prices of tomatoes, sugar, eggs go down

ISLAMABAD: The prices of various food items went down during the week ending on March 24 as compared to the previous week, according to the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI) data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) Friday. According to the data, the commodities that witnessed decrease in prices on week-on-week (WoW) basis included garlic and tomatoes the prices of which declined by 4.94 percent and 4.17 percent respectively. Other products that witnessed decrease in prices included eggs (4.13%), LPG (1.59%), gur (1.03%), sugar (0.92%), pulse Gram (0.36%) and pulse Masoor (0.22%). On year-on-year (YoY) basis, the commodities that witnessed decrease in prices during the week compared to corresponding week of last year included chillies powdered (37.44%), pulse Moong (29.02%), eggs (22.13%), sugar (12.27%), potatoes (5.46%) and electricity charges for Q1 (0.16%). – APP

Court orders treatment of PML-N's Tanveer

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A Rawalpindi court on Friday turned down a plea seeking an extension in PML-N leader Chaudhry Tanveer Khan's physical remand. The court ordered provision of medical treatment to the ailing former senator who has been arrested in connection with a corruption case registered by the Punjab Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE). He was shifted to Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology from the court for necessary treatment. Chaudhry Tanvir had been abroad due to illness and had returned to Pakistan to attend his son's wedding. On March 11, he was arrested by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) at Karachi airport when he was trying to fly out of the country. His name was placed on the watch list.

IESCO issues power suspension programme

ISLAMABAD, Mar 25 (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Friday issued a power suspension programme for Saturday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 09:00 AM to 5:00 PM, ECHS, SDW, Valley, AWT-4, Sangiani, Shahullah Dutta, MVHS-2 Feeders from 09:00 AM to 02:00 PM Main Bazaar, Akwal, Bilal Abad, Ara Bazaar, Jund Malhowali, Gulshan Abad, Major Masood, B.B Shaheed, Rata, Mangtal, DM Textile, Railway Colony, Gulzar Shaheed, Race Course, Askari-XI, Misriyal Road, Iqbal Road, Bhoon, KRL, Fazaia, Jinnah Camp, Falcon, STP, Industrial-2, Tramri, Lehtar Road, ISI, Industrial, Bank Road-2, Sohawa Katchary Feeders from 08:00 AM to 04:00 PM Beirut Gala, Feeders and surroundings. – APP

Briefs

Police committed to resolve public issues

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Police was committed to resolve public grievances on priority and to protect the lives and property of the citizens. It was stated by the Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Muhammad Ahsan Younas while listening issues and grievances of public as well as retired and serving officials during khuli kacheri (Open Court) held at Central Police Office on Friday.

IGP strictly directed all zonal officers to listen to public complaints and resolve them purely on merit. "No laxity would be tolerated in this regard" he maintained.

During the open court, Islamabad Police chief listened to the grievances of the citizens and marked their applications to the concerned officers for timely action on merit. He also directed them to send reports to his offices in the given time frame.

Muhammad Ahsan Younas emphasized that Islamabad police would not leave any stone unturned to save the lives and property of the citizens adding that Islamabad police is taking many steps to facilitate public.

IGP directed all the police officials to adopt courteous attitude with the complainants visiting police stations and accomplish their responsibilities in a professional manner. - APP

FCA to meet on March 31

ISLAMABAD, Mar 25 (APP): Federal Committee on Agriculture (FCA) would meet on March 31 to review the performance of Rabi crops and set the production target of Kharif crops for season 2022-23.

The committee would take stock of the output of wheat, which is major cash crop of the country and vital source to fulfill the domestic requirements of staple food, said an official in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research.

The meeting which would be chaired by Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam also attended by the provincial ministers of agriculture, where as representative of other concerned department would also attend the meeting, he added. He said that FCA would also review the output of other minor crops including pulses and oil seeds, besides it set the target for Kharif crop for season 2022-23.

The FCA would set the targets of major Kharif crops including cotton, rice, sugarcane and maize to fulfill the domestic requirements as well as exporting, he added. The meeting would also take stock of the availability of major agriculture inputs including certified seeds, fertilizers, pesticides credit arrangements by the different lenders and micro-finance institutions throughout the season across the country. - APP

Chehlum of Rehman Malik on Sunday

ISLAMABAD: Rasm-e-Chehlum and Qur'an Khawani of Pakistan People's Party Senior leader and former Interior Minister, Senator Abdul Rehman Malik will be held on March (Sunday). Rasm-e-Chehlum and Quran Khawani of Rehman Malik, who passed away on February 23, 2022, at a private hospital in Islamabad, will be held at 3 pm at House No. 9, Street No. 89, Embassy Road G-6/3 Islamabad.

Abdul Rehman Malik who was born on December 12, 1951 held various important positions during his long career and served the country all his life playing an important and heroic role in the internal, external and political affairs of the country, successfully handling major national and security challenges faced by the country.

Government of Pakistan, in his time had honoured him with the highest civil awards of Sitara-e-Shujaat Gallantry - a civilian award for bravery, and Nishan-e-Imtiaz for his bravery and in recognition of his outstanding services to the country. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Chief guest Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Hamza Shafqaat, PTI MNA Aijaz Chaudhary, owner of restaurant Numan Masood and others cutting ribbon to inaugurate the restaurant "Khaaba" in F-7. - DNA

UNODC, FIA hold moot on combating human trafficking

Honourable Provincial Minister for Women Development Syeda Shehla Raza in her remarks said, that, "I strongly believe to help support and promote economic empowerment of the population at risk of trafficking particularly women and children"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in collaboration with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), with the support of Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) organized a high-level Public-Private Partnership Conference to prevent Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants. UNODC and FIA have been collaborating for over three decades to curb trafficking in persons.

The Conference provided a platform to the relevant stakeholders of public and private sectors to hold extensive discussions on the issues related to trafficking in persons (TIP), and Smuggling of Migrants (SOM). Participants with multidisciplinary backgrounds had an opportunity to interact with each other and deliberate on various aspects of the subject. Detailed presentations from experts highlighted multifaceted issues related to Trafficking in Persons, the implications of enacted laws, and the importance of collaboration between various stakeholders to eliminate these crimes.

Dr. Jeremy Milsom, Representative UNODC Country Office Pakistan, in his welcome remarks stated, "Due to the multifaceted nature of human trafficking and migrants smuggling, and its close connections with other transnational issues, no country is capable of combating this transnational threat on its own". According to the UN Trafficking Protocol, "Trafficking involves the movement of people through deceptive, coercive, or abusive means for exploitation". This threat, therefore, requires a coordinated and meaningful response at all levels: local, regional, and international.

Dr. Milsom further said, "Human trafficking and smuggling of migrants are also issues of economic and social development". However, these crimes are not characteristic of a fragile or poor country, they are faced by nearly 100 countries worldwide, irrespec-



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Sania for strict action against fraudster agents

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: In a press statement, Senator Dr. Sania Nishtar, SAPM has caveated of strict actions being taken against fraudster agents involved in deductions from disbursements of Ehsaas Kafaaal beneficiaries. Warning agents to refrain from deductions, Dr. Sania further reaffirmed that all those involved in deductions from payments of Kafaaal beneficiaries will be dealt with strictly according to the law. Ehsaas Kafaaal payments for the period January to June 2022 are underway across all Tehsils countrywide. Prime Minister has raised the six-monthly stipend amount of Ehsaas Kafaaal from Rs.12,000 to Rs.14,000. With this increase in the Kafaaal stipend by Rs. 2,000 all eligible beneficiaries of Kafaaal are now being paid Rs.14,000.



Highlighting important pointers regarding defrauding activities, Dr. Sania emphasized on three things: Firstly, all Ehsaas Kafaaal beneficiaries should get full payment of Rs. 14,000. Beneficiaries whose children are enrolled in Ehsaas Taleemi Wazaif; their stipend amount is more than Rs. 14,000. "I would strongly advise all Ehsaas recipients not to forget collecting computerized receipt at the time of payment and double check that the stipend amount mentioned on the receipt is aligned with the cash received", Dr. Sania reiterated. Secondly, she asked beneficiaries not to submit CNICs to retailers prior to Ehsaas payment. Original CNIC should be presented only at the time of Ehsaas payment. "No agent is allowed to hold CNICs of Ehsaas beneficiaries", she said.

CDA to organize 'Islamabad Marathon'

ISLAMABAD: The CDA will organize 'Islamabad Marathon' on March 26 (Saturday) in order to provide healthy activity to the residents of the federal capital. According to CDA spokesman, the regular registration was started through an online form available on CDA's official website. The marathon will have three categories - 42km, 21km and 10km, with separate competitions for men and women. The cash prizes will be given to winners of each category. A committee was formed to ensure that the marathon was up to international standards. "All expenses of this marathon was borne by the CDA, and widely advertised so that not only people from within the country but also from abroad could participate," the spokesman added. - APP

Islamabad police introduce online complaints portal

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) has introduced a digital Complaint Management System to provide the facility registration. Under the system, the people can register their complaints using the ICT police CMS. According to Inspector General Ahsan Younas, the citizen can register their FIR on www.islamabadpolice.gov.pk and complaints.islamabad.gov.pk, the complaint will be registered in the relevant police station and the team will contact through WhatsApp or text message. After the registration of the complaint, it will be monitored by the senior police officers. Citizens can use the CMS to file the following types of complaints:

- Registration of FIR
- Reservation on investigation
- Complaint against officials
- Crime against women and children
- Traffic complaint

On the other hand, foreigners, overseas Pakistanis, and citizens of other cities can also register their complaints using the CMS. - DNA

Shafqat inaugurates NAVTTC Centre of Excellence

Govt was focusing on the reforms in TVET sector to bring the technical and vocational trainings in line with the requirements of the marketplace, to prepare workforce with accreditation from int'l bodies

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Shafqat Mahmood on Friday inaugurated the NAVTTC Centre of Excellence in Modern Technologies at National Vocational and Technical Training Commission, Islamabad. The center has been established by National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTC) with the cooperation of GIZ, European Union, Norway and Germany. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, the minister emphasized the need for more Centres of Excellence (COE) which would provide state of the art cutting edge technology trainings to the youth, a high demand skill nationally and internationally. NAVTTC has established COE Islamabad with multiple labs in modern technologies through donors, for Mechatronics, IT and CNC lab, he added. The Minister said the Government gave top priority to the TVET



sector and had provided Rs.10 billion under NAVTTC's Prime Minister's Skills for All - Kamyab Jawan Program, which was the flagship program of the government for providing income generating Hi-TECH skills to youth. The Government gave a high priority to skill training especially in Hi Tech like Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, cyber security etc, he said. The government had given NAVTTC the target to produce one million skilled youth workforce, and availability of such a big skilled labour would have a massive improvement in the jobs market and industry. The government was focusing on the reforms in TVET sector to bring the technical and vocational trainings in line with the requirements of the marketplace, to prepare the workforce with accreditation from international bodies. Another batch of 63,000 youth were being provided skill trainings through 989 training partners and reputed universities. 95 percent youth had expressed satisfaction over the quality of the trainings by NAVTTC, he informed.

Powerful being held accountable, says Gill

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communications Dr. Shahbaz Gill on Friday said the powerful were being held accountable under the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government for the first time in the history.

While responding to Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Bilawal Zardari's statement, he said those who have been taking turns in forming governments in the past were barred from looting under PTI government. "Today, all politically retarded (opposition) have united to fight Imran Khan but like before this time too humiliation will be their destiny," he said. Gill said the incompetent opposition who have gathered against Imran Khan were nothing but losers.

"Some of them escape to London after hearing about accountability while some get a back ache. Those who have plundered the province of Sindh are also hiding themselves under fake illnesses. But the nation knows their corrupt faces and deeds," he said. - APP

Court orders medical treatment of Ch Tanveer

DNA

RAWALPINDI: A Rawalpindi court on Friday turned down a plea seeking an extension in PML-N leader Chaudhry Tanveer Khan's physical remand.

The court ordered provision of medical treatment to the ailing former senator who has been arrested in connection with a corruption case registered by the Punjab Anti-Corruption Establishment (ACE). He was shifted to Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology from the court for necessary treatment. Chaudhry Tanvir had been abroad due to illness and had returned to Pakistan to attend his son's wedding. On March 11, he was arrested by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) at Karachi airport when he was trying to fly out of the country. His name was placed on the watch list. Former PML-N senator Chaudhry Tanveer has been accused of illegally occupying 45 kanals of government land. According to officials, the former senator illegally built a house and a plaza on the encroached land.

9 outlaws held, drugs recovered

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have arrested nine outlaws from different areas of the city and recovered stolen motorbikes, drugs and weapons. The federal capital had launched a massive crackdown against anti-social elements, following orders of IGP Islamabad Muhammad Ahsan Younas to make Islamabad a crime free city, said a news release on Friday. As per details a special team headed by SHO Ramna Akhtar Zaman along with other officials rounded up the accused involved in bike theft incidents. The police team had traced a gang known as Shehzad sawati gang and arrested two of its accused identified as Shehzad Khan and Ghulam Murtaza and recovered six stolen motorbikes, cash and weapons used in crime. Furthermore, Koral police team arrested two drug peddlers namely Muhammad Naveed alias billa and Arslan and recovered 1145 gram hashish. Bhara kahu police arrested an accused namely Abdul Rehman and recovered a 30 bore pistol. - APP

PTI fighting for supremacy of state institutions

ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Commerce Aliya Hamza Malik Friday said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government was fighting for supremacy of state institutions and the opposition was a bunch of frustrated politicians who were only pursuing politics of chaos. Talking to a private news channel, she said that government was not afraid from any no-confidence motion, adding, PDM leadership was using unethical languages in their public meetings against government which was shameful. - APP

The sanctions siege

AFTER being sanctioned, Russia finds itself exposed to geopolitical systems controlled by others. Western nations are tearing up treaties and ending foreign investment. Multinational companies are leaving, often because of reputational concerns rather than any ban. On Thursday, the UK and US announced further sanctions on Russian lawmakers and state-owned companies. Russia's importance to the globe goes beyond its size as the world's 11th-largest economy. Reorienting Russian oil, gas and coal exports away from the US and EU to Asian importers would be a big economic shock. Moscow weaponised its gas exports this week by demanding double payments from unfriendly European nations. But high oil and gas prices will shift investment back into extractive industries, risking a reversal of the planet-saving trend towards clean energy. Closing off the Black Sea's Eurasian land bridge would also add pressure to congested sea trade routes. Russia is the source of many essential minerals. About 25 African countries import more than one-third of their wheat from either Russia or Ukraine. The UN's development arm, Unctad, warned on Thursday that poorer nations face if not unrest then a "profound social malaise" and "a downward spiral of insolvency, recession and arrested development". Russia could develop new technologies to break out of this geopolitical cage. Before the first world war, Germany attempted to escape the UK's stranglehold on the undersea cable network by developing new wireless technologies. Today, Russia may accelerate its "sovereign internet" plans to evade US web surveillance. Wars reshape political – and economic – orders. Mr Putin's opponents are aiming to apply as much pressure as they can with as little fallout for themselves as possible. They are seeking to manage the risk of a domestic political backlash against their Russian sanctions. Poorer nations will need help or they risk being immiserated. Russia is also not isolated. Unless Mr Putin is no longer Russia's president, he will probably attend this year's G20 summit in Indonesia. Nations can – unwittingly or deliberately – turn a blind eye to bans. When Roman Abramovich's superyacht sailed into a Turkish port this week, it epitomised how reluctant even a Nato member might be in applying sanctions. By acting against Russia, the US and its allies are playing for high stakes. This week, many Muscovites felt the sanctions bite. There have been widespread reports of panic buying in the country's supermarkets. President Joe Biden's warning of possible Russian cyber-attacks in response to sanctions might be the beginning of a much more dangerous phase of the economic war.

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Chinese FM in Afghanistan

CHINA'S foreign minister made a surprise stop on Thursday in Afghanistan's capital to meet with the country's new Taliban rulers – even as the international community fumes over the former insurgents' broken promise to reopen schools to girls beyond the sixth grade. The Taliban, who seized power in August 2021 during the last, chaotic weeks of the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO forces from Afghanistan after 20 years of war, have been seeking international recognition in order to open up the country's economy, which has been in free fall since their takeover. China has not shown any inclination to recognize the Taliban government but has avoided criticizing the new rulers despite their repressive rules directed particularly at women, who are denied the right to work and full access to education. China has also kept its embassy in Kabul open and has offered limited emergency assistance. The U.S.-led coalition unseated the Taliban in 2001 after they refused to hand over al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in America. The Taliban returned to power in mid-August and installed an all-male, Taliban-only administration. The international community has been urging them to open up the government to ethnic minorities and women. Wang is one of the highest-level visitors to Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover. China has economic and mining interests in Afghanistan and Afghans familiar with past talks between the Taliban and Chinese officials say Beijing wants Taliban commitments to prevent Uyghur militants from setting up operations in Afghanistan. Despite consistent and documented reports of Beijing's crackdown on the Uyghurs, Wang was welcomed as a special guest in Pakistan earlier this week, at a summit of foreign ministers from the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. At the summit, Wang called for negotiations to end the war in Ukraine. None of the OIC participants or host Pakistan, which has been particularly vocal about growing Islamophobia, mentioned China's crackdown on its minority Muslims, including the destruction of mosques and punishment for those Uyghurs who participate in religious edicts. China also has an interest in a stable Afghanistan as it has been used as a base for insurgent attacks against Chinese nationals in neighboring Pakistan. China has invested billions of dollars in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a transit and trade project linking the Arabian Sea Port of Gwadar in Pakistan with China in the northwest. Pakistan has complained that militant groups – including those targeting CPEC projects – are finding shelter in Afghanistan, where the Taliban's leadership is reluctant to turn against former allies.

Celebritized leadership

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi



Dr. David Simm, Emeritus Professor at Lancaster University UK, suggests in his PhD dissertation, "All intangible assets of a reputational nature including celebrity are similar to the extent that they influence the perceptions of stakeholders and

THERE isn't an abundance of leaders who enjoy a status of celebrity before holding a position of power. It can be both the advantage and a drawback psychologically and on performance front for a leader having celebrity status. They are exposed to a double edged sword because their every move and every word remain under scrutiny. They get exceptional applause if they perform well but the scale of disappointment remains even higher if they don't meet expectations. They cherish abundance of advocates who try to justify their failures on performance front; however, it is usually hard to defend if they use indecent metaphors in their communication and speeches. Most recently we noticed several surprising analogies for the opposition by the Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan in the mainstream political arena such as the 'three jokers', if we try to express 'chuhay' decently the 'three dwarfs', the three stooges, the boot polisher, the diesel, the thief, a complete narrative that 'a human being can't be neutral, it is only a non-human (janwar) who can be neutral, a human being definitely takes a side may be right or wrong which is eventually decided on the basis of consequences' and a blatant treat, obviously symbolic, that an opponent will be 'on my gunpoint'. PM even didn't spare de-

viant parliamentarians of his own party calling them unscrupulous; PM didn't stop here, he extended consequences to their children emphasising that 'your offspring will face retaliation in their schools and you will even not be able to marry them conveniently', PM warned that 'deviant members will be remembered as unfaithful for rest of their lives'. These quite aggressive positions in politics certainly attracts attention of students of the concept of 'leadership', like me, to understand the nature of this particular kind of leadership approach to determine underpinnings of this relatively strange exhibition of leadership stature.

Dr. David Simm, Emeritus Professor at Lancaster University UK, suggests in his PhD dissertation, "All intangible assets of a reputational nature including celebrity are similar to the extent that they influence the perceptions of stakeholders and, consequently, their willingness to enter into an exchange. Whilst intangible assets such as status, reputation and legitimacy attempt to objectively evaluate future potential, in the case of a celebrity, such evaluations may, because of its perceived fame and favour, be positive even in situations where there is insufficient information to make such rational judgements. Together, the ability to attract large scale public attention and to stimulate positive emotional responses provides celebrity with access to critical resources and strategic opportunities (e.g. alliances and partnerships) that it might have only limited or no access to otherwise. Since celebrity is primarily a creation of the mass media who are also the primary source for perceptions. The media are an integral aspect of modern society. In general, they can, both intentionally and unintentionally, influence the news and, ultimately, public opinion in numerous ways. Essentially, it is impossible for the media to present a flawlessly objective picture of a happening or phenomenon."

This one paragraph from Dr. Simm's thesis probably describes the entire landscape of PM's political career. He was and still a celebrity not only in Pakistan but in several western and non-western societies. His celebrity status helped him in the political career while several stakeholders were readily willing to join hands with him due to perceived potential based on two popular successes including the Cricket World Cup and establishment of Shaukat Khan Hospital. PM's ability to attract large-scale public attention and to stimulate positive emotional responses remained instrumental in his every endeavour while media played key role particularly in shaping his political career. We can give numerous reasons for relatively less technical abilities of the PM to run a government and economic turmoil due to global circumstances. However, while witnessing changing stances of some die-hard advocates and recent statements of the PM

it seems quite obvious that media failed to present flawlessly objective persona of the PM. It is vital for a leader to remain psychodynamically conscious that when does confidence turn into arrogance and when does drive become ruthless ambition. Leaders with celebrity status usually exhibit grandiosity, perceived superiority & entitlement, self-centeredness, domineering, controlling and arrogance which are generally forbidden commodities in politics at least publically. While traits are certainly useful for a leader which actually paves the way to become a celebritized leader, however, leadership is ultimately a phenomenon that resides in the context of quality of interactions between leaders and followers. Leadership is observed through attitude and behaviour of a leader that how leader thinks or feels about followers and how leader acts or conducts followers. On the ground both attitude and behaviour of a leader determine in-groups and out-groups of followers irrespective of celebrity or non-celebrity leader, therefore being celebrity it adds to the responsibilities of a leader to be more responsible and careful.

There are different types of celebrity leaders such as creators, transformers, rebellious, savior, icons, hidden gems, silent killers and even scoundrels. Some of these types of celebrity leaders seem self-explanatory but some do instigate the reader to probe further for better understanding. Researchers do agree that these types have strong links with the life events which ultimately bestowed celebrity status to the leader. While going through an article by Jeffrey B. Lovelace from University of Virginia and his colleagues, PM fits into the category of rebellious celebritized leader because PM challenged usual political norms and took extreme positions to differentiate proponents and deviants. PM also targeted the opposition quite aggressively. These characteristics conveniently place him in the archetype of rebel celebrity leader. To avoid allowing celebrity traits to take over, leaders need to have a better understanding of how they react to certain situations and what their default destructive behaviour is. This can be done by asking for feedback, becoming more self-aware and learning more about positive personality traits that are found in effective leaders. As books suggest, asking for feedback can be hard for constructive criticism; however, doing so can provide an outside view of how your behaviours are perceived. Be sure to talk to individuals who are not your confidants or who may just tell you what you want to hear. As a leader of the party or head of the government it is indeed difficult to find someone who gives you genuine feedback but again it is your responsibility as a leader, especially when things are not going in appropriate direction, to determine where the flaw is in the leadership process?

Civil society and social change in Pakistan

Muhammad Anwar Farooq



Civil society has also a deep impact on culture. Culture is a complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom, and other capabilities acquired by people as members of society"

APERCEPTIBLE and deep layer of groups and communities that exists between the individuals and the modern state is called civil society. In Pakistan, it is an emerging arena for social and political change. It includes various organizations and associations that represent the interests of the majority population. These organizations and associations include trade unions, bar associations, teacher's associations, peasant organizations, student groups and charity organizations, etc.

In the contemporary world, each society is continuously changing due to various social & political events, technological & economic advancements. Commonly, civil society provides ways for individuals to contribute to the overall process of social development for the common good. The outcome of such social development process is social accountability which involves corporations, faith-based & other organizations accountable for their actions. Social accountability is necessary for the transparency of each process. It must be similar for all members of society. Commonly, civil society provides a platform for the disorganized to be organized. It provides ways for the empowerment of voiceless segments of society for spreading awareness on various social issues prevailing in society. Civil society also contributes to the governance process which includes policymaking and implementation. Simply, it provides ways for all participants to build relationships and make connections based on their values, behav-

48th conference of the OIC CFMs

Altat Kumail

The 48th OIC Foreign Ministers' Conference was held in Islamabad. The 53 foreign ministers and delegates took participated in this conference. The goals and objectives of the Charter include the promotion of co-operation among the Muslim Ummah in all walks of life, particularly in the political, economic, social, educational, and security spheres. The second agenda is being discussed is the Illegally occupied Jammu Kashmir and Palestine are two issues...

THE existence of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation is essential for the solution of the economic and social problems of Muslim countries. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation's Charter includes the promotion of unity, solidarity among Muslim countries, protection of the rights of Muslims, and the elimination of racial discrimination. The OIC is the second-largest political platform in the world after the United Nations. It also covers the minds of the intelligentsia of Muslim countries.

The 48th OIC Foreign Ministers' Conference was held in Islamabad. The 53 foreign ministers and delegates took participated in this conference. The goals and objectives of the Charter include the promotion of co-operation among the Muslim Ummah in all walks of life, particularly in the political, economic, social, educational, and security spheres. The second agenda is being discussed is the Illegally occupied Jammu Kashmir and Palestine are two issues that have been unresolved for the last fifty in Palestine and Kashmir where human rights are being violated has raised serious concerns and all Muslim countries have been urged to launch a full and dynamic campaign against India and Israel. The third agenda to defame Islam and Muslims, especially in the Western and Indian media, Islam is misinterpreted and misconstrued which has led to intense hatred against Muslims in non-Muslim societies. The leader's Emphasis was placed on resolving and highlighting the beautiful face and the Muslim States has the effort to counter Islam phobia worldwide .UN. were thanked for passing

the resolution and declaring March 15 as the International Day for Combating Islam Phobia. The political and economic crisis in Afghanistan has to be resolved, where there is a fear of an unending political and economic crisis after the US withdrawal. It is also a good omen for the future to present a solid and clear position of the Muslim countries with one body and one soul for the solution of the economic problems facing Afghanistan. The foreign ministers of the Muslim countries have made announcements to get Afghanistan out of the economic crisis and now they will put these announcements into practice. So that the citizens of Afghanistan can get out of this crisis and lead a better life.

According to a United Nations report, half of Afghanistan's population 22.8 million people, are living in hunger and poverty at present, 3.2 million children are malnourished. According to the World Food Program are suffering and it is quite possible that if significant efforts are not made to address the humanitarian crisis, about 97% of the population will be forced to live below the poverty line, the effects of which will be limited not only to Afghanistan but to the world. There will be mass-level migration that will spread like wildfire throughout the region, causing far-reaching effects in Muslim countries. All Muslim nations want the OIC to do its utmost to address all the issues just as the European Union has adopted a blunt policy to resolve issues related to Europe. It is hoped that the conference will prove to be an important milestone in the unity, solidarity, development, and prosperity of the Muslim Ummah.

Briefs

NA session adjourned till Mar 28

FROM PAGE 01
six times in the 14th assembly and five times in the current assembly. NA Speaker Asad Qaiser had convened the session last Sunday. The NA secretariat had issued a 15-point order of the day for today Thursday night, with the no-trust motion against PM Imran Khan included on the agenda for the crucial session, alongside other affairs. The Opposition, confident of having the required numbers for the success of the no-confidence motion against the prime minister, had submitted the requisition along with notice of the no-confidence resolution, in the National Assembly Secretariat on March 8. The notice of no-confidence resolution against PM Imran Khan was signed by 152 opposition members.

Dama Dam Mast Qalandar...

FROM PAGE 01
"What difficulty was there? The Speaker could have convened the NA meeting before March 21," he emphasised and accused the Speaker of violating Article 6 of the Constitution. "Law and the Constitution are above traditions. The traditions have their own place, but the Speaker should have conducted voting for no-confidence motion," Shehbaz stated. He also blamed the Speaker for playing a heinous role, adding that eyes of the entire nation were at the Parliament. "The Speaker has reconvened the NA meeting on March 28 [Monday]. We will take every legal action if he again commits any unconstitutional act," he warned. "There will be 'Dama Dam Mast Qalandar' if the Speaker again tries to play foul in the NA session," he added.

US and EU strike major LNG deal

FROM PAGE 01
Concerns over security of supply were reinforced this week after Russia ordered the switch of gas contract payments to roubles, raising the risk of a supply squeeze and even higher prices. Senior U.S. administration officials did not specify what amount or percentage of the extra LNG supply would come from the United States. U.S. LNG plants are producing at full capacity and analysts say most of any additional U.S. gas sent to Europe would have to come from exports that would have gone elsewhere. "It normally takes two to three years to build a new production facility, so this deal may be more about the re-direction of existing supplies than new capacity," said Alex Froy, gas and LNG analyst at ICIS. - APP

Qureshi-led delegation meets...

FROM PAGE 01
MQM delegation. During the meeting, Qureshi conveyed the important message of Prime Minister Imran Khan to the MQM leadership. The meeting was also attended by federal ministers Farogh Naseem, Aminul Haque and Javed Hanif. Qureshi said that they took a goodwill message to MQM Pakistan. "We have told them to be together as they are our ally. The meeting with the MQM-P delegation was held in a good environment and it was a positive and fruitful meeting." The foreign minister said that the MQM-P delegation clearly told them that they have not made any commitment with Pakistan People's Party (PPP), adding that MQM-P told them that PPP is giving false statements. Earlier in the day, Federal Minister for Information Technology Aminul Haque said that MQM is still part of the federal government and any decision will be taken after consultation with our constituents and activists of the party. While speaking to the media after arriving for the National Assembly session, Aminul Haque said that the MQM-P is still part of the government and the flag on his car proves it.

Australia outclass Pakistan to claim Benaud-Qadir Trophy

Pakistan captain Babar, who saved the hosts from the jaws of defeat in the second test in Karachi with a 196 in the second innings, made 55. Cummins dismissed Fawad Alam and wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan

DNA

LAHORE: Off-spinner Nathan Lyon took five wickets to help Australia beat Pakistan by 115 runs in the final session of the deciding third Test in Lahore and clinch the three-match series 1-0 on Friday. The 34-year-old took the prized wickets of Imam-ul-Haq, Azhar Ali and Babar Azam to end Pakistan's resistance and finished with figures of 5-83 in Pakistan's second innings. Fast bowler Pat Cummins provided ample support by picking up three wickets as Pakistan folded for 235 on the final day of the test match at the Gaddafi Stadium, chasing a target of 351. Pakistan captain Babar, who saved the hosts from the jaws of defeat in the second test in Karachi with a 196 in the second innings, made 55. Cummins dismissed Fawad Alam and wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan, who also struck an unbeaten 104 in the second innings of the drawn Karachi test,



in successive overs with both batsmen falling leg before wicket. Television replays, however, showed Rizwan would have survived if he had asked for a review

of the umpire's decision. Australia also erred by not reviewing a not-out decision for catch against Babar with replays showing the hosts' batting mainstay had got

a glove to a Lyon delivery which was taken at slip by Steve Smith. Lyon should have picked up Babar on 45 just before tea but Travis Head failed to hold on to

the catch at deep midwicket. The off-spinner had the last laugh when he induced an edge from Babar with Smith, who had a tough time in the series with his catching, completing a brilliant grab low at slip.

The first two tests in the series - the first between the sides in Pakistan since 1998 - were drawn. Opener Imam looked the most confident at the crease for Pakistan, defending resolutely during his knock of 70.

He was, however, out straight after lunch when he got an inside edge to his pad against Lyon to be caught by close-in fielder Marnus Labuschagne. The experienced Azhar, playing his 94th test but the first at his home ground, also fell for 17 to Lyon after a decision that stoked controversy. Australia asked for a review of the not-out decision, and the third umpire ruled in favour of the touring side after replays showed a faint edge when the ball passed the bat, although Azhar was convinced he had not hit it.

Portugal stay on track for World Cup 2022



DNA

PORTO: Portugal are through to a decisive World Cup qualifying play-off final next week after beating Turkey 3-1 in Porto on Thursday, but only after Burak Yilmaz missed a crucial late penalty for the visitors. The home side were cruising at the Estadio do Dragao thanks to first-half goals by Brazilian-born midfielder Otavio and Liverpool forward Diogo Jota. But Turkey's veteran skipper Yilmaz pulled a goal back in the 65th minute, setting up a tense finish. Turkey were then awarded

a late penalty when a foul on Enes Unal was detected by the German referee following a VAR review, but Yilmaz put the spot-kick over the bar and Mathias Nunes secured Portugal's victory in stoppage time. The 36-year-old Yilmaz may now never get the chance to play at a World Cup as Turkey's wait to return to the finals goes on. They have not appeared at the World Cup since coming third in Japan and South Korea in 2002. Portugal have not missed out on the tournament since 1998 and they will now expect to secure a spot in Qatar when they host North Macedonia in a play-off decider next Tues-

day. At 37, Cristiano Ronaldo's dream of World Cup glory remains alive and few sides in international football can match the attacking threat of Fernando Santos's team. Here Santos left Joao Felix on the bench and handed a surprise start to Otavio, the Brazilian-born Porto winger. The 2016 European champions started strongly and went ahead on the quarter-hour mark as a Bernardo Silva shot hit the post and Otavio, winning just his third cap, netted the follow-up. The second goal arrived three minutes before the interval at the end of a flowing move, as Otavio clipped a cross from

the edge of the box for Jota to head in at the back post. Portugal were cruising but then Turkey pulled one back in the 65th minute as Cengiz Under slipped a pass in for Lille forward Yilmaz to score. The home side, missing their first-choice centre-back pairing of Pepe and Ruben Dias due to Covid-19 and injury respectively, began to look shaky and Turkey took advantage. Jose Fonte's contact with Unal in the box was initially missed by referee Daniel Siebert but he awarded a penalty after reviewing the images, despite the Turkey player clearly exaggerating the impact of the challenge.

Osaka cruises past Kerber in Miami

MIAMI: Naomi Osaka beat Angelique Kerber 6-2 6-3 on Thursday in a one-sided clash of two former world number ones to reach the third round of the Miami Open, where Garbine Muguruza and Simona Halep withdrew with injuries. Four-times Grand Slam champion Osaka made a strong start against German 13th seed Kerber, grabbing an early break to go 2-0 up and dominating on serve in a 29-minute opening set. Osaka denied Kerber any chance of getting back into the match and had total control of her game as she went on to close out the 60-minute contest on her third match point when her opponent sent a forehand long. The victory was Osaka's first against Kerber since the 2017 US Open and denied her opponent a fifth consecutive win in their head-to-head series, which the German now leads 4-2. It also marked Osaka's first win over a top-20 player since last year's Miami Open. "It is a confidence booster, but I didn't go into the match not confident, if that makes sense," Osaka told reporters. "For me, it kind of just shows all the hard work that I have been doing throughout the year." Up next for Osaka, who arrived in Miami following a second-round loss at Indian Wells where she was reduced to tears after being heckled during the match, will be Czech Karolina Muchova, who beat US Open finalist Leylah Fernandez 6-4 7-6(3). In other second-round action, Olympic doubles champion Katerina Siniakova was down a set and a break but rallied to secure a 3-6 4-7 5-7 win over US Open champion Emma Raducanu in a match lasting nearly three hours. - APP



IUCN appoints Mahnoor as Youth Ambassador

ISLAMABAD: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Pakistan) on Friday appointed the country's youngest athlete Mahnoor Saleh as the Youth Ambassador for Environment in Gilgit-Baltistan, recognising her efforts to break the taboos and become a professional female winter sports player. The IUCN-Pakistan organised a ceremony to celebrate the unprecedented contribution of Mahnoor

Saleh hailing from the far-flung area of the mountainous region of GB which is home to one of the world's highest peaks, glaciers and pristine biodiversity facing huge pressure due to environmental degradation. Addressing the ceremony, Country Director Mahmood Akhtar Cheema said the achievement of silver medal and becoming the youngest athlete of the country at the age of four years. - APP

Italy miss second successive World Cup

PALERMO: Italy will miss their second World Cup in a row after slumping to a shock 1-0 play-off semi-final defeat to North Macedonia on Thursday. Aleksandar Trajkovski's low drive in the second minute of stoppage time stunned the European champions in Palermo and set-up a qualifying final with Portugal in Porto on Tuesday for a chance to be in Qatar in November. Roberto Mancini's side were loudly booed off after a defeat which means Italy will have to wait until at least 2026 to see its national team at a World Cup. By then it will have been 12 years since the Azzurri's last participation in the world's biggest football tournament after they failed to qualify for the 2018 edition, also crashing out in the play-offs on that occasion. Italy as predicted dominated the play but as has been the case in recent matches struggled to break down a resolute away side and when presented with chances were not clinical enough to take them. The hosts should have been ahead on the half-hour mark when Domenico Berardi was gifted the ball on the edge of the area by goalkeeper Stole Dimitrievski.

The Sassuolo winger, who has been in red-hot form this season for his club, took too long to shoot and hit his effort into Dimitrievski's welcoming arms. It was wave after wave of Italy attack but an initially vibrant crowd began to grow frustrated at their inability to carve out a clear opportunity to score, and it showed in a team which began to look desperate make the breakthrough. Those fans were on their feet hailing an Italy hero seven minutes before the break, but it was for Alessandro Florenzi stopping Darko Churlinov from giving North Macedonia a shock lead after bursting through into a great scoring position. Berardi looked Italy's biggest threat and went close three times in the space of five five second-half minutes, first hitting a weak shot at Dimitrievski before curling another one just wide seconds later. And the 27-year-old had his head in his hands in the 58th minute when after beautifully spinning into a shooting opportunity he smashed over with his weaker right foot. He was frustrated again just after the hour, this time Ezgjan Alioski throwing himself into a fantastic block after Marco Verratti had clipped Berardi through with a typically classy ball. Giacomo Raspadori then smashed a first-time shot over the bar from the edge of the box and Gianluca Mancini headed a corner over the bar as Italy continued to push without ever managing to break their opponents down. - Agencies

Independent member assures support: Bilawal

FROM PAGE 01

How long will the selected be able to avoid the no-confidence? We will use the democratic weapon of no-confidence against this undemocratic person, Imran Khan. Chairman PPP felicitated the people of Pakistan who rejected the selected, Imran Khan. Imran Khan's government has ended and soon he will be a former prime minister. Responding to the questions of journalists, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that the prime minister and the Speaker are both undemocratic. We are resisting all these undemocratic forces with democracy. Insha Allah, the next prime minister will be an elected prime minister. Neutrality is still continued and our long term struggle has been for this neutrality. This no-confidence is also a part of the same struggle.

Earlier on arrival at the parliament house responding a question from media the former President of Pakistan and President Pakistan People Party Parliamentarians, Asif Ali Zardari said that Insha Allah the things will be better. He said that if the Speaker does not allow tabling the no-confidence motion then we will protest. He said that the allies can form a government with the opposition. He said that he is 100% confident that the no-confidence will be successful. Chairman PPP, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari talking to journalists in the parliament House said that everyone knows that victory is ours. We had total members of opposition. We will request for production order of Ali Wazir. The victory and defeat are as per Allah's will but our preparations are complete. You will see what we do.

Afterwards Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari participated in the joint meeting of opposition members. All the opposition members were in attendance. The members were given important instructions regarding the session. Chairman PPP met the independent member National Assembly, Ali Nawaz Shah in the opposition lobby. After meeting the Chairman PPP, Ali Nawaz Shah assured his support for no-confidence motion.

Nawaz' plane could land...

FROM PAGE 01

The PML-N leader said some time ago, PM Imran was saying that he will not give NRO but now he is demanding the NRO for himself and holding political rallies by using the government machinery. Maryam said that PM Imran said to say that he did not come to check the rates of potato and tomato but now wants to be a political martyr. She said PM Imran could not be Nawaz Sharif by using tricks to be a political martyr. Addressing the convention in PML-N's Model Town Secretariat, Hamza Shehbaz Sharif said they were not worried about the revenge of PM Imran to his family but for the masses who are facing high inflation.

Pak rejects Indian reaction...

FROM PAGE 01

"Besides, the ascendant BJP-RSS inspired 'Hindutva' ideology has restricted the space for minorities, especially Muslims, whose persecution under state patronage has become a norm in today's India", the FO statement added. The OIC has accordingly condemned massive human rights abuses in IOJK, and has once again firmly rejected India's illegal and unilateral actions of 5 August 2019 and subsequent steps aimed at altering the demographic composition of the occupied territory, said the statement. The OIC has also denounced the blatant and widespread discrimination, intolerance and violence against Muslims in India, and called upon India to ensure their rights including religious freedom. The OIC has also inter alia expressed grave concern over the incident of 9 March 2022, involving a supersonic missile launched into the territory of Pakistan from India.

Pakistani culture adds colours to Nowruz festival

Addressing on the occasion, Secretary General, SCO, Zhang Ming welcomed the distinguished guests and expressed gratitude to the heads of diplomatic missions of the Shanghai family for their assistance and active participation in the celebration of Nowruz

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan's cultural performance, regional costumes and traditional cuisines added colours to a reception held to mark the International Nowruz Day and official inauguration of the new Secretary General of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) here on Friday. Pakistani students attired in vibrant and colourful regional costumes performed at tunes of folk and national songs giving the audience rare glimpses of Pakistan's rich culture and traditions. The reception organized at the SCO Secretariat was attended by SCO Secretary General, Zhang Ming, Pakistan Ambassador to China,

Moinul Haque, the ambassadors, senior officials, as well as prominent public figures, journalists, business people, and cultural representatives of the SCO family. Talking to APP, Ambassador Haque said that Pakistan is an important member of the SCO family and is celebrating Nowruz, which is an ancient celebration of spring dating back to around 3000 years. "We are contributing in this festival through participation for greater interaction between the member states for peace and prosperity in our region," he added. He said that Pakistan has

a rich history and cultural diversity, adding, "Through our traditions, customs and cuisines, we showcase our people and soft image of Pakistan." Ambassador Haque expressed the confidence that Pakistan's participation in such activities will help better understanding, foster

mutual love, affection and co-operation among SCO states and promote tourism for our country. Addressing on the occasion, Secretary General, SCO, Zhang Ming welcomed the distinguished guests and expressed gratitude to the heads of diplomatic missions of the Shanghai family for

their assistance and active participation in the celebration of Nowruz. He said the ideals of Nowruz and the Shanghai Spirit were very close and largely coinciding. The celebration of Nowruz had a deep meaning and special significance in strengthening mutual understanding and the friendship between peoples of SCO countries.

During the festival, other SCO member states Russia, China, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Turkey, Iran, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, Myanmar and India also set up stalls, showcased their culture and traditional food and also presented musical performance to display their respective cultures and traditions.



Briefs

Japan
okays bigger
budget to host
US forces

TOKYO: Japan's parliament on Friday approved a new agreement with the United States, endorsing Japanese government spending exceeding 1 trillion yen (\$8 billion) for hosting U.S. troops as the two sides strengthen their military alliance in the face of growing threat from China and North Korea in the region. The 1.05 trillion yen (\$8.6 billion) host nation support budget covers the purchase of advanced arsenals used in their joint military exercises, as well as utilities and facilities used by the U.S. troops and their Japanese employees working on American bases in the country through March 2027. The upcoming five-year budget includes a new funding category of up to 20 billion yen (\$164 million) for the purchase of advanced virtual combat training systems for joint exercises between the two forces.

The roughly 200 billion yen (\$1.6 billion) for the first year is included in the fiscal 2022 national defense budget – a record 5.4 trillion yen (\$44 billion) – beginning in April. Japan's government now describes the host-nation support budget as necessary for strengthening the alliance, rather than for "kindness" as it used to be considered. Japan has been expanding its defense budget and capability for about a decade and is now revising its key national security strategy in the face of threats from China, North Korea and now Russia. Japan is especially concerned about Chinese military activity in waters in the East China Sea surrounding the Japanese-controlled Senkaku islands, which Beijing also claims and calls Diaoyu. – Agencies

US announces
new sanctions
after N Korea
ICBM test

WASHINGTON: The United States imposed new sanctions Thursday on entities and people in Russia and North Korea after Pyongyang's latest ICBM missile test. The targeted persons and organizations are accused of "transferring sensitive items to North Korea's missile program," according to a State Department statement. "These measures are part of our ongoing efforts to impede the DPRK's ability to advance its missile program and they highlight the negative role Russia plays on the world stage as a proliferator to programs of concern," the statement said, using the official acronym for North Korea. The new sanctions were quickly derided by Moscow's ambassador in Washington Anatoly Antonov, who said: "serial sanctions will not achieve their goals." Thursday's launch was the first time Pyongyang had fired the country's most powerful missiles at full range since 2017, and it appears to have travelled higher and further than any previous intercontinental ballistic missile tested by the nuclear-armed nation. Kim Jong Un personally oversaw the test-firing of a "new type" of ICBM to boost his country's nuclear deterrent against the US "imperialists," North Korea's state media reported early Friday. – APP

Pak students graduated from
China engaged in tech transfer

If you ask me why I studied in China for six years (four years for doctorate and two years for post doctorate), the answer is kindness

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistani students graduated from Chinese institutions are playing important role in technology transfer. This was stated by Dr. Abid Ali, Department of Entomology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF), Adjunct Professor at Shenyang Normal University and Research Fellow at Lanzhou University, China during an interview with China Economic Net (CEN). "So far, 20,000 Pakistani students have graduated from China. And frankly, you would be surprised to see figures that more than 30,000 students are currently studying in China",

he said. These students are active in Pakistan-China technological exchanges. According to Dr. Abid, 751 Pakistani students, researchers and university teachers participated in bilateral and multilateral agricultural training programs in 2021 supported by China Aid. Dr. Abid Ali himself is an example. As early as twelve years ago, he was admitted to the Graduate School of The Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) for doctoral and postdoctoral studies under the supervision of Professor Dr. Wu Kongming, current president of CAAS. "If you ask me why I studied in China for six years (four years for doctorate and two years for post doctorate), the

answer is kindness. Not only my teachers and peer students who were so dedicated and encouraging that they helped me practice everyday Chinese speaking, writing and reading, but also the people outside the campus who treated me like their townsman", he recalled. A most impressive episode is his stay at the Experimental Station of Institute of Plant Protection of CAAS in Langfang, a city 40 kilometers away from Beijing. "People there barely spoke any English, but somehow, I felt like living in my hometown. From the station manager, to the bus drivers, to the dormitory keepers, to the market sellers, they greeted me whenever they saw me. When I was

leaving, a Muslim brother who often invited me to his home for meals during the Muslim festivals asked me if I had enough money, just as my father did when I left Pakistan for China". The good old days still shine vividly in his memory. After graduation in 2016, he taught at Shenyang Normal University as Associate Professor under Talented Young Scientist Program (TYSP) and brought what he learned to his Alma Mater, the University of Agriculture Faisalabad, yet his ties with China have never been severed. In 2020 when Pakistan was attacked by locusts, he facilitated the connection with Professor Zhang Long from China Agriculture University, one of the leading

experts in the team that traveled from China to Pakistan to help with the desert locust control. At the MNS University of Agriculture, Multan (MNSUAM), he initiated the first Chinese language course together with Hebei Institute of International Business and Economics, which has produced over 50 graduates now working in various sectors. He also helped more Pakistani students to apply for Chinese academic institutions. "There were only three or four Pakistani students at GSCAAS back in 2010, but it is being introduced in front of more Pakistani young students. Now, five of my master degree students are pursuing their doctoral degrees in

Ningbo University, and one of my seniors Dr. Imran has become the first foreign professor in Zhejiang University, a prestigious institution in China". "With the technologies mutually promoted, the two countries can tap more opportunities of cooperation, such as agricultural tourism, rural transformation and inclusive growth, digital mass communication tools and joint publication of scientific journals, etc.", Dr. Abid Ali concluded. Information in this article comes from third party providers. This website does not provide explicit or implied warranty for such information and is not liable for any losses directly or indirectly caused by using such information.

Russian
ambassador
sues Italian
daily

ROME: The Russian ambassador to Italy, Sergey Razov, said on Friday he was suing Italian newspaper La Stampa over an article that had raised the possibility of killing President Vladimir Putin. "Needless to say that this goes against the rules of journalism and morality," Razov told reporters in front of the prosecutor's office in Rome after he had deposited the suit. On March 22 La Stampa published an analysis headlined "If killing the tyrant is the only option". The piece said if all other options failed to halt the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the only solution might be for someone to kill the president. Speaking through a translator, Razov said his suit accused the newspaper of soliciting and condoning a crime. La Stampa editor Massimo Giannini dismissed the accusation. "We do not take lessons from an illiberal regime that slaughters humanity and truth," he said in a video posted on the newspaper's website. – Agencies

Tigray rebels
agree to
'cessation
of hostilities'

ADDIS ABABA: Tigrayan rebels agreed to a "cessation of hostilities" on Friday, a new turning point in the nearly 17-month war in northern Ethiopia following the government's announcement of an indefinite humanitarian truce a day earlier. The rebels said in a statement sent to AFP early Friday that they were "committed to implementing a cessation of hostilities effective immediately," and urged Ethiopian authorities to hasten delivery of emergency aid into Tigray, where hundreds of thousands face starvation. Since war broke out in November 2020, thousands have died, and many more have been forced to flee their homes as the conflict has expanded from Tigray to the neighbouring regions of Amhara and Afar. On Thursday, Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government declared a surprise truce, saying it hoped the move would ease humanitarian access to Tigray and "pave the way for the resolution of the conflict" in northern Ethiopia. It called on the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) to "desist from all acts of further aggression and withdraw from areas they have occupied in neighbouring regions." – APP

Kyrgyz FM calls on Sadiq
Sanjrani, Chairman Senate

ISLAMABAD: H.E. Mr. Ruslan Kazakbaev, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic held the bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr. Sadiq Sanjrani, Chairman of the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in the framework of his participation in the 48th session of the OIC Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Islamabad.

During the conversation, the parties exchanged views on topical issues of the Kyrgyz-Pakistan inter-parliamentary cooperation, while discussing mutual visits and stressing the need for intensifying contacts between the Jogorku Kenesh of Kyrgyzstan and Senate of Pakistan. H.E. Mr. Sadiq Sanjrani highlighted the friendly and close ties that had developed between the parliaments of the two countries, expressed gratitude to the Kyrgyz side for the support provided to Pakistan within the organizations such as the International Parliamentary Union and Asian Parliamentary Assembly. With a view to deepening and expanding inter-parliamentary cooperation, the Head of the Senate of Pakistan invited H.E. Mr. Talant Mamytov, Chairman of Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic, to pay a visit to Pakistan in the near future. H.E. Mr. Ruslan Kazakbaev, in his turn, emphasized the interest of the Kyrgyz side in strengthening Kyrgyz-Pakistani relations in all areas of cooperation, and also briefed the Pakistani side on the political changes that had taken in Kyrgyzstan recently. Noting the importance of intensifying trade and economic relations between the countries, the parties discussed the possibilities of using the Gwadar



seaport for the export of Kyrgyz products to world markets, as well as the transit capacity of Kyrgyzstan for the supply of Pakistan goods to the market of the Eurasian Economic Union. Following the meeting the parties agreed to continue the political dialogue, provide mutual support in both bilateral and multilateral formats, as well as actively cooperate in order to develop the entire spectrum of Kyrgyz-Pakistani cooperation. – DNA

Europe should be careful
over sanctions against
Russia: Greek premier

ATHENS: Unprecedented massive package of sanctions against Russia "actually do bite" and hurt the European economy as well, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis has said in an interview with CNN. Mitsotakis said on Thursday that the Russian economy has contracted around 10%, adding that "all the gains that Russia has made over the past decade could be eradicated within a year." Although these sanctions are significant, Europe should be very careful not to let these sanctions hurt Europe more than they hurt Russia, he noted, referring to the elevated energy costs. Responding to a question on paying the price over the sanctions imposed, instead of fighting a war, Mitsotakis said: "We are paying a price." He added: "We all need to reassess our growth forecasts, we're faced with significant inflationary pressures as a result of the war, and energy costs are really hurting." Mitsotakis also noted that apart from being committed to supporting Ukraine, the same commitment goes to "citizens to make sure that they do not suffer more than they can actually bear." On the refugee crisis, he said: "We were at the forefront of the refugee crisis of the past. So we're very

sensitive in terms of making sure that we can provide a safe place for Ukrainian refugees." He added though that European countries need to do more because the numbers are just going to be "overwhelming." Greece currently hosts around 15,000 Ukrainians that fled their battered country since the Russian launched a war on Ukraine on Feb. 24. The Russia-Ukraine war has met international outrage with the EU, US, and UK, among others, implementing tough financial sanctions on Moscow. At least 1,035 civilians have been killed in Ukraine and 1,650 injured, according to UN estimates, while cautioning that the true figure is likely far higher. US President Joe Biden said on Thursday that Nato would "respond" if Russian President Vladimir Putin used a chemical weapon in his war on Ukraine. "We will respond if he uses it. The nature of the response would depend on the nature of the use," Biden said after a Nato summit in Brussels. The United States and allies upped the pressure on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine at summits in Brussels Thursday, warning Moscow its costs will keep rising the longer the war continues. – Agencies

China-Pakistan partnership
contributing to public well-
being: Chinese Embassy

The PM lauded the PIMS administration and said that it has the capacity to become the top health facility in the country

ISLAMABAD: The Chinese embassy in Pakistan said the partnership of China and Pakistan was contributing to the public well-being of Pakistan. It referred to recent ground-breaking of 200 beds accident & emergency center at PIMS (Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences). The embassy tweeted: "It will be constructed by a JV (Joint Venture) of a Chinese company and a Pakistani company. This partnership of contribute to the public well-being of Pakistan." Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday inaugurated the New Emergency Department of PIMS Hospital and a hospital in Sector G-13. Addressing the inauguration ceremony, the Prime Minister mentioned that Islamabad's population had doubled in the last

10 years, leading to a lack of new hospitals, and incumbent health facilities are under mounting pressure. The PM lauded the PIMS administration and said that it has the capacity to become the top health facility in the country. PIMS Director Dr Khalid Masood informed the emergency centre would be constructed in two years. The emergency centre building will have three floors and a parking plaza, with a capacity for 400 vehicles, he added. Sharing details about the Emergency and Trauma Centre, Dr Masood stated that the centre and parking plaza would be constructed on 6.5 acres. "There will be four operating rooms or surgery centres, acute care centre, isolation rooms, pharmacy, Central Sterile Supply Department (CSSD), laundry, CT scan facility, waiting hall and environmental services," Dr Masood elaborated. Infrastructure Development Authority of Punjab (IDAP) will be constructing a 200 Bed dedicated Emergency block with the support of its Chinese partner. – DNA

Blinken to
travel ME

WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will travel to Israel, the West Bank, Morocco and Algeria over March 26-30 to discuss the Ukraine war, Israeli-Palestinian relations and Iran, the State Department announced Thursday. Blinken will meet separately with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah, and while in Morocco will meet the UAE's ruler, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed. State Department Acting Assistant Secretary Yael Lempert said Blinken will be talking to leaders about the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has driven up oil and food prices. "We know this pain is keenly felt in the ME and North Africa, where most countries import at least half of their wheat" – much of it from Ukraine. – APP

Azerbaijan
rejects
Armenia's
accusations
of alleged
escalation

NEWS DESK

BAKU: The statement of the Armenian Foreign Ministry on March 24, which contains accusations against Azerbaijan in connection with the alleged escalation of the situation in the region, is another attempt to mislead the world community, the Foreign Ministry has reported. According to the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry, the process of clarifying the location of positions and deployment points is underway in the region, and there are no reasons for hysteria. The

Armenian side is engaged in disinformation, artificially inflating this issue, the statement said. As for the technical problems that have arisen over the past few days on the gas pipelines of the region due to weather conditions, Armenia deliberately uses this situation as an instrument for political manipulation, the ministry noted. "Armenia kept Azerbaijan's Nakhchivan with a population of more than 400 thousand people in a gas blockade for many years, for 30 years used the Sarang Reservoir as a tool for environmental terror against the population of Azerbaijan, for a long time denied the existence of maps of minefields, continues to hide information about the fate of about 4,000 Azerbaijanis who went missing in the early 1990s. Now Armenia is making similar unfounded accusations against Azerbaijan, which is political hypocrisy," the ministry added.

India logs
1,685 new
Covid cases

DNA

NEW DELHI: India's COVID-19 tally rose to 43,016,372 on Friday, as 1,685 new cases were registered during the past 24 hours across the country, showed the health ministry's latest data. Besides, as many as 83 deaths due to the pandemic since Thursday morning took the total death toll to 516,755. There are still 21,530 active COVID-19 cases in the country with a fall of 897 active cases during the past 24 hours. This was the 60th consecutive day when the number of active cases declined in India. So far 42,478,087 people have been successfully cured and discharged from hospitals so far, out of which 2,499 were discharged during the past 24 hours.

NATO cornerstone of European
security: Turkish president

DNA

ANKARA: The Turkish president on Friday stressed the importance of NATO for the security of Europe amid Russia's war on Ukraine. "NATO is the cornerstone of European security. We have seen this very clearly. Turkey is an indispensable ally for ensuring regional security," Recep Tayyip Erdogan told reporters during his return flight from Brussels where he attended an extraordinary NATO summit on Thursday. "Turkey will continue to play an important role in shaping NATO's future through these summits," said Erdogan. Highlighting Turkey's mediation efforts, he said: "Turkey made great efforts from the beginning to end the ongoing war in Ukraine." Underlining that the NATO summit was "fruitful and successful" in every respect, the president said Turkey welcomed NATO leaders' decision to extend the mandate of alliance chief

Jens Stoltenberg for another year because of Russia's war on Ukraine. An extraordinary meeting of NATO heads of state and government was held on Thursday in Brussels to discuss the alliance's response to Russia's war on Ukraine. NATO's long-term stance in Eastern Europe was evaluated at the meeting as well as a response to Russia's war on Ukraine, which entered its second month on Thursday. On the French president's "NATO is brain dead" comments, Erdogan said: "That was an unfortunate statement. President [Emmanuel] Macron is one of the most active leaders in NATO." He said he will meet with his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Friday, and may hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin this weekend or early next week to assess the results of Thursday's NATO summit. "Amid war, many big companies are leaving Russia, and Turkey's doors are wide open," said Erdogan. Dismissing concerns over food shortag-

es due to the war, he said: "We're taking all kinds of measures for food security. There will be no problems with food access during the holy month of Ramadan." Russia began its war on Feb. 24. It has been met with international outrage, with the EU, US, and UK, among others, implementing tough financial sanctions on Moscow. Talks with US on F-16 jets On talks with the US about F-16 jets, he said the US is showing a positive approach on aircraft modernization and purchases of new fighter jets. Erdogan said US President Joe Biden told him that he will present his positive approach to the Congress on F-16 fighter jets and will follow the issue. The Turkish president also reiterated Turkey's stance on the S-400 air defense systems. He also criticized the American newspaper Wall Street Journal article that suggested Turkey send the S-400 air defense system to Ukraine and said: "Communications Director Fahrettin Altun gave the necessary answer with all sensitivity."

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Briefs

China FM in India for first visit since border clash

NEWS DESK

NEW DELHI: India and China sought Friday to patch up relations as Beijing's foreign minister visited Delhi for the first time since a deadly clash on the Asian giants' disputed Himalayan border. The high-altitude brawl in June 2020 left 20 Indian soldiers and at least four Chinese troops dead, leading to a sharp deterioration in relations with both sides sending major reinforcements to the area. China's foreign ministry said after Wang Yi met Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar on Friday that both sides should "work together to promote peace and stability in the region and the world at large". "When China and India speak with the same voice, the whole world will listen. The world will pay attention to the cooperation between China and India," it said in a statement. "The two sides should strengthen communication and coordination, support each other, give out more positive signals for upholding multilateralism, and inject more positive energy into improving global governance." Jaishankar struck a more cautious note, telling reporters that after 15 rounds of military commanders meeting since the 2020 clash progress had come at "a slower pace than desirable". "The impact of the tension in border areas on the overall relationship has been visible in the last two years," he said.

S.Korea reports 339,514 new Covid cases

AGENCIES

SEOUL: SEOUL, March 25 (Xinhua) – South Korea reported 339,514 new COVID-19 cases as of midnight Thursday compared to 24 hours ago, raising the total number of infections to 11,162,232, the health authorities said Friday. The daily caseload was down sharply from 395,597 in the previous day, staying below 400,000 for two straight days, according to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency. The recent resurgence was driven by infections in the Seoul metropolitan area amid the Omicron variant spread. Of the new cases, 66,941 were Seoul residents. The number of newly infected people living in Gyeonggi province and the western port city of Incheon was 87,703 and 21,773 respectively. The virus spread also raged in the non-metropolitan region. The number of new infections in the non-capital areas was 163,068, or 48.0 percent of the total local transmission. Among the new cases, 29 were imported from overseas, lifting the total to 30,848.

Capital reports lowest daily cases in present wave

ISLAMABAD: Health officials on Friday reported only three new coronavirus cases in the federal capital, making it the lowest single-day tally in the prevailing wave. According to an official of the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC), the figure remained high during the past months while the declining trend was observed in the last few days. He said that as many as 12 cases were reported on Thursday while 18 cases were reported on Wednesday. He added so far 135,006 cases were reported from the federal capital and 1,022 deaths were reported from ICT while 133,819 patients had been recovered completely. Meanwhile, on the direction of the Ministry of National Health Services, the district administration of Islamabad had continued surveillance of different areas of the capital to control the transmission of the infection in the streets and sectors. – AP

FS thanks OIC envoys on successful CFM meeting

The Foreign Secretary commended the OIC Ambassadors for their role in ensuring high-level participation in the CFM

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood met the Heads of OIC Missions in Islamabad, today to thank them on the successful conclusion of the 48th Session of the OIC CFM in Islamabad, on 22-23 March 2022, and to review its outcomes. The Foreign Secretary commended the OIC Ambassadors for their role in ensuring high-level participation in the CFM. He said that this was particularly important since the 48th Session coincided with the 75th Anniversary celebrations of Pakistan's Independence. He added that this sentiment of abiding goodwill and amity towards the people of Pakistan was also reflected in the resolution adopted by the CFM, commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Pakistan's independence. Welcoming the adoption of the resolution on "Peace and Security in South Asia", the Foreign Secretary stressed that the text reflected the OIC's deep interest in the maintenance of peace and security in South Asia. He said that the OIC's call for joint probe into the incident of 9 March 2022 involving a supersonic missile launched into the territory of Pakistan from India, was a clear example of OIC stance in this regard. The Foreign Secretary underscored that the over 140 resolutions adopted by the CFM in the domains of peace and security, economic cooperation, rights of Muslim minorities and combating Islamopho-



bia, outlined the OIC's view on the whole gamut of issues confronting the Ummah. To this end, he noted that the recently adopted General Assembly resolution designating 15 March as International Day to Combat Islamophobia, served as a "perfect backdrop" to the OIC's collective efforts to address this scourge. The Foreign Secretary expressed the confidence that the appointment of the Secretary General's Special Envoy on Islamophobia as decided during the 48th CFM, would help galvanize OIC's efforts to promote dialogue and inter-faith harmony. The Foreign Secretary added that the prin-

ciple position of the OIC on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, as reaffirmed in the statements of the Secretary General and Member States, was a source of solace and strength for the Kashmiri people in their valiant struggle for self-determination. This was further reinforced by the Report of the Secretary General, the Joint Communiqué of the Contact Group, and the CFM resolution on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Commending the Islamic Development Bank for the operationalization of the Afghanistan Humanitarian Trust Fund, the Foreign Secretary stated that the signing of the Fund's Charter in Islamabad, on 21

March 2022, marked a significant step in the OIC's commitment to the people of Afghanistan. He stressed that concrete pledges by Member States and the international community to the Fund, would remain critical to long-term and sustainable support to the Afghan people. The successful hosting of the 48th Session of the CFM reaffirms Pakistan's proactive role within the OIC to strengthen bonds of solidarity between Member States. This will also serve as a guiding principle of Pakistan's Chairmanship of the CFM, which has the thematic focus of "Partnering for Unity, Justice and Development."

US envoy visits Karachi Port Qasim

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: US Chargé d'Affaires Angela Aggeler visited Karachi Port Qasim and reviewed the activities of US companies. US Secretary of State Angela Aggeler said during the visit that Pakistan has a very positive role to play in social activities through cooperation. The United States is one of the important sources of foreign investment for Pakistan. The U.S. embassy says Angela Aggeler visit reflects ongoing efforts to strengthen economic ties between the two countries. Earlier in the day, Angela Aggeler also met with female athletes and sports journalists on the occasion of Women's History Month. During the meeting, Angela Aggeler reiterated her commitment to continue working for the development and empowerment of Pakistani women.

Harassment case: Court sentences 5 to life in prison

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Usman Mirza – the main accused in the Islamabad couple harassment case – has been sentenced to life imprisonment by an additional sessions court in Islamabad. Additional Sessions Judge Atta Rabbani sentenced four others to life imprisonment as well and acquitted two accomplices. All the accused, including Mirza, were presented in court during the hearing. The sessions judge questioned one of the accused, Farhan Shaheen, on whether he was present when the incident took place. To this, Shaheen replied with a "no" and said: "I am innocent and I was not present at the place of incident." After that, the court ordered the police to take the accused back. After the hearing, the judge awarded life imprisonment to Usman Mirza, Hafiz Atta ur Rehman, Adaraz Qayyum Butt, Farhan Shaheen, and Mohib Bangash. Meanwhile, Umar Bilal and Rehan Hassan Mughal were acquitted. Last year, in July, a video surfaced on social media in which the main accused in the case, Mirza, could be seen violently thrashing and harassing a young couple in a room full of other men. Within a few hours of the video going viral, the Islamabad police took Mirza into custody and registered a first information report (FIR) in the case. Later on, seven people, including Usman Mirza, were included in the Islamabad couple harassment case.

N. Korea says ICBM will curb 'dangerous' US moves

WEB DESK

SEOUL: North Korea's latest launch was a big, new intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), state media reported on Friday, in a test leader Kim Jong Un said was designed to demonstrate the might of its nuclear force and deter any U.S. military moves. The Thursday launch was the first full ICBM test by nuclear-armed North Korea since 2017. Flight data indicated the missile flew higher and longer than any of North Korea's previous tests before crashing into the sea west of Japan. Called the Hwasong-17, the ICBM would be the largest liquid-fuelled missile ever launched by any country from a road-mobile launcher, analysts say. Its range and size also suggest North Korea plans to tip it with multiple warheads that could hit several targets or with decoys to confuse defenders, according to analysts. Kim ordered the test because of the "daily-escalating military tension in and around the Korean peninsula" and the "inevitability of the long-standing confrontation with the U.S. imperialists accompanied by the danger of a nuclear war", the KCNA state news agency reported.

APNS annual general council on Saturday

KARACHI: "The Extra-Ordinary General Council and Annual General Council of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society will meet on Saturday, March 26, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. respectively at APNS House, Gulistan Jauhar, Karachi," stated a press release of the APNS. Ms. Nazafreen Siagol Lakhani, Secretary General, All Pakistan Newspapers Society has announced that the Extra-Ordinary General Council will consider a resolution for amendment in the Articles of Association of the APNS. The Annual General Council will discuss the conditions prevailing in the newspaper industry and take decisions to address the problems faced by the member publications and will finalize its recommendations on the issues pertaining to the Govt. – Press relations, press laws and the future of the industry. The members will consider and adopt the report of the Executive Committee for the year 2021-2022, approve audit report for Annual Accounts for the year 2021 and elect members to the Executive Committee for the year 2022-2023. The new Executive Committee will elect its office bearers for the new term. The meetings of the General Councils will be attended by full members only. The Secretary General, APNS has requested publishers of full member publications to attend the above Council meetings positively." – DNA

Cummins equals Akram's 27 year old record

LAHORE: Australian captain Pat Cummins has broken the record of former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram. The right-arm pacer picked up 12 wickets in the three-match Test series against Pakistan. It is to be noted that no fast bowling captain has taken more wickets in a three-match away series. The former Pakistan left-arm pacer Wasim Akram who bagged 12 wickets in a three-match Test series against England in 1996 is the other fast bowling captain to achieve the feat. Pat Cummins had a tough time at the start of the series as the pitch offered no support for the fast bowlers. The 28-year old managed to pick up only one wicket in the first Test of the series. The skipper of Australia bounced back in the second Test and bowled well for his three wickets in the Karachi Test. The captain led from the front in the series decider in Lahore. Pakistan were in a comfortable position after lunch on day 3 when suddenly Pat Cummins started to reverse swing the ball. Pakistan lost their last five wickets for just four runs courtesy of a five-wicket haul by the skipper. Cummins picked up eight wickets in the last Test of the series and turned it around alongside teammate Nathan Lyon who also got five-for in the second innings. – DNA

Severe punishment sanctioned for dishonesty in Holy Quran: CJP

The CJP asked whether an MNA declared that he / she would be bound by the party, and when a member could be declared a defector

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Bandial Friday observed that severe punishment had been sanctioned for dishonesty in the Holy Quran. A person who breaks trust is called a traitor, and the Holy Quran mandates severe punishment for dishonesty, the CJP remarked. He was heading the five-member larger bench of the Supreme Court, which heard the presidential reference seeking the court's opinion on Article 63-A of the Constitution and a petition 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. The bench comprised Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan, Justice Muneeb Akhtar, Justice Mazhar Alam Khan Minkhel and Justice Jamal Khan Man-

dokhel. Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP) Khalid Jawed Khan, while continuing his arguments on the second day, said a party ticket was a certificate that bore that party's electoral symbol. He said the members of the National Assembly (MNAs) elected on reserved seats for women and minorities did not receive votes from the people, and instead they were nominated by their parties. Some of the MNAs elected on reserved seats were also present at the Sindh House, he added. The CJP asked whether an MNA declared that he / she would be bound by the party, and when a member could be declared a defector. He remarked that the Constitution did not specify anywhere that MNAs were required to be loyal to their parties. Article 62(1)(F) talked about qualification, not disqualification. The AGP said the conscience of ruling party members awoke as soon as they entered the Sindh House. He had stayed at the Sindh House as Advocate General. There was no device affixed there, which awoke the conscience of parliamentarians. Justice Jamal Khan questioned whether a ruling party member could oppose a prime minister's decision made against the country. The AGP said the MNAs were not supposed to be rubber

stamps in a parliamentary democracy. If they did not agree with the party's decision, they could resign, he added. Differences with the party did not mean going against the government, he said. He said Raza Rabbani had voted for military courts under the discipline of his party. It was certain that Raza Rabbani would not have voted for fear of disqualification, he added. Justice Mazhar Alam Khan asked why anyone who disagreed with the party's policy, should resign. The AGP replied that a person contesting the election on the ticket of a party, was also bound by its discipline. Justice Jamal Khan remarked that the Constitution gave everyone the right of free expression of views. Whether an MNA should be disqualified for expressing his / her views, he asked. The AGP said the MNAs could not vote freely on just four occasions. Justice Jamal Khan asked whether the court could add a 'full stop' to the Constitution. The AGP said he would prove the direct connection between Articles 62 and 63. Justice Ijaz said no article of the Constitution could be read separately, and Articles 62 and 63 were read together. Horse trading had been declared a cancer in the parliamentary debate, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial in a group photo with other Hon'ble Judges on the eve of retirement of Hon'ble Justice Qazi Muhammad Amin Ahmed at Supreme Court of Pakistan. – DNA

Connecting Pakistan to ASEAN market vital: Envoy

The Ambassador said that other economies, including Pakistan, need to be connected to the global supply chain so that they can reap the benefits of global trade and expand their trade

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Indonesia to Pakistan, Adam Mulawarman Tugio on Friday said that Indonesia can play a significant role in providing economic and trade opportunities to Pakistan. "It will provide connectivity with 623 million of Association of SouthEast Asian Nations (ASEAN's) potential trade market," he said. In addition, Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has been signed for free trade with ASEAN countries, including Indonesia's Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which allows Pakistan to benefit from it through Indonesia, the Ambassador said this while talking to newly elected office bearers of National Press Club (NPC) Islamabad and other media person in NPC, Islamabad. The former President, Pakistan Union of Journalist (PFUJ) Muhammad Afzal Butt, Secretary Finance NPC, Nayyer Ali, Vice President NPC Maira Imran, Joint Secretary Waqar Abbasi, including Senior journalists Nadeem Chaudhry, Alamar Hussain and Kalb Ali attended the meeting.

The Ambassador said that ASEAN countries, Asian Pacific countries, Australia and New Zealand are included in this Free Trade Agreement, which allows Pakistan to benefit from the emerging economic markets of these countries. Today, regionalism is on the rise in the trading world that is why ASEAN is one of the largest trading blocs in the world, with the RCEP bloc accounting for 30% of world trade, which is important in global trade. He said that this century is the century of Asian region and the emerging economies in Asia have great trade and economic opportunities for the world. The Ambassador said that other economies, includ-

ing Pakistan, need to be connected to the global supply chain so that they can reap the benefits of global trade and expand their trade. He said that China has a large share in the global supply chain and by joining it, a large share of world trade could be achieved. He said that Pakistan and Indonesia have a trade market of about 500 million people with a combined population which needs to reap fruitful benefits. Adam M. Tugio said that joint trade between Pakistan and ASEAN countries including Indonesia was not in line with its potential. This requires further efforts in both and finding some untapped sectors in ASEAN and Pakistan. He said that there are ample opportunities in the global market including ASEAN for

Pakistan's textile sector, local garments and other agricultural products. There is a PTA for free trade between Pakistan and Indonesia and now by signing the FTA, trade on both sides can be further enhanced. He also said that there is a great similarity between food and culture in Pakistan and Indonesia which includes many common dishes. The ambassador said that spices are used in Pakistani food which is produced in Indonesia in abundance. He further said that Pakistan and Indonesia have ample opportunities for cooperation in tourism. Adam M. Tugio said that media could play a very important role in the relations between Pakistan and Indonesia and in this regard a series of discussions would be started with NPC, Islamabad on Journalist Exchange Program. In response to a question, the Indonesian Ambassador said that there is a great potential for cooperation between the local media and the Indonesian media, in this regard "we will continue discussions with the NPC. – APP

