



Islamabad POST

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Kim Jong Un vows to build up N.Korea's attack capability

Detailed News On Page-08

Stability in Afghanistan critical: FM

Detailed News On Page-08



Pakistani envoy invites China Tech company

Detailed News On Page-07



Briefs

Russia-China ties at strongest

DNA

MOSCOW: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Monday said Russia's relations with China were at their strongest level ever, at a time when Western nations are seeking to isolate Moscow with unprecedented sanctions over Ukraine. Beijing has repeatedly voiced opposition to the sanctions, insisting it will maintain normal economic and trade exchanges with Russia, and has refused to condemn Moscow's actions in Ukraine, but the government is wary of Chinese companies running afoul of sanctions.

Bilawal says no to religious politics

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Chairman of Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Monday while talking about PM's frequent use of religious terminologies in his speeches and political matters said that religion should not be associated with politics and Imran Khan has been making unsuccessful attempts to use religion card. Talking to media the PPP Chairman stated that the PM is a coward as he is not ready to face them. He further talked about the no-confidence motion terming it to be a success as the process has finally started. Congratulations to the whole of Pak on the no-trust move.

Will Smith hits Chris Rock on stage

DNA

CALIFORNIA: Will Smith slapped Chris Rock in the face on stage at the Oscars after the comic made a joke about the actor's wife Jada Pinkett Smith. "Jada, can't wait for GI Jane 2," he said, in an apparent reference to her shaved hairdo - a result of the hair loss condition alopecia. Smith walked on stage and struck Rock before returning to his seat and shouting: "Keep my wife's name out of your [expletive] mouth."



ISLAMABAD: PPP Chairman Asif Zardari and Opposition leader Shahbaz Sharif addressing a press conference along with BAP leaders. - DNA

Pervez Elahi to replace Buzdar

Buzdar resigns; PML-Q's Tariq Bashir also resigns in a show of displeasure over leadership's decision



SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Punjab chief minister (CM) Usman Buzdar on Monday has presented his resignation to Prime Minister Imran Khan, confirmed State Minister for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib in a tweet. Farukh Habib sharing a picture of the PML-Q delegation meeting

Continued on Page 06

PTI govt to offer MQM-P another ministry

MQM leaders seek one day time to take a decision

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: In a bid to garner the support of its allies, the PTI-led government will be offering another ministry to the leadership of MQM-P, Geo News reported Monday, citing sources. Sources privy to the matter said that the government is likely to offer the port and shipping ministry to MQM-P. Meanwhile, a government delegation will meet the leadership of MQM-P tonight to hold further discussions, sources said.

Continued on Page 06

4 terrorists killed in NW: army

NORTH WAZIRISTAN: The army said on Monday evening that four terrorists were killed in North Waziristan in an operation. The ISPR said on night, 27/28 March 2022, Security Forces conducted an Intelligence Based Operation on reported presence of terrorists in general area Jhallar Fort, North Waziristan District. During intense exchange of fire, 4 terrorists got killed. 1 terrorist has been identified as terrorist Zar Saad Ullah while identification of remaining terrorists is in progress. - DNA

BAP leaves PTI govt

"We want the issues to be resolved," the BAP leader said

STAFF REPORT / DNA

ISLAMABAD: BAP Parliamentary Leader Khalid Magsi said Monday that his party would support the Opposition's no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan. "We want the country to be handled in anew [...] we want the issues to be resolved," the BAP leader, whose party has four MNAs, said while addressing a press conference alongside Opposition's bigwigs - PML-N President Shahbaz Sharif, PDM chief Fazlur Rehman, PPP Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari, and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari. The setback came only a day after Special Assistant to PM (SAPM) on Reconciliation and Harmony in Balochistan and Jamhoori Watan Party leader Shah-zain Bugti announced to part ways with the government and side with the Opposition. Rifts have also emerged in the PML-Q as Federal Minister for Housing and Works Tariq Bashir Cheema has resigned from office and decided to vote in favour of the no-confidence motion against PM Imran Khan. The government seems to be cornered as after the JWP, BAP, and Cheema's announcements, they appear to have lost six votes - at a time when every vote counts. However, BAP leader and Minister for Defence Production Zubaida Jalal has not parted ways with the government and will vote against the no-confidence motion.

Continued on Page 06

Opp. moves no-trust against PM

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Opposition parties in the National Assembly on Monday tabled a joint resolution for the vote of no-confidence against Prime Minister Imran Khan, challenging the majority of the PTI-led coalition government in the 341-seat House (excluding a seat that fell vacant due to demise of MNA Khayal Zaman Orakzai). The resolution, carrying names of 152 movers, was presented by Leader of the Opposition Shehbaz Sharif under Article 95(1) of the Constitution, read with rule 37 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly, 2007. Around 161 members of the Opposition were present in the House when the motion was moved. Deputy Speaker Qasim Khan Suri was in the Chair. "This House is of the view that the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Imran Khan, has lost the confidence of the majority of the members of the National Assembly of Pakistan, therefore he should cease to hold office," the resolution said.

Continued on Page 06

'Local political players part of big conspiracy'

Fawad says political dwarfs planning to enslave Pakistan permanently



ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information Chaudhry Fawad Hussain said on Monday that the no-confidence motion against Imran Khan was part of global conspiracy and local political players whose leader was

Continued on Page 06

Interior minister unaware of 'written threat'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed on Monday revealed that he is unaware of the "written letter" received by Prime Minister Imran Khan that provides evidence that "money has been pouring in from abroad," while some of PTI's people are being used to topple the government. Addressing a press conference, the interior minister reiterated his support for

Continued on Page 06

Kremlin slams Joe Biden remarks; talks to resume

DNA

LVIV: Ukraine and Russia were preparing on Monday for the first face-to-face peace talks in more than two weeks, with Kyiv insisting it would make no concessions on ceding territory as battlefield momentum has shifted in its favour. Ukrainian officials played down the chances of a major breakthrough at the talks, due to be held in Istanbul after Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan spoke to Russia's Vladimir Putin on Sunday. But the fact that they were taking place in person at all - for the first time since an acrimonious meeting between foreign ministers on March 10 - was a sign of shifts behind the scenes as Russia's invasion has become bogged down. On the ground, there was no sign of respite for civilians in besieged cities, especially the devastated port of Mariupol, whose mayor said 160,000 people were still trapped inside and Russia was blocking attempts to evacuate them. The Kremlin, for its part, said it was alarmed by comments by

Continued on Page 06

G7 rejects Putin's demand for rouble payment

NEWS DESK

BERLIN: Energy ministers from the Group of Seven industrialized nations reject demands by President Vladimir Putin that "unfriendly" countries pay for Russian gas with roubles, Germany's Robert Habeck said after talks with his counterparts on Monday. "All G7 ministers have agreed that this is a unilateral and clear breach of existing contracts," Habeck, who is German economy and climate protection minister, told reporters after a virtual conference with G7 energy ministers. The ministers "underlined once again that the concluded contracts are valid and the companies should and must respect them ... payment in roubles is unacceptable, and we call on the companies concerned not to comply with Putin's demand," he said.

Thank You



Sarmad Ali
President / Jang Group



Nazafreen Saigol
Secy General / Dawn Group



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Briefs

GCWUF to start tree plantation on 30th

FAISALABAD: The Government College for Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) will commence a tree plantation campaign here on Wednesday (March 30). A spokesperson for the university said Governor Punjab Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar was expected to inaugurate the tree plantation drive by planting a sapling in new campus of the university. The administration has planned to plant 50,000 saplings in the university campuses and all arrangements had been completed, the spokesperson added. - APP

One dacoit killed, another injured

FAISALABAD: One alleged dacoit was killed while another sustained injuries in a police encounter in the area of Thikriwala police station. A spokesman said on Monday that the police, during patrolling, signalled three suspects riding motorcycles to stop near Darbar Baba Moti Sain in Chak No 65-JB late Sunday night, but the accused opened fire and attempted to flee the scene. The police returned fire while chasing them. During the encounter, two outlaws received bullet injuries and fell on the ground while their third accomplice managed to escape from the scene. - APP

LG poll arrangements reviewed

PESHAWAR: A high-level meeting held here on Monday in the office of the Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reviewed arrangements for the second phase of the Local Government (LG) polls in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Secretary Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Umair Hameed Khan and Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dr. Shehzad Bangash presided over the meeting jointly. Besides, IGP, IGFC, Secretary Home & Tribal Affairs, Secretary Local Government, Special Secretary Election Commission and Provincial Election Commissioner (PEC) and other authorities also attended the meeting. - APP

No split in PML-Q: Spokesperson

ISLAMABAD: In a statement, PML-Q Deputy Secretary Information Khawaja Rameez Hassan said that there was no truth in the news of split in PML-Q. He said that political decisions are taken through consultation. PML-Q has not yet decided whether to accept the offer of the government or the offer of opposition parties. He further said that number game is important in politics and not emotional statements. PML-Q is united under the leadership of Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain.

COURT NOTICE

In The Umar Rizwan Civil Judge Gujrat

Title Symallyas (widow). versus: Surrayallyas application be treated / consider as decline certificate etc.

Notice to: Surrayallyas Mother of Late Toqeer-Ilyas and widow of Muhammad Ilyas R/o. 582 KINGS ROAD STRETFORD MANCHESTER M32 8JT United Kingdom. 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 9 AM on 30-03-2022. Otherwise case will be decided ex parte.

Given under my hand seal of the court this 28th Mar. 2022.
Qaisar Mehmood Warraich, Court Reporter Gujrat, Kharian0333-8409964 Daily The Patriot

Graduation ceremony held at PAF academy, Risalpur

A total of 63 cadets graduated at the occasion. The Chief Guest awarded branch insignias to the graduating cadets and trophies to the distinction holders

DNA

RISALPUR: The Graduation Ceremony of 127th Combat Support, 43rd BLPC Course, 7th Log (A), 3rd AD (SSC) and 2nd Grooming Courses was held at PAF Academy, Asghar Khan today. Air Marshal Zulfiqar Ahmad Qureshi, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (Training) was the Chief Guest at the occasion. On his arrival at the Academy, he was received by Air Vice Marshal Qaiser Janjua, Air Officer Commanding, PAF Academy Asghar Khan. A total of 63 cadets graduated at the occasion. The Chief Guest awarded branch insignias to the graduating cadets and trophies to the distinction holders. Air Marshal Asghar Khan Trophy for the overall best performance in 127th Combat Support Course was awarded to Aviation Cadet Muhammad Talha.

While addressing the graduating cadets, the Chief Guest said, "You have become part of Pakistan Air Force that has a legacy of finest traditions of valour, heroism and patriotism of air warriors". He further added that they must remain abreast of the latest developments and modern concepts in respective fields for performing their duties with utmost commitment and responsibilities. At the end, the Chief Guest congratulated the graduating cadets on successful accomplishment of an important milestone in their lives. The Ceremony was witnessed by high-ranking Military, Civil Officials and a large number of guests of graduating cadets.



FCCI to provide research projects fund at LUMS

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) will provide funding for postgraduate research projects at LUMS in addition to sponsoring publication of research articles and institutionalizing the internship program for LUMS students. This was decided in a meeting held between Engineer Ahmad Hassan, Chairman FCCI Research & Development Department and Mr. Imran Nadeem An-

sari, Deputy Manager Grants & Major Gifts, LUMS. Engineer Ahmad Hassan said that this collaboration would also facilitate LUMS experts to arrange industrial training programs and deliver lectures during seminars for knowledge and skill enhancement of industrial professionals based in Faisalabad. He said that the FCCI and Lahore University of Management Science (LUMS) have also decided to ink a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration and cooperation in

areas of mutual interest.

Engr. Ahmad Hassan emphasized the need for harnessing knowledge and talent of LUMS alumni by establishing an online portal. "It will extend membership to all alumni by establishing an online portal", he said and added that it could help the industrial sector to use their ideas and skills for national economic development. Engr. Ahmad Hassan also invited Syed Babar Ali, the founder of the LUMS to visit FCCI and identify additional avenues

of collaboration between the two bodies. He further added that qualified human resource is a prerequisite to meet the challenges of the fourth industrial revolution and to promote e-business in Pakistan. He said that Faisalabad is recognized as the industrial hub of Pakistan with state of the art units of textile and apparel. He said that the industry of Faisalabad is contributing over \$22 billion to the national GDP and accounts for a major share in Pakistan's total textile exports.

Operation on cards against Lyari gangs

DNA

KARACHI: Top brass of the Sindh police are considering launching an operation against the gangsters in the Lyari area, officials said on Sunday. The planning to launch police action in the crime hot-bed of Lyari follows gangland vendetta killings of sacked inspector Chand Khan Niazi and inspector Javed Baloch involved in gangland warlord Arshad Pappu's murder officials said talking to The Express Tribune.

These men were, as per police investigations, responsible for delivering Papu, his brother Yasi Arafat, and confidante Shera Pathan to the rival gangsters who brutally killed the three.

The official said that currently Ghazi Khan heads Arshad Pappu's gang while other important gangsters include Mullah Arif, Jahangira, Asif, Maqbool, Mama Yaqub, Asad, Shakir Shikari and Azan Inayat. He said that police will also take action against the cops who facilitated the gangsters' activities.

It has also been decided to change the SHO and DSPs of Baghdadi, Kalri, Chakwara, Kalakot and Napier police stations of Lyari. A list of activists of both groups was being prepared, the police official added. After the targeted killing of Niazi and Baloch, it was evident that criminal gangs were reorganising in the gangsters stronghold cleared by Rangers few years ago. Police have subsequently decided to launch a fullscale operation against Uzair Baloch and Arshad Pappu groups, an official confided. The official said that experienced officers would conduct the operation. Moreover, officials will seek help from retired cops who took part in Lyari Operation of 2013.

Allies should prove their conscience: Gondal

YOOSUF BHUTTA

GUJRAT: "We stand with Imran Khan even today for the highest mission and not for any interest. He is a conscientious, talented, courageous and honest leader. "Allah Almighty has to change the destiny of Pakistan under the leadership of this leader. The zealous people of Pakistan will smash the idols of corruption and re-elect Imran Khan the Prime Minister with a two-thirds majority."

This was stated by local leader of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and a seasoned industrialist Al-hajj Muhammad Afzal Gondal here Sunday while talking to newsmen. He said that the Three Stooges were striving for their acquittal from corruption cases and they had no concern regarding the future of Pakistan and the fate of our nation.

"Allies who have been enjoying ministries should now prove their conscience and stand by Imran Khan in difficult times," he added.

Experts calls removal of sanctions on Afghanistan



ISLAMABAD: The Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies, Islamabad (ISS) held an International Conference titled, "Perspectives on the Evolving Situation in Afghanistan", in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) on March 28, 2022. The speakers in the inaugural session included, Ms. Amina Khan, Director CAMEA, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Director General ISSI, Dr. Niels Hegewisch, Country Director FES, Pakistan, Honourable Shah Mahmood Qureshi, Foreign Minister of Pakistan, Honourable Shah Farman, Governor KPK and General Zubair Mahmood Hayat, Former Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee. Sardar Nadir Naim stated that Afghanistan has always been a victim of its own geopolitical location. Every time foreign occupiers have left Afghanistan, it has left the country with a trail of devastation. He said that the premature collapse of Ashraf Ghani's government within the backdrop of the withdrawal of US forces has left Afghanistan at the edge of a humanitarian disaster. He shed light on some of the issues that need to be seriously addressed; which include, prevention of state failure and the continuation of aid flow without discontinuation, removal of sanctions - which are hurting the Afghan people the most and the unfreezing of Afghanistan's assets. - DNA

No-confidence in KP, a joke: CM

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mahmood Khan on Monday said that claim of opposition parties to bring no confidence motion against provincial government having two third majority in the assembly was not less than a joke. He said this while addressing a public gathering at Chakesar, District Shangla which was also addressed by Provincial Minister Shaukat Yousafzai, former provincial minister Abdul Munim Khan, Tehsil chairman candidate Akhtar Ali Chitan and others. The chief minister said that members of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly were soldiers of Prime Minister Imran Khan and they will neither change loyalties nor bow down before anybody. The zealous people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa always stood by Imran Khan and would continue to do so.

The participation of a large number of people from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in PTT's 'Amr bil Maroof' public gathering held in Islamabad on last Sunday was a lesson for the opposition parties that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was a strong-hold of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). The chief minister thanked the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for their full participation in the Islamabad Jalsa and said that the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have voiced their support for Imran Khan and made it clear that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was the centre of PTI. The chief minister said that the opposition parties were trying to de seat a Prime Minister who always spoke of

national dignity and independence. Imran Khan was the only Prime Minister who gave the country an independent foreign policy and made it clear to the world powers that friendship would be based only on equality basis. Today, if the green passport was being respected in the world, it is because of diligent efforts of Imran Khan. The manner in which incumbent prime minister raised the issue of Kashmir at the international level is unprecedented. Imran Khan has become an effective voice of Islam and Muslims at all international forums. JUI-F Chief Fazlur Rehman remained the chairman of Kashmir committee for 18 years but never voiced for the people of Kashmir. - APP

PAJCCI appreciates smooth mechanism of Temporary Admission Document

Habib Ahmad, Director Transit Trade, Karachi provided detailed mechanism of the process whereby bonded and non-bonded transport operators will be able to acquire Temporary Admission Document (TAD) and Visa for drivers and helpers

BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR: In coordination with Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) and Ministry of Commerce, a meeting was held with Director Transit Trade Karachi to discuss the process and requirements of free movement of trucks in Pakistan and Afghanistan for smooth activity of bilateral and Transit Trade. According to a press release issued here on Monday, the meeting was attended by members of PAJCCI, government functionaries from both sides, transporters and bonded carriers. Habib Ahmad, Director Transit Trade, Karachi provided detailed mechanism of the process whereby bonded and non-bonded transport operators will be able to acquire Temporary Admission Document (TAD) and Visa for drivers and helpers. He outlined the

requirements approved by both sides, documentation, validity and regulations applicable. He said that Pakistani bonded operators could transport bilateral and transit goods but non-bonded are only allowed to carry bilateral goods. Transport operators on Afghan side will operate under TAD cover and will be able to transport transit goods and Pakistani exports to Afghanistan to ensure the structured approach to trading activity, he told. Maria Kazi, Joint Secretary Ministry of Commerce informed that this arrangement would curtail the return of empty containers as operators with valid TAD

will be able to bring and take back transit and bilateral goods without additional costs. She explained that routes under APTA-2010 would remain valid for vehicle movement for both bilateral and transit trade. The fee for TAD issuance is only USD 100 with validity of 6 months and multiple entry instead of previous requirement of high insurance guarantee, she told and added that driver and helpers visa would be valid for one year and they would be allowed to operate multiple vehicles of the same transporter in the duration. She said, in case driver or helper changes the company, they will be

required to apply for fresh visa. In addition, she said the Government of Pakistan has waived vehicle fitness certificate for Afghan vehicles for 6 months as a special facilitation measure. Afghan transporters can obtain Temporary Admission Document (TAD) from the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul and its consulate in Kandahar, while transporters in Pakistan can obtain the same from Afghan consulates in Peshawar and Quetta. Zubair Motiwala, Chairman PAJCCI appreciated the support of both governments in making the free movement possible and the efforts in reducing transportation cost by allowing empty containers to carry transit goods, affordable fees for TAD and easy process for acquiring visa and TAD. He said that initial problems would be resolved by both sides with mutual consultation and the scope of this arrangement would be extended to the CARS.



National Days and Armed Forces Days

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



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Marriott.....051-2826121
Monal.....0334-5421812



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949



ISLAMABAD: Ambassadors of Indonesia, Turkey, CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani and others attending the Nepal Army Day reception. – DNA

Public awareness must to avert human-wildlife conflict

There are almost 62 different species of wildlife on the menu of the wildcat that leads the food chain of the national park as the apex predator

ISLAMABAD: The scenic and ever rejuvenating biodiversity-rich Margalla Hills National Park has become home to the endangered Common Asian Leopards strolling on the trails of the national park where it needs public awareness and sensitisation to avert the looming risk of human-wildlife conflict. Senior Islamabad Wildlife Management Board Member Z.B. Mirza has prepared a special education and awareness manual for the locals and tourists venturing into the National Park to enjoy the

natural beauty of the Park. There has been no precedent of human-wildlife conflict in Margalla Hills National Park as the wildcat has a stable number of prey available in the natural environment. There are almost 62 different species of wildlife on the menu of the wildcat that leads the food chain of the national park as the apex predator. According to Z.B. Mirza's information manual the leopards though have no history of attacking any human in the Margallas but the wildcat in 2005 killed six

women in different incidents in Galiyat areas falling under the Ayubia National Park. The Asian Leopard is a nocturnal animal that fully activates at night or wee hours of morning to predate or hunt, and patrol. It feeds mainly on Barking Deers, Porcupines, Wild Boars, livestock animals, Donkeys, Monkeys, birds, Kalij Pheasant and others. A detailed study of the women killed in different leopard attacks revealed that they were off to the jungle to collect fuelwood during evening and early morning

hours. The user guide manual that is equally helpful for locals, tourists, trekkers and area guides underlined that the local community people should avoid entering the jungle or forest area during early morning or evening hours as the Leopard remains active in this duration. The local residents should keep a tubelight or bulb on at night, keep livestock including goats locked at a safer place at night, and should be accompanied by some individual for livestock rearing in the woods. – APP

SAP accelerates digital skills build

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In its commitment to address the pressing issues of youth unemployment and (digital) skills gap, SAP's flagship digital skills build initiative, the SAP Young Professionals Program, is empowering tech talents in Pakistan with its comprehensive enablement plan, increasing their employability and driving economic growth while supporting digital transformation in the country. The program recently conducted its sixth graduation ceremony virtually which was attended by SAP customers and partners. Syed

Javed Hassan, Chairman National Vocational & Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), also graced the event. The program was launched in Pakistan in 2014 and has since trained over 150 students. Globally, the SAP Young Professionals Program runs in a total of 37 countries, having trained more than 3600 students till date. An initiative by the SAP Training and Development Institute, the program comprises of 2-3 months development plan that takes a blended learning approach and offers SAP software functional/technical knowledge as well as soft skill trainings.

Records of all public gatherings broken: Gill

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Political Communications Dr Shahbaz Gill Monday said that Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf's historic procession at the Parade Ground on Sunday has broken all previous records of public gatherings. In a tweet, he said that all arrangements fell short due to the huge presence of masses in the gathering. "Whether it was the sound system or lights, cameras or roads of Islamabad or motorways. By Allah's grace people came out in a large number that Pakistan has never seen such a scene. Thank you Pakistan," he said. However, Gill said some people were complaining that they could not reach the venue and that we should have waited for sometime more. "It is true that the caravans that left should have been with us but if they had come, where would they have been? As there was no empty space left due to such a massive gathering. The fact is that whole Pakistan came out on Khan's voice," he said.

Opposition to face crushing defeat: Faisal

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Senator Faisal Javed Khan on Monday said that the Opposition parties will face crushing defeat in the no-confidence motion. In a tweet, he said that the credit goes to the nation for reposing trust in Prime Minister Imran Khan, adding that after failure of the No-Confidence motion, Prime Minister Imran Khan would share more good news with the masses. He said that there was no threat to the government from the corrupt parties and "We will celebrate the failure of No-Confidence motion soon". – APP

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Briefs

IHC bars ECP from action against PM Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday sought arguments from respondents on April 6 and barred the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) from taking action against Prime Minister Imran Khan, Federal Minister Asad Umar till next date in cases against ECP's notices. During the course of proceeding, the ECP's lawyer argued that President, Prime Minister, chairman senate, speakers and ministers were not authorized to participate in election campaigns.

He said a public office holder could visit his constituency but he was not authorized to participate in election campaign.

Justice Aamer Farooq remarked that the ECP in its notice should have clarified the laws which had been violated by the petitioners.

Addressing the ECP's lawyer, the court noted that the department had not served notices to public office holders on violation of codes of conduct.

The court said it had to be viewed that whether the notices of ECP could be up held or not. It further remarked that if a campaign was run with the expenditures from national kitty then it also has consequences. — APP

Domestic tractor assembling grew

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Tractors assembling in the country during first seven month of current financial year witnessed about 21.4 percent growth as compared to the assembling of the corresponding period last year. During the period from July-January, 2021-22, over 32,585 tractors were locally produced as against the production of 26,848 tractors, according to the data of Large Scale Manufacturing Industries (LSM) released by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. On month on month basis, domestic tractor production recorded about 56.2 percent growth in January, 2022 as compared to the output of corresponding month of last year, it added.

Over 5,640 tractors were locally assembled in month of January, 2022 as compared to the production of 3,611 tractors of same month last year, the data revealed. Meanwhile, domestic output of light commercial vehicles grew by 75 percent in last seven months, trucks 84.4 percent and buses 2.1 percent respectively, it added. During the period under review, 16,358 light commercial vehicles produced as against the production of 10,417 vehicles, besides production of 3,414 trucks and 339 buses respectively.

PTA organizes training workshops

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and Asia Pacific Network Information Center (APNIC) Australia jointly organized two workshops of five days each on Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) for Cellular Mobile Operators (CMOs) and Internet Service Providers (ISP). The workshops were conducted by Tashi Phuntsho, Dave Phelan and Warren Finch from APNIC and supported by local trainers Fahad and Tahir Hussain, said a news release issued here on Monday. During the workshop, the best practices for transition to IPv6 were explained which will help Pakistani operators achieve smooth transition. This is in line with the PTA's efforts for transitioning telecom infrastructure from IPv4 to IPv6. PTA is continuously engaged with its licensees for capacity building through international organizations like APNIC, ISOC, ICANN and SANOG. Majority of its operators have already configured their core networks to support dual stack to support both IPv4 and IPv6 simultaneously. Furthermore, this transition to IPv6 will help in adopting 5G and IoT technologies in Pakistan. — APP



ISLAMABAD: Beautification of Islamabad continues by CDA on the arrival of spring. — DNA

CDA speeds up capital beautification projects

On the special directions of the management of Capital Development Authority parks were developed in the sectors where people were residing but facilities including healthy environment were missing. Due to the special interest of CDA management, special attention has been paid to the development of parks in such sectors and areas.

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The administration of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) is carrying out massive beautification in the city along with the construction and development of the city. In this regard, about fifty new parks have been developed across the city by the concerned departments in the light of the directions of the CDA ad-

ministration during the last one year.

On the special directions of the management of Capital Development Authority parks were developed in the sectors where people were residing but facilities including healthy environment were missing. Due to the special interest of CDA management, special attention has been paid to the development of parks in such sectors and areas.

It is pertinent to mention here that parks have also been developed in various areas of Islamabad on state lands which were retrieved during anti-encroachment operations and on places where garbage and dabsres were piled up. Over the past one year, parks were developed in Sector I-14, I-16, D-12, I-11, G-11, G-11/2, I-10, F-11, F-10, I-9, I-8, Park Enclave, Diplomatic Enclave, G-7, H-8, F-6, Rawal

Town, Shahzad Town, Bani Gala, Mulpur, G-14, E-11, Shakrial, Shakar Parian, Khana Pull and other areas of the city. According to the details, construction of 50 parks in these areas cost Rs. 341.301 million. In order to provide more healthy activities to the citizens, the concerned departments at the direction of Capital Development Authority management last year also constructed cycle tracks

and jogging tracks at 7th Avenue, Sector E-7, Faisal Avenue, Zero Point, Serena Chowk. While Upgradation of Art Gallery in F-9 Park, Upgradation of Center Square in F-9 Park, Upgradation of Cricket Ground in F-9 Park, Rehabilitation of Amphitheater, Jogging Track on Green Belt connected to Sector E-9 in F-9 Park. Other development works including wood carvings and calligraphy

in F-9 Park, construction of sit-out area in F-9 Park, restoration of F-10 and E-8 boundary walls in F-9 Park, construction of mosque in the park are also included in the recent beautification activities. On this occasion, the management of Capital Development Authority said that providing healthy environment and recreational facilities to the citizens are among the top priorities of the organization.

UGANDA DELEGATION AT MONAL RESTAURANT



ISLAMABAD: Ministerial delegation of Uganda visited Monal Restaurant Pir Sohawa. The delegation enjoyed Monal delicacies to the full and praised the management for the excellent arrangements. — DNA

Parliament fully committed to achieve SDGs

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senator Kauda Babar while representing Pakistan in the 9th Plenary session of the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace (IPTP) expressed that Pakistan's Parliament was fully committed to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "Financing for implementation of SDGs is one of the major challenges, especially for the less developed and developing countries", he added at the session organized under the conference on Tolerance and coexistence, held in UAE. The entire plenary consisting of parliamentarians from around the globe stood for peace along with Senator Babar to give a strong message "we are one for peace", said a

press release received here.

During his address he highlighted atrocities being committed in the Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and urged the forum to play its role to protect the rights of innocent people of IOJ&K.

"Parliamentarians must set the example of tolerance through their words and their deeds. They must refrain from making speeches that incite hatred, xenophobia and Islamophobia", he emphasized.

Senator Kauda urged the Parliamentarians to condemn all forms of discrimination based on race, colour, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, or political affiliation. "I am certain that together with this common vision, we can make a huge difference", he remarked.

Firdous denies rumours of joining PML-N

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PTI's senior leader and former special assistant to the prime minister on information and broadcasting Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan on Monday brushed off the news regarding her wish to join the PML-N, terming it "fake". Sources privy to the matter said that Awan had expressed her wish to join the PML-N.

According to the sources, the former SAPM had conveyed the message to the PML-N leadership in London through renowned singer Waris Baig — who had met PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif and former finance minister Ishaq Dar in London.

However, Awan did not demand any ticket in Sialkot, per the sources.

The sources said that the PML-N's top leadership discussed the matter for 10 minutes. However, the PTI senior leader was not given any assurance regarding her addition to the party and was told to contact the PML-N leadership in Punjab.

Bagga all set to light up the stage

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani singer, musician, and music director Sahir Ali Baga is ready to perform in a live concert in the Sargodha district organized by the University of Sargodha.

The versatile singer, known for his melodic OSTs, popular Coke studio versions, and quiet movie songs, will make a splash on stage with his musical performances at the Musical Night event at UoS.

The announcement came as the university's official Facebook page released a video message from the musician of his arrival at Musical Night.

The 'Bazi' hitmaker announced the date of the concert through his video message and also shared his happiness about it.

"I am really excited to perform at Sargodha University on 29th Of March 2022, See You There All" he stated.

According to a statement shared from the official social media handle of the University of Sargodha, it will be a musical night event that will be held on Tuesday, March 29 and all UOS students will be able to enjoy it. — APP

Exposing foreign conspiracy, real surprise

NEW DESK

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar on Monday said the Prime Minister did expose the foreign conspiracy against his government and it was definitely a surprise for the nation.

"The prime minister, in Sunday's public gathering (Amr. Bil.Maruf), did take the party workers and people into confidence about the foreign conspiracy against his government and hinted at the evidence, in black and white, which may be shared, in line with national interests," he said.

"This is not only the surprise, but also an eye-opener for the all and sundry," he added.

Talking to the media at Supreme Court premises, accompanied by Information Minister Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, he said the prime minister had not only exposed the foreign plot against a democratically elected government but also exposed the 'unholy alliance' among the leaders of opposition parties. The conspiracy was clearly rejected by the masses with a show of massive presence at the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) public gathering, he said, adding the response to the PM's call was unprecedented. Hammad said people enthusiastically participated the gathering from across the country which showed that nation stood by the prime minister at this critical juncture.

Referring to the reference for interpretation of Article 63-A of Constitution, he said the Attorney General for Pakistan explained that the relevant laws were clear about the party's fiduciary duty towards its members and vice versa.

MNA asks business community to focus on Azerbaijan

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Ghazala Saifi, MNA and Parliamentary Secretary, National Heritage & Culture Division said that the private sector of Azerbaijan has shown great interest in many Pakistani products including rice, pharmaceuticals, marble & granite & others and stressed that the business community should focus on promoting trade and exports with Azerbaijan to capitalize on the available business opportunities in its market. She said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI). Ghazala Saifi was of the view that the commercial counselors in Pakistani foreign missions should be appointed in consultation with the business community and they should focus on identifying new opportunities for promoting Pakistan's trade and exports in for-

ign countries. She proposed that the private sector should consider setting up display centres in foreign countries to show the export potential of Pakistani products that would help in boosting exports. She assured that she would take up

the highlighted issues of the business community with relevant authorities for redress. Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry said that the high taxes and duties on im-

ports of industrial machinery, plants, equipment and parts were causes of high production cost and creating hurdles in promoting industrialization. He urged that the government should reduce such taxes and duties in the upcoming budget

to reduce production cost and boost manufacturing activities. He said that Pakistan has great potential to enhance exports of many products including marble & granite, pharmaceuticals, rice, IT products & services for which close cooperation and support of the government was important.

Muhammad Faheem Khan, Vice President ICCI said that the government should facilitate plantation of palm oil trees on the coastal belt and more olive trees in the country to meet the needs of local market. He stressed that the government should encourage indigenous production of import substitutions to reduce import bill and reduce the production cost. Hamayun Kabir, Ch. Muhammad Ali, Asher Hafeez, Ashfaq Hussain Chatha, Saeed Ahmed Bhatti, Ms. Neelam Khalid and others also spoke at the occasion and highlighted various issues that needed urgent attention of the government for redress.



Putin and the world

WHEN Vladimir Putin recognised Donetsk and Luhansk as independent republics, days before his invasion of Ukraine, one of the most powerful denunciations came from Kenya's envoy to the UN. Martin Kimani cited his country's own history as he warned against irredentism and expansionism: "We must complete our recovery from the embers of dead empires in a way that does not plunge us back into new forms of domination and oppression," he said. On two general assembly resolutions – the first denouncing the invasion, the second blaming Russia for creating a humanitarian crisis – 140 or more nations have approved. Only four have voted with Russia to oppose them: a rogues' gallery of Belarus, Eritrea, Syria and North Korea. Yet widespread condemnation, along with the west's unexpected unity, should not be mistaken for Russian isolation. Having boasted of a relationship with "no limits", and sharing a common interest in countering the global might of the US and Nato, China is now seeking to portray itself in a more nuanced light and avoid economic and political damage – but is not, in reality, distancing itself from Russia. Beijing is not alone. Few of the world's most populous nations, and only a few leading players outside the west, have assailed Mr Putin. Imran Khan, Pakistan's prime minister, was in Moscow as the tanks rolled into Ukraine. India, which has a longstanding strategic relationship with Russia and high anxiety about its ties to both Pakistan and China, has discussed a "rouble-rupee" swap to help Moscow beat western sanctions. In Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro – courted by Mr Putin – even sees the war as a "good opportunity" to encroach on indigenous land in search of materials for fertiliser. Russia's influence in and dealings with the Middle East have expanded substantially since its decisive role in the Syrian war, leaving many countries hedging their bets, in the midst of a broader realignment of the region. Saudi Arabia's crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, recently refused to take Joe Biden's call – a week after speaking to Vladimir Putin. The UAE said no to a call too. It voted against Russia at the UN general assembly, where votes are non-binding and largely symbolic, but abstained in a similar vote at the security council, which would have had more weight. South Africa initially called for the withdrawal of Russian troops, but then blamed Nato expansion for the war. Sixteen other African nations joined it in abstaining in the first general assembly vote thanks to growing economic ties, as well as a long-established position of non-alignment and the Soviet Union's support for liberation movements. Mr Putin's current position reflects not only his willingness to aid unsavoury regimes, and his malign interference around the world, but also the sins and failures of the US and the west. To address these is not a hopelessly idealistic endeavour, but one of necessary realism, if we are to forge the powerful alliances needed against cruel acts of aggression.

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Declining Covid-19 cases

PAKISTAN has reported one death in the last 24 hours by novel coronavirus as the number of positive cases has risen to 1,524,086. The nationwide tally of fatalities has jumped to 30,346 on Monday. According to the latest figures by the National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) 186 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 24 hours. Punjab remains the worst-hit province in terms of deaths followed by Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Till now 13,552 individuals have lost their lives to the epidemic in Punjab, 8,095 in Sindh, 6,315 in KP, 1,023 in Islamabad, 792 in Azad Kashmir, 378 in Balochistan and 191 in GB. Furthermore 574,803 coronavirus cases have been confirmed in Sindh, 504,894 in Punjab, 218,937 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 135,038 in Islamabad, 43,249 in Azad Kashmir, 35,469 in Balochistan and 11,696 in Gilgit-Baltistan. Pakistan has so far conducted 27,388,407 coronavirus tests and 28,159 in the last 24 hours. 1,485,426 patients have recovered in the country whereas 420 patients are in critical condition. The COVID-19 positivity ratio was recorded at 0.66 percent. So far, 128,074,138 people have received their first dose of coronavirus vaccine including 131,491 in last 24 hours. 101,881,176 citizens have been fully vaccinated while 501,747 received their second dose in last 24 hours. The number of total administered doses has reached to 219,368,557 with 678,788 in the last 24 hours. Meanwhile, the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC) marked two years of its establishment and celebrated its achievements to control the spread of Covid-19 in the country. The NCOC used social media to make this announcement. Earlier this month, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) on Health Dr Faisal Sultan said that the government had started deliberations to finally close the NCOC. He said the responsibility to deal with the Covid-19 related data would be passed on to the National Institute of Health's Centres for Disease Control (CDC). The NCOC was established on March 27, 2020. It has a major role to keep the nation updated on the Covid-19 related figures. The NCOC holds daily meetings, which are attended by Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar, SAPM on Health Dr Faisal Sultan and National Coordinator Major General Muhammad Zafar Iqbal. Moreover, it has representation of all the provinces and administrative units. The NCOC data is shared after every eight hours and updated at least once in a day.

Hijab bans: Where communalism and patriarchy intersect

Sanya Dhingra

Hindu right-wing groups, and even certain sections of India's elite intelligentsia, appear convinced that these women must have been "brainwashed" by their oppressive families...

INDIAN student activists from the Muslim Students Federation hold placards during a protest against hijab restriction, in New Delhi, February 8 [Rajat Gupta/EPA-EFE] Four years ago, when I was travelling across the northern Indian state of Haryana to report on "rape culture" there, I met a slight-bodied young woman at a local district court. She, a Dalit, was there to fight a case against four upper-caste men who had raped her. We spoke for a few hours. She told me about her recent separation from her husband of eight years and the physical violence she faced, including repeated rape, throughout her marriage. What struck me was that she was valiantly fighting a legal battle against strangers who raped her, but had never considered filing a case of domestic abuse against her husband. Her story made me realise that women don't always make choices that appear modern and progressive. That their choices are informed by the social, historical and personal contexts they exist in. That feminism does not have one face. The ongoing hijab controversy in the southern Indian state of Karnataka made me think of that young woman in Haryana. Why? Because in Karnataka, young Muslim girls are fighting their schools, Hindu right-wing mobs, the state government and even the state's judiciary to be able to keep their hijabs on in classrooms. This is unquestionably a feminist struggle – after all, these women are fighting against patri-

archal attempts to police their dress. But not everyone is seeing it that way.

Hindu right-wing groups, and even certain sections of India's elite intelligentsia, appear convinced that these women must have been "brainwashed" by their oppressive families or the Islamic orthodoxy to want to wear this garment. Smartphones and television screens across the country are filled with provocative reports and images implying that young Muslim women do not have agency. That they must be tricked into thinking this way. That they must be saved from their own families and culture – they must be saved from themselves.

Of course, these points of view are not sprouting out of the ground completely organically. Amid elections in five states, including India's most populous and perhaps politically significant state Uttar Pradesh, there were political machinations at play. The hijab controversy was being amped up by the governing BJP and the wider Hindu right wing to legitimise and whitewash their anti-Muslim attitudes and rally their supporters behind an emotive cause during elections. As scholar Hilal Ahmed recently wrote, the "Hijab controversy has exposed the interplay between patriarchy and communalism" in India. But this is in no way a recent development – the Hindu right wing has been pretending to "save" Muslim women from Muslim men to further their own anti-Muslim agenda for decades.

For example, in 1986, when the Congress government passed an act that overturned the Supreme Court's Shah Bano decision – which had established that Muslim divorcees are entitled to collect alimony from their former husbands like divorcees from other religions, and was opposed fiercely by some Muslim groups – the BJP emerged as one of the main defenders of the rights of Muslim women. Their main gripe was, of course, the "appeasement" of the Muslim community by the Congress government, but they still presented themselves as working to save Muslim women from Muslim men.

Some 30 years later, in 2019, they once again tried to assume the role of the "saviour of Muslim women", when they passed legislation criminalising triple talaq (Muslim instant divorce). Never mind that the very same party,

and mobs associated with it, have been behind countless policies, laws and violent agitations, from the tearing down of the Babri Masjid to the discriminatory citizenship laws, that devastated Muslim communities, including countless Muslim women, over the years.

After the 9/11 terror attacks, for example, the US attempted to classify its invasion of Afghanistan as an attempt to "save" Afghan women. In November 2001, then First Lady Laura Bush delivered a radio address to the nation, claiming that America's "fight against terrorism" in Afghanistan was simultaneously a "fight for the rights and dignity of women".

Hijab – and other types of head and face coverings used by Muslim women across the world – has long been at the centre of these efforts. Indeed, the West has historically viewed the hijab as a symbol of female oppression and waged numerous legal and cultural wars against it, often despite the protestations of the women wearing it. It is hardly surprising that an almost identical war against the hijab is currently being waged in India supported by certain sections of the intelligentsia. Over the years, many in the upper echelons of Indian society, both those on the left and the right, adopted a Western gaze, and came to see the hijab the way white people do: a symbol of oppression, a cry by Muslim women to be "saved".

In the end, the ongoing hijab controversy in Karnataka is not only an interplay between patriarchy and communalism but also the adopted Western gaze. Hindu nationalists who are claiming they are on yet another mission to save Muslim women, against their will, from Muslim men and culture, are just playing the same game they have played for decades. Those supporting this "saviour narrative" and also claiming to be "feminists", meanwhile, are adopting tropes long used by the West to subjugate, rule over and devastate the Global South. So how should feminists, and anyone else who claims to care for women's rights, respond to this latest controversy? Well, they should shed their arrogance and acknowledge that Muslim women do not need "saving" – neither by Hindu nationalists nor by elite liberals. They should recognise that Muslim women have agency, and a voice. And all that they need is for people to listen.

– Courtesy: Al Jazeera

How Turkey's Ukraine role is shaping its foreign relations

Yasar Yakis



Turkey is expecting a warmer response from the EU as a result of the positive role it has played in Ukraine

TURKEY has demonstrated that it can play a positive role when it wants to. This is what it has done during the ongoing crisis between Russia and Ukraine. Both of the directly interested parties – Moscow and Kyiv – and the international community at large all seem to be content with what Turkey is trying to do. Its Syria policy is still up in the air and it has not devised an exit strategy. No progress is being made in Libya. Efforts are underway in the South Caucasus to stabilize the region. While such endeavors are ongoing, Turkey is now engaged in another effort: It is trying to use the Ukrainian crisis to consolidate its relations with the Euro-Atlantic community. Before this crisis, US congressmen were competing with each other to blame Turkey for not doing enough for the sake of the Euro-Atlantic's defense and for drifting away from the West. Now, however, the West's attitude toward Turkey has become milder because of the growing awareness of its positive role. If Turkey tilts toward either side in the Ukrainian crisis, it may affect the power balance because of its military power and its custodianship of the Montreux Convention regulating naval traffic through the Turkish straits.

Turkey has been able to make a tangible contribution to the efforts to defuse tensions between Russia and Ukraine. The first direct talks between the Russian and Ukrainian foreign ministers were brokered in Antalya by the Turkish foreign minister. Nothing concrete came out of this first meeting, but it may lead to other similar encounters in Turkey or elsewhere. The role that Ankara has played in the Ukrainian crisis has been more concrete than that of many other countries because, before the crisis broke out, it had close cooperation with Ukraine in the field of defense and had sold it several squadrons of drones. Moscow expressed its unease when these drones destroyed

several Russian targets, but did not push this issue because, after all, Turkey's sale of drones to Ukraine was a commercial deal and not the result of a political attitude.

On the question of Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea, Turkey joined its NATO allies in refusing to recognize the move. It did so because the annexation was a flagrant violation of international law.

On the other hand, Ankara refused to join the other NATO countries in imposing economic sanctions on Russia, on the grounds that they were not based on a UN Security Council resolution; in reality, however, it wanted to maintain its economic ties with Russia. In return, Moscow has refrained from overreacting to Turkey's dealings with Ukraine. This give and take arrangement works satisfactorily between the two countries.

Furthermore, Turkey and Russia are cooperating in a number of areas, such as Syria and the South Caucasus. There is also a high degree of economic interdependence between the two countries: Russia is building a nuclear power plant in Turkey that will, from next year, increase the country's power generation capacity by 8 percent; Turkey purchases 33 percent of its natural gas from Russia; and the highest number of foreign tourists visiting Turkey come from Russia. More importantly, Turkey has not imposed restrictions on Russian civil aviation and has made a safe corridor available.

Russia's efforts to distance Turkey from NATO has been a steady policy for decades. We do not yet know where Turkey will stand in any new security architecture that might emerge after the Ukrainian crisis.

Turkey is expecting a warmer response from the EU as a result of the positive role it has played in Ukraine. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan rightly complains about his country's EU accession process. After Brussels adopted a milder attitude on Ukraine's EU accession, Erdogan drew attention to the bloc's double standards by saying: "Please demonstrate your sensitivity toward Turkey as well, as you do for Ukraine. Or will you include Turkey in the agenda only when another country attacks Turkey?"

This may have been a to-the-point remark, but what Erdogan fails to see in this comparison is Turkey's democratic shortfall and its poor record in the field of the rule of law. Ankara deliberately challenges European norms and values. For instance, despite its binding commitment, it recently defiantly announced that it will not implement a verdict of the European Court of Human Rights. An infringement process is already underway because of this attitude.

Turkey's past mistakes might have made it wiser, but the EU may not be prepared to ignore Ankara's obligations despite the positive role it is now playing in the Ukrainian crisis.

– Courtesy: Arab News

The rule of law beats anti-Palestinian lawsuits

Ray Hanania



Of course, Israel does not live by the rule of law, or by any of the many treaties and international covenants that protect civilians from government violence and which other democracies embrace...

OVER the years, the relatives of Americans killed in protests against Israel's confiscation of Palestinian land to build illegal Jewish settlements have filed dozens of wrongful death lawsuits against the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestine Authority in an effort to secure hundreds of millions of dollars in damages for the families and punish the Palestinian leadership. The incidents included a bombing in a mall at

the illegal Jewish settlement of Karni Shomron in 2002 in which two teenagers died, and the killing of the radical settler activist Ari Yoel Fuld from the Efrat settlement outside Bethlehem in September 2018. The lawsuits received much pro-Israel media coverage, especially when jury sympathetic to the one-sided pro-Israel narrative issued huge judgments in amounts running to hundreds of millions of dollars. But each time these jury verdicts were challenged, they were thrown out by higher courts. Why? Because they failed to meet the minimum requirements of the rule of law. The plaintiffs' lawyers simply assume that in America, where most news media is pro-Israel and has nurtured a sympathy for Israel based on falsehoods and lies, juries would rule in their favor. Arabs, and especially Palestinians, are routinely vilified in false news media reports, in false and one-sided statements by politicians, and in false and misleading lawsuits, not one of which deserved to make it to a jury trial. Of course, Israel does not live by the rule of law, or by any of the many treaties and international covenants that protect civilians from government violence and which other democracies embrace, such as the Fourth Geneva Convention. No. Israel's government has its own rules – one for Jews and another for non-Jews. These lawsuits would have been thrown out in every jurisdiction except the US, where pro-Israel propaganda has the mainstream news media, politicians and even many judges in a political headlock, bullied by exaggerated and false claims of anti-Semitism. One reason the lawsuits were dismissed had to do with the absence of facts. While certainly the victims were all killed as a result of violent at-

tacks, those attacks often came in a larger context of Israeli violence, Israeli oppression, and the deaths of Palestinians, circumstances never addressed in the lawsuits. Lawyers for the victims also had a problem forcing the defendants, the Palestinians, to accept that they were responsible. The PLO and PNA have argued there were not directly responsible for the actions of individuals who were provoked to violence by Israel's own violence and brutality from the occupation. The US Congress passed a law introduced by former President Donald Trump, which applied only to lawsuits against Palestinians, and declared that the "defendant shall be deemed to have consented to personal jurisdiction." In other words, Congress set aside the rule of law and the US Constitution, and automatically made any Palestinian entity or group responsible for random acts of violence committed by individuals. Fortunately, some American judges do uphold the rule of law and the US Constitution. One judge, overturning a jury verdict against the PLO over the death of a Jewish settler, observed: "A defendant's knowing and voluntary consent is a valid basis to subject it to the jurisdiction of a court, but Congress cannot simply declare anything it wants to be consent. To hold otherwise would let fiction get the better of fact and make a mockery of due process." When faced with a biased campaign to demonize the Palestinian people and their just claims against the government of Israel, which encourages Jews from around the world to come to occupied Palestine and settle on stolen land, the rule of law always has the last word.

– Courtesy: Arab News

Briefs

BAP leaves PTI govt

FROM PAGE 01
Meanwhile, Opposition leaders — Fazl, Shahbaz, Zardari, and Bilawal — thanked the BAP leader to announce support for the no-trust motion. "We will ensure Balochistan's development," the leaders vowed.

Opp. moves no-trust against PM

FROM PAGE 01
Soon after the motion was tabled, the Deputy Speaker adjourned the House to meet again on Thursday at 4:00 pm to hold mandatory debate on the no-confidence resolution. Since the opposition parties submitted the no-trust move with the National Assembly Secretariat on March 8, both treasury and opposition benches claimed a majority to defeat each other on this front in the Lower House of the Parliament.

As per the official data placed on the National Assembly's website, the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has a total of 155 seats (General 122, Reserved 28 and Minority 5), the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) 84 seats (General 66, Reserved 16 and Minority 2), Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians (PPP) 56 seats (General 45, Reserved 9 and Minority 2), Independent MNAs four seats, Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan (MMAP) 15 seats (General 12, Reserved 2 and Minority 1), Pakistan Muslim League (PML-Q) five seats (General 4 and Reserved 1), Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQMP) seven seats (General 6 and Reserved 1), Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) three seats (General 2 and Reserved 1), Awami Muslim League Pakistan (AMLP) one seat, Balochistan National Party (BNP) four seats (General 3 and Reserved 1), Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) five seats (General 4 and Reserved 1), Awami National Party (ANP) one seat, Jamhoori Watan Party (JWP) one seat.

Pervez Elahi to replace Buzdar

FROM PAGE 01
Prime Minister Imran Khan from his Twitter handle, said that the matters with the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid have been settled and they have announced to support PM Imran Khan ahead of the no-confidence motion. Prime Minister Imran Khan has decided to nominate Chaudhry Pervez Elahi as the new Punjab CM following the resignation of CM Punjab Usman Buzdar. In a major development earlier in the day, Prime Minister Imran Khan agreed to give Punjab chief minister's slot to Pakistan Muslim League Quaid (PML-Q) leader Pervez Elahi.

PTI govt to offer MQM-P...

FROM PAGE 01
The development had come in the wake of the Opposition's no-confidence motion and increasing pressure within the PTI to remove the incumbent chief minister.

After the joint Opposition tabled a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan in a bid to oust him, the support of MQM-P and PML-Q has become crucial for the premier. The MQM-P has seven members in the Parliament, while the PML-Q has five.

Kremlin slams Joe Biden... remarks...

FROM PAGE 01
US President Joe Biden, who said during a speech on Saturday that Putin must not remain in power. In Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-biggest city and one of its hardest hit, people were sweeping rubble out of a classroom on the third storey of a school, where a wall had been blown out by a missile before dawn.

Family off-roaders lit up Hub Rally 2022

The introduction of the veteran's category provided a chance to witness three generations in Hub Rally 2022



NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: As many as three generations were seen running cars on a tough and tricky 50kms-long track of Hub Rally 2022 after the organizing committee introduced a new 'veteran's category'. It was March 27 when the ninth edition of Hub Rally, famously called 'T20 format' of the off-road racing, took place on a sandy-cum-seaside track in Gadani, Balochistan. The added pressure of a seaside track makes Hub Rally different from other racing events across the country. However, this time, another differential aspect of the racing was the newly introduced 'veteran's category'. The idea was pitched by non-other than the chief organizer of Hub Rally, Shujaat Sherwani. "We have decided to include a veteran's category in this year's Hub Rally. This will help the pioneers of this race in the country to return to the track once again," Sherwani, who won the title in veteran's category, had said in the event's press conference. The introduction of the veteran's

category provided a chance to witness three generations competing in different categories of the rally at the same time. With the announcement of 'veteran's category', 73-years-old Syed Ashraf Ali Agha - an off-road racing enthusiast - decided to accompany his son and grandson in this year's rally. Agha won the fourth position in veteran's category, covering 50kms track in 55 minutes and 28 seconds. His son Ghazanfar Ali, 47, claimed second position in Prepared C category whereas grandson Ali Ahsan won third position in Stock C category. Nida Wasti made rounds on media after she joined very few female racers in the country to contest in off-road rallies. But, now her father, Shahid Wasti aged 63 took all the attention after he accompanied his daughter and son Naveed Wasti in Hub Rally 22. The father-son-daughter trio bagged positions in their respective categories. Nida won the title in women's Stock category, Naveed won title in Prepared B category while Shahid bagged third position in 'veteran's category'. Two father-daughter duos were seen in action during just concluded Hub Rally



2022. Maham Shiraz and her father Shiraz Qureshi ran their cars in women prepared and men stock categories respectively. Maham secured first position whereas Shiraz failed to complete the race. On the other hand, Roney Patel and her daughter Dina also participated in the race but didn't finish the race due to a

technical fault that occurred in their car just 4kms before the finish line. Sahibzada Sultan Muhammad Ali and his younger brother Bahadur Aziz also added variety to the racers' line-up. Sultan took back his title from Nadir Magasi in Prepared A category whereas Aziz managed third position in Prepared B category.

Asif, Usman successfully defend international titles



DNA

DUBAI: Pakistan's rising boxing star Asif Hazzara, who won the Asian Box-



ing Federation title last year, has successfully defended it after he outclassed Indonesia's East Aluman - winning nine out of ten rounds.

title after he thumped the Indonesian boxer in the first round. "Alhamdulillah, Alhamdulillah successfully made Pakistan proud once again by beating the Indonesian boxer," Asif tweeted after winning the fight. "Thank You for all your support and prayers. I will keep striving to serve my country and make Pakistan proud on every forum. keep supporting," he added. "Alhamdulillah. One more victory for my beautiful country Pakistan and Gilgit-Baltistan," Usman Wazeer tweeted. "Still champion of Asian title and undefeated. Thank you each and everyone for your support and love. Sab meel Ker bolo Pakistan zindabad," he added.

Canada seal first World Cup berth since 1986

TORONTO: Canada qualified for the World Cup for the first time in 36 years on Sunday with an emphatic 4-0 victory over Jamaica in Toronto. Goals from Kyle Larin, Tajon Buchanan, Junior Hoilett and an Adrian Mariappa own goal secured all three points after Canada dominated against a Jamaica side already eliminated from contention in the CONCACAF region's qualifying tournament for this year's finals in Qatar. The win sparked wild celebrations at Toronto's 30,000-capacity BMO Field, where an expectant sell-out crowd had gathered to watch Canada clinch World Cup qualification for only the second time, having last appeared at the 1986 Mexico tournament. Canada's English manager John Herdman - who took over the men's team in 2018 after a successful stint in charge of Canada's women's team - said the qualification was proof that Canada was a "football nation". "You know what, you can play in a Champions League final, Canadians can play for Bayern Munich, and now they're going to World Cups," Herdman said in a reference to injured Canada and Bayern Munich star Alphonso Davies. "Canada is a football nation and we better believe it. We're going to keep going. We've only just got started." After a dominant qualifying campaign had left them three points clear with two games remaining, Canada needed only a point from Sunday's fixture to assure themselves of qualification. That objective was never in doubt as Canada went on the attack from the whistle. Larin could have opened the scoring after only five minutes, but his shot after Jonathan David's surging run and pass was well saved by Jamaican goalkeeper Andre Blake. - Agencies

'Local political players part of big conspiracy'

FROM PAGE 01
sitting in Mayfair's apartments in London had conspired against Pakistan. Talking to the media along with Minister for Energy Hammad Azhar outside the Supreme Court, he said that political dwarfs like Maulana Fazlur Rehman, Asif Ali Zardari and Shahbaz Sharif were planning to enslave Pakistan permanently as these were the puppets whose control was in the hands of a person sitting in London. Alluding to Nawaz Sharif, he said this person was involved in a conspiracy against Pakistan in collaboration with the international establishment.

The minister said that the Prime Minister had given the preliminary information about this global conspiracy in yesterday's meeting and with the passage of time, the rest of the pages of this global conspiracy would also be laid before the people. "This conspiracy is not against Imran Khan but against the people of Pakistan," Chaudhry Fawad said, adding that its objective was to subjugate the people of Pakistan.

Fawad Hussain said that in 1930s and 1940s, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah fought against global colonialism and on the same pattern, Imran Khan was also fighting a two-way battle. On the one hand he is exposing the conspiracy of the local establishment and on the other hand he was fighting the international establishment against Pakistan, he expressed. Thanking the people of Pakistan for yesterday's historic public meeting, Chaudhry Fawad said that from Gilgit-Baltistan to Karachi, from the mountains of Quetta and Chaghi to Lahore and from Lahore to Islamabad, the manner in which the people responded to Imran Khan's leadership and held a largest gathering in history of Pakistan which was highly commendable. The doors and walls of Islamabad were shaken by the footsteps of the participants of the Amr Bil Ma'ruf rally. He said that earlier, he had stated that those who had tabled the no-confidence motion would have to go through one million people but after yesterday's meeting, he added that they would have to go through over 200 million people to vote against Prime Minister Imran Khan. - APP

Interior minister unaware of 'written threat'

FROM PAGE 01
PM Imran Khan, saying the premier will thwart the efforts of the Opposition to oust him. "I have never seen any government complete its tenure; however, my perception has changed after the historic PTI rally was held yesterday, where the turnout of supporters was massive," Rasheed said, adding that after 1977, this was the first time he had led a rally. Regarding JUIF's public gathering scheduled today, he said that the party is not allowed to hold today's rally and sit-in as their no-objection certificate (NOC) has expired. However, he said, PML-N has the required permission to hold their rally. The interior minister said that the establishment is with Pakistan and the military forces are only concerned about the interest of Pakistan. "Imran Khan is laying the foundation of an independent foreign policy," he said, reiterating that he stands with PM Imran Khan whether he is in power or not. Regarding the voting on the no-confidence motion in the National Assembly, he said that if the motion is tabled today, voting will be held on Monday (April 4). Read more: Opposition likely to table no-trust motion against PM Imran Khan in NA session today Rasheed, in light of his political experience, said that things will be clear during the period of March 29-31. "My political conscience says that the situation could change even an hour before the voting because the Opposition has to bring 172 members to the Assembly," he added. He said he had asked PM Imran Khan to announce elections after Hajj, dissolve the Punjab Assembly and impose governor's rule in Sindh as the people [MNAs] were being bought.

Pindi confirmed for ODI series against WI

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi will host the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League matches against the West Indies at the Pindi Cricket Stadium from 8-12 June, the Pakistan Cricket Board announced today. The West Indies will arrive in Islamabad on 5 June for the One-Day Internationals that will be played on 8, 10 and 12 June. The ODIs were part of the West Indies' tour of Pakistan in December 2021. However, with mutual consent, these were rescheduled after five Covid-19 cases were reported in the West Indies side. The West Indies have also agreed to play three T20Is in early 2023, schedule of which will be announced in due course. The ODIs are part of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League. Top seven-placed sides from this event plus ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 hosts India will qualify directly for the pinnacle 50-over competition, which will be staged next year in October/November.

Series schedule:
08 June — 1st ODI, Rawalpindi
10 June — 2nd ODI, Rawalpindi
12 June — 3rd ODI, Rawalpindi

Fruhvirtova youngest player in Miami last 16 since 2004

MIAMI: Czech teenager Linda Fruhvirtova on Sunday became the youngest player to reach the last 16 of the Miami Open since 2004 when former world number one Victoria Azarenka retired from their third round match. The 16-year-old arrived at the tournament with a world ranking of 279 but she dominated the two-time Australian Open winner, racing into a 6-2, 3-0 lead before the veteran Belarusian quit. Azarenka, 32, who broke down in tears during her defeat to Elena Rybakina at Indian Wells earlier this month, looked out of sorts throughout against the impressive Fruhvirtova. "I don't know what happened at the end," Fru-

hvirtova told AFP. "She was struggling with some injuries. I don't know but it was an honour to share the court with her. "You never want to end the match this way but it happens. We shook hands and then she walked off." It was not immediately clear why Azarenka retired although later in the evening the former world no.1, who also deleted her social media accounts in the wake of her problems at Indian Wells, released a statement citing personal issues. "I shouldn't have gone on the court today. The last few weeks have been extremely stressful in my personal life," she said. "Last match took so much out of me, but I wanted to play in front of a great audience as they helped me pull through my first match. I wanted to go out there and try but it was a mistake. "I hope to take a break and be able to come back." "I'm sorry to the fans for what happened as you were great to cheer for me. It was the only reason I decided to step on the court. - Agencies

West Indies beat England by 10 wickets

Myers, in a sensational spell, took key scalps of Alex Lees, Joe Root, and Ben Stokes to put West Indies in drivers' seat in the series-deciding third Test

DNA
GRENADA: West Indies clinched the three-match Test series against England after they won the series-deciding third Test by 10 wickets as their bowlers quickly removed the last two wickets of visitors and chased down the small 28-run target with ease. Wicketkeeper-batter Joshua Da Silva was adjudged the man of the match for his sensational century and also took five catches behind the stumps. When the fourth day started, pacer Kemar Roach quickly took the remaining two wickets in a space of 19 runs. And West Indies openers Kraig

Braithwaite (20) and John Campbell (6) finished the game in 4.5 overs. After the third day came to a close, Da Silva's monumental, match-turning maiden international hundred had helped West Indies get a 93-run lead, while Kyle Mayers' five wickets in a sensational spell reduced England to 103-8 - with a paltry lead of just 10 runs on close of Day 3. Myers, in a sensational spell, took key scalps of Alex Lees, Joe Root, and Ben Stokes to put West Indies in drivers' seat in the series-deciding third Test. When Day 3 began, the hosts' had a 32-run lead, with Joshua having a big responsibility to play well with the remaining two



et stand between him and Kemar Roach ended early into Day 3 as they could add just 13 runs. But the last wicket partnership of 52 runs which Joshua put up with pacer Jayden Seales (13) shifted the momentum towards the home team. Seales did smash a six and a four, but he played the role of holding the one end, while Joshua scored runs briskly from the other end. Joshua reached his wonderful hundred in style - smashing a four with a punishing drive before Joe Root removed Seales to bowl out West Indies for 297. In reply, the West Indies pacers were bowling at full throttle as they kept England openers under pressure with accurate and aggressive bowling. Zak Crawley (8) was sent back by Seales with just 14 runs on the board, while 13 runs later, Mayers took the

all-important scalp of Joe Root (5) and two overs later dismissed Dan Lawrence (0) to leave England tottering at 27-3. Mayers also removed the dangerous Ben Stokes (4) with England's score of 39 runs. Jonny Bairstow (22) and opener Alex Lees (31) tried to steer the ship as they capitalized at the wicket well by forging a 41-run stand. But after Bairstow was removed Alzarri Joseph, another continuous fall of wickets for England started. With 83-runs on the scoreboard, Ben Foakes was run out, while 14 runs later, Mayers removed the well-set Lees, as well as Craig Overton four runs later.

Briefs

Japan reiterates call for UNSC reform

FOREIGN DESK

TOKYO: Russia's "totally unacceptable" war on Ukraine has reaffirmed the need to reform the UN Security Council, according to Japan's foreign minister. Moscow's aggression is "a unilateral change of the status quo by force ... and constitutes a violation of international law which shakes the very foundations of the international order," Yoshimasa Hayashi said in a virtual meeting with his counterparts from several African countries on Sunday night. "The international community needs to address the situation in a concerted manner," he was quoted as saying in a statement issued by Japan's Foreign Ministry on Monday. Hayashi also stressed the "importance of establishing a free and open international order based on the rules under the vision of a 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific,' as well as the importance of fairness and transparency of development finance."

During the ministerial meeting of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, he said the COVID-19 pandemic "has had a considerable socioeconomic impact on Africa." "Japan supports the realization of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals, with an emphasis on 'people' and 'quality growth' based on the principle of human security," he was quoted as saying.

Agenda 2063 is a comprehensive development plan for the continent envisaging inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic growth by 2063. Over the past decade, Africa has seen widespread investments by China, while Türkiye has also strengthened its foothold in the continent.

Germany's exports hit by Ukraine war

BERLIN: German exporters' confidence decreased dramatically amid the Russia-Ukraine war, a Munich-based research institute said on Monday. The ifo Institute for Economic Research said its export expectations slipped to minus 2.3 points in March on a monthly basis, from 17 points in February. "To date, the only other time the index suffered a steeper decline was at the beginning of the coronavirus crisis in April 2020 (minus 31.2 points)," it added. Companies, it said, are more pessimistic for the coming six months, especially firms who have economic relations with Russia. While export expectations fell for all manufacturing industries, "car manufacturers and their suppliers suffered a significant setback and are expecting exports to decline," the institute said.

The Russia-Ukraine war, which began on Feb. 24, has met international outrage, with the EU, US and UK, among others, implementing tough financial sanctions on Moscow. At least 1,119 civilians have been killed in Ukraine and 1,790 injured, according to UN estimates, with true figures likely far higher. — APP

Pak envoy invites Chinese Tech company in Pakistan

Tencent is a world-leading internet and technology company based in Shenzhen, China, specializing in various internet-related services and products, entertainment, artificial intelligence and technology. It is also the parent company of WeChat

DNA

BEIJING: The Ambassador of Pakistan to China Moin ul Haque invited Chinese tech company Tencent to invest in Pakistan and get advantages of the best policies and benefits offered by Pakistan, says a report published by Gwadar Pro on Monday. He held a virtual meeting with senior executives of Tencent. Danny Marti, Head of Tencent Public Affairs and Global Policy, Pakistan's Consul-General in Guangzhou also attended the meeting. Tencent is a world-leading internet and technology company based in Shenzhen, China, specializing in various internet-related

services and products, entertainment, artificial intelligence and technology.

It is also the parent company of WeChat. In his remarks, the Am-

bassador noted with satisfaction the growing engagement of Tencent

with Pakistan. He highlighted Pakistan's recent initiatives for the

promotion of the IT sector and for attracting foreign investment in this area. Appreciating Tencent's interest in expanding cooperation with Pakistan, the Ambassador encouraged it to benefit from Pakistan's capable human resource and friendly investment climate to deepen its footprints in Pakistan's ICT sector. Thanking the Ambassador for his remarks, Mr. Marti briefed him on the diverse business operations of the company and its desire to contribute to digital growth in Pakistan. He added that Tencent would maintain its coordination with the Embassy and relevant departments in Pakistan to explore the possibility of mutually beneficial future engagement.



COFCO shows interest to invest in Pakistan

The Ambassador noted that Pakistan is a leading producer of grains and agro products like rice, wheat, sugarcane, cotton, potatoes, etc. which can be exported to China to meet its market's growing needs

DNA

BEIJING: China Oil and Foodstuffs Corporation (COFCO), a leading Chinese enterprise in the agriculture and food industry expressed its willingness to establish industries and explore further the Pakistani market, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro. The Ambassador of Pakistan Moin ul Haque met on Monday with Mr. Luan Richeng, President of COFCO in Beijing where he briefed president Luan on the growing trade ties between the two countries after the launch

of phase of FTA, which has given duty-free access to a large number of agro products. The Ambassador noted that Pakistan is a leading producer of grains and agro products like rice, wheat, sugarcane, cotton, potatoes, etc. which can be exported to China to meet its market's growing needs. He invited COFCO to consider investing in the food processing business in Pakistan. A detailed briefing was also given on Pakistan's investment policies for foreign enterprises in the agriculture sector. Mr. Luan expressed his

keen interest in the Pakistani market. He assured that COFCO stood ready to explore opportunities in Pakistan, benefitting from the attractive investment regime and the strong agriculture sector of Pakistan. During the meeting, the two sides held an extensive discussion on Pakistan-China trade and investment ties and also exchanged views on possible collaboration between COFCO and Pakistan. COFCO, founded in 1949, playing a major role in China's imports of grain and other agro dairy products as well, has been actively

expanding the overseas markets and continuously improving G O logistics and storage capacity worldwide to ensure a stable overseas supply chain. It is to be noted that in China, COFCO is the largest market-oriented grain enterprise and the major importer and exporter of soybean, wheat, corn, sugar, and other agricultural products. COFCO has an annual processing capacity of over 60 million tons and provides products covering all the main categories of daily consumption to Chinese consumers.

Tarin appreciates provincial govts

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Shaukat Tarin here on Monday appreciated the efforts of the governments of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Islamabad administration in providing essential items at discounted rates at Sasta and Sahulat bazaars. Presiding over the meeting of National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC), the minister also expressed satisfaction on the contribution of Sindh government for providing essential items at discounted rates in Sahulat bazaars. He commended the efforts being undertaken for stabilizing the prices of essential items successfully and measures to ensure smooth supply of essential commodities throughout the country, according to press statement issued by the finance ministry. Earlier, Economic Adviser Finance Division briefed the NPMC



about weekly SPI which witnessed an increase of 1.10% as compared to decrease in previous week by 1.37%. It was informed that 33 food items contributed increase in the SPI by 1.07%, whereas 18 non-food items contributed increase of 0.03% to the SPI. NPMC was apprised that the prices of 08 items declined, 18 items remained stable and prices of 25 items increased. The commodities that witnessed decline in prices included garlic (0.06%), tomatoes (0.02%), eggs (0.06%), LPG (0.05%), gur (0.0004%), sugar (0.01%) and gram pulse (0.0004%) and contributed 0.20% in decline.

PMS holds Christian women entrepreneurs conference

PMS focus areas are Disaster Management, WASH, Climate Action, Church and Community Transformation, Youth and Leadership Development, Women Empowerment, and Health

DNA

LAHORE: Pak Mission Society has organized a first-ever Christian Women Entrepreneurs conference on the theme "Celebrating Women Entrepreneurs Resilience and Contributions amid Pandemic" in Lahore. The objectives of the program were to celebrate the talents of women entrepreneurs, acknowledge their contributions to the economy amid Covid 19, and provide them with the opportunity to network with governmental and non-governmental organizations. The speakers were, President Women Chamber of Commerce and Industries Sam Ali Dada, Secretary Punjab Commission on the Status of Women Nada Azhar, Secretary Punjab Women Development Department Saima Saeed, Chair Person Punjab Women

Protection Authority Kaneez Fatima Chadhar, Secretary Industries Commerce, Investment, and Skills Development Department Government of Punjab Dr. Wasif Khurshid, Famous Poet Victoria Patrick, Founder of Akhuwat Foundation Dr. Mohammad Amjad Saqib, Unit Head Organization Development FINCA Bank Sahar Al Hosban, Educationist Anthropologist cum Entrepreneur "ZARSHU" Zarish Dilnawaz, Executive Director of Homenet Pakistan Ume Laila Azhar, Assistant Professor, HOD Business Studies Department Kinnaird College for Women Saira Farooqi, Academic Researcher, Researcher Entrepreneur Philanthropist, Associate Professor Business and Entrepreneurship Dr. Bushra Usman, Desk Officer Humedica International Klaus Haas and Executive Director Pak Mission Society Adeel Rehmat shared the closing

remarks with women entrepreneurs and shared words of gratitude towards honorable guests from different departments and working sectors. Pak Mission Society (PMS) is a faith-based relief and development organization established in 2004. PMS is registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 since 2008 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Economic Affairs Division (EAD), Government of Pakistan in November 2017. Pak Mission Society has reached and served unreached and underprivileged communities regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, class, religion, and social background. PMS focus areas are Disaster Management, WASH, Climate Action, Church and Community Transformation, Youth and Leadership Development, Women Empowerment, and Health.

2-day strike called by trade, bank union begins in India

NEW DEHLY: A 48-hour strike called by various trade unions, including banking employees associations, began Monday across India. According to the unions, the strike has been called to protest government policies affecting workers, farmers and people at large. The strike has affected normal life as banking services were partially impacted as a section of employees at many public sector banks choose not to report for duty. However, the functioning at most private sector banks was going on normally. The bank unions are protesting against the government's move to privatize two public sector banks as announced in this year's

general budget. They are also demanding an increase in the interest rate on deposits and a reduction in service charges. "The impact of the strike is prominent in eastern India as many branches of public sector banks there are closed," said C H Venkatachalam, general secretary of the All India Bank Employees' Association, quoted by local media. "In the other regions, branches are open as officers are present but services are being impacted due to many employees participating in the strike." Reports pouring in from Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal said trade union activists took to the streets holding banners in support of the call. — APP

President of Turkey to visit Uzbekistan

NEWS DESK

TASHKENT: At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan will pay an official visit to Uzbekistan on March 29-30. The main event of the program of the distinguished guest's stay is participation in the second meeting of Uzbekistan - Turkey Council for Strategic Cooperation of the highest level. The agenda of the talks between the leaders of Uzbekistan and Turkey includes issues of further developing and strengthening friendship and strategic partnership, expansion of multifaceted cooperation between the two countries. Issues of promoting cooperation projects in trade, investment, innovation, industry, logistics, tourism and other sectors of the economy, as well as the continuation of the active implementation of the cultural-humanitarian exchange program will be discussed. Views will be exchanged on the current aspects of international and regional policy. Following the summit, it is planned to adopt a joint statement and several bilateral documents.

COVID-19 cases simmer down across Aussie states

SYDNEY: The daily cases of COVID-19 have begun to stabilize in Australia's eastern most populous states, abating initial fears that the Omicron BA.2 sub-variant would trigger a new wave. The daily cases in New South Wales (NSW) fell to 16,199 on Monday, marking the fourth consecutive day in which cases dropped from a high of 24,803 reported last Thursday. However, the number of patients in hospitals with the virus jumped by 100 overnight to 1,270. In the nation's second-largest state, Victoria, 8,739 new cases were reported on Monday after a peak of just over 10,000 late last week. Similarly, cases in Queensland have eased off over the weekend falling to 7,816 from over 11,000 late last week. Queensland's Health Minister Yvette D'Ath said on Sunday that they are expecting the peak is yet to come. "We're not sure when this wave is going to peak but we expect some time in April," said D'Ath. Fears that the more transmissible BA.2 sub-variant, which has fast become the dominant variant across Australia, would lead to a sharp uptick in cases has so far not been seen. In a recent interview with Xinhua, Chair of Biostatistics and Epidemiology at the University of South Australia, Dr. Adrian Esterman said the variant would likely present a challenge as states look to live with the virus. — Agencies

Farrukh village in Khojaly comes under control of Azerbaijani forces

SAMIR HUMBATOV

BAKU: According to media and social media reports over the past two days, the village of Farrukh in Khojaly, which was temporarily under the control of Russian "peacekeepers" after the Second Karabakh War, to the control of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, which has been going on for more than a year, is beginning to show its results. Russia's defeat on the Ukrainian front is increasingly being felt in the South Caucasus, or more precisely in Karabakh. In other words, Russia is beginning to realize that at the moment it does not make sense to confront Azerbaijan or its brother and ally Turkey. Although a declaration of alliance between Azerbaijan and Russia was signed in Moscow on February 22, 2022 with the participation

and signature of Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev and Russian President Vladimir Putin, Azerbaijan does not intend to compromise on fundamental issues. It does not seem convincing for Azerbaijan to make any concessions, especially in the Karabakh issue. Another noteworthy issue was the approval of the Shusha Declaration by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan a few days ago. In other words, the Shusha Declaration signed on June 15, 2021 by the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and the President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the liberated city of Shusha, Azerbaijan, came into full force. At the same time, it is vital for Russia, which is facing severe sanctions and pressure from Western countries in the Ukraine issue, to maintain normal relations with Turkey and Azerbaijan.

is beginning to understand the seriousness of the situation. Another issue to be noted here is the transfer of the Farrukh village of Khojaly, which was temporarily under the control of Russian "peacekeepers" after the Second Karabakh War, to the control of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces. Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, which has been going on for more than a year, is beginning to show its results. Russia's defeat on the Ukrainian front is increasingly being felt in the South Caucasus, or more precisely in Karabakh. In other words, Russia is beginning to realize that at the moment it does not make sense to confront Azerbaijan or its brother and ally Turkey. Although a declaration of alliance between Azerbaijan and Russia was signed in Moscow on February 22, 2022 with the participation

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Briefs

Kim Jong vows to build up N.Korea's attack capability

PYONGYANG: North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un says his country plans to develop more powerful means of attack, days after its first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launch since 2017. The statement published by the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on Monday suggests North Korea might perform additional launches or even test a nuclear device soon as it pushes to modernise its arsenal. On Thursday, the country had its 12th round of weapons tests this year, launching the newly developed, long-range Hwasong-17, which analysts say is potentially able to deliver a nuclear warhead anywhere in the United States. During a photo session with scientists and others involved in the Hwasong-17 test, Kim expressed a resolve to build up the country's attack capability to cope with any threats, according to KCNA. "Only when one is equipped with the formidable striking capabilities, overwhelming military power that cannot be stopped by anyone, one can prevent a war, guarantee the security of the country and contain and put under control all threats and blackmails by the imperialists," KCNA quoted Kim as saying. - Agencies

Bangladesh, Pak relations based on shared history, culture: envoy



ISLAMABAD: Chief Guest Syed Fakhar Imam, Federal Minister for Food Security, PML N leader Ahsan Iqbal, High Commissioner of Bangladesh and others posing for a picture on the occasion of the Independence and National Day of Bangladesh. - DNA photo Shahid Raju

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: The High Commissioner of Bangladesh Rahul Alam Siddiqui has said Bangladesh and Pakistan relations are cordial adding our ties are based on shared history, culture and values. The Bangladesh high commissioner made these

remarks on the occasion of the Independence and National Day of Bangladesh. He added, the relationship is rooted in the common desire of realizing the goals of regional peace and stability. "I am pleased to share with you that the trade volume between the two countries has increased despite the Covid pandemic". The bilateral trade has registered a sharp increase. During this period from July to De-

cember exports of Pakistan to Bangladesh rose by 25 per cent while Bangladesh exports to Pakistan rose by 38 per cent, which is indeed an encouraging development. The high commissioner further said due to the robust economic growth of his country the foreign exchange reserves have swelled to USD 45 billion besides substantial increase in the per capita income. He said his country had registered

growth rate at 7 per cent adding the average life expectancy was 72 years now. The high commissioner also talked about sustainable development; women empowerment; education and healthcare system of Bangladesh. He also paid glowing tributes to the war heroes and father of the nation. Similarly, he also highlighted the achievements of the incumbent government spearheaded by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wazed.

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- Polio-free Pakistan** in the making
- Fully functional **National Security Council**, country's first **National Security Policy** launched
- J10-C fighter jets** added in Pakistan Air Force fleet



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