



# Islamabad POST

Monday, March 28, 2022

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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**Palestinian FM completes successful visit of Pakistan**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Macron calls for restraint on Ukraine conflict**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Kane equals Sir Charlton's goal record**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Khan says won't bow down Foreign hands trying to topple my govt: Imran

Addresses massive crowd; claims to be in possession of evidence that would prove his point

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

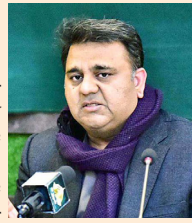
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Sunday addressed his party's power show titled Amr Bil Maroof (enjoin the good) and billed as a "historic" event at Parade Ground in Islamabad. In what was a marathon speech lasting more than an hour and a half, PM Imran discussed his political ideology, recalled what he said were his government's achievements and criticised his opponents. As he moved towards the climax of his speech, the prime minister said: "Attempts are being made through foreign money to change the government in Pakistan. Our people are being used. 'Mostly inadvertently, but some people are using money against us. We know from what places attempts are being to pressure us. We have been threatened in writing but we will not compromise on national interest.' He claimed to be in possession of evidence that he said would prove his point. "The letter I have is proof and I want to dare anyone who is doubting this letter.

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**Dissident MNAs will face humiliation**

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain Sunday, taking the PTI's dissident MNAs to the task, said those who stabbed the prime minister in back would face "exemplary" humiliation at the public's hands. "I dare those who hide in Islamabad to go to their constituencies... you will be beaten by hundred of shoes in every one minute," he said while addressing a charged crowd at the Parade Ground where a large number of people gathered for the



Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: PM Imran Khan addressing the participants of PTI jalsa at Parade Ground. – DNA

**No-trust motion will not succeed: Sh Rashid**

Says command and control room to monitor law and order situation

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid has said that contrary to opposition's whims, things will take an entirely different turn saying that Prime Minister Imran Khan will hold the fort and play till the last ball. Addressing a press conference in federal capital, the Interior Minister said Interior Ministry has set up a command and control room to monitor law and order situation in the federal capital till 4th of next month. He said any untoward situation can be reported on the 0519206660 and 0519218594.

The Minister said the command and control room will be operated round the clock to facilitate citizens. He also announced that no road will be closed during this whole situation. He expressed hope that Prime Minister Imran Khan will defeat opposition's any move against the government and even if Prime Minister Imran Khan does not stay the PM over the no-confidence motion,

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## Shahzain Bugti quits PTI govt; supports opp.

Bilawal says that he is grateful to Shahzain Bugti

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing a press conference along with Shahzain Bugti on the eve of the latter resigning from the federal cabinet, said that he is grateful to Shahzain Bugti. Shahzain Bugti hosted us at the time of the Senate election, and today when the country is at a crossroad where the future of the country and democracy are at stake, the country is looking at the parliament to emerge from this crisis. Chairman Bilawal said that this is a timely and courageous decision by Shahzain Bugti. He said that many respectable politicians who truly represent their constituencies made efforts to raise their voice for the people. Imran Khan betrayed his allies the same way that he ditched the people and the opposition. As



long as true representatives of Balochistan and all of the country do not come forward, the problems of the people cannot be solved.

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### Briefs

**No Russia regime change plans**

DNA

TEL AVIV: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has denied that the United States has any plans to bring about regime change in Russia or anywhere else. Mr Blinken's comments come a day after President Joe Biden said his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, should not be allowed to remain in power. Mr Biden made the unscripted remark at the end of a speech in Poland. Mr Blinken said the president simply made the point that Mr Putin could not be allowed to wage war against Ukraine. The Kremlin dismissed Mr Biden's remark, saying it was for Russians to choose their leader. "I think the president, the White House, made the point last night that, quite simply, President Putin cannot be empowered to wage war or engage in aggression against Ukraine or anyone else," Mr Blinken said on Sunday during a visit to Israel.

## Pak highly values ties with EU: FM



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of European Union (EU) in Pakistan Androulla Kaminara calls on Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi. – DNA

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of European Union (EU) in Pakistan Androulla Kaminara on Sunday met Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi in Islamabad on Sunday to discuss bilateral cooperation between the two countries. According to details, Shah Mahmood Qureshi and Androulla Kaminara discussed matters related to bilateral interests and cooperation between the two sides during the meeting. Speaking during the meeting, the Foreign Minister said that Pakistan values its relationship with European Union and is committed to complete joint projects launched by the two sides. The Foreign Minister further lauded role of EU envoy in playing role for bilateral stability of the two sides.

In mid-March, Secretary Foreign Affairs has said that Pakistan has informed the European Union that the country will be partner in peace and not in any war. The secretary was speaking in a hearing of the Senate's standing committee on foreign affairs chaired by Senator Sherry Rehman. "We have responded to the press release of the heads of EU diplomatic missions," the foreign secretary told the session.

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### Fazl warns against any threat

DNA

ISLAMABAD: JUI-F President Maulana Fazlur Rehman has warned the government against posing any threat to the opposition parties, saying that they will give a befitting response. "We are not wearing bangles," Fazl said on Saturday while announcing that the participants of his party's long march would stay in the federal capital for two to three days after reaching there on Saturday, media reported. He said that as the opposition is "staying in its limits" and the government should also not cross its limits. The JUI-F president, who is also the chief of the PDM, said that it was the alliance's decision to hold talks with all the allies of the govt.

## What is the likely future of PTI government?

Comment

ANSAR M BHATTI

IN politics nothing can be said with certainty, especially about the Pakistani politics, which changes its colors with the each passing moment. At one time it was certain that PTI government led by Imran Khan shall be sent packing and the opposition parties would form a coalition interregnum government that will last for the remaining period. The Opposition parties had almost finalized their probable for the proposed set up with PML N leader Shehbaz Sharif as the Prime Minister. Likewise the Chairman Senate seat would go to PPP and speakership to JUI F. Some sources believed, in case of this very arrangement, PPP Co Chairman Asif Ali Zardari would be the strong candidate for the coveted slot of President of Pakistan. Similarly, in Punjab PML-Q would be put on the driving seat by elevating Ch. Pervez Elahi as the Chief Minister of the Punjab. To some this arrangement is still on the

table but many believe this plan of action is no more a preferred choice of the powers that be, after assessing the mass support show for Imran Khan during the Parade Ground procession. Ostensibly thousands of people thronged to the venue to be at the side of their leader. The problem with the opposition parties happens to be their obsession with clipping the powers of the National Accountability Bureau; introducing changes in the electoral laws and undo all amendments enacted by the PTI government. The opposition was unanimous not to accord parliamentary approval to the ordinances issued by the incumbent government. The forces that wanted to get rid of Imran Khan and bring in this stopgap government, when calculated the pros and cons of the future scenario, realized that disadvantages maybe on the higher side rather than advantages in case the stopgap arrangement was put in place. But it does not mean at all that they have given up. Another possible scenario may be holding of the early elections. Prime Minister Imran Khan might have been advised by his party men or people who matter that it is much better to go to early elections instead of allowing the opposition parties to take over the government and rule the country for the rest of the tenure. Sources believe, it took a while to

these people to bring the prime minister round about this proposal and finally he acceded to the proposal. But the problem is he can only do this when the allied parties are fully on board with the government for he cannot call elections or dissolve the assembly until and unless a positive outcome of the no trust move arrives. The powers that be may help the government and opposition to reach a final agreement about the future set up. They may ultimately 'convince' the allied parties including the MQM, PML Q and BAP to support the prime minister in the no trust move and in return the prime minister shall announce early elections soon after presenting the upcoming budget in June this year. In this scenario the government intends to present an extremely people-friendly budget by offering huge incentives despite serious economic difficulties. This move, the government people think, would greatly help them in courting masses support in the general elections. In case of early elections it is likely that the PML N spearheaded by Mian Shehbaz Sharif may win majority seats, at least from the Punjab, followed by PTI. Early elections perhaps does not suit PPP well, since it still needed time to regain its lost popularity in the Punjab province. But even then the party, by vir-

due of its recent mass contact campaign, is likely to perform much better as compared with the 2018 elections. Being the 60 per cent of Pakistan, Punjab plays central role in making governments at the Center therefore major battle would be fought in this province. The foreign element's interference in Pakistani politics cannot be ruled out altogether. It has always been there and it is still there. PTI government did not do much to either strengthen or mend its relations with the key world power houses including China and the United States. Interestingly, both China and the US would always say they have no problems whatsoever with the PTI government but in fact that is not the whole truth. About the US, the prime minister has openly criticized it for what he called the hegemonic and authoritative posture. On the issue of bases, when he said 'absolutely not', it went extremely well at home but ostensibly the statement caused considerable friction in our relations with the super power. Since then relations are constantly on the decline. With China too PTI government failed to develop smooth working relations. The PTI leaders raised too many objections about various CPEC projects, especially from the financial point of view. Their 'excessive' interference somehow contributed towards putting these projects on hold or slowing

down the pace of work. The Sunday's power show of PTI in Islamabad was an attempt to send loud and clear messages to the real power houses both at home and abroad that PTI was still the popular party in Pakistan and therefore any effort to weaken or intimidate the party may invite wrath of the rank and file. Undoubtedly, Imran Khan is a great crowd puller and the Islamabad procession proved it well. However this time he has the incumbency baggage as well. As a prime minister his and his party's governance has always been in the dock. People suffered a lot during almost four years tenure of PTI therefore voters would think twice before casting their votes for the PTI in the next elections, despite the fact that Sunday's rally went very well. Opposition parties rally in Islamabad will arrive on Monday. It is also going to be a big show. If the opposition rally turns into a dharna then it may pose serious problems for the government. They might sit there till the no-trust voting. If so happens, the rules of the game may have to be re-defined. One thing is for sure, after the PTI mammoth show, the opposition has to come up with even bigger or at least a crowd of similar magnitude. Only then it would be able to snatch attention and support of the real power houses!!

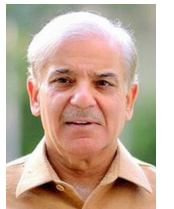
## Will not let Imran run away: Maryam Shehbaz urges people to join PML-N march

YOUSAF BHUTTA

GUJRANWALA: PML-N Vice-President Maryam Nawaz on Sunday took a swipe at Prime Minister Imran Khan and said that "he is a coward" and added that the Opposition will "not let him run away." Maryam was speaking during a press conference along with the Opposition Leader in the Punjab Assembly Hamza Shahbaz in Gujranwala, ahead of the premier's address to the nation in Islamabad.

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ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz President and Opposition leader in National Assembly



Continued on Page 06

## Briefs

## 39 shopkeepers fined for profiteering

FAISALABAD: Price control magistrates imposed a fine of Rs.97,500 on 39 shopkeepers on charge of profiteering in the district during the past 12 hours. A spokesman of local administration said on Sunday that price control magistrates inspected various shops in different markets and bazaars of Faisalabad and found 39 shopkeepers involved in profiteering and overcharging. Therefore, the magistrates imposed a total fine of Rs.97,500 on them and warned that they would be sent behind bars if they did not mend their way of profiteering, he added. - APP

## 10 injured in brawl

FAISALABAD: Ten people were injured in a clash over minor dispute, in the precincts of Lundianwala police station on Sunday. Rescue-1122 spokesman said that an altercation occurred between some farmers in Lundianwala over the issue of uploading sugarcane produce on a trolley. The altercation turned into free-style fighting, in which fists, clubs and bricks were used. As a result, GulFaraz (22), IhsanulHaq and AnwarulHaq (35) sons of Gulzar Ahmad; Imran (25), Abu Su- fiyan (23), AhmarHamad (30) his father Taj Din (65), Sohail Ahmad (32), Masood Anwar (25) and Gulfam (27) sustained multiple injuries and were shifted to Rural Health Center (RHC) Lundianwala where their condition was stated to be out of danger. - APP

## Cultural Festival in Parachinar

PESHAWAR: The Kurram district administration, in collaboration with the Pakistan Army, organized a cultural festival in Parachinar on Sunday with the aim of involving the tribal people in recreational activities. On this occasion, the 72-Baloch Band warmed the audience by playing melodious melodies on which the youth performed the traditional dance "Atnar". Renowned Pashto poet Abasin Yousafzai in his speech said that we are living in the most beautiful part of the region and it is our responsibility to work together for the development of this region. - APP

## COURT NOTICE

In The Court Of  
Amar Shahzad Kang  
ADCR Gujrat

Title: Muhammad Afzal  
Verses: Revenue  
Department

APPLICATION FOR  
CORRECTION OF RECORD

Notice to: Mazhar Hussain, Azhar Hussain sons of Rehman Dad R/o. Panjan Kasana, Tehsil Kharian District Gujrat. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendant is not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 29-03-2022. Otherwise case will be decided ex parte.

Given under my hand  
seal of the court this  
24th March 2022

## COURT NOTICE

In The Court Of Khuda  
Yaar Civil Judge Gujrat

Title: Anayat BiBi etc.  
Verses: Province of  
Punjab

SUIT FOR DECLARATION WITH  
CONSEQUENTIAL RELIEF

Notice to: 4G-Faiz Rasool S/o. Muhammad sharif Cast Mochi, 11-Zahid Hussain S/o. Khurshid BiBi, Rajay Khan R/o. Majra Ranawal Tehsil & District Gujrat. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendant is not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 31-03-2022. Otherwise case will be decided ex parte.

Sarmad Ali and Naz Afreen Saigol elected President and SG of APNS  
Centreline magazine again elected as Member of the Executive Committee

DNA

KARACHI: The Annual Meeting of the APNS General Council held on March 26, 2022 at APNS House, Karachi unanimously elected Sarmad Ali as President, Jamil Ather as Senior Vice President, Shahab Zuberi as Vice President, Ms. Naz afreen Saigol Lakhani as Secretary-General, Mohsin Bilal as Joint Secretary and Muhammad Awais Khushnood as Finance Secretary of the Society. The AGM was held under the chairmanship of Sarmad Ali, President. The Council unanimously approved the report of the Executive Committee for the year 2021-2022 as well as the Annual Accounts of the Society for the year 2021. The General Council attended by 151 members

from across the country, formed an Election Commission headed by Dr. Waqar Yousuf Azeemi with Nasir Daad Baloch and Safdar Ali Khan as members. The Election Commission conducted the election of the Executive Committee for the year 2022-23. Following dailies and magazines were elected unopposed to the Executive Committee of the APNS for the next tenure: Daily Aghaz, Daily Business Recorder, Daily Deynat, Daily Dawn, Daily Jasarat, Daily Jiddat (Khi), Daily Abtak, Daily Dunya, Daily Jang, Daily Khabrain, Daily Pakistan, Daily Tijarat, Nawa-i-Waqt, Daily Ausaf, Daily Sahafat, Daily Awam (Quetta), Daily Mashriq (Quetta), Daily Mashriq (Peshawar), Daily Wahdat, Daily Kawish, Daily Kaleem Daily Aftab (Multan), Daily Paigham, Daily Business Report, Daily City 42, Daily Pakistan Observer,

Daily Halchal and Daily Sayadat. Monthly Dastak, Monthly NaeyUfaq, Monthly Centerline, Fortnightly Ibrat Magazine and Weekly Nikhar were elected on periodical seats. The President, Sarmad Ali announced Ms. Rameeza Majid Nizami MD Nawa-e-Waqt Group as special representative of APNS to handle Federal matters. The new Executive Committee elected Mrs. Zahida Abbasi of Daily Nau Sijj, Karachi on a woman - publishers seat and co-opted Monthly NayaRukh on the periodical seat. The newly elected Executive Committee appreciated the performance of the Election Commission. The members unanimously appreciated the efforts of Mr. Hameed Haroon for the reconciliation in the ranks of the newspaper industry and expressed their full confidence in his efforts. The General Council strongly condemned the use

of Federal government advertisements as a tool to strangle the voice of dissent and urged upon the Federal Government to withdraw the ban imposed on certain newspapers. The General Council also noted that the Federal Government has curtailed the release of advertisements to regional newspapers and periodical publications and demanded that the regional quota be observed in letter and spirit in the release of Federal Government advertisements. Earlier, the Extra-Ordinary General Council of the Society held a meeting in the morning and adopted a Resolution to amend Article 1 Article 8 of the Articles of Association. The Annual General Council elected Dr. Waqar Yousuf Azeemi and Mr. Riaz Ahmed Mansuri as member emeritus in acknowledgement of their 40 years of services for the newspaper industry.

## Two transgender persons shot dead in Peshawar, Mardan

It is the fourth incident of murder of a member of already repressed community in just one week in Peshawar

PESHAWAR: Crimes against transgender community are on the rise in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as two transgender people were killed on Saturday in two separate firing incidents in Peshawar and Mardan. Reportedly, a transgender named Sabir and another person were fired upon at Mardan Charsadda Chowk. As a result, Sabir died on the spot while the other person got injured. It is the fourth incident of murder of a member of already repressed community in just one week in Peshawar. In another incident of the same nature, some unknown men riding a motorcycle opened fire on the vehicle of transgender people near the city museum in Mardan. According to police, a transgender identified as Coconut was killed and another person was hurt in the firing incident. A party of transgender people was coming back from a musical function when it was targeted by the bike-riders. Ten days ago, a transgender named Chand was murdered in Mardan. The transgender community people were attacked three times in one week in the city. - DNA

## Economic interests must remain supreme: FCCI

"This situation helped foreign buyers to divert their export orders to Pakistan and this trend is still continuing", he said

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Economic interests must remain supreme as the national solidarity, progress, prosperity and integrity is directly linked with it, said President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh. Commenting on the prevailing high political temperature in the country, he said that smooth industrial and business activities are

imperative and every conscious and responsible individual as well as political parties must discourage such a situation which may affect the industrial production and exports. He said that the government has taken "Out of the Box" steps to continue socio-economic activities during COVID-19. "However, it badly affected our neighboring countries which had to face unprecedented unemployment as their growth dipped to the minus", he added. Contrary to this situation,

the Pakistani government introduced a unique strategy of smart lockdown to continue the industrial wheel in progress. "This situation helped foreign buyers to divert their export orders to Pakistan and this trend is still continuing", he said. He said that in the later phase, the supply chain disruption also had negative impact even on the developed economies but the government announced amnesty scheme for the construction sector in addition to introducing textile, SME

policy, industrial incentive package, Kamyab Jawan and MeraGhar- Mera Pakistan schemes which played a major role in catalyzing healthy economic activities and our growth was recorded highest in the region. He said that FCCI is an apolitical institution but we intend that economic policies must continue without any disruption so that Pakistan could achieve its ultimate objectives of progress and prosperity. He urged the political parties to shun their petty interests

## ECP issues notices to JI leaders

PESHAWAR: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has issued notices to Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI), Siraj-ul-Haq and provincial Ameer, Senator Mush-taq Ahmad Khan for violating the code of conduct by holding a public meeting in Dir Upper, said a notice issued by the District Monitoring Officer (DMO), Dir Upper on Sunday. Rallies, procession or car rallies are not allowed in the local government elections. However, candidates can hold a corner meeting, which they will inform the local administration in advance so that proper security arrangements can be made for its peaceful conduct. - Agencies

## GCWU Bahawalpur holds annual convocation

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

BAHAWALPUR: Governor and Chancellor Government Sadiq College Women University Bahawalpur Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar participated in Government College Women University Bahawalpur's annual convocation as chief guest, he awarded more than 1600 degrees among students and presented 51 students with gold medals and 51 with silver medals who received distinction in their academics. In the convocation 670 BS, 1018 MA, MSC while 9 students of MS program were awarded with degrees. Governor Punjab said during his address that Government is taking healthy steps towards empowering women and protection of their rights and freedom while ensuring that women has right to the inheritance. He added that role of women is very important in the development and prosperity of the country. Students are getting success through their hard work and qualification. He congratulated the students with distinctions along with their parents and



teachers, he added that they should keep their journey of getting education with same enthusiasm. He expressed satisfaction over provision of good educational facilities and development works in University and hoped that Government College Women University will become model university which will bring moder-

ity and skills in all departments of research and education and play important role in South Punjab's social and economic development. Earlier Vice Chancellor Government Sadiq College Women University Prof. Dr. Saiqa Imtiaz Asif in her introductory address said that students of Govt. Sadiq College University are excel-

ling in curricular and co-curricular activities. She added that Government has allocated 125 acre land for the university while further funds are also being provided for the construction of campus. She told that in different departments of the university students are being given best guidance along with research work. Vice Chancellor and Governor Punjab Chaudhry Sarwar were presented with souvenir by Prof. Dr. Saiqa Imtiaz Asif at the end of the ceremony. 2nd item Governor Punjab & Chairman Board of Governors Sadiq Public School Bahawalpur Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar participated as Chief Guest in 68th Founders Day of Sadiq Public School. He paid tribute to Ameer Bahawalpur Nawab Sir Sadiq Muhammad Khan V and said that he established this institution keeping in mind the international standards which is not only a distinguished institution in Bahawalpur or South Punjab but also throughout Pakistan. He said that purpose of Sadiq Public School's establishment is the interest of Bahawalpur's new generation.

## Profiteering and hoarding not allowed in Ramadan: AC Gujrat

YOOSUF BHUTTA

GUJRAT: "Profiteering and hoarding will not be allowed in the month of Ramadan at any cost. All dealers are bound to declare their stock. Strict action will be taken against the violating dealer." This was stated by Assistant Commissioner Gujrat Umer Draz Gondal while checking the stock of dealers on Railway Road and Shah Jehangir Road. Assistant Commissioner Umer Draz Gondal said that as per the directions of Punjab government, sale of food items at fixed prices in Ramadan bazaars during the month of Ramadan will be ensured. He said that in order to maintain supply as per the demand of food items in the market, dealers are required to declare their stock. "Dealers who do not declare their stock will have their stock confiscated and strict legal action will be taken against them, he said. He said that vegetable and fruit sellers should display the price lists in a clear place and ensure sale at the rates fixed by the market committee. "Price control magistrates have been directed to visit the markets regularly and act against the profiteers", he added.

## Dr. Saleha, Pakistan's only PhD on organic waste conversion

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: Dr. Saleha Mahmood is Pakistan's first and only PhD who brings a very promising organic waste bio conversion technology in the country that utilizes the voracious appetite of maggots to recycle organic waste into protein for animal feed and soil conditioner for plantation. She finished her degree from Government College University Lahore. Dr. Christian Zurbrugg, from the Department Sanitation, Water and Solid Waste for Development (SANDEC) at Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (EAWAG), Switzerland co-supervised and guided her PhD research work. She also established Pakistan's first research facility in the field and studied all the segment of BSFL rearing and waste

treatment process. She completed her hands-on intensive operational training from FORWARD site established by SANDEC in Surabaya, Indonesia and also provided a very useful comparative analysis on the rearing performance of BSFL on municipal organic wastes in both countries. The Urban Unit Lahore, provided the space to establish site and human resources during her research work and she also trained five engineers at the site on this subject. Her work is about using Black Soldier Fly and its Larvae (BSFL) to treat and recycle the organic waste at centralized field and decentralized household level to successfully retrieve 100%

into valuable market products. BSF has been declared as 'crown jewel' and 'ecological engineer' in literature after almost half a century of the research. This fly is second only to the honey bees in its benefits. Luckily the fly is a 'non-vector' implying it cannot spread any disease. Similarly, its larvae that is completely safe to handle not only result in upto 80% waste reduction but can also be used as protein source for animal feed such as in poultry, birds and fish. It is a 12 days process and the technology has an advantage of upscaling the facility by at least 100 times in 60 days. Scientists are considering it green method of protein production that leaves no ecological impact and also helps

in reducing burden of global warming. This is just one advantage; others include multi-billion cosmetics and pharmaceuticals' industry that uses one or another by-product of these larvae. Her publication, 'Reducing the Space Footprint of Black Soldier Fly Larvae Waste Treatment by Increasing Waste Feeding Layer Thickness' (<https://doi.org/10.15244/pjoes/122618>) is result of a unique work in which she used the waste thickness of up to 1 meter against generally recommended maximum 20 cm. She showed that space footprint of BSFL technology could significantly be reduced. Similarly, during her study BSFL bins were placed at household level, the purpose was to test a model in which kitchen organic waste could be treated at the source thus reducing huge collection, transport and disposal costs and related carbon footprint.

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March 03/ Bulgaria National Day
March 06/ Ghana Independence Day
March 12/ Mauritius National Day
March 17/ Ireland St. Patricks Day
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March 21/ Namibia National Day
March 25/ Greece National Day
March 26/ Bangladesh National Day
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Emergency Ambulance.....1122 & Rescue Services.4451122
Motorway Police.....9266044
Motorway Police.....9270601-20
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



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Hospitals

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MH.....5611116
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RGH.....9290301-7
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RDA.....5555864
TMA.....5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation.....9209224
Potohar Town.....9209321
Rawal Town.....5773343

Water Tank

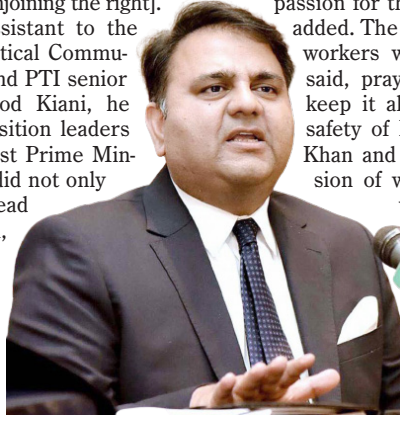
Islamabad.....0321-5744480

'3 rodents' out to attack country's sovereignty

Amir Kiani said the response of PTI workers to the prime minister's call was "unbelievable"

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Hussain on Saturday came down hard on the trio of opposition parties' leaders including Shehbaz Sharif, Asif Ali Zardari and Maulana Fazlur Rehman for getting united against independent foreign policy and the country's sovereignty.

after "Amr-bil-Maruf" [Enjoining the right]. Flanked by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communication Shahbaz Gill and PTI senior leader Aamer Mehmood Kiani, he lashed out at the opposition leaders for joining forces against Prime Minister Imran Khan who did not only want the country to lead the Muslim Ummah, but also made serious efforts for making it to the fortress of Islam.



passion for the welfare of masses, he added. The spirit and passion of PTI workers were unprecedented, he said, praying to the Almighty to keep it alive. He also prayed for safety of Pakistan and PM Imran Khan and said this spirit and passion of workers were associated with the prime minister.

trust motion. Highlighting the prime minister's initiatives at the diplomatic front, he said the country had an independent foreign policy and there was nothing on the earth that could buy or threaten Pakistan. He said the entire nation was proud of Prime Minister Imran Khan. On the occasion, SAPM Shahbaz Gill said the Parade Ground was already brimming with children, women and youngsters even a day before the PTI's historic public gathering.

March 27, a decision making day for Pakistanis, says Gill

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communications Dr Shahbaz Gill on Sunday said that the March 27 day for the Pakistani nation as they have to choose whether they wanted to live with dignity in the years to come or like slaves by just saying Absolutely Yes.

ways to make Pakistan a dignified country where decisions of the country is made within and not outside," he said while speaking here at the Jalsa Ga in Parade ground. Gill said that Imran Khan was the one who took the stand for Islamophobia in front of the whole world. "The top leaders of the world also acknowledge his stance at the international level. Now March 15 is declared as International Day to Combat Islamophobia just because of Imran Khan's struggle," he said.

still time left in the public gathering but one can see the masses turning up to the venue with passion and zeal. "Today is the war of every dignified Pakistani against the corrupt. They have to decide whether they want to bow down on 'Do More' or stand up for their dignity by saying Absolutely No." "I request all Pakistanis who are coming for all over the country for the Jalsa to reach at the venue as soon as possible. Today, a loud and clear message about the Pakistan's bright future will be sent," he said. - DNA

World Health Day on April 7

ISLAMABAD: World Health Day will be marked on April 7 across the globe including Pakistan to draw attention to particular priorities in global health. Various local, national and international events are arranged to educate the public and policy makers about a specific aspect of the World Health Organization's work. This event receives plenty of media coverage. A toolkit is provided for those who wish to plan events but emphasizes that these should be suitable for the local cultural, social and economic conditions. - Agencies

7 fresh Covid cases reported in capital

ISLAMABAD: Health officials on Sunday said that seven new coronavirus cases were reported in the federal capital during the last 24 hours. According to an official of the National Command and Operation Center (NCOCC), as many as 10 cases were reported on Saturday while three cases were reported on Friday. He said so far 135,023 cases were reported from the federal capital and 1,023 deaths were reported from ICT while 133,861 patients had been recovered completely. He said that the government has already waived off the booster shots fee for those visiting abroad, and now they can get a free booster while showing their documents. This booster was free for the general public, he added. He said that 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 reduce transmission of the infection in the selected streets and other sectors. They also started taking action on a violation of SOPs related to the coronavirus while visiting marriage halls, markets, and petrol pumps by its inspection teams. - DNA

Metro bus service to remain suspended

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Amid public rallies by the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the opposition parties, the Metro Bus service in twin cities to remain suspended for an indefinite period. According to the notification, the Metro Bus service will remain closed in Islamabad and Rawalpindi as a precautionary measure amid the scheduled power shows of the political parties. "The move has been taken to ensure the protection of masses in case of any eventuality," the statement from the Metro Bus service administration read. Islamabad police have issued a traffic plan for the capital in wake of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) rally planned for March 27 at Parade Ground. The Islamabad police shared the traffic plan from its Twitter handle with a spokesman saying that general traffic was barred to play in the red zone while traffic would not be allowed to enter from Kashmir Chowk [roundabout] to Rawal Dam Chowk. It is pertinent to mention here that the local administration has issued NOCs to ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) and the opposition party, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) for holding power shows on different venues in the federal capital on March 27 and 28.

NCSW to ensure women empowerment

ISLAMABAD: National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) committed to ensure the development projects for empowering women in the society. Talking to APP, Chairperson Nilofar Bakhtiar NCSW said, "The projects mainly establish a structure and path for the commission, dealing with thematic areas related to violence against women, the political representation of women, and ensuring empowerment of women in the public and social sphere". She said NCSW's role in generating knowledge, and women-friendly legislation had been significant. She said role of NCSW was ensuring the inclusiveness of women from all spheres of life. She said the recommendations included in these projects increased the representation of special-need women, transgender, and senior citizens to guarantee that their voices and concerns to be represented in the formulation of laws. - APP

Arrangements finalized to set up Sasta 1 Bazaars

RAWALPINDI: Arrangements have been finalized to set up 16 Ramzan sasta bazaars in district Rawalpindi for providing relief to the consumers during the upcoming Holy month. According to Deputy Commissioner (DC) office spokesman, the bazaars will be set up following the special directives of the Chief Minister Punjab to provide relief to the residents. He informed that DC Tahir Farooq had directed all the Assistant Commissioners of the district to make arrangements for the parking area along with the bazaars while separate stalls of flour and sugar would be set up in all the bazaars. The spokesman further informed that all price control magistrates have been directed to take strict action against hoarders and profiteers as rates of daily use items peaked before the advent of Ramzan. He said around 70 stalls would be set up in the two biggest bazaars established at Double road and Haidri chowk. In addition, the citizens will be able to purchase all kitchen items, including flour, sugar, grains, basin, meat, chicken, onion, potatoes, ghee, and other daily use products at subsidized rates, which will be less than the open markets, he added. Besides, fresh vegetables, fruits, and dates would also be available in these bazaars. - APP

Advertisement for Pakistan Airmen's Welfare Society (PAWS) recruitment. Includes details for recruitment on March 28 and April 3, 2022, for various positions like Airman, Cabin Crew, etc. with eligibility criteria and application procedures.

## Briefs

PRC and CUC  
open office  
in Islamabad

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future in collaboration with Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing, China has formally established a base-office in Islamabad.

The inauguration ceremony of the new office was held on Saturday, according to Gowdar Pro. The new office is set to develop effective means for exchanges of ideas between minded research institutions, youth groups and scholars to develop long-term, sustainable and compatible programs. The think tank helps carry out activities to timely provide input for Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), CPEC, Eurasian Regional Connectivity, and Sha[ng]hai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Moreover, the platform supports building an academic network and initiating collaborative academic projects. Over the years, the Center has worked in significant domains to foster academic/research cooperation, promote the country's soft image and enhance people-to-people contacts with prestigious institutions around the globe. Earlier, Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future, was awarded with "Extraordinary Center" of the year 2021 award by Communication University of China (CUC), Beijing.

Imran Khan  
only hope  
for people  
of Pakistan:  
Sarwar

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Federal Minister for Aviation, Ghulam Sarwar Khan here on Sunday said that Prime Minister Imran Khan was the only hope for the people of Pakistan and the people were showing full confidence on his honest leadership. Prime Minister Imran Khan would address the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) "historic gathering" called 'Amr-Bil-Maroo' at Parade ground in Islamabad as the party workers from across the country have started to arrive in the federal capital to express support with their leader. Talking to newsmen before departure from PTI Public Secretariat, Ghulam Sarwar Khan said that a huge number of PTI workers and supporters have reached at the Parade Ground, whereas rallies from various cities are heading towards the federal capital.

He said, the corrupt politicians were trying to save the looted money and on the other hand, Imran Khan had become a popular leader not only in the country but also in the Islamic world. He said that Imran Khan was the only leader who had raised his voice for Islam at all international forums.

This is a battle of truth and falsehood; he said and informed that the people who were standing with the truth are coming to attend the gathering to stand and fight against corruption. He said the objective of the whole exercises of the opposition parties was only to get National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) from the government but they would fail to achieve their target.

Allergy  
patients  
should remain  
cautious

RAWALPINDI: Allergy patients have been advised to remain cautious to avoid any complication. This was stated by health practitioner at Holy Family Hospital Dr Irshad and added that precaution is the best tool and take preemptive measures to fight with the allergy. The symptoms of pollen allergy, he said that sneezing accompanied by a runny or clogged nose, itching eyes, nose, and throat adding that Paper Mulberry trees and hazardous particles in the air were becoming main source of pollen allergy which is harmful for asthma patients. He said that suspended pollen grains in the air reach the human respiratory track through inhalation, triggering a type of seasonal allergy called pollen allergy. - APP

Muslim world needs a vibrant  
OIC for sustainable growth

Devcom-Pakistan ED Munir Ahmed said the OIC-CFMs could not come up with any time-bound strategic plan. A sideline meeting of the COMSTECH, however, had a meaningful brainstorming to use science and technology cooperation

SHAJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Speakers at the Devcom-Pakistan webinar were of the opinion that China's support and dynamic Muslim leadership will help the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to emerge into a vibrant forum. For a collective economic progress of 57 Muslim countries, the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers need to focus on the present-day challenges. Traditional and nontraditional security, political harmony and tolerance shall be on the top of the shared agenda coupled with a progres-

sive action plan. A rapid progressive approach is a must if the Muslim countries desire to be relevant to the global agenda of peace and prosperity. Development Communications Network (Devcom-Pakistan) organized the webinar on Saturday to critically review the outcome of the 48th session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM). The panel of experts included former ISI chief and prolific writer and geopolitical analyst Lt. General (Retd) Muhammad Asad Durrani, Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director and geopolitical analyst Munir Ahmed, former Additional

Director General FIA (Federal Investigation Agency) and cyber security specialist Ammar Jafri, environmentalist Azhar Qureshi, and gender and international relations specialist Farhat Rana. Lt. General (Retd) Muhammad Asad Durrani said the OIC needs to improve its structure for strategic gain in the fast moving geopolitical situation and balance of power. Dynamics of the world hierarchy are on the move, and we need to understand the future options for Pakistan and the Muslim world more seriously and diligently. The documents like Islamabad Declaration would not change anything around

the Muslim world especially for the Pakistan while social sector challenges are blowing up the strategic options. Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed said the OIC-CFMs could not come up with any time-bound strategic plan. A sideline meeting of the COMSTECH, however, had a meaningful brainstorming to use science and technology cooperation. Such meetings and forums could never translate the agenda into on-ground action and support to the least developed Muslim countries. The China, Pakistan and Saudi Arabian triangular cooperation shall lead the

OIC future discourse and cooperation. Nontraditional security threats are looming around and the OIC has no action plan and required funding to cope up with the threats. Most of the OIC countries are lagging behind the UN Sustainable Development Goals, many of them even have no idea what the SDGs are and how they can contribute to their social and economic uplift. Ammar Jafri said the future of nations depends on cyber security. Pakistan has much advanced knowledge and can contribute to infrastructure and cyber security system development and training. The cyber systems can

also play a significant role in all types of data management for the planning and development agenda. Azhar Qureshi mentioned that COMSTECH has the potential to play its role in using science and technology in various sectors to improve life, livelihood and food production. We need to make the masses understand the science of climate change that is hampering everything around us. Farhat Rana said women are invisible in the OIC regime. The OIC countries cannot progress without participation of women at all forums. The OIC shall have a proactive gender development and engagement policy.



ISLAMABAD: Bosnian delegation that took part in the recently held OIC conference enjoys lunch at the Monal Restaurant. Ambassador of Bosnia Sakib Foric hosted the lunch. - DNA

Nauman ensures  
efficiency of Zonergy  
Solar project

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Nauman Younas, a dedicated Pakistani worker always on forefront ensuring efficiency and safety of 900MW Zonergy Solar project, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday. "Engineering safety always comes first." In his work, Muhammad Nauman Younas always adheres to the principle of safety and efficiency. He is very dedicated to the work to meet up the Daily Generation Record and cop it up with monthly and yearly targets.

Muhammad Nauman Younas, an electrical engineer working at the Zonergy 900MW Solar Project in Pakistan. "In power station operation and maintenance, he always does his best. Over the years, the power generation performance of his CREST power station has always ranked first in the power generation performance of all our station. In the future, we will train Nauman Younas as a technical backbone and reserve cadres." Liu Yalin, General Manager of Zonergy Power Generation Division, said to Gwadar Pro.

2022 is his third year in the solar project at Quaid-e-Azam Solar Park, Bahawalpur. Muhammad Nauman Younas graduated from the NFC Institute of Engineering and Technology in October 2016, majoring in Electrical Engineering. After that he did Master in Electrical Engineering from The Islamia University, Bahawalpur. He holds the position of Operation and Maintenance Engineer, to accountable for the Planning & Execution of Preventive maintenance Schedule to improve the reliability of Equipment. In Nauman Younas' view, joining the CPEC project is a win-win option. "In 2019, during final year of my studies in Masters, I found myself more interested in renewable energy sector, especially solar energy, which is also the future of the developing countries including Pakistan. Zonergy developed the largest solar energy project in Pakistan under the framework of CPEC. Of course, they can offer me a handsome salary as well. Given that, I expressed my sincere interest to be a part of the team. Being a part of such esteemed organization means endless possibilities." In the past 3 years, facing the heavy and challenging daily work, Nauman Younas has made a great contribution not only as an employee but also as a regulator. "I need to formulate regular cleaning plan of photovoltaic modules, weeding plan of photovoltaic park and joint inspection plan according to site requirements," he recalled. - DNA

## ICCI, NPC to work together for promoting business

National Press Club President Anwar Raza in his address said that the business community is playing a key role in the development of the economy by promoting industrial & commercial activities, investment, tax revenue and employment besides contributing to the development of Islamabad city

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of National Press Club (NPC) Islamabad led by its President Anwar Raza visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) and vowed work together with ICCI to promote the business and economic interests of Pakistan. NPC Group Leader Afzal Butt, Senior Vice President Azhar Jatoi, Secretary General Khalid Ahmed Raja, Qalbe Ali, Ms. Nayyar Ali and others were in the delegation. Rawalpindi Islamabad Union of Journalists President AbidAbbasi and Secretary General Tariq Ali Work were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the delegation, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Shakeel Munir congratulated NPC President Anwar Raza and his team on winning the elections and commended their efforts to protect the interests of the journalistic community. He said that the journalists are rendering an important service to the society by providing timely information and keeping the people informed about important issues which is appreciable. He stressed that the government should resolve the key issues of journalistic community on priority basis and provide them better facilities. He said that NPC should play more effective role in highlighting the key issues of business commu-

nity that would help in promoting trade and industrial activities. He assured that ICCI would fully cooperate with NPC in its efforts to safeguard the interests of the journalistic community. ICCI Senior Vice President Jamshed Akhtar Sheikh, Vice President Muhammad Fahim Khan, Chairman Founder Group Khalid Iqbal Malik, Former Presidents Muhammad Ijaz Abbasi and Zafar Bakhtawari, President All Pakistan Anjuman-e-Tajir-Ajmal Baloch, Former Senior Vice Presidents Muhammad Naveed Malik and Khalid Chaudhry and others also spoke at the occasion and appreciated the role of the journalistic community in educating the society on important

issues. They said that ICCI and NPC are working for common goals to protect the interests of their members, therefore, they should develop strong liaison to achieve their common objectives more effectively. National Press Club President Anwar Raza in his address said that the business community is playing a key role in the development of the economy by promoting industrial & commercial activities, investment, tax revenue and employment besides contributing to the development of Islamabad city. He urged that the government should focus on solving their problems on priority basis which will create favourable conditions for business activities and stabi-

lize the economy. NPC Group Leader Afzal Butt, Secretary General Khalid Ahmed Raja, Ms. Nayyar Ali, Qalbe Ali and others also spoke at the occasion. They underscored the need of close cooperation between the ICCI and the NPC to make joint efforts for addressing the issues of the journalistic and business communities. The two institutions discussed important issues facing the economy and reaffirmed their commitment to work together for their redress. Both sides were of the view that ensuring freedom of media and creating more conducive conditions for business class was so important to steer the economy out of current challenges.

Business community to work  
hard for progress of Pakistan

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that 23rd March, 1940 was a historic occasion when the Muslims of the Sub-Continent decided to establish a separate homeland to free themselves from the oppression and slavery of the Hindu majority. He said that this day called upon the nation to pay tribute to the Father of the Nation and all the leaders of the Independence Movement who united Muslims of Sub-Continent and struggled for creation of a free and independent Muslim State, which was culminated in the emergence of Pakistan on the

map of the World on 14th August, 1947. He called upon the business community and the nation to work harder for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan. He was speaking as chief guest at a Pakistan Day ceremony organized by Islamabad Founders Lions Club, which was Presided over by its President Baser Daud. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President, Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi & Sheikh Amir Waheed former Presidents, Muhammad Naveed Malik & Khalid Chaudhry former Senior Vice Presidents, Ahsan Bakhtawari & Ashfaq Hussain Chatha former Vice Presidents, Zia Khalid Chaudhry, Naveed Satti, Faheem Iqbal, Ms. Shazia

Rizwan, Ms. Safaena Shah, Ms. Nageena Khaleque, Umar Sadiq, Faizan Shehzad, Ch. Tahir, Zaheer Iqbal, Malik Najeeb and others were present at the occasion. Muhammad Shakeel Munir said that this day also reminded us that we as a nation should work hard for the development of our beloved country. He resolved that the business community would continue to play a role for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan. He said that Pakistan was achieved with unprecedented sacrifices which necessitated that every individual of the nation should work with honesty and integrity to make Pakistan a strong economy of the region. He said that without making

the economy strong, it was not possible to make Pakistan a progressive and prosperous country. He urged that the government should provide maximum facilitation to the private sector so that the business community could contribute to steer the economy out of troubled waters and put it on the path of sustainable growth. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that Allama Muhammad Iqbal and Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah had envisioned Pakistan as a progressive welfare Islamic state, but we are still way behind from translating their vision into reality.

Pakistan-  
Indonesia  
trade market  
to create ties

ISLAMABAD: Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Asian Pacific and African Affairs of Indonesia, Abdul Kadir Jailani on Sunday said the market of 500 million people of Pakistan and Indonesia can establish strong economic and trade relations for increasing trade volume between both sides. Strong economic ties between the two major trading markets emerging in the global economy will play an important role in economic integration between the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) countries, he expressed these views during an exclusive interview with APP here.

The Minister said that Pakistan and Indonesia are the two largest Islamic countries in terms of population with a combined population of 500 million, which is a potential market for economic and trade cooperation and could open new avenues for bilateral economic cooperation. Bilateral trade volume between the two countries is \$3.9 billion, which is likely to increase further in the near future, he said.

He said that both sides are working to enhance bilateral economic, trade, diplomatic, political and cultural cooperation, and new avenues of cooperation will open up in this regard in the future.

He said that Indonesia could provide Pakistan with opportunities for trade and economic activities in the Association of SouthEast Asian Nations (ASEANs) market with a population of 623 million, which would enhance the growth of trade between the two countries. - APP

2-days drama  
Workshop  
at PNCA  
concludes

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts's two-days drama workshop started from 26-27 March was concluded here on Sunday. The workshop was aimed to motivate young generation towards power of communication, adopting theatre as a strong tool of expression and creating innovative stuff in this regard as well as to promote the theatre culture by providing the participants a platform to exhibit their craft, said a press release issued.

Renowned artist Rubina Qureshi, Humera Malik & Dr. Umer Sultan were also present there. They appreciated the initiative taken by PNCA and threw light on the importance of seeking knowledge and self-improvement techniques. Upon conclusion course conductor Mr Waqar Azeem briefly elaborated the contents of workshop and showed a glimpse of performance by the participants. Programme Coordinator Mr Umer Zaka discussed the idea of that workshop and the encouraging response from all over the youth. - APP

Experts  
underscore  
better ties  
with US, EU

ISLAMABAD: The leading economic experts on Sunday underscored the urgent need for further enhancing trade and investment partnership with the United States and European Union and importance of regional connectivity to Central Asia via Afghanistan for greater regional integration, besides bolstering tri-lateral trade. They were addressing a workshop on "Strengthening Trade Relationship with world" organized by former Senior Vice President Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Meher Kashif Younis, said a press release received here.

Speaking on the occasion, President SAARC Chamber Ifkhar Ali Malik urged US and EU private sector to lend financial supports to Pakistan for building connectivity with the central Asian region via Afghanistan. He said Pakistan is financing important projects like Khyber-Pass Economic Corridor and CASA-1000 (Central Asia-South Asia power project) for regional connectivity and stressed the need to fully mobilize more financial resources through USA's Development Finance Corporation and its private sector to achieve the desired results of regional connectivity. He said, USA is providing economic assistance for more stable, peaceful and prosperous Pakistan". - APP

AIOU  
admissions  
till April 18

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has announced to continue the admission for second phase of Spring Semester 2022 till April 18. According to AIOU, the programs offered include MA / MSc / Postgraduate Diploma Programs / BA (Associate Degree), B.Com (Associate Degree), BBA, BS Program, Certificate Courses and Teacher Training programs (one-year M.Ed. 1.5, 2.5 and 4-year B.Ed programs). Prospectuses and admission forms for all the programs are available on the University website www.aiou.edu.pk. Students can also apply online. The procedure for applying online is available on the prospectus and university's website. The M.Ed program is offered in five areas including Elementary Teacher Education, Teacher Education, Distance and Non-Formal Education, Science Education and Special Education.

## Russian losses

**R**USSIA has lost 16,600 soldiers and 582 tanks since the invasion of Ukraine on February 24, Ukrainian news website The Kyiv Independent reported. The Ukrainian media's claims comes days after Moscow claimed it had lost 1,351 soldiers in what it calls a 'military operation' in Ukraine. According to the Ukrainian media report, the Russians have suffered major losses which include 1,664 armoured personnel carriers, 121 planes, 127 helicopters and so on. On Friday, Moscow had said that it lost 1,351 troopers in the war while 3,825 had been wounded. However, NATO has pegged the losses ranging between 7,000 and 15,000 Russian soldiers. On Saturday, the Western officials claimed that seven Russian generals were killed and another top ranking official was sacked by Kremlin earlier this month. Lieutenant General Yakov Rezansev, the commander of Russia's 49th Combined Arms Army was killed in action.

According to news agency AFP, General Vlislav Yershov was abruptly sacked due to the heavy losses and strategic failures during the month long invasion of Ukraine. Western officials have also claimed that 20 of Russia's 115-120 tactical military units have been rendered ineffective due to the losses sustained in the war. Meanwhile, French president Emmanuel Macron has distanced himself from comments made by the US president Joe Biden about Russia's Vladimir Putin. In a speech in Warsaw, Poland, last night, Biden said Putin is a "butcher" and said "this man cannot remain in power". However, the White House later clarified that the US was not calling for regime change. Macron told broadcaster France 3: "I would not use those words."

He added that "everything must be done to stop the situation from escalating" if there is to be any hope of stopping Russia's war in Ukraine. Macron also told France 3 he saw his task as "achieving first a ceasefire and then the total withdrawal of [Russian] troops by diplomatic means. If we want to do that, we can't escalate either in words or actions." Ferocious fighting continues in several cities of Ukraine as the war enters Day 32. Moscow on Sunday struck military targets in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv with high-precision cruise missiles.

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

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Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



## Record-breaking Arctic temperatures

**A** HEATWAVE in the Arctic and the collapse of the Conger ice shelf in East Antarctica bring warnings that climate breakdown could be accelerating. There are signs of melting at weather stations near the north pole, with temperatures 30C above normal. In Antarctica, temperatures are 40C up. While the Conger ice shelf is too small to cause significant sea-level rises, its collapse points to growing instability. These weather events do more than offer proof of the dangers of global heating. They also risk triggering changes that could accelerate the disruption.

When policymakers and the public are focused on war in Ukraine and the rising cost of living, it is hard to be reminded of the existential threat posed by rising temperatures. But the extent to which climate has faded from consciousness in the months since the UN conference in Glasgow is frightening. If we are to avoid the worst effects of global heating, with around half the world's population said by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to be highly vulnerable, it is imperative to make drastic changes to our global energy system. Of course, extreme weather at the poles doesn't affect people in the same way as in densely populated areas. But the truth is that even when large populations are harmed, dangerous weather events in poorer countries do not reliably catch and keep international attention. Generally it takes a crisis in a rich, developed nation for western audiences to take notice of what runaway warming could mean: the record-smashing heat dome in the northern US and Canada last summer, for example, or fires and heatwaves in California and Europe. Animals, as well as people, are doing their best to adapt to changing conditions. This week, US scientists revealed research showing that many species of birds are building nests and laying eggs around a month earlier than a century ago. Such adjustments are a vital part of the climate message. Without the hope they offer, that we can find ways to live in changed conditions, the danger is that the prospect becomes too scary, prompting reactions of either avoidance or despair. This was the message of the recent film Don't Look Up, with its satirical portrait of a world hellbent on denial as scientists try to warn about an approaching comet. It's essential to stress that the climate crisis is not a comet that will instantly wipe out civilisation. In April, the IPCC will update its recommendations to governments on how to limit emissions. The shift to green power remains achievable. But time is running out.

# OIC continues to work tirelessly to unite Muslims

Ishtiaq Ahmad



The Chinese foreign minister also weighed in, stating: "On the Kashmir issue, we have once again heard the call of many Islamic friends. China shares the same aspiration"

**N**AMED in honor of Islam, Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, has emerged as a key summitry venue for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the largest international organization in the world after the UN. In December, the city hosted a special session of the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers to discuss ways to avert the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. This week, the 48th annual session of the CFM also took place in Islamabad. It coincided with celebrations for the 75th anniversary of Pakistan Day. About 200 delegates from 57 member states, represented mostly by their foreign ministers, spent two days deliberating the theme of the session: Building partnerships for unity, justice and development. On Wednesday, they resolved to act together during the current global divide caused by the war in Ukraine. The CFM approved 140 resolutions covering a range of critical issues facing

the Islamic world, including Islamophobia, the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, the conflicts in Palestine and Kashmir, and post-pandemic economic recovery. Since its establishment in 1969, the OIC has served as a major platform for sustained interaction among leaders and officials from the Islamic world by holding a summit of the leaders of member states once every three years, an annual CFM conference, and regular meetings of officials from almost two dozen subsidiary and affiliated institutions and committees.

Pakistan previously hosted the second OIC summit in 1974, the second extraordinary OIC summit in 1997, and the CFM meetings in 1970, 1980, 1993 and 2007. This week's CFM session, chaired by OIC Secretary-General Hissein Brahimi Taha, was significant in terms of both outcome and attendance. The presence, for the first time, of a Chinese foreign minister, Wang Yi, suggests that Beijing wants to strengthen its relations with the Islamic world. This was apparent as he highlighted the fact that China had signed cooperation agreements with 54 Muslim countries and launched nearly 600 large-scale projects, worth \$400 billion, under its Belt and Road Initiative.

"This is a fine example of how to practice the new type of international relations and it also provides useful experience on how different countries and civilizations can interact with each other," he said.

China's BRI spans Muslim countries across Asia and Africa. Via an economic corridor through Pakistan that ends at the Indian ocean, China seeks to link its western region with the Arabian Gulf, from where it receives much of its imported oil. In an increasingly multipolar world, the OIC-China relationship will help to diversify economic opportunities for Muslim countries, especially in terms of integration with the BRI's trade and development network. China's participation in the CFM conference also seems to have influenced its resolutions on Ukraine and Kashmir. Regarding the former, the Chinese foreign minister stated: "We need to prevent humanitarian disasters and prevent the spillover of the Ukrainian crisis from affecting or harming the legitimate rights and interests of other regions and countries." The CFM resolved to urge Russia and Ukraine to resolve the conflict through dialogue and to establish humanitarian corridors for the safe movement of civilians and aid supplies. India's annexation and division of the disputed region

of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019 has worsened the security and humanitarian situation for the Muslim Kashmiri population. Pakistan, which is party to the Kashmir conflict under UN Security Council resolutions, has consequently sought the intervention of the OIC's Contact Group on Kashmir, which met on the sidelines of the CFM session. The Chinese foreign minister also weighed in, stating: "On the Kashmir issue, we have once again heard the call of many Islamic friends. China shares the same aspiration."

The CFM has adopted a resolution on the threats to peace and security in South Asia, but has gone a step further by approving an action plan for members of the contact group to monitor human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir and coordinate a concerted response to rectify the situation.

The humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan is another issue over which the CFM has taken concrete steps. It has operationalized the Humanitarian Trust Fund for Afghanistan, which was established during its extraordinary meeting in December. Since then, the UN has been able to muster considerable financial support for Afghan relief efforts. Now, the war in Ukraine threatens to distract global attention from Afghanistan, while the US-led West and the Taliban regime remain divided on financial and humanitarian issues. Hence, the CFM has acted pragmatically by deciding to operationalize its humanitarian engagement in Afghanistan. Islamophobia is another issue on which the OIC has achieved a considerable global consensus, especially after the OIC group at the UN Human Rights Council secured a resolution in 2011 for an action plan to combat Islamophobia, called the Istanbul Process.

This month, the UN General Assembly also passed a unanimous resolution to declare March 15 the International Day to Combat Islamophobia. The OIC previously instituted an Observatory on Islamophobia and sponsored interfaith harmony and dialogue among populations at the global level. The CFM's decision to appoint a special envoy on Islamophobia takes this progressive journey a step further. Of course, since the OIC was created under Saudi leadership in response to the 1969 Israeli attack on Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem, no OIC meeting can conclude without a forthright resolution on Palestine.

The CFM reiterated the Islamic world's call for an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied territories and the

establishment of a separate Palestinian state under the Arab Peace Initiative which was proposed by Saudi Arabia in 2002 and endorsed by the Arab League. It also reaffirmed moral and diplomatic support for suffering Muslim communities, such as the Rohingya of Myanmar, and underscored the urgency of resolving intra-Muslim conflicts, such as the war in Syria.

Yemen is one such unfortunate conflict zone, where the Iranian-backed Houthi militia has not only held the Yemeni population hostage to its militarism but also brazenly attacked Saudi Arabia with increasing intensity. Therefore, during his address Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan urged OIC member states "to apply more pressure on the Houthis so that they can be stopped from jeopardizing the security of the Kingdom." The CFM responded by resolving to take the appropriate measures in this regard.

Like other multilateral institutions, the OIC might lack the enforcement mechanisms for implementing its resolutions in non-Muslim countries but on issues such as the situation in Yemen, OIC members do have the ability to put pressure on recalcitrant states, such as Iran. In this respect, the CFM has agreed to convene a ministerial meeting to identify mechanisms and tools for the promotion of peace and the prevention of conflicts in the Islamic world. Through its affiliated and subsidiary bodies, such as the Islamic Development Bank, the OIC has always tried to deal with issues of poverty, health, education, disaster management and climate change. The CFM also resolved to facilitate the post-pandemic economic recovery through increased cooperation in the trade and energy spheres, which will help member states to achieve incremental progress in a gamut of developmental issues that are included in the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Forging unity among Muslims, defending Muslim causes in world politics, and resolving internal differences within the Muslim world are the founding ideals of OIC. Its efforts in the past couple of decades to resolve conflicts and protect their civilian victims, as well as to combat global challenges, such as Islamophobia, offer a glimmer of hope. Institutional limitations do hinder its peace and reconciliation efforts but the OIC remains the largest representative body for nearly 2 billion Muslims in the world, along with their expectations for progress and prosperity.

— Courtesy: Arab News

# Why is Europe suddenly so interested in refugees?

Karolina Augustova

Just like European states, European citizens also responded to Ukrainian refugees very differently than other refugees who tried to cross their countries' borders in the past

**A**FTER Russia began its out-of-control invasion of Ukraine on February 24, news of the violence visited upon the people of Ukraine spread quickly across Europe, and triggered massive waves of solidarity. European countries took swift action to offer support to Ukrainians escaping Russian aggression. The European Union agreed in record time to activate the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) to help people fleeing the war. The TPD became applicable on March 4, offering immediate protection and a clear legal status for up to three years to millions of people. Even far-right, proudly anti-immigration and anti-refugee politicians from EU member states in Central and Eastern Europe started advocating for Ukrainian refugees. Citizens from across the EU, and from my native Czech Republic, started travelling to Ukraine's borders to pick up refugees and offer them accommodation in their homes.

As a European and Czech citizen, I felt proud watching this outpouring of support for Ukrainians in need. Yet, as a scholar who has been researching migration and violence along the EU's borders for many years, I could not help but ask: Why are Europeans feeling so much empathy for refugees now? Why did they not care when others, equally in need, were at the EU's borders? These questions may seem provocative, and

even unnecessary, when millions of people are fleeing potential war crimes. Indeed, all efforts to support victims of Russia's brutal invasion should be supported. However, there is also a need to reflect on the nature of acts of solidarity that seem to be specific to this moment in history, and to this set of refugees, if we are to prevent Europe's humanitarian responses from being shaped by racism and ethnic discrimination.

Indeed, Europe's response to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, made it clear that racism – along with other factors – has helped shape the refugee policies of the nations on the eastern border of the EU.

Hungary, Croatia and Poland, for example, have been militarising their borders to stop refugees from the Middle East and beyond from entering their territory (and the EU) since 2015. The European Commission gave these states millions of euros so that they can enhance their efforts to intercept so-called "irregular migrants". This tough surveillance and interception regime all but closed Europe's borders to vulnerable people on the move, and left many of them with no legal route to safety. Those affected by these tough border policies included asylum seekers from Syria escaping chemical attacks and bombings by the Syrian regime and Russian forces, people from Afghanistan fleeing the Taliban, and Yemenis running from the brutal civil war in their country, among many others. As a researcher and activist, I met countless such refugees on the EU's borders. They told me that every time they tried to enter the EU to seek asylum, they have been denied legal assistance and pushed over the border into Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina or another non-EU state. Many of them recounted how EU border patrol officers physically attacked them, tortured them, sexually abused them and destroyed their possessions or stole their money to hinder their future border crossing attempts. One of the refugees who suffered abuse at the hands of EU border officers was Mahmoud from Syria. He told me how he was physically attacked in Croatia before being pushed back into Bosnia: "They [border patrols in Croatia] made us sit down and they asked me: 'Where are you from?' I said to him: 'I am from Syria.' He answered: 'What is the matter with Syria?!', and he started beating, beating, beating."

Similar violence occurred at the border between Poland and Belarus more recently, in 2021. When Belarus pushed displaced people from the Middle East towards the Polish border, the EU swiftly closed the passage, leaving hundreds in grave danger. On February 23, 2022, just a day before the first Ukrainian refugees started leaving the country, 26-year-old Ahmed al-Shawafi from Yemen died of hypothermia at the closed Polish-Belarusian border. All this stands in stark contrast to the way these very same states responded to the crisis in Ukraine. When the Ukrainians found themselves under attack, they not only immediately abandoned their restrictive "security first" border policies but did everything they could to make it easier for civilians to reach safety. Just like European states, European citizens also responded to Ukrainian refugees very differently than other refugees who tried to cross their countries' borders in the past. Indeed, many people who previously refused to engage with refugees, and condemned anyone advocating for their rights, personally travelled to the border areas to welcome Ukrainians in their countries. When I spoke about violence against refugees from the Middle East, Asia and Africa at the EU's borders, I was publicly slammed in the Czech media. Many Czech citizens accused me of "helping illegal migration" and told me that I "deserve to be beaten up". Even my relatives told me: "Why are you helping them [non-European refugees] if none of us wants them here [in Europe]?"

Yet, the very same people are now welcoming Ukrainian refugees with open arms and participating in refugee aid programmes to help them. Even my Czech neighbours, who once told me that they would "rather burn our old blankets than give them to non-European migrants", are now doing everything they can to help Ukrainians feel at home in Czechia.

There are several interconnecting reasons behind this sudden change in the way European citizens and states are responding to refugees. Many Central and Eastern Europeans are empathising with Ukrainian refugees because the images of Russian tanks in Ukrainian cities are reminding them of their countries' own histories. My family members in Czechia told me that seeing civilians in Kyiv trying to stop Russian tanks reminded them of the 1968 Rus-

sian invasion of erstwhile Czechoslovakia.

People across Europe also feel personally affected by the war in Ukraine because of the country's geographical proximity, fearing that the conflict there may any minute spill over to their countries. Therefore, they are celebrating the Ukrainians not only for protecting their own future, but the future of Europe. This is true, especially for those in Eastern European and Baltic states who have more reason than those in the West to fear Russian aggression.

Ukrainians have also been part of Central and Eastern European societies as workers for years. And there are strong social and economic links between Ukraine and the rest of Eastern Europe. Many in countries like Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic personally know Ukrainians and, as a result, find it easier to sympathise with their country's plight.

There is, however, one more disturbing factor that has undoubtedly played an important role in shaping Europe's response to Ukrainian refugees: skin colour. The same Europeans who want to burn their old blankets rather than give them to Middle Eastern refugees are collecting donations for the Ukrainians not only because the violence they are escaping is much more familiar and near, but also because they – as some journalists and politicians openly pointed out – have "white skin and blond hair". They are willing to help and protect Ukrainians because they believe they too are "civilised" like them and come from a "European culture". All this is, of course, in stark contrast with their treatment of other refugees.

So as we show solidarity with Ukrainians – and we indeed should do everything and anything we can to help them – we should also reflect on how our societies and states treat refugees who happen to not be so white and so European.

We need to remember that the "Us vs Them" mentality that made Europe turn its back on so many in desperate need is also the root cause of so many conflicts that displace people. If we do not use this moment to reflect on what guides our humanitarian responses, we will only end up feeding the far right and allowing their not so humanitarian policies and politics to guide our response to future humanitarian crises.

— Courtesy: Al Jazeera

## Briefs

## Foreign hands trying to topple my govt: Imran

FROM PAGE 01  
I will invite them off the record. We have to decide for how long we will have to live like this. We are getting threats. There are many things about foreign conspiracy which will be shared very soon." "The nation wants to know who the man sitting in London is meeting with and whose directions the characters based in Pakistan are following? I am revealing the proofs we have. I cannot talk more in detail because I have to protect the interest of my country. I cannot talk about anything that harms my country. I could have told you about it. I do not fear anyone but I care about Pakistan's interest." At the onset of his speech, he thanked his supporters for gathering in the capital at his call. "First of all, I thank my nation. The way you turned up on my call from all corners of Pakistan, I appreciate you from the bottom of my heart. I also pay tribute to my team of parliamentarians as 'you were offered money and attempts were made to bribe you but you made me happy and I am proud of you.'

## Dissident MNAs will face humiliation

FROM PAGE 01  
Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) historic public meeting. He said a huge crowd of people at the Parade Ground showed that the entire nation stood by Prime Minister Imran Khan who did not care about the power. Ousting the prime minister from the power would affect the masses, he added. Fawad said the prime minister was not only striving for the welfare of masses but also the entire Muslim Ummah. He said the PTI only wanted to remain in public which brought the party into the government. It had no interest in the power, the minister added. He said those who wanted to oust the prime minister would have to go through from 200 million people who stood behind him like a rock.

## Pak highly values ties with EU: FM

FROM PAGE 01  
"We in a subsequent meeting with a group of ambassadors expressed our concern about that because it was not the way diplomacy should be practised", foreign secretary said. "We have told them that Pakistan will be a partner in peace but not in any war," secretary said. It is to be mentioned here that the heads of EU countries diplomatic missions, had publicly released a joint letter urging Pakistan to support a resolution in the United Nations General Assembly on the Ukraine, Russia conflict. The move to release the letter publicly was a clear violation of diplomatic norms.

## Shahzain Bugti quits PTI govt...

FROM PAGE 01  
We are grateful to the Jamhoori Watan Party and Shahzain Bugti for taking this brave decision. The issues of Balochistan are very complicated and the people of Balochistan have not gotten justice in our history. If we have to save Pakistan, we have to give justice to the people. Chairman PPP said that those who are trying to harm Pakistan are wrong to think that they can hurt Pakistan through Balochistan. When we hold free and fair elections post electoral reforms, true representatives from all over the country will be elected. Then, the decisions we take together will be for the benefit of the country. Shahzain Bugti has announced his decision after working with those people for three years. He is a brave man who stands by his words. We believe that the new generation is responsible for the legacy of their ancestors.

## Pakistan, China to bring sorghum co-op into CPEC

The major use for sorghum is livestock feeds for various animals. Processed sorghum can be used as floating fish food or steam flakes for ruminants at large feedlots

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan and China will bring sorghum cooperation into CPEC, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Sunday. "Sorghum is a multi-purpose crop that can play an important role in food and fodder provision. By tapping its potential jointly, we wish to bring sorghum cooperation into CPEC and benefit both peoples". This was stated by experts at a Symposium on Sorghum Industry Development of China Pakistan, organized by the Belt and Road International Institute of Scientific and Technological Innovation of Sorghum Industry, Sorghum Research Institute, Shanxi

Agricultural University, and National Sorghum Industry Technology Innovation Strategic Alliance, China. The major use for sorghum is livestock feeds for various animals. Processed sorghum can be used as floating fish food or steam flakes for ruminants at large feedlots. "Also, it might be considered as a crop that contributes to food security as they outperform other cereals under harsh environmental conditions and are economical to produce. They are an important source of food and fodder especially in the hot and dry areas of the country", said Dr. Shahzor Gul, Assistant Professor, Institute of Food Sciences and Technology, Sindh Agriculture University. In environmental conditions

that are too harsh for other cereal to produce grains, sorghum is a viable choice. These regions are characterized by erratic distribution of annual rainfall, high mean temperature and depleted



soil fertility. As a tropical plant, it has remarkable adaptability to various climates and soils except saline and waterlogged soil and can withstand heat and drought stress better than maize. In Pakistan, its per hectare

output is approximately 5.4 tonnes, higher than wheat and rice, which stand at 3.0 and 2.2 tonnes per hectare respectively. Meanwhile, the demand for millets and sorghum is much less and there is no di-

cultivator, inadequate plant population, lack of fertilizer application, weed control measures, and water conservation practices. In 2019, Pakistan imported sorghum worth \$12.4 million. "If Pakistan and China join hands in variety research, demonstration cultivation, talent training, and technical guidance, we can provide nutritious food for Pakistani people and quality forage for Pakistani animal husbandry", proposed Ping Junai from the Sorghum Research Institute of Shanxi Agricultural University.

Bilateral cooperation in sorghum has already been under way. In 2020-21, five varieties of Shanxi sorghum have been planted in Pakistan for trial, which will con-

tinue in the coming year. In 2021, China imported over 9 million tons of sorghum, registering 95.6% increase. "In China, there is no limit quota on sorghum, providing vast market for Pakistani sorghum products. In this regard, joint ventures can be built for joint sorghum production", said Yuan Guobao, a leading agricultural expert in China. "In Pakistan, the area under sorghum and millet on the average is 1.5 million hectares. Punjab and Sindh are the major sorghum-producing provinces, contributing respectively 47% and 26% of the total. They can become the focal areas of bilateral sorghum cooperation", shared Dr. Shahzad Sabir from Punjab Agriculture Department.

seen, particularly in the last couple of years, that being a three-format player, it's really hard sometimes. Players like Cummins, Warner and Smith, they need that break and that's definitely understandable. "When you have so much inexperience in one team it does make it really hard. It's definitely will be a challenge and hopefully we get through as these series are very important to us. "If we come through with a series win with inexperience then it will be a really nice feeling." Zampa, 29, said he feels confident of his place after getting backing from limited over captain Aaron Finch.

"I feel like I don't have to look over my shoulder too much with selection," Zampa said. "When you're younger, you naturally probably look over your shoulder, you doubt yourself a lot more. "Aaron Finch has helped me massively with my game. He backs me in my own out there, and he lets me run my own show with my bowling, and has been really good with his own ideas as well. "The remaining two matches are on Thursday and Saturday - also in Lahore. Australia will end the tour with a single Twenty20 international, also in Lahore, on April 5. - DNA



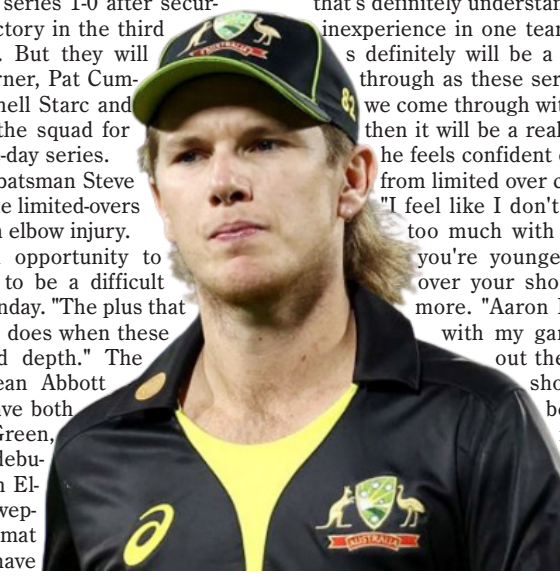
## Eriksen makes fairytale Denmark return

PARIS: Denmark's Christian Eriksen made an emotional goal-scoring return to international football on Saturday as England, Germany and Spain carved out friendly victories. Eriksen found the net two minutes after coming on with a powerful drive in a 4-2 defeat against fellow World Cup qualifiers Netherlands in Amsterdam. It was his first national team appearance since suffering a cardiac arrest in Denmark's opening game of the European Championships against Finland in Copenhagen last June. On Saturday, to the resounding applause of fans and even Dutch manager Louis van Gaal, the 30-year-old came off the bench and raised his hands to the sky in thanks. His goal was 37th in 110 appearances. It was fitting he scored in the Amsterdam Arena, the home of Ajax. Eriksen came through the ranks at the Dutch side, making 162 appearances for the club and winning five trophies, including three consecutive league titles between 2011 and 2013. Meanwhile, Harry Kane converted a late penalty to close in on the all-time England goal-scoring record and secure a 2-1 win over Switzerland who will also be at the World Cup in Qatar in November. Kane netted from the spot to reach 49 England goals, moving him ahead of Gary Lineker and into a second place tie with Bobby Charlton. - Agencies

## Pak ODIs 'challenging' for depleted Australia: Zampa

"It's going to be a difficult challenge," Zampa said on Sunday. "The plus that comes from that, as it always does when these things happen, is you build depth"

LAHORE: Leg-spinner Adam Zampa admitted a depleted Australia face a "difficult challenge" in the one-day international series against Pakistan starting on Tuesday. Australia won the three-match Test series 1-0 after securing a well earned 115-run victory in the third match in Lahore on Friday. But they will miss regulars like David Warner, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc and Glenn Maxwell - all not in the squad for multiple reasons - in the one-day series. To add to their woes, senior batsman Steve Smith was also ruled out of the limited-overs series with a recurrence of an elbow injury. But Zampa believes it's an opportunity to build the squad. "It's going to be a difficult challenge," Zampa said on Sunday. "The plus that comes from that, as it always does when these things happen, is you build depth." The new-look squad includes Sean Abbott and Ben McDermott, who have both played two ODIs, Cameron Green, who has played in one, and debutants Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Josh Inglis and Mitchell Swepson. Zampa said all three-format players needed rest. "We have



## SA break Indian hearts as England, Windies make semis



DNA

BAY OVAL: Holders England won their last group match in style and West Indies benefited from South Africa's thrilling victory over India on Sunday to make the Women's World Cup semi-finals. Meg Lanning's Australia, who finished the group campaign with a perfect 7-0 record, had already secured their place in the last four. South Africa were also as-

sured of a semi-final spot heading into the match against India who needed victory to pip West Indies to the knockout stage of the tournament. India began well after half-centuries from openers SmritiMandhana (71) and ShafaliVerma (53) and an assured 68 by captainMithali Raj powered them to 274-7 even though they lacked a late flourish. Laura Wolvaardt (80) and Lara Goodall (49) led South Africa's chase but it was

Mignon du Preez's unbeaten 52 that secured their three-wicket victory on the last ball of the game in Christchurch. Du Preez was caught at long-on in the final over but was recalled after replays confirmed spinner Deepti Sharma had overstepped. "The girls have given it all knowing the importance of today's game," Mithali said after the 2017 runners-up crashed out. "It was a good game, good for the sport but it ends

our campaign." The outcome triggered wild celebration in the West Indies dressing room but they face a mammoth task against top-ranked Australia in Wednesday's semi-final in Wellington. England will meet South Africa in the second semi-final on Thursday in Christchurch. Heather Knight's team thumped Bangladesh by 100 runs to make the last four in a remarkable turnaround after beginning their title defence with three successive defeats. England rode Sophia Dunkley's 72-ball 67 to post 234-6 and Sophie Ecclestone (3-15) led the attack as they bundled out Bangladesh for 134. "I'm really pleased, I probably would have liked a few more runs, 250-260, but the wicket was very slow," said Knight. "It says a lot about this group, the way we've turned things round. Not getting too down, we were on the wrong end of a few close ones."

## Josh Warrington reclaims IBF featherweight title

LEEDS: Josh Warrington Saturday became a two-time IBF featherweight champion after knocking out Spain's Kiko Martinez in the seventh round of their clash at First Direct Arena. The 31-year-old floored the Spaniard in the opening round in front of his home crowd before the fight was stopped two minutes and 12 seconds into the seventh. Warrington won a tight points decision in their previous bout in 2017, but this time the 'Leeds Warrior' prevailed clinically. During the fight, Warrington seemed to damage his hand and was subsequently rushed to the hospital with a probably cracked jaw. "Kiko [is] still not finished. He's a big puncher. He's got iron in both hands, and he didn't stop coming. "I've done the same hands what I did in the first fight on his head. Around three or four, I lost feeling in my hands. It was getting to the stage when every time I hit him, I went numb, Warrington said, according to BBC Sports. - APP

## Harry Kane equals Sir Bobby Charlton's scoring record

LONDON: England striker Harry Kane Saturday levelled with Sir Bobby Charlton for scoring 49 England goals as they rallied from behind to defeat Switzerland in a friendly at Wembley. In the first half, England benefited from goalkeeper Jordan Pickford's excellent play, but they still went behind when BraelEmbolo's header put Switzerland ahead after 22 minutes. Gareth Southgate's side were second best to the confident Swiss but were gifted a way back into the game when Fabian Frei's blunder resulted in Luke Shaw's spectacular finish in first-half stoppage time. In the 78th-minute, Kane struck with his customary finesse and is now only four goals behind England's all-time leading scorer Wayne Rooney. "An honour to join Sir Bobby Charlton on 49 goals. Hungry for more." Kane wrote on Twitter. - APP

## Medvedev eases past Murray in Miami

Russian tennis star beats British veteran 6-4, 6-2 to edge closer to regaining top ranking

DNA

MIAMI: Daniil Medvedev is thriving on the pressure of being the man to beat after dispatching Andy Murray in straight sets at the Miami Open on Saturday to edge closer to regaining his world number one ranking. The Russian top seed served superbly against the 34-year-old three-time Grand Slam champion to ease to a straightforward 6-4, 6-2 triumph at Hard Rock Stadium and will face Spain's Pedro Martinez next. Medvedev lost his No 1 ranking after just 18 days, having failed to go deep in Indian Wells, but will regain it once again from the absent Novak

Djokovic if he reaches the semi-finals in Florida. With Djokovic and Rafael Nadal both missing, the 26-year-old is the favorite to claim his first Miami Open title and his performance against Murray showed he's in the kind of form that will cause the rest of the field a multitude of problems. "For sure, guys going against you are going to have more motivation if you are the top seed," Medvedev told AFP. "It could be the biggest win of their season but I like to be in this position. The more pressure you have, the more you expect from yourself. "At the beginning of my career, I would be really happy when I was in the third round for the first time but



now I want to achieve more. So yeah, there's definitely more pressure but also more motivation to continue doing well." Medvedev was delighted to briefly reach the pinnacle of men's tennis but is determined to ensure his next spell at the top won't be as short. "It felt good to touch it," smiled Medvedev. "Reach-

ing No 1 is something that nobody can take away from me even if it was for two weeks. "But when I did lose it, I just headed back to the practice court and knew I had to get to the semis in Miami to get it back again. "I have a lot of motivation to stay at No 1 for a long time." While Medvedev is at the top of his game, Murray is

still searching for answers. The Scot, playing with a metal hip after two operations to fix the problem which almost forced him to retire, has reintroduced Czech legend Ivan Lendl into his coaching team for a third time and hopes he can arrest a run that has seen him fail to back up first-round wins at his last six tournaments. "My level of tennis wasn't good enough to win matches like that but Ivan will bring clarity over the right way to play," said Murray, who will spend time working with Lendl in Florida before skipping the clay court swing of the ATP Tour to ensure he's prepared for Wimbledon later this summer.

"I don't think I have been practicing the right things for 18 months or so, it's difficult to sort of undo that space. "That's one of the reasons why I'm taking a big period of training to change some of those things and hopefully get my game to a place where it's more competitive against the top players again. "I do feel like I played better here than I did in the previous tournament in Indian Wells but it's going to take a lot of work." World No 5 StefanosTsitsipas of Greece punched his ticket into the third round after seeing off big-hitting American J J Wolf 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-1. Tsitsipas will face Australian Alex de Minaur for a place in the last 16.

## No-trust motion will not succeed: Sh Rashid

FROM PAGE 01

he will come back with two-third majority in the next tenure. Sheikh Rashid during his media talk referred to the opposition parties including Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and JUI-F as the "Gangs of three". The interior minister disclosed that he had got an inside news. He said things would take an entirely different turn which might not be expected by the opposition. "I have this inside news that (PDM Chief) Fazlur Rehman is not going to get anything," Rashid said while laughing at Maulana's claim that it would be the last address of Prime Minister Imran Khan today. He told Maulana that he could not extinguish the PTI's lamp with his mere blows. He said the enemy forces were going to play a big game to foil the OIC meeting, but they had been defeated. On PML-N's Mehangai Mukao March, the interior minister said that its rally which was taken out from Lahore was not very impressive.

On the JUI rally, he said that a notice was issued to the party leadership that the time allocated to them for holding a public meeting had finished now. If they hold a rally, a case will be registered against them. And if someone tries to meddle with the law, then he will be rounded up, the minister warned asking the JUI activists to keep open the Siri Nagar Highway.

## Will not let Imran run away: Maryam

FROM PAGE 01

She said that Imran Khan will be held accountable for using taxpayers' money on public gatherings and criticised him for capitalising on the religious card to gain political mileage. "This money was not your family's. This was the hard-earned money of the people of Pakistan which you spilt on holding public rallies," she said while lashing out at the premier. Maryam added that the premier "deprived people of food, while inflation reached the highest levels in the country." She also censured him for abusing the Opposition leaders and delaying the voting on the no-trust motion, adding that when the premier was held accountable for his misdoings related to the foreign funding case, he used "every means to save himself." Taking a jibe at PTI's ongoing jalsa in Islamabad, where the party has claimed to gather more than one million people in support of PM Imran Khan, Maryam said: "Your jalsa is titled Amr-bil-Marooaf (enjoining good). Is snatching bread, flour, electricity, and sugar from the masses called Amr-bil-Marooaf?" "Is misbehaving with people [opposition leaders] and calling them names Amr-bil-Marooaf?" she questioned.

## Shehbaz urges people to join PML-N march

FROM PAGE 01

Shehbaz Sharif has urged the people to participate in party's Mehangai Mukao March in droves in order to make it successful. In a video message released on Sunday, Shehbaz Sharif said he wanted to deliver an important message of his leader Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif that in the Imran Niazi government, the record inflation was a truth, the worst poverty and the worst corruption were truth. Delivering the PML-N supreme Nawaz's message, he asked the nation to rise and participate in the Mehangai Mukao March in multitudes. On the other hand, the supporters of opposition alliance Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) are reaching to the federal capital for power show amid heightened political tensions.

## Briefs

## Mexico denies US allegations on Russian spy network

MEXICO CITY: President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said on Friday there is no evidence of espionage by any Russian network in Mexico. The comments made by the president stem from the recent allegations posed by US General Glen VanHerck, who, during a Thursday's hearing in front of the US Senate, claimed Russia had its largest espionage base in Mexican territory.

In his daily press conferences, Lopez Obrador addressed VanHerck's comments, saying that while he respected the general's concerns, Mexico is a free and independent country.

"We are not going to question anything. We are respectful of the free expression of ideas. Mexico is a free, independent and sovereign country. Mexico is not a colony of any foreign country. We are not a colony of Russia, China, or the United States," said Lopez Obrador. — Agencies

## Half of Ukrainians ready to take up arms: poll

OSLO: Nearly half of Ukrainians aged 18-55 are ready to fight to defend their country against Russia, a poll conducted by European scholars suggested on Saturday. Around 70 percent of men and 30 percent of women said they were willing to take up arms, according to the survey carried out by the Peace Research Institute of Oslo (PrIO) with the help of local pollsters Info Sapiens. The latter questioned more than 1,000 Ukrainians considered of age to defend their country, half of them men and half women, in an attempt to create a representative sample despite the challenges posed by conducting a survey during a war.

Surveyed March 9-12, during the third week of the conflict, the respondents answered online questions about their attitudes to four types of resistance. — APP

## Nationwide protests if girls' schools stay shut

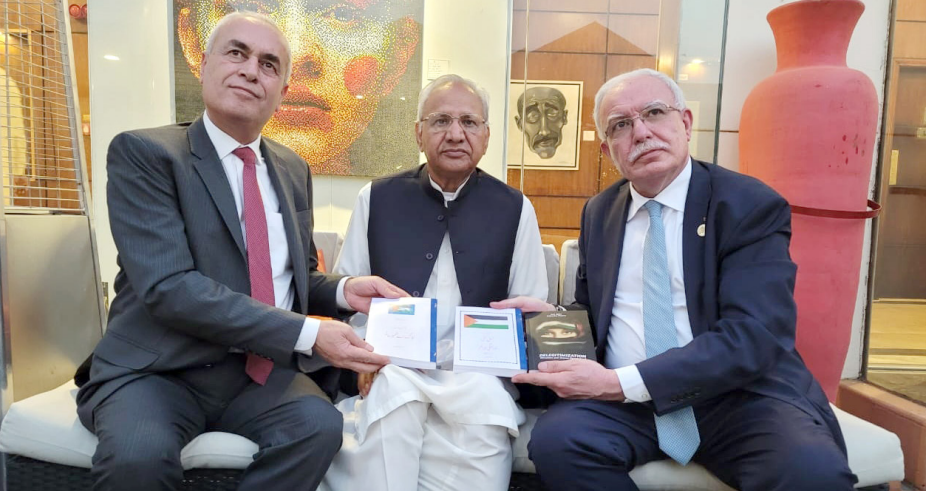
KABUL: Women's rights activists pledged Sunday to launch a wave of protests across Afghanistan if the Taliban fail to reopen girls' secondary schools within a week. Thousands of secondary school girls had flocked to classes on Wednesday after the government reopened their institutions for the first time since seizing power last August.

But officials ordered the schools shut again just hours into the day, triggering international outrage. "We call on the leaders of the Islamic Emirate to open girls' schools within one week," activist Halima Nasari read from a statement issued by four women's rights groups at a press conference in Kabul.

"If the girls' schools remain closed even after one week, we will open them ourselves and stage demonstrations throughout the country until our demands are met." — Agencies

## Palestinian FM completes successful visit of Pakistan

Minister Dr. Riyad was awarded an Urdu translation of Palestinian poetry, mainly by Mahmoud Darwish. The book will be made available to an Urdu readership that is well above 300 million. The award was given by Novelist and journalist Mohammed Hanif, the Pakistan Poet



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister of Palestine, Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, visited Islamabad to participate in the two-day 48th meeting of Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers. The visit was successful and the Minister participated in many events. OIC was attended by delegations from 57 countries, the members of OIC. Guests from more than 30 countries and international organizations were also invited. Palestine delegation was headed by the

Foreign Minister, Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, and included Palestine Ambassador to UN, Palestine Ambassador to OIC, Assistant Secretary General, Minister Assistant for International Organization, and the Palestine Ambassador to Islamabad. The delegation was warmly received and their participation at OIC was highly appreciated for the comprehensive exposition of the Palestinian struggle and cause. Minister Dr. Riyad delivered a comprehensive and compelling speech at the Council of Foreign Ministers. The two days were effectively used to communicate the Palestinian issues to

the broader audience at OIC and to call attention for urgent resolution of the Palestinian struggle. The focus on Palestine issue took significant part of the deliberation by the Council of Foreign Ministers. All participating ministers reiterated their support for the Palestine cause. The visit culminated into meeting with President of Pakistan, President Arif Alvi; Prime Minister, Imran Khan; and Foreign Affairs Minister, Minister Shah Makhdoom Qureshi. Minister Dr. Riyad was able to meet with Foreign Ministers of China, Niger, Guinea-Bissau, Turkey, OIC Secretary General, Coordinator General

of COMSTECH, Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary. Many other meetings were held with ministers from central Asia, Africa, and other Arab countries and delegations from international organizations. Minister Dr. Riyad was awarded an Urdu translation of Palestinian poetry, mainly by Mahmoud Darwish. The book will be made available to an Urdu readership that is well above 300 million. The award was given by Novelist and journalist Mohammed Hanif, the Pakistan Poet. Minister Dr. Riyad attended the official dinner headed by the President of Pakistan. A reception was also held at the Palestin-

ian Embassy, where Minister Dr. Riyad invited the staff of the embassy and the Palestinian community in Pakistan to a dinner. The Minister attended Pakistan's National Day celebrations, participated in the military parade, and offered congratulations and prayers. Over all, Minister Dr. Riyad's visit was characterized by an active participation, immense effort, an outstanding success in elevating the cause of Palestine at international fora, and outcomes that deserve utmost respect.

— Detailed article will be published in the coming issue of Centreline magazine.

## Azerbaijan committed to tripartite statement



BAKU: Azerbaijani Defense Ministry has expressed regret regarding the one-sided statement of the Russian Defense Ministry dated March 26, 2022, which does not reflect the reality, the ministry has reported. The ministry's statement underlined that on March 25, during the telephone conversation between Azerbaijan Defense Minister Colonel General Zakir Hasanov and Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, the situation in the territory of Azerbaijan, where the Russian peacekeeping forces are temporarily stationed, was discussed, and the Azerbaijani side stated that the positions and deployment locations are being clarified on spot. However, in the morning of March 26, members of illegal Armenian armed detachments attempted to sabotage the Azerbaijan Army Units. As a result of immediate measures, members of illegal Armenian armed detachments were forced to retreat. "The Defense Ministry states that Azerbaijan is committed to the Joint Statement of November 10, 2020 and has not violated any of the provisions," the statement reads. "We regretfully inform that the withdrawal of the remnants of the Armenian army and illegal Armenian armed detachments from the territory of Azerbaijan in accordance with article 4 of this Statement has not yet been completed. Therefore, it is Armenia, not Azerbaijan, that violates the provisions of the Statement," the ministry added. Azerbaijani Defense Ministry also stated that the statement of the Russian Defense Ministry contradicts the essence of bilateral relations and the Declaration on Allied Interaction signed between the two countries on February 22, 2022. "There is no administrative and territorial unit called 'Nagorno-Karabakh' in the territory of Azerbaijan. The name of the village mentioned in the statement is not Furukh, but Farrukh," the statement noted. — DNA

## Heavy rains kill dozens in Ecuador

DNA

QUITO: An unusually long, intense and destructive rainy season in Ecuador has left 52 people dead and more than 100 injured, officials have said. In addition, more than 27,000 people were affected by flooding, landslides and building collapses over the past six months, said the National Risk Management Service. Every one of Ecuador's 24 provinces was affected — with the exception of the Galapagos archipelago, 600 miles (1,000 kilometres) off the coast, the service said. It said exceptionally strong and prolonged downpours had damaged or destroyed more than 13,000 acres (5,400 hectares) of farmland, as well as 6,240 homes, schools or health clinics. A January 31 flood and landslide in the capital city Quito, caused by the most torrential rainfall seen in two decades, left 28 people dead and 52 others injured. Scientists say climate change is intensifying the risk of heavy rain around the world because a warmer atmosphere holds more water.

## UN condemns attacks on civilian facilities in Saudi Arabia, Yemen

NEW YORK: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Saturday denounced attacks on civilian facilities in Saudi Arabia and Yemen. "The Secretary-General strongly condemns the recent escalation of the conflict in Yemen including Friday's aerial attacks on civilian and energy facilities in Saudi Arabia by the Houthis and the subsequent Coalition airstrikes in Sana'a, reportedly killing eight civilians, including five children and two women," spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement. It noted that the airstrikes resulted in damage to the UN staff residential compound in Sana'a. "The Secretary-General is deeply concerned about reports of ongoing airstrikes in Hudaydah city and the targeting of Hudaydah's ports, which provide a critical humanitarian lifeline for the Yemeni population. The Secretary-General calls for a swift and transparent investigation into these incidents to ensure accountability," it said. Noting that the conflict enters its eighth year, Guterres reiterated his calls for all parties to exercise maximum restraint, immediately deescalate, cease hostilities and abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law, including the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution. He urged all parties to engage constructively and without preconditions, with his special envoy to reduce violence and urgently reach a negotiated settlement to end the conflict. Houthi rebels in Yemen claimed responsibility Friday for drone and missile attacks on Saudi energy facilities. One attack targeted an oil storage facility of state oil company Aramco, causing a fire in two storage tanks. Following the attacks, the Saudi-led coalition launched a military operation in Yemen, including rebel-held Sana'a and the Red Sea port city of al-Hudaydah. The coalition said the operation aims to stop attacks on Saudi oil facilities and "protect global energy sources." The Saudi-led coalition has been fighting Houthis since 2015, one year after the Iran-aligned rebels overran much of Yemen, including Sana'a. The eight-year conflict has created one of the world's worst man-made humanitarian crises, with nearly 80% of the country, or about 30 million people, in need of humanitarian assistance and protection and more than 13 million are in danger of starvation, according to UN estimates. — Agencies

## 90% of Ukrainians could face poverty: UN

NEW YORK: The United Nations warned Sunday that 90% of Ukrainians could face poverty if military actions continue in the war-torn country. "We see across the country that people have lost their livelihoods," Achim Steiner, senior United Nations Development Program (UNDP) administrator, told Qatar-based media outlet Al Jazeera at the Doha Forum. Steiner added "the ability to look after millions of people who are not able to earn an income" could be very hard for Ukrainian authorities to handle. "The economy is in large part suffering the consequences of supply chain constraints but also basic municipal services are increasingly not being able to function," Steiner said. The Russian invasion has devastated several Ukrainian cities, caused a humanitarian crisis and forced millions to flee their homes. In a late-night television address on Saturday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy demanded that Western nations hand over military hardware that was "gathering dust" in stockpiles, saying his nation needed just 1% of NATO's aircraft and 1% of its tanks. — APP

## Rosy outlook for Sino-Pak co-op enhancing mulberry production

DNA

BEIJING: There is rosy outlook for Sino-Pak cooperation enhancing production of mulberry in Pakistan, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Saturday. On this kind of fruit that is a little 'low-key', unlike mango or cherry, Sino-Pak cooperation is also in progress to this extent. Chinese seeds and technologies are helping Pakistan elevate its exports of mulberry products. According to the report, Mulberry tree is a 'versatile' plant. Besides fruit, mulberry's leaves, wood, branches and roots all have their own uses. In particular, mulberry leaves are not only raw materials for tea, but also the main source of feed for silkworms.

"Mulberry leaf tea is popular in China, Japan and Thailand, etc. It has anti-cancer properties. It controls blood sugar. It moderates insulin level. It controls blood pressure in our blood system. It is good for liver, too. It is 'miracle' tea," said Malik Mohsin Abbas, Principal Scientist at the Horticulture Research Institute, Ayub Agriculture Research Institute. In Pakistan, fast-growing mulberry trees, from small to medium-sized, are mainly cultivated all over Punjab and KPK. Pakistan is suitable for developing the mulberry industry especially mulberry tree. Because of the hot climate, it usually takes about merely 10 months for a mulberry tree to grow well. Pakistani people can harvest mulberry leaves several times within one year.

However, not any mulberry leaves can be made into good tea. The quality of mulberry tea depends on leaf varieties, fresh leaf tenderness, production season and processing technology. Generally speaking, only mulberry leaves and buds of certain varieties and high tenderness can become good mulberry tea. The mature mulberry leaves used for sericulture are not suitable for making tea. In Pakistan, mulberry seeds are mainly imported. According to Pakistani agricultural expert, Chinese seeds perform better in Pakistan than the ones from some other countries. "Since 2018, we've got the access from China. Now we are importing mulberry seeds from China. The quality of Chinese seeds is better than Bulgarian ones we

used to import. The output and resistance are better," said Muhammad Farooq Bhatti, Deputy Director of Sericulture, Punjab Forest Department Lahore. After years of research, China has successfully bred special mulberry varieties specifically for making tea and developed more advanced processing technology. "We have carried out some research on mulberry tea, mainly on the influence of processing technology on the content of active ingredients in mulberry tea, and on the selection of mulberry varieties which are suitable for making tea. I think China and Pakistan can cooperate more in this sector," Lin Tianbao, Director of Research Center at the Institute of Sericulture, Zhejiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences told CEN.

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**Briefs**

**China recovers second black box of crashed jet**

WEB DESK

BEIJING: Recovery crews on Sunday found the second black box - the flight data recorder - from the wreckage of a China Eastern Airlines (600115.SS) Boeing 737-800 jet that crashed into a mountainside in southern China. Flight MU5735 crashed on Monday, killing all 132 people onboard, mainland China's deadliest aviation disaster in 28 years. Heading to coastal Guangzhou from the southwestern city of Kunming, the plane dived from cruising altitude around the time it should have started its landing descent. The dead included nine crew members. The black box, which could shed light on the cause of the crash, has been sent to Beijing for examination and analysis, state media reported. The other black box - the cockpit voice recorder - was delivered to experts in the Chinese capital after being found on Wednesday. It was too soon to determine the cause of the crash, and crashes are usually the result of a combination of factors, experts said. The second black box was dug out of a slope at the crash site about 9:20 a.m. (0120 GMT) in muddy conditions after rain in recent days.

**Nawaz accepts PML-Q's condition**

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Quaid Nawaz Sharif has accepted the condition of Pakistan Muslim League Quaid (PML-Q) for offering Punjab Chief Minister slot to get support of the government ally on no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan, citing sources. According to a private television channel report Sunday, the PML-Q leadership had earlier rejected to accept the proposal of getting Punjab CM slot for only two months. Under the new deal, the position of Punjab CM will be given to PML-Q for six months. It was learnt that Pakistan People's Party (PPP) had tabled the recommendation of six-month government. On the other hand, PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif was insisting on giving two-month chief ministership to Quaid-league. Sources added that there is a difference between PML-N and Quaid-league regarding the announcement of the deal. PML-N wanted to make announcement of the deal after the voting on the no-confidence motion against PM Imran Khan while PML-Q expressed wishes to unveil the plan before it.

**PM shields bureaucrats' personal info**

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan has declared personal information of civil bureaucracy "classified", excluding it from the purview of Right of Access to Information Act 2017 after scores of officers sought their record fearing that some blue-eyed officers were promoted against their due right. According to the official documents, the premier took the decision months after a meeting of the Central Selection Board (CSB) whose decisions created resentment among officers belonging to various service groups. The Performance Evaluation Reports (PERs), Training Evaluation Reports (TERs), working papers and minutes of meetings of Departmental Promotion Committee, Departmental Selection Board, CSB, high-powered selection board, directory retirement committees and Directory Retirement Board have been declared "classified" by Premier Imran. The Establishment Division had moved the summary for the approval of the prime minister after numbers of individuals contacted it and sought their service record.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Nepal Tapas Adhikari, Chief Guest and Ambassadors of SAARC countries posing for a picture on the occasion of Armed Forces Day of Nepal. - DNA

**Macron calls for restraint regarding Ukraine conflict**

"We want to stop the war that Russia has launched in Ukraine without escalation - that's the objective," Macron said

NEWS DESK

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron called for restraint in both words and actions in dealing with the Ukraine conflict, after U.S. President Joe Biden described Russian President Vladimir Putin as a "butcher" and said he should not remain in power. "I wouldn't use this type of wording because I continue to hold discussions with President Putin," Macron said on France 3 TV channel. Biden, speaking in Warsaw, had said that Putin "cannot remain in power". A White House official later said Biden's remarks did not represent a shift in Washington's policy and were meant to prepare the world's democracies for an extended conflict, not back regime change in Russia. "We want to stop the war that Russia has launched in Ukraine without escalation

**Ukraine says Russia wants to split nation**

MONITORING DESK

LVIV (UKRAINE): Russia wants to split Ukraine into two, as happened with North and South Korea, Ukraine's military intelligence chief said on Sunday, vowing "total" guerrilla warfare to prevent a carve-up of the country. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged the West to give Ukraine tanks, planes and missiles to help fend off the Russian forces, which the Kyiv government said were increasingly targeting

fuel and food depots. U.S. officials continued efforts to soften comments on Saturday from U.S. President Joe Biden, who said in a fiery speech in Poland that Russian leader Vladimir Putin "cannot remain in power". US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Washington had no strategy of regime change in Moscow and that Biden had simply meant Putin could not be "empowered to wage war" against Ukraine or anywhere else. After more than four weeks of conflict, Russia has failed to seize any major Ukrainian city.

- that's the objective," Macron said on France 3 TV, noting the objective was to obtain a cease fire and the withdrawal of troops through diplomatic means. "If this is what we want to do, we should not escalate things - neither with words nor actions," he said. The French president on Friday had said he was seeking to hold more talks with President Putin in the coming days regarding the situation in Ukraine as well as an initiative to help people leave the besieged city of Mariupol. President Putin sent his troops into Ukraine on what he calls a "special military operation" to demilitarise and "denazify" Ukraine. Ukraine and the West say Putin launched an unprovoked war of aggression. Far-right French presidential candidate Marine Le Pen said she backed Macron's approach. "Obviously, those are words that add oil to the fire," she said, when asked about Biden's comment.

**US, Arab diplomats meet in Israel**

TEL AVIV: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is being joined Sunday by the foreign ministers of Israel and its Arab allies for a special two-day summit organized by the Israeli government amid signs of a potential breakthrough on reviving the international nuclear deal with Iran. The six-nation talks at Sde Boker, a settlement in the Negev Desert, have been hailed as "historic," by Israel, after it normalized diplomatic relations with Bahrain and the UAE. The war in Ukraine and Israeli-Palestinian relations are also on the agenda. In addition to Blinken and Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid, their counterparts from Bahrain, Morocco, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt will attend the summit. - APP

**India to continue import of Russian coal**

WEB DESK

NEW DELHI: India is leaning toward continuing to import coking coal from Russia, the steel minister said on Sunday, seeming to buck a global trend to shun Moscow over its invasion of Ukraine. "We are moving in the direction of importing coking coal from Russia," Ramchandra Prasad Singh told a conference in New Delhi. India plans to double imports of Russian coking coal, a key ingredient in making steel, the minister said. He said the country had imported 4.5 million tonnes but did not indicate the period he was referring to. Western countries and Japan have slapped unexpectedly heavy sanctions on the government of President Vladimir Putin and people associated with him. - APP

**EU envoy visits Iran to close gaps on deal**

TEHRAN: The EU's coordinator for talks to restore the 2015 nuclear deal met Iran's foreign minister and its chief negotiator Sunday in Tehran, state media reported, hoping to bridge gaps in the talks. "Working on closing the remaining gaps in the #ViennaTalks," European Union diplomat Enrique Mora tweeted ahead of his trip. "We must conclude this negotiation. Much is at stake." Iran has been engaged in efforts to revive the so-called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia directly, and the United States indirectly since April 2021. Mora, who coordinates indirect talks between Iran and the US, arrived in Tehran late Saturday and on Sunday met Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, state news agency IRNA reported. The report gave no details on the meeting

or earlier discussions between Mora and Iran's chief negotiator Ali Bagheri. "Bagheri stressed that an agreement can be reached if the American side is realistic," IRNA said. Mora's visit comes as EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell voiced hope for a renewed accord within "days". "We are very close but there are still some issues pending," Borrell told reporters on the sidelines of the Doha Forum in Qatar. "I cannot tell you when or how, but it is a matter of days." Parties have signalled for weeks that the negotiations are close to an agreement, but that "political decisions" are required from Tehran and Washington. The 2015 deal gave Iran much-needed sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear programme that would guarantee it could not develop a nuclear weapon - something it has always denied wanting to do. - APP

**Saudi Arabia places curbs on use of speakers in mosques**

The instructions restrict the Arab media from broadcasting live transmissions of the prayer

RIYADH: The Saudi government recently issued a set of instructions for mosques to follow in the month of Ramadan, including restrictions on the volume of loudspeakers during the call to prayer. Loudspeakers cannot be used except to make the call for prayer and Iqamat (the second call to prayer given right before the prayer starts), Gulf News reported. If the speakers are used in any of these two instances, their volume cannot exceed one-third of their total capacity. The instructions also restrict the Arab media from broadcasting live transmissions of the prayer in Ramadan. The Imam (one who leads the prayer) and those who pray behind him cannot be recorded through cameras installed in the mosque either. The government further instructed the individuals and private organisations that provide Iftar (meal at the end of a fast) to refrain from wasting food or spending money unnecessarily. - Agencies

**Taliban 'block single women from flights'**

MONITORING DESK

KABUL: Afghanistan's Taliban rulers refused to allow dozens of women to board several flights, including some overseas, because they were traveling without a male guardian, two Afghan airline officials said on Saturday, whereas dozens of girls demonstrated in the Afghan capital demanding the right to go to school. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of repercussions from the Taliban, said dozens of women who arrived at Kabul's international airport on Friday to board domestic and international flights were told they couldn't do so without a male guardian. Some of the women were dual nationals returning to their homes overseas, including some from Canada, according to one of the officials. Women were denied boarding on

flights to Islamabad, Dubai and Turkey on Kam Air and the state-owned Ariana Airline, said the officials. The order came from the Taliban leadership, said one official. By Saturday, some women traveling alone were given permission to board an Ariana Airlines flight to western Herat province, the official said. However, by the time the permission was granted they had missed their flight, he said. The airport's president and police chief, both from the Taliban movement and both Islamic clerics, were meeting on Saturday with airline officials. "They are trying to solve it," the official said. It was still unclear whether the Taliban would exempt air travel from an order issued months ago requiring women traveling more than 72 kilometres to be accompanied by a male relative. Taliban officials did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

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