



Islamabad POST

Saturday, April 02, 2022

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

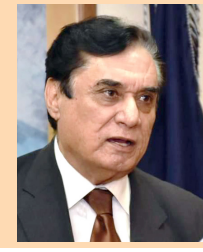
Price Rs. 20

Sovereignty of all states should be respected: Saudi envoy

Detailed News On Page-08

NAB, a role model for SAARC: Javed

Detailed News On Page-08



NATO should have been dissolved: Zhao

Detailed News On Page-08



Briefs

Istanbul talks raised hopes for peace

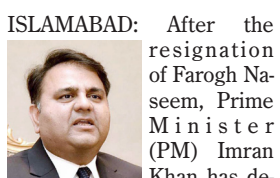
AGENCIES



ANKARA: "Positive and constructive" negotiations between Russia and Ukraine this week in Istanbul have raised hopes for peace, Turkiye's president said in a phone call with his Russian counterpart on Friday. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan also reiterated his offer to host Vladimir Putin and their Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy for talks to secure peace between Moscow and Kyiv, according to a statement from Turkiye's Communications Directorate. Putin expressed thanks to Erdogan for hosting the peace talks in Istanbul, the statement added. Talks between Russian and Ukrainian delegations in Istanbul this Tuesday were seen as a breakthrough in the push to halt hostilities that, according to latest UN figures, have claimed the lives of at least 1,232 civilians and left 1,935 more injured since Feb. 24.

Fawad to get law ministry

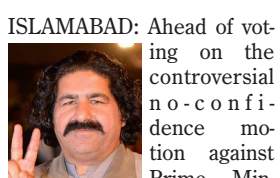
DNA



ISLAMABAD: After the resignation of Farogh Naseem, Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan has decided to give the post of Law Ministry to Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry. It is pertinent to mention here that a member of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) had resigned from the post of Federal Law Minister after a no-confidence motion was filed against Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan. After the resignation of Farogh Naseem, the seat of the Ministry of Law became vacant and now Prime Minister Imran Khan has decided to give this post to Fawad Chaudhry. The news was confirmed by Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry while he talked to media.

Ali Wazir production orders issued

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Ahead of voting on the controversial no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan, National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser has released production orders of Pashtun Tahafuz Movement MNA Ali Wazir, Geo News reported on Friday. According to a statement by the NA Secretariat, the production orders for the detained lawmaker were issued under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the National Assembly 2007. A screenshot of the production order issued by the National Assembly Secretariat. — Twitter/NA of Pakistan.

Holiday Notice

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

Praises Indian foreign policy

My life is in danger: Imran Khan

Establishment asked me you have three options; resign, fresh elections or no-trust

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: As the threat of the no-confidence motion to oust him from office looms, Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday said that his life is in danger. The premier said that he is aware of the conspiracy to assassinate him since August 2021. He said he will be a big surprise on Sunday adding to remove Usman Buzdar was a political move and compromise. The country's security agencies had earlier revealed that they have discovered a plot against the prime minister, adding that attempts to assassinate him were being planned. In a TV interview Imran Khan said that the Establishment people came to him and put three options before him, first to resign, call fresh elections or face no trust move. He said he preferred to face the no trust move. Following the news, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Fawad Chaudhry said that in line with the decision of the government, the premier's security has been tightened. Prime Minister Imran Khan praised the Indian foreign policy adding the Indian governments never allowed foreign elements to dominate India. He defended his Russian visit saying his only intention was to help mend fences between Russia and Ukraine. The Prime Minister further said

'PTI's success in KP a 'warning to traitors'

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday congratulated the chief minister and his party members in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa and said the success of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in local bodies polls was a 'warning to traitors'. "The people of KP have emphatically rejected the traitors who sold out to foreign masters," he said in a tweet. Imran Khan termed the situation an "early warning to all traitors of what awaits them in their constituencies". He said, "Congratulations to CM Mahmood Khan and our PTI team for their overwhelming success in phase 2 of KP LG polls".

Pakistan not progress until and unless we stand on our own feet. He said Pakistan has been subsisting on foreign aid due to which the country has virtually lost its sovereignty.

Continued on Page 06

Zalmay Khalilzad lauds Pak efforts for Afghan peace

On Afghanistan, COAS stressed upon the need for global convergence and sincere efforts to avert a looming humanitarian catastrophe



DNA

ISLAMABAD: Mr Zalmay Khalilzad, ex US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation and a prominent guest speaker at Islamabad Security Dialogue called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), at GHQ today.

During the meeting, matters of mutual interest, regional security situation including Afghanistan and bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed. On Afghanistan, COAS stressed upon the need for global convergence and sincere efforts to avert a looming humanitarian catastrophe. COAS thanked him for attending the Islamabad Security Dialogue. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's role and efforts towards regional stability. He pledged to play his role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels. He expressed his gratitude for being given an opportunity to attend the Islamabad Security Dialogue.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan at Islamabad Security Dialogue. — DNA

PM's defeat imminent, says Shehbaz Sharif

Imran should learn from Buzdar and resign: Bilawal

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly and PML-N President Shabaz Sharif censored Prime Minister Imran Khan, saying his "defeat was imminent" on Sunday — when the lower house is scheduled to vote on the no-confidence motion against the premier. In a press conference, the Opposition leader said the only cure for an "arrogant and stubborn" man's illness is to oust his government through the legal process — a no-confidence motion. He grilled Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi for giving statement against Saudi Arabia. He said Qureshi had said that Pakistan did not need Saudi Arabia on the Kashmir issue. Shabbaz, responding to the prime minister's allegations of a "foreign power" threatening to oust his government, said: "I do not speak on assumptions. I speak on solid evidence."



Talking about PM Imran Khan's address to the nation held a day earlier where he lashed out at the Opposition for "conspiring with foreign powers", Shabbaz said he does not listen to the premier's speeches as he had made "abusive language" the order of the day. But Shabbaz noted that since he is the Opposition leader, he receives information from several sources about what an important personality has said. "Have you no shame?" Shabbaz said in response to the prime minister's almost 45-minute long speech.

Continued on Page 06

'Buzdar's resignation not yet accepted'

LAHORE: The Punjab Governor House on Friday rejected reports that Chief Minister Usman Buzdar's resignation from his post has been accepted. Governor Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar has not yet accepted the chief minister's resignation, a spokesperson for the Governor House said in a statement. CM Usman Buzdar had submitted his resignation to Prime Minister Imran Khan on March 28. The chief minister will call on Prime Minister Khan in Islamabad later today. He will also attend a meeting of the PTI political committee. Earlier, it was reported that Punjab Assembly Speaker Pervaiz Elahi — PTI's nominee for Punjab chief minister — has intensified efforts to get the support of Tareen group and other opposition dissident lawmakers. — DNA

Xi calls on EU to view China 'independently'

Xi made the remarks when meeting via video link with European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday called on China and the EU to increase communication on their relations and on major issues concerning global peace and development, and play a constructive role in adding stabilizing factors to a turbulent world. Xi made the remarks when meeting via video link with European Council President Charles Michel and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. Xi recalled his visit to the EU headquarters eight years ago when he suggested that China and Europe work together to build a bridge of friendship and cooperation across the Eurasian continent, foster a China-EU partnership for peace, growth, reform and civilization, and forge a China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership of greater global influence. China's vision remains unchanged. If anything, it has become more relevant under the current circumstances, Xi added. Xi pointed out that the Ukraine crisis has come on top of a protracted COVID-19 pandemic and a faltering global recovery. Against such a backdrop, China and the EU, as two major forces, big markets and great civilizations, should increase communication on their relations and on major issues concerning global peace and development, and play a constructive role in adding stabilizing factors to a turbulent world. — Agencies

Malaysia's trade ties with Pakistan encouraging: envoy

Malaysian Minister of Plantation Industries, Datuk Hajah Zuraida Kamaruddin's Pak visit was very successful

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Malaysian High Commission is cognizant of the important role played by all the Chamber of Commerce and Industries in promoting and strengthening the existing close bilateral trade and economic relations between Malaysia and Pakistan. Malaysia attaches great importance to its bilateral relations with Pakistan. The long-standing bilateral relations and close cooperation between our two brotherly countries have covered various areas in trade, investment, education, tourism, culture, defence and technical assistance on human capital development. Malaysia's trade relations with Pakistan have been encouraging. In 2021, the bilateral trade between Malaysia and Pakistan has grown to 36.3% compared to previous year. Total trade between Ma-

aysia and Pakistan worth USD 1.901 billion in 2021. And in the first two months (January-February) 2022, the increase is recorded at 41% compared to the same period in 2021. 8. A majority of his total trade volume is contributed by the export of Palm Oil and Palm Oil Based Agriculture products from Malaysia which contributed 51.9% share of this total volume. Notwithstanding this, there is huge potential for further development and expansion of economic and trade activities between our two brotherly countries. 10. Apart from Palm Oil, Malaysia also supplies rubber based products such as Seismic Rubber Bearings and High Damping Natural Rubber (HDNR) bearings for use in building earthquake resistant buildings. Another rubber product that Malaysia can sell is the Rubberized Road Technology which is more durable than conventional

road surfaces with better skid resistance and low maintenance cost. In addition, my country is famous for other agri commodity products such as pepper and cocoa. These commodities are highly sought after as it is commonly used in food preparation and we

produces enough capacity to meet the consumer demand. It may be mentioned here that the Malaysian Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Datuk Hajah Zuraida Kamaruddin is on a working visit to Islamic Republic of Pakistan



from 30th March 2022 to 1st April 2022. The purpose of the visit is to strengthen agricultural commodities trade relation between Malaysia and Pakistan as well promoting Malaysian main agricultural commodities namely palm oil, rubber, timber, pepper, cocoa and kenaf. Pakistan have been specially identified by the Minister as an important country to visit as both two countries share common values and culture thus offer much room for expansion, especially in trade. Pakistan is also one of Malaysia's largest trading partners in agri-commodities and Malaysia has number of joint-venture projects particularly in palm oil industry at Port Qasim. Malaysia values Pakistan's support and friendship and believes more should be done to increase trade activities between the two countries. Therefore, the Minister views this special roundtable session

with Islamabad and Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce, as a relevant avenue to disseminate the latest information about Malaysian commodities among the industry players. The Minister urged the Chamber members to consider doing more business and joint venture with Malaysia particularly in the development of downstream products such as in oleo-chemical industry, natural rubber seismic bearing, rubberized road, timber doors, floor panels, wooden door, premium chocolate and pepper. The Minister also invited Chamber members present to participate in the Malaysia International Agri-commodity Expo and Summit (MIACES) on 26th -28th July 2022 in Kuala Lumpur. Prior to the meeting with the Islamabad and Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce, the Minister met with

Continued on Page 06

Policymakers must have knowledge of economic intricacies: FCCI chief

ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Policymakers and concerned bureaucracy must have in-depth knowledge of economic intricacies so that they could formulate comprehensive policies to give a quantum jump to the national GDP in line with the ground realities and contemporary needs in consultation with the business community. Addressing a delegation of the participants of the 33rd mid-career course of THE National Institute Of Management (NIM) Lahore, Mr. Atif Munir Sheikh, president FCCI said that Faisalabad is the 3rd major industrial, commercial and business city of Pakistan. "It is directly and instantly affected with any new economic policy formulated at the federal or provincial level", he said and added that FCCI has a well developed R&D department to critically analyze these policies and pin pointing its pros & cons

with necessary recommendations to achieve the required results. He said that Faisalabad was contributing 45% share in total textile exports of Pakistan while it was also catering 80% domestic needs of clothes and clothing. "Similarly, its share in total national GDP is also estimated around 22%", he added. He was critical of the prevailing political uncertainty prevailing in the country but hoped that Pakistan would soon come out of this chaotic situation. He expressed satisfaction over the recently announced "Industrial Incentive Package" and said that it was prepared and announced on the demand of FCCI and it contains around 90% of our recommendations. He termed agriculture as the mainstay of the national economy which is facing stagnation due to the declining farm productivity and lack of value addition. He said that FCCI was regularly sending trade delegations

to the foreign markets to enhance national exports. "Currently a delegation of FCCI is visiting Spain", he said and added that yet 2 delegations for UK and Turkey are in the pipeline. He also mentioned 2 special economic zones being developed by FIEDMC in Faisalabad and said that 65 foreign funded and 170 industrial units with local investment industrial units have become operational. "However, there is still room for new investment with technology transfer", he said and added that as these units are strategically located in the heart of Pakistan hence, their export surplus could be easily dispatched to south for sea ports or in the north for China and landlocked Central Asian States. He negated the notion that only Chinese are investing in these industrial estates and said that many units have been established with investment from EU, Turkey and Malaysia. He particular-

ly mentioned a joint venture launched with Turkish technology for the production of Cheese. "It could not only fulfill the domestic needs but surplus could also be exported to the international markets", he added. Responding to a question about the law and order situation, he said that local business tycoons have recently decided to set up the Faisalabad Development Legend Fund to undertake development mega commercial projects by following the Sialkot Model. He said that a safe city project, international standard hotels, hospitals, expo centre and theme park would also be undertaken which would entirely change the urban landscape of this vibrant metropolis. President FCCI told the participants that FCCI has inked a MOU with CPO to start work on installation of CCTV cameras by different trade organizations in their respective commercial areas to monitor the criminal activities.



FAISALABAD: Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad listening the public complaints in Revenue Awami Khidmat Katchri. – DNA

DC holds revenue awami khidmat katchri

BUREAU REPORT

FAISALABAD: On the directions of Punjab Govt. the Revenue Awami Khidmat Katchri was held at DC Complex and Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad listened the public complaints regarding revenue matters and directed the revenue officers for speedy solution of the applicants. Deputy Commissioner said that the delay in the mat-

ters of public would not tolerated and responsible revenue officer and staff would accountable. He said that the Department of Revenue was at the forefront of public service and holding Revenue Awami Khidmat Katchri would not only solve the problems of the people but also increase their confidence. Deputy Commissioner said that the problems of the people's under one roof are being addressed by listening to the problems related to the

revenue department. He said that speedy solution of issues and grievances related to the revenue department including issuance of domicile, farad, registry, income tax certificate and other revenue matters are being solved on spot. He said that officers of the revenue department including Assistant commissioners and revenue officers and ADLRs were also directed to ensure attendance in the court. Citizens can approach the concerned

Tehsil Office on the first and second working day of every month for resolving revenue related issues. He also went to the applicants and took feedback to them about solution of their complaint. During the Revenue Awami Khidmat Services a total of 56 applicants identified the problems in Tehsil City and Sadar out of which 43 were solved on spot while the remaining applications were directed to be processed and reported within three days.

DC pays surprise visit to Ramadan Bazar

SAQIB MUSHTAQ

BAHAWALPUR: Deputy Commissioner Irfan Ali Kathiya did a surprise visit to Ramadan Bazar established at Craft Bazaar Bahawalpur, at this time Assistant Commissioner Muhammad Tayyab were also with him. Deputy Commissioner checked the stalls of different daily use items established in Ramadan Bazar including Flour, Chicken and Agriculture Fair Price Shops. He told that Government has provided subsidy on the items being sold in the Ramadan Bazars. He said that throughout the district

Price Control magistrates should work in effective manner so that customers can get relief. He said that 10 kilogram bag of flour will be sold at the price of 450 rupee by the Government of Punjab on which Government is giving 125 rupee subsidy on each bag of 10 kilogram. He added that in Ramadan Bazar 12 rupee per kg subsidy on chicken and 6 rupee subsidy on a dozen eggs is being provided. He told that Agriculture Fair Price Shop has 13 items which includes Apples, Bananas, Dates, Guavas, Lemon, Okra, Bottle Gourd, Tomatoes, Onion, Garlic, lentil, lentil flour.

Subsidy on these items is also being provided so that people can get relief. **DC presented certificates** Deputy Commissioner Irfan Ali Kathiya presented certificates and shields to the officials working in the offices of District Administration on their wonderful services. Deputy Commissioner said that these officials working with honesty and hard work are the valuable assets, paid tribute to their qualification and abilities. He added that performance officials working under their administration deserves to be praised in observing official matters.

FESCO issues shutdown program

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) has issued shutdown program for Saturday due to necessary repair, maintenance and expansion of electricity lines. According to the program issued by the company here on Friday, power supply from Mobilink, Lyallpur Galleria, Chak No.208 Road, Quran Academy Road and Zia Town feeders emanating from 132-KV Steam Power grid station, Model City feeder originating from 132-KV Old Thermal grid station and Best Export feeder emanating from 66-KV Thermal grid station will remain suspended from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. while Gojra Mor and Saeed Abad-II feeders. – APP

Election's results reflect people's confidence in PM's leadership

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister Mahmood Khan Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif said that the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had gained a clear lead in the second phase of local bodies' elections which reflected people's confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chief Minister Mahmood Khan. In a statement issued here on Friday, the CM's special assistant said today was a historic day and the results showed that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa still belonged to the PTI. He also paid tribute to

the administration, police and rescue 1122 for the excellent arrangements for the second phase of the local bodies' elections. He also appreciated Chief Minister Mahmood Khan for fulfilling his promise to hold free and transparent elections in a peaceful manner. He also said that credit went to the PTI that local bodies' elections were also held in the merged districts. He said that local governments' role was imperative and played an effective role in resolving masses' problems at their doorstep. – Agencies

عالمی وباء کے باوجود صرف 3 سال میں

55 لاکھ نئے روزگار

گزشتہ ادوار سے موازنہ

سالانہ نوکریوں میں اضافہ

ادوار	نئے روزگار
2008-13	14 لاکھ
2013-18	11 لاکھ 40 ہزار
2018-21	18 لاکھ 40 ہزار

پاکستان بیورو آف سٹیٹسٹکس (PBS) کے شائع کردہ لیبر فورس سروے (LFS) کے اعداد و شمار کے مطابق

اس شرح سے 2023 تک 90 لاکھ نئے روزگار کے مواقع پیدا کئے جائیں گے۔ **اِنْ شَاءَ اللّٰہ!**

یہی ہے نیا پاکستان جس کا وعدہ تھا

وزارت اطلاعات و نشریات
حکومت پاکستان

PID (0)6916/21

National Days and Armed Forces Days

APRIL

April 04 / Senegal	National Day
April 07 / W. H. O.	World Health Day
April 12 / Somalia	Armed Forces Day
April 15 / DPR Korea	The Day of the Sun
April 16 / Denmark	National Day
April 17 / Iran	Army Day
April 17 / Syria	Independence Day
April 18 / Zimbabwe	Independence Day
April 24 / Holy See	Anniversary of His Papacy of his Pontificate
April 25 / DPR Korea	Armed Forces Day
April 26 / Tanzania	National Day
April 27 / Sierra Leone	Independence Day
April 27 / South Africa	Freedom Day
April 30 / Sweden	Birthday of His Majesty
April 30 / Netherlands	Birthday of Queen



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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Emergency

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



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CAA.....	9281092



Hospitals

CMH.....	5611111
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Shifa International.....	4603666



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CDA.....	9208301-04
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TMA.....	5770886
Cantonment Board.....	9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-544480
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Govt providing best facilities to investors: Mirza M Afridi

In order to build a soft image of Pakistan and maximize investment within the country, Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Muhammad Afridi addressed the builders, developers, banking project and tourism project companies participating in the three-day exhibition

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The best facilities are being provided to investors in Pakistan, said Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Muhammad Afridi. The PAEI will continue to organize various exhibitions to bring maximum investment in Pakistan. To build a soft image of Pakistan, Khurshid Barlas

At the closing ceremony of Peshawar International Property Exhibition and Convention organized by Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry, the Deputy Chairman also distributed awards among the companies participating in the exhibition. A wonderful exhibition of Property Exhibition and Convention was organized by Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry on March 25-27 at Marbella cave Marquee the Three-day International Property Exhibition was attended by a large number of renowned builders, developers, Allied Construction Bank projects and various business communities from across the country. The main purpose of the expo was to promote construction and business ac-



In this regard, Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Muhammad Afridi was the special guest of the function organized by Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry at a local hotel in Islamabad yesterday. Chairman Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry Muhammad Khurshid Barlas

Sohail Altaf Group Leader Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Yasir Ali Mehsood Chairman AH Group of Companies Haseeb Khattak CEO AH Group of Companies CH Nadeem Rauf President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industries Fahad Barlas CEO Pak

World Trade and Expo Centre other participants Addressing the Occasion the Deputy Chairman Senate said that we need a lot of hard work and attention in terms of investment in Pakistan and especially in KP. In this regard, according to the vision of Prime Minister Every effort is

being made to provide best facilities to all the investors involved in the project The best example of this is the packages given by Prime Minister to the construction industry last year. In this regard, the association will continue to organize various exhibitions. In order to build a soft image of Pa-

kistan and maximize investment within the country, Deputy Chairman Senate Mirza Muhammad Afridi addressed the builders, developers, banking project and tourism project companies participating in the three-day exhibition. Distributed awards to Participants.

PRCS distributes first aid boxes among institutions

Abrar ul Haq says PRCS under its Red Crescent Corp initiative will train students of educational institutions to render first aid services to vulnerable communities



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD-RAWALPINDI: In order to effectively deal with emergencies and to provide immediate pre-hospital care to the injured people, Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has provided First Aid Boxes to 30 educational institutions of district Rawalpindi. A distribution ceremony was organized at Red Crescent Hospital in Rawalpindi here on Friday that was at-

tended by PRCS Chairman Abrar ul Haq, Additional Deputy Commissioner HQ Marzia Saleem, CEO Education, representatives of government schools, colleges of district Rawalpindi, PRCS staff and volunteers. Speaking on the occasion, PRCS Chairman Abrar ul Haq said that during tragedies, disasters whether man-made or natural, PRCS always acted on the principle of "first to reach and last to leave", be it first aid, psychiatric relief or reunification

efforts, help in emergencies or role in reconstruction. Abrar ul Haq said that according to an IFRC research, more than 59 percent deaths can be prevented with timely intervention and provision of first aid. He stressed upon the need for the people to learn first aid. "Saving lives is the best service to mankind, our religion also guides us that whoever saves a life is as though he had saved all mankind", he added. He said PRCS is a huge platform with presence in every

nook and corner of the country in the shape of young volunteers and trained first aid providers. PRCS under its Red Crescent Corp initiative will train students of educational institutions to render First Aid services to vulnerable communities. He said Covid-19 has reshaped the whole world and changed the dynamics of behaviors and responsibilities, including in the educational institutions. He said hospitals and health care facilities are dealing with thousands of emergencies cases on daily basis and in such a scenario, first aid becomes more crucial, by learning first aid we can lessen the burden on our health system. Abrar ul Haq said during the pandemic, the Red Crescent has been instrumental in providing, hospital care, COVID vaccination, blood donations, cash assistance, rations, personal protection kits, hygiene kits, handwashing stations and sanitizer machines. "Red Crescent made a name for itself on the 'front line' during the Corona pandemic and it is no less an honor that its methods of services in Pakistan, were highly appreciated by the United States", he added.

'PM Imran Khan fought case of entire Muslim Ummah'

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Communications and Postal Services Murad Saeed on Friday said that Prime Minister Imran Khan has been fighting the case of entire Muslim Ummah at the international level. Talking to the media persons in Islamabad on Friday, he said it is because of Prime Minister Imran Khan's efforts that March 15 has been declared an international day against Islamophobia by the United Nations. He said the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa voted in favour of the PTI government. He said that PTI swept all Tehsils and village councils in Swat with clear majority. He said that people of KP once again voted for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI). Murad Saeed said that Prime Minister Imran Khan fought the case of the country at every international forum. He said that no drone attack was carried during PTI government while during the previous 10 years over 400 drone strikes took place in the country. He said Imran Khan is pursuing an independent and dignified foreign policy by saying 'Absolutely Not' to joining any war of others. He said that PM Imran Khan has no property abroad and his only top priority was to facilitate poor masses. - DNA

ECC approves supplementary grants of Rs853 million

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet here on Friday approved supplementary grants of Rs853 million for Ministry of Information Technology and Petroleum Division. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Shaukat Tarin presided over the ECC meeting which among others was attended by Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood, federal secretaries, Governor SBP, and other senior officials. According to press statement issued by the finance ministry, the cabinet committee approved Rs 828 million supplementary grant in favour of Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication for Special Communication Organization. Meanwhile, keeping in mind the prevailing commodity market price trend as well as the need for import of LNG, diesel and motor spirit from March 2022 to June 2022, the ECC approved Rs 25 billion as supplementary grant in favour of Petroleum Division to address liquidity constraints to PSO for avoiding instant disruption in LNG & Oil supply chain. - APP

MoU signed to provide healthcare facilities

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sehat Kahani to provide access to qualified healthcare professionals its 7,000 expert doctors to 70,000 plus current and 150,000 retired employees of the department along with their families. The purpose of this collaboration is to provide quality and accessible healthcare to Pakistan Railways' 70,000 current and ex-employees and millions of passengers nationwide, said a press release. The signing ceremony was graced by the Secretary/Chairman Pakistan Railways Khalid Gardezi. The MoU signing ceremony was attended by the dignitaries of Sehat Kahani, Ministry of Railways which was signed between Dr. Sara Saeed Khuram, CEO Sehat Kahani and Imran Hayat Khan, Director General Operations, Ministry of Railways. Khalid Gardezi said that using technology and innovation was extremely needed to fill the gap of access to healthcare to our employees as well as millions of passengers to trust our services. "We wish that this collaboration goes a long way to benefit our country and its country men," he added. Under the partnership, Sehat Kahani would also create specialized packages for Pakistan Railways' passengers through "On the Go" clinics at all major railway stations of the country where Pakistan Railways to provide on ground infrastructure level support, facilitation in staff training and creating visibility for Sehat Kahani's spectrum of digital health services among its employees as well as beneficiaries.

Pak exports to USA increase 43% in 8 months

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's exports of goods and services to United State of America (USA) witnessed an increase of 43.23 percent during the first eight months of fiscal year (2021-22) as compared to the exports of corresponding period of last year. The overall exports to USA were recorded as US \$ 4410.593 million during July-February (2021-22) against exports of US \$ 3079.375 million during July-February (2020-21), showing growth of 43.23 percent, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) data revealed. Meanwhile on year-to-year basis, exports to USA during February 2022 also increased by 36.22 percent from US \$402.167 million to US \$547.856 million. Similarly on month-on-month basis, exports to USA rose by 1.65 percent during February 2022 in comparison with exports of US \$ 538.949 million in January 2022, SBP data said. Overall Pak exports to other countries witnessed an increase of 28.11 percent in 8 months, from US \$16.092 billion to US \$ 20.616 billion. - APP

'Decolonization of knowledge needs a broader, push'

Dr Humaira Ahmed upheld that the Islamic studies, as a discipline, is itself a project of colonialism and whose decolonization need to be done on two levels - the discipline of Islamic studies and within the discipline itself

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Colonialism, total rejection of which is not possible, is an ongoing phenomenon in the form of dominance of colonial powers on our ideas, philosophies, and theories, whose effects are visible in our incapacity to devise, define, and understand questions even in Islamic studies. The view was presented by Dr Humeira Iqtidar, reader in Politics, King's College London, in her keynote speech during a hybrid seminar titled "Decolonizing Islamic Studies", held at the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad.

The seminar was chaired by Professor Dr Qibla Ayaz, chairman, Council of Islamic Ideology, and moderated by Dr Taimia Sabiha, assistant professor, Department of Comparative Religion, International Islamic University, Islamabad (IIU). They were joined by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, Professor Dr Fateh Muhammad Malik, former rector of IIU, and Dr Humaira Ahmed, assistant professor, Department of Islamic Thought & Civilization, University of Management and Technology, Lahore, besides researchers and scholars who presented their observations. While probing the prevalent theories, Dr Humeira Iqtidar maintained that many political theories and philosophies, which are based on limited historical experience and European quests, have been universalized. Even though the decolonizing movement originally started in Zimbabwe, South Africa, and other African states when they questioned the prevalent educational structure and



curriculum as the legacy of colonialism, it is the European centrality that is pervasive in the context of understanding decolonialism across the globe. No one questions the universality of these philosophies as they are inculcated in society through knowledge and educational institutes. This colonization of knowledge and industrial-scale education system stops us from asking questions like what is the purpose of producing and consuming knowledge? What knowledge is being produced and consumed? Who is producing knowledge? etc. Islamic studies has also been largely affected by this. The questions devised under Islamic studies

were themselves deeply entrenched in colonial influence. These questions are developed in such a way that all the burden of violence falls on Muslims by making Islam appear violent and something that needs a compatibility check, while leaving no space for further questions. The educational institutes are also established in link with these colonialism-entrenched questions. It is an effect of that educational training and colonial legacy that we have no capacity to raise the right questions. While presenting the critique of Maulana Sayyid Abdul A'la Mawdudi on nationalism that it is un-Islamic and a problem for democracy as it pushes humans towards

racism, Dr Humeira identified the limitations of the solution presented to this as colonial-inflicted. Building on this, she stated that decolonizing knowledge is a very difficult task as it doesn't mean eliminating it. The total rejection of colonial influence is not possible as we live with such institutions based on this influence and ideas. As for the creation of a possible solution, the need of the time is to combine different approaches and ideas creatively and understand our problems in a broader outlook. In addition to this, she asserted the need to define questions, based on our ideas and practices, find answers ourselves, along with taking the curriculum into our own hands.

Briefs

PNCA
show cases
puppet show

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) Friday presented a puppet show featured folk dances, stories, theme-based speeches and skits for children and adults on gender, education and environmental issues.

An exclusive show showcased there for children such events boost puppetry through better awareness among people, especially youth, said a press release issued here.

The traditional art of puppetry is dying and the PNCA has been struggling so long to revive this art adding that such events help in reviving this traditional art form the art of puppetry and puppet shows have long been part of Pakistani culture.

The importance of puppetry is such beautiful and colourful art and an effort to bring back this art form can be useful both for entertainment and education purposes.

Indian troops
martyr
Kashmiri youth
in Shopian

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Local forces in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir in their fresh act of state terrorism martyred one more Kashmiri youth in South Kashmir's Shopian district on early Friday morning.

According to Kashmir Media Service, the youth was martyred during a cordon and search operation at Turkwagam area of the district by Indian troops and paramilitary forces.

A top police officer said that the identity of the youth is yet to be ascertained as operation is still underway.

Earlier on Thursday evening, Indian forces launched a cordon and search operation in the area. The troops stopped media men to cover the cordon and search operation and blocked all entry and exit points to the area.

'PTI' govt
outperforms
opposition
parties in KP'

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Husain on Thursday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had outperformed all the opposition parties in the second phase of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's local bodies election. He, in a tweet, said the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam was far behind the PTI in the contest while Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz was completely wiped out. Fawad thanked the Almighty for the lead taken by the PTI in the LG election, which he said, predicted the future. - APP

IG NHMP
directs for
action against
overloading

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General National Highways and Motorway Police Inam Ghani directed to tighten the noose against over-loaders and those using unauthorised number plates of their vehicles.

Speaking at Open Court (Khuli Katchery), he directed all the sector and beat commanders to initiate stern legal action on traffic violations specially against lane violation to ensure smooth traffic flow and avoid accidents.

He further directed to take strict measures for ensuring strict compliance of traffic rules on Motorways and National Highways.

Inam Ghani also announced to induct more officials in various cadres and initiate internship program for University students.

The IG NHMP on the occasion said that educational scholarships would be given to officers and employees of Motorway Police. He said that a facilitation center would be established at Central Police Office Islamabad for the welfare of retired and serving officials. - APP

ICCI taking all steps for
welfare of traders: Khalid

Zafar Bakhtawari said that Khalid Iqbal Malik is an excellent choice who has a vision to solve the problems of traders, Mian Akram Farid's services are unforgettable

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The newly elected chairman of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Founder Group Khalid Iqbal Malik has said that the Islamabad Chamber is taking all possible steps for the welfare of traders, promoting the interests of the business community more effectively. The Founder Group will accompany all the members of the Chamber. He expressed these views at a Dinner in honor of himself and the outgoing Chairman Mian Akram Farid, former Vice President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry while addressing.

He further said that all the issues faced by the traders regarding CDA would be resolved on priority basis. Mian Akram Farid, the outgoing chairman of Founder Group, said that he would use all his resources to solve the problems of the business community.



Shakeel Munir, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said in his address that most of the problems of our traders are related to CDA. I have also had a meeting with the Chairman CDA in this regard. He assured that he would also work with the

market associations to facilitate them in promoting trade activities.

Zubair Ahmad Malik said that sitting together and discussing issues helps in understanding the Business issues. He further said that we are also preparing a team of young en-

trepreneurs who will lead us in future. Khalid Javed said that it is the responsibility of group chairman to activate the group and strengthen it for the elections, if our thinking is positive then the group will also develop. Tariq Sadiq said that it is com-

mendable for the representative body of traders to work for the welfare of their community and solve their problems.

Zafar Bakhtawari said that Khalid Iqbal Malik is an excellent choice who has a vision to solve the problems of traders, Mian Akram

Farid's services are unforgettable, Shakeel Munir is trying to solve the problems of traders, Khalid Javed played vital role in chamber building. Zubair Ahmad Malik is a binding force for traders, Ijaz Abbasi said. Will play a role in strengthening the Founder Group. In his address, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari reiterated to make the group active and strong under the guidance of all senior members.

The dinner was attended by the outgoing Chairman of Founder Group Mian Akram Farid, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Shakeel Munir, Council members of Founder Group, Zubair Ahmad Malik, Abdul Rauf Alam, Khalid Javed, Tariq Sadiq, Zafar Bakhtawari, Ejaz Abbasi, Nasir Qureshi, Zahid Qureshi, newly elected president of Islamabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industries, former presidents and representatives of all markets of Islamabad.

PTI sweeps
LG elections
in KP, says
Farrukh

ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Farrukh Habib said on Friday that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan swept the local government elections with the vote of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In a tweet, he said that stooges of external powers got the first result of public no confidence. The media should run these results and tell that the people have wiped out the "gang of thieves" from their former strongholds, he said. The minister tagged a copy of unofficial results of the KP local government elections which showed PTI winning 32 seats, independents 12, JUIF 7, PML-N 4 and PPP only 1. Development Division, with immediate effect and until further orders. - APP

Prevailing
dry spell
may cause
water stress

ISLAMABAD: The prevailing dry spell in most parts of the country during the next few days may cause water stress on water reservoirs, standing crops, vegetable and orchards. "Farmers are advised to manage crop water accordingly and go for early harvesting of wheat crop", the PMD revealed through its advisory.

The Met office has said that due to a persistent high pressure in the upper atmosphere the day temperatures are likely to remain unusually high in most parts of the country in coming days. Day temperatures are likely to remain 09-11 degree celsius above normal in Sindh, South Punjab and Southern and Central parts of Balochistan in the coming days. Similarly, the day temperatures are likely to remain 08-10 degree celsius above normal in upper Punjab, Islamabad, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir. The general public has been advised to avoid unnecessary exposure to direct sunlight while judicious use of water is requested in all aspects of life. The Met office has also revealed that rain-wind/thunderstorm is expected in upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Murree, Galiyat, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir on April 02-03 Saturday and Sunday while light rain-wind/thunderstorm is also expected in Islamabad, Attock, Chakwal and Jhelum during the period. - APP

Govt notifies
transfer,
posting of
officers

ISLAMABAD: The government on Friday notified transfer and posting of high rank officers. According to a notification issued by Establishment Division, a BS-19 officer of Police Service of Pakistan, presently posted as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in Establishment Division, is transferred and his services are placed at the disposal of Ministry of Communications for further posting in National Highways and Motorway Police (NH&MP), with immediate effect and until further orders. While, Sajjad Ahmed Qazi (OMGBS-18), presently at the disposal of Overseas Employment Corporation (OEC), under Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource Development Division, is repatriated and posted as Section Officer, Overseas Pakistanis & Human Resource. - APP

400 flock
of chickens
distributed

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad capital territory (ICT) administration's agriculture department has distributed around 400 flock of chickens among deserving people under the Prime Minister's "Backyard Poultry" initiative. A ceremony in that regard was held here at Tarlai Civil Veterinary Hospital, the other day where people received poultry birds on 30pc subsidised rates. One flock consists of five hens and a rooster. Director agriculture Waqar Anwar told APP that the initiative was aimed at addressing stunted growth in poor households, providing nourishment, supplementing family incomes through sale of organic eggs, besides creating job and poverty alleviation. - APP

Phase-1 of Kurram
Tangi dam to
be completed
by next year

The development work would be completed accordance with the schedule and stipulated standard of works as the construction work has been expedited on the project, Water and Power Development Authority's (Wapda) source said

ISLAMABAD: The Phase-1 of Kurram Tangi Dam project, being constructed on the Kaitu River in North Waziristan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, will be completed by next year. The dam would control floodwater and irrigate barren 35,000-acre land and make the area self-sufficient in agricultural production. The development work would be completed accordance with the schedule and stipulated standard of works as the construction work has been expedited on the project, Water and Power Development Authority's (Wapda) source said. According to an official of Wapda, the dam would generate 84 megawatts of electricity and help to ensure food security by increasing agricultural production in the border region. Highlighting the benefits relating to irrigation and hydropower generation, he said the project would help attain sustainable development through irrigated agriculture and low-cost hydel electricity, thus creating job opportunities and alleviating poverty in the remote and backward area. He said at present, water scarcity was the main problem in the area and this dam would bring a positive revolution in the life of millions of natives. He said with the construction of the dam and utilisation of water, the share of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would not be affected. The construction of the Kurram Tangi Dam is considered an important step towards the development of the agriculture sector in the province. The water storage and seepage from the dam will also recharge the groundwater reservoirs and increase the groundwater level. The project will bring socio-economic uplift of the people in the area by creating employment and business opportunities as it would greatly increase the development of fisheries in the area. - APP

Ehsaas Rashan Riayat
Steering Committee
adopts new supply model

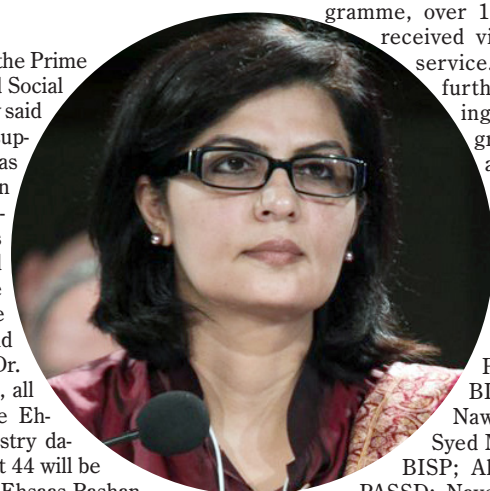
All members of eligible families will be sent an SMS. Any member of the family with a CNIC and SIM registered in the name of a family member can then avail of the subsidy

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Protection, Dr. Sania Nishtar Friday said Ehsaas is now introducing a new "supply-driven" model to enroll all Ehsaas Kafalat beneficiaries in the Roshan Riayat programme to ensure benefit to 20 million families. She was speaking while chairing the third meeting of the Steering Committee for Ehsaas Roshan Riayat took place today at the Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division (PASSD). Dr. Sania said, "Under this new model, all families currently surveyed in the Ehsaas National Socioeconomic Registry database and under Proxy Means Test 44 will be automatically made eligible for the Ehsaas Roshan Riayat, without them having to register for the programme." Members of the steering committee discussed and approved the adoption of a new supply-driven model for implementation of Ehsaas Roshan Riayat programme to ensure that the programme benefits 20 million deserving families. All members of eligible families will be sent an SMS. Any member of the family with a CNIC and SIM registered in the name of a family member can then avail of the subsidy. After the first transaction, this family member's details will be locked and only they will be able to conduct future subsidy-related transactions for the family. Under

the demand-based model, the Ehsaas Roshan Riayat website has received Rs. 1.5 billion hits since the launch of program. Overall, the programme received 33 million registrations under the two phases.

The programme has been ongoing since January 31, 2022, with nearly 4.25 million families from phase-I of registrations having been verified and made eligible to avail of the targeted commodity subsidies at more than 12,000 participating Kiryana and utility stores across Pakistan. In addition, 23,027 Ehsaas Roshan Riayat stores have been physically verified. For phase II of the programme, over 15 million applications have been received via Ehsaas 8171 SMS registration service. These applications will undergo further verification checks for assessing their eligibility under the programme. Through Roshan Riayat, a targeted subsidy of 30% a month will be granted to 20 million deserving families for the purchase of flour, pulses, cooking oil, and ghee. To checkmate abuse and corruption, the programme has been made fully digitized. Muhammad Ali Shahzad, Secretary PASSD; Ismat Tahira, Secretary BISP; Captain (Retd) Saeed Ahmed Nawaz, Additional Secretary PASSD; Syed Muazzam Ali, Additional Secretary BISP; Ahmed Jan Malik, Joint Secretary PASSD; Naveed Akbar, Director General, Ehsaas Conditional Cash Transfers; Meer Anwar, Director General Technology, Ehsaas joined the meeting alongside Additional Secretary Industries and Production; Additional Secretary Finance; CEO Punjab Social Protection Authority; and senior officials and representatives from Punjab Secretariat; Social Welfare Department KP; and National Bank of Pakistan. Ehsaas Roshan Riayat is a precision-target system of subsidies delivery focusing on deserving beneficiaries to provide financial assistance for the purchase of essential commodities at a discount through digitally processed transactions.



RAWALPINDI: A singer is performing during an event at Arts Council organized by Sehra Welfare Organization and Rawalpindi Arts Council. - DNA

Cotton crop to be
cultivated over
2.5mln hectares

ISLAMABAD: The cotton crop would be cultivated over 2.5333 million hectares of land during current Kharif season (2022-23) across the potential areas of the country to produce about 11.034 million bales for fulfilling the domestic demand for industrial raw material as well as for exporting. The crop to be grown over 1.8211 million hectares of land in the Punjab province as cotton production targets in the province during current season were fixed at 6.600 million bales, said an official in the Ministry of National Food Security and Research. Talking to APP here on Friday, he said that cotton production targets for Sindh Province were fixed at 4 million bales by bringing about 0.4600 million hectares under crop cultivation, whereas crop output targets for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan were fixed at 0.004 million bales and 0.430 million bales respectively by cultivating the crop over 0.0022 million hectares and 0.0700 million hectares. Meanwhile, he said that the federal ministry in collaboration with provincial governments and other stakeholders were also working on multi-pronged strategy to bring maximum area under cotton production for achieving sustainable agriculture growth as well as enhancing farms income. - Agencies

Pakistan successfully fought COVID-19 war

"We overcome the COVID-19 crisis and emerged stronger. We learnt lessons and experiences. As life in the Pakistan has started to return to normal," he said

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Health Dr. Faisal Sultan Friday said that Pakistan under the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan successfully fought war against COVID-19 and managed to bring the positivity cases down with the help of collective efforts of citizens. Talking to a private news chan-

nel, he said that the overall cases are dipping, the number of patients is decreasing in country hospitals, adding, Pakistan with its smart lockdown strategy had tackled the pandemic waves successfully. "We overcome the COVID-19 crisis and emerged stronger. We learnt lessons and experiences. As life in the Pakistan has started to return to normal," he said. Dr Faisal thanked all field and

NCOC teams for their continuous efforts to control the pandemic and protect the health and well being of all community members.

He also lauded the response and cooperation shown by the community that helped in overcoming the crisis and reducing risks. Replying a question, he urged people over the age of 60 with risk factors such as high blood pressure or a weak heart to get booster

shot against COVID-19 to reduce their risk of getting seriously ill. He said that PTI-led government had established a Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) similar to the Atlanta-based national public health institute in the United States, adding, it would cut down the need to create setups such as the National Command and Operations Centre (NCOC) and the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC).

He added that this practice should come to an end now and there should be a permanent institution like the CDC Atlanta to deal with such emergencies and plan for future threats. He said that government has also improved the health governing mechanism system, adding, in the initial period, there was also a shortage of protective equipment. But now gradually things have improved a lot.

Afghan solution vital for world

THE third Foreign Ministers' Meeting among the Neighboring Countries of Afghanistan is hosted by China. Foreign Ministers or representatives of Pakistan, Iran, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan attended the meeting.

The first meeting of foreign ministers of the neighboring countries of Afghanistan was held last September, which formally kickstarted the coordination and cooperation mechanism among Afghanistan's neighboring countries. At that time, the US and its allies made a hasty withdrawal from Afghanistan. Afghanistan's neighboring countries established a political consensus to jointly deal with the changing situation in Afghanistan, and believe that neighboring countries should play a unique role in addressing their own legitimate concerns and providing a favorable external environment for Afghanistan's stability and reconstruction.

The China-hosted meeting of the foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighboring countries is taking neighboring countries' solutions on the Afghan issue to the next level. On the one hand, it insists on exerting a positive influence on the situation's development on the basis of respecting the sovereign independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan. On the other hand, it adheres to resorting to dialogue and consultations to resolve differences, in an attempt to build consensus to the greatest extent possible.

This international meeting focused on Afghanistan is important and timely. The 20-year war launched by the US has messed up Afghanistan, while the "Neighboring countries' solution" which promotes stability of Afghanistan and supports the Afghan people has offered a new way of thinking for this turbulent world. It's not only of practical significance to Afghanistan, but is also worthy of reference to the international community.

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Why the world should be concerned about India's recent election results

Arif Rafiq



The BJP's resounding victory there signals its political dominance will endure, especially as the main opposition party, the Indian National Congress, remains in tatters

NEARLY 90 million voters took part in the elections that came to a close this month in India's Uttar Pradesh state, making them the world's largest subnational elections. But as grand a democratic exercise as they were, their results are as deeply ominous. The elections in Uttar Pradesh – a state so huge that it would be the world's fifth-most populous country were it independent – are a leap forward in India's march toward becoming an authoritarian, Hindu majoritarian state. The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which also rules at the centre and in 17 states, won its second consecutive Uttar Pradesh state elections, breaking a cycle of anti-incumbency that goes back decades. The BJP's victory is a vote of confidence not just in the party, but also in Yogi Adityanath, a Hindu militant monk who has served as the state's chief minister for the past five years. These elections enable Adityanath to stay on as chief minister and bolster his national star

power. Many observers now view him as the most likely successor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi later this decade.

Under Modi, democracy, civil liberties, and secularism have all backslid, and this has been no surprise. Modi, after all, oversaw deadly anti-Muslim pogroms as chief minister of the state of Gujarat in 2002. Many voted for Modi precisely because they saw him as a muscular Hindu nationalist leader intent on dismantling the country's secular system.

But as bad as Modi has been for Indian secularism and the rights of Christian and Muslim minorities, Adityanath is expected to be far worse; he represents an even more pernicious brand of the Hindu nationalist ideology in India known as Hindutva. Before coming into office, Adityanath founded a violent, anti-Muslim vigilante group, the Hindu YuvaVahini. Militants from the group have been involved in numerous incidents targeting Muslims, including arson, attempted rape, murder, and rioting.

Adityanath was once jailed for inciting anti-Muslim riots. He also called for a "religious war" and the abduction of Muslim women to avenge Hindu women marrying Muslim men. As chief minister, he has promoted a conspiracy theory that falsely claims that Muslim men woo Hindu women in order to trick them into converting to Islam. Adityanath is also keen on erasing the Muslim cultural influence on India. He's renamed numerous Indian cities that have had Muslim or Islamic names, giving them ones associated with the Hindu tradition. Adityanath has even claimed that the iconic Taj Mahal – the Islamic mausoleum that is India's single-largest tourist attraction – "does not reflect Indian culture." The dangers of an Adityanath-led India also extend beyond the country's borders. A religious militant, Adityanath speaks obsessively of epic medieval battles that he frames as between Hindus and Muslims.

A man like Adityanath leading India in the future puts the country's nuclear weapons at risk, especially at a time when New Delhi is loosening its nuclear doctrine and coming closer to abandoning its "no-first-use" nuke policy. Now, even if Adityanath's national ascent ultimately stalls, the future of India's Muslims is grim. In Uttar Pradesh, the BJP has retooled its political strategy, preserving its anti-Muslim rheto-

ric and Hindu nationalism while incorporating generous cash handouts to compensate for its poor handling of the economy and the Covid-19 pandemic. Through extrajudicial killings and the jailing of journalists and political dissidents through national security laws – both disproportionately targeting Muslims – Adityanath has also bolstered the party's law and order image. Given the BJP's poor handling of the economy and the coronavirus pandemic, many experts believed the party might struggle to retain power. But its marrying of anti-Muslim rhetoric with subsidies is now a proven winning model that can carry the party through periods of slower economic growth.

The BJP's resounding victory there signals its political dominance will endure, especially as the main opposition party, the Indian National Congress, remains in tatters. The only way to defeat the BJP in the next national elections is if India's opposition parties band together and fight the next elections jointly. Radical Hindu nationalism is now mainstream in India. The country could soon pass the point of no return if it has not already. It remains to be seen whether America and other Western countries will change course and take a stand on democracy and human rights in India before it is too late. Successive US administrations have been averse to holding India accountable for violations of religious freedom, even in symbolic ways. Today, Washington is facing the critical challenge of taking India, its supposed ally, to task – be it through the designation of India as a violator of religious freedoms or the sanctioning of Indian officials and ruling party members who have orchestrated religious violence, including the anti-Muslim pogroms that took place during President Donald Trump's 2020 visit. Or, it can sit back and witness the world's second-most populous country transition into a majoritarian autocracy. The Biden administration claims that human rights are a cornerstone of its foreign policy. But these claims will be proven hollow if it continues to look away from India's descent – not only are religious minorities at risk, but so too is America's credibility as a defender of democracy and freedom.

– Arif Rafiq is a fellow at the Center for Global Policy. He is writing a book on the history of Muslims in New York City. Source: TRT WORLD

Regime change is old, dangerous trick of US

Ding Gang

Just as Biden described the war in Ukraine as a global struggle between democracy and dictatorship, the US divides camps as it wishes, arming "freedom fighters" who are willing to fight for US interests...

ON March 26, Biden gave a lengthy speech on the last day of his visit to Poland. At the end of the speech, he suddenly said that Putin "can no longer stay in power." The world was stunned. Is the White House going to officially declare war on Russia? Two days later, Biden said at a press conference when he returned to the US that his previous statement was an "expression of anger" and did not mean that the US was going to change its policy toward Russia and conduct a "regime change" against Putin's government. Over the years, "regime change" has become the main option for the US to maintain its hegemony. It seems the targets were countries

with so-called dictatorships. Actually, they were those that opposed US interests, challenged US hegemony, or did not "follow" the US order. Even though Biden said that Washington has no such consideration for Russia, it is precisely this angry discourse that exposes the deepest considerations of the US leadership. In 2000, after the bombing of the former Yugoslavia by US-led NATO, in order to achieve "regime change," the CIA directly manipulated the Petokotbarska revolution, which eventually overthrew Slobodan Milosevic and sent him to an international tribunal. James O'Brien, then-president Bill Clinton's special envoy to the Balkans, said at the time that "we believe Milosevic is incapable of leading a normal country." In his article "When the CIA Interfered in Foreign Elections, a Modern History of U.S. Covert Operations" (Foreign Affairs, June 21, 2020), American scholar David Shimer reveals that the CIA spent tens of millions of dollars in Serbia to foment a color revolution in order to bring down Milosevic.

In 2003, the US again proposed "regime change" before invading Iraq, sparking an outcry from the United Nations and many of its members, even US allies. According to the basic principles, the UN can send troops to stop aggression and maintain peace, but it cannot use force to change a country's regime. Then-UN secretary-general Kofi Annan made it clear at the time: "I know that some people on Capitol Hill have different views on how to deal with Iraq, but that is not my concern. The United Nations cannot go out and change the

president of a country. That is not legitimate in our organization." That didn't stop the US from moving troops into the Middle Eastern country under the false information that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction.

The danger of "regime change" is that it divides the world according to US interests and desires. So many countries are reluctant to choose a side. If the US sought a regime change in Russia, which country would be next?

Just as Biden described the war in Ukraine as a global struggle between democracy and dictatorship, the US divides camps as it wishes, arming "freedom fighters" who are willing to fight for US interests and attacking and even subverting other governments through a variety of explicit and implicit means.

It has confused the basic concepts of democracy, freedom and order, intensified the conflicts among nations, societies, classes, and religious beliefs, interrupted the gradual reforms in these countries, and pushed them into continuous turmoil. Even Biden himself cannot say which country is more democratic than the other. But one thing is certain: If the US tries to change the regime of a country according to its own democratic standards, it will end in a war, even if it is a war without artillery fire.

– The author is a senior editor with People's Daily, and a senior fellow with the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China. Follow him on Twitter @dinggangchina. Source: Global Times

Unannounced load shedding across country

WITH the increase of hot weather, unannounced load shedding of electricity has started across the country. According to various news agencies, the duration of load shedding is four to seven hours and frequent tripping is also taking place. Consumers are worried that the holy month of Ramadan will begin two days later. The duration is three to five hours in Punjab's provincial capital and major cities, while in towns it is seven hours.

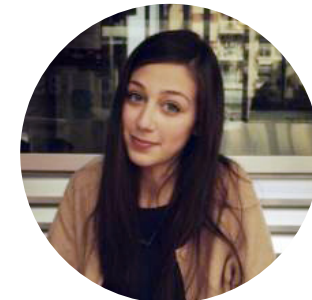
In addition, the weekly shutdown has its place, according to which two or three hundred feeders are shut down every day from nine o'clock to three o'clock in the morning. Lack of water in dams, closure of private power stations and low production are also cited as reasons. When the tube wells are closed due to power outages, the water supply is also affected.

Summer has just begun and the gap between electricity demand and production has widened by nearly a quarter. It is feared that this routine of load shedding during the month of Ramadan will cause more trouble for the people. This situation is due to administrative or some other reason but it seems to be a direct result of the general political situation of the country. Of concern is not only the load shedding of electricity but also the extraordinary fall in the value of the rupee. One dollar has reached close to 184 rupees. The weak rupee is also affecting the prices of imported goods, including energy, so that the stormy risks of inflation in the days to come cannot be ignored.

According to reports, several power plants have been shut down due to shortage of fuel and gas. Private power companies have reduced production due to high fuel prices. Consumers are very anxious. The government is fighting for its survival. Political tug-of-war has added to the people's woes. Those in charge should pay immediate attention to this.

Is Israel using Ukraine crisis to tilt demographics

Nadine Sayegh



To elaborate, Ukrainian Jews have essentially been called to come "home." This statement in itself is contradictory...

ISRAEL has made numerous statements these past few weeks welcoming Ukrainian Jews "home" to Israel, should they seek to emigrate. Unlike the Ukrainians with Temporary Protection Status (TPS) in the EU – which, as the name suggests, offers temporary protection – all Jews can claim citizenship with no questions under the Law of Return, even if they've never visited. "This is an important moment, a moment we were destined for and for which the State of Israel was established," Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said two weeks into the conflict in Ukraine. Tel Aviv has stated that it is expecting up to 100,000 Jews to arrive from Ukraine – and even Russia – in the coming months.

"The great mission is to open the doors, to open the hearts, to receive our brothers and sisters fleeing a difficult war. Make sure that [they will have a reception that] will soften even a little the trauma they are experiencing, an inconceivable trauma – to uproot yourself within hours or days and move to a far and different country," Bennett continued. Despite the talks of humanitarianism amidst trauma, however, Israel announced that only 5,000 new non-Jewish Ukrainians would be able to come to Israel as refugees, while an existing 20,000 would be allowed to remain during the conflict.

This positioning exposes Israel's discriminatory motivations and hints at a policy of opening borders to a population – not necessarily because they are in need – but rather as a means to alter the national demographic. It's a perfect opportunity for Tel Aviv to use Ukrainian refugees as a means to earn demographic dividends, knowing that the global sympathy for Ukrainians could overshadow such a politically-motivated resettlement plan. Unwittingly or not, President Zelenskyy, as well as other members of his staff, have carried the water for Israel by iterating on several occasions that Ukraine is like Israel, defending itself against "total destruction." It is unclear what the point of this rhetoric is – whether it is to garner sympathy from Western audiences or an attempt to distort all the international law and human rights violations that

Israel conducts on a daily basis. The United Nations recently announced that an estimated 3.7 million Ukrainians have fled the violence in their country since its commencement on February 24, adding that within the first ten days of the conflict, some two million people were displaced.

The majority of these individuals have been seeking refuge, primarily in neighbouring European Union countries. In fact, Ukrainians and residents of Ukraine have the right to TPS and thus are granted a renewable residency term of between one to three years and allowed access to healthcare, education, and housing.

The European Commission has even allocated 500 million euros – a quarter of its entire humanitarian budget – to the Ukrainian crisis, so the support is both available and easily accessible. Since the start of the crisis, media outlets and certain politicians alike have continuously spewed racist rhetoric against refugees of differing origins, while the rhetoric on Ukrainians has been constant and wholeheartedly supportive.

This then begs the question, why does Israel, a country in the Middle East, one that is both currently and constantly violating international human rights, chime in and vouch for support for Ukrainians, especially when a large bulk of the international refugee "problem" is centred in the Middle East region? To highlight both the conscious construction and dedication to this project, two key observations can be made. First, the announcement of the World Zionist Organization dedicating 1,000 new units to Ukrainian Jews, now becoming Israeli. These units are located in the occupied Golan Heights as well as in the occupied Naqab region. The Golan Heights is still being contested by Syria as sovereign Syrian territory. This claim has been validated by numerous international organisations including the United Nations.

To elaborate, Ukrainian Jews have essentially been called to come "home." This statement in itself is contradictory as Ukrainians have been confronted with violence in their home country and are waiting for this to settle to be able to return. Israel, unlike the EU, however, does not see it like that. This injustice is not just observed by comparing the treatment of said refugees with that of the indigenous Palestinians but also when considering the migration and mistreatment of Ethiopian Jews. This plan, while apparently created in support of those faced with a humanitarian crisis, seems to be just another method to "up" the number of Jews in Israel. Israel would do well to remember that these are people fleeing a conflict zone and may not be as eager to erase their nationality and culture to claim demographic dominance in a land they have most likely never even visited before. Nadine Sayegh is a multidisciplinary writer and researcher covering the Arab world. She has covered topics including gender in the region, countering violent extremism, the Occupied Palestinian Territories, amongst other social and political issues.

Briefs

My life is in danger: Imran Khan

FROM PAGE 01
He pointed out that the present government has pursued an independent foreign policy and did not become part of bloc politics to achieve the same objectives. As a result of this, he said Pakistan has received a lot of respect and recognition at the international level over the last three and a half years. Alluding to the threatening document received by his government, he said nobody should interfere in the internal matters of other countries in such a manner. He said it is because of our weaknesses and flawed policies of the past that such a thing has happened. He said Pakistan has paid a heavy price by becoming part of conflicts in the past. He said we compromised the interests of our people because of the aid we received from other countries. The Prime Minister said he envisages Pakistan a welfare state where there will be rule of law and an independent policy. Highlighting the steps taken by his government, Imran Khan said we have introduced a universal health insurance scheme under which the poor people can also get medical treatment at private hospitals. He said our social protection programs are aimed at uplifting the disadvantaged segments of the society. He said our struggle for rule of law is critical and our success in it will take the country forward. Earlier in his remarks, National Security Adviser Moeed Yusuf said our national security policy focuses on peace, cooperation and economy. He said we want cooperation with all the countries. The National Security Adviser said that best experts from around the world as well as intellectuals and cabinet members are attending the security dialogue.

Malaysia's trade ties with Pakistan...

FROM PAGE 01
The Abdul Razak Dawood, Adviser of Commerce and Investment to the Prime Minister of Pakistan and the Ayub Afridi, Adviser of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development to the Prime Minister of Pakistan, on two separate occasions to discuss ways to expand Malaysia's agri-commodity market share in Pakistan, possible collaboration in research and development for agri commodity sector and possibility of recruiting Pakistan workers to work in Malaysian's palm oil plantation. Other than discussions with Pakistan's ministers, Datuk Hajah Zuraida Kamaruddin also met with Pakistan-Malaysia Business Council in Karachi and witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between All Pakistan Timber Traders Association and Malaysia Timber council. Pakistan has been an important and strategic trade partner for Malaysian agri commodity products, with a total export value of RM3.31 billion in 2021. Malaysia's main agri-commodity exports to Pakistan are palm oil (RM2.92 billion), rubber (RM253.90 million) and timber products (RM82.44 million). Total export of Malaysian palm oil and palm oil products to Pakistan valued at RM2.92 billion and 830,833 in tonnage.

Pak can reduce poverty via Chinese e-commerce strategy

"During my four years in China, I observed the booming e-commerce and sharing economy there," the engineer exclaimed, "One example is bicycle riding...You could ride a bicycle for just one RMB (about Rs. 28)"

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan will benefit from China's experience in alleviating poverty through e-commerce, according to Pakistani experts who participated in the recent online Seminar on South-South Cooperation in Cross-border E-commerce for Poverty Eradication and Global Sustainable Development on China's coastal city of Qingdao. "During the training, I learned how to gradually transfer e-commerce skills in rural areas through training programmes, starting with popularisation sessions to service centres," said Hassan Rizvi, Manager of Capacity Building at the Balochistan Rural Support Program (BRSP), in an exclusive interview with China Economic Net (CEN). According to Rizvi, the five-day training mentioned an oft-neglected but crucial triad reasons for poverty: lack of development resources, weak sense of competition and improper market docking. "In all these three aspects, China has been completely successful in optimising them with e-commerce...This one was the most inspiring for me personally," Rizvi revealed. In her written interview with CEN, Nadia Perveen, lecturer of Business and Economics at Quaid I Azam University termed the



training sessions as important sources for her students. "I always motivate my students to start their own business. This seminar was a very good opportunity to learn the Chinese practices regarding e-commerce and to teach my students." Similar views are echoed by Zahid Latif, Assistant Engineer of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication of Pakistan (MoITT), who obtained his PhD at

a top IT university in China. "During my four years in China, I observed the booming e-commerce and sharing economy there," the engineer exclaimed, "One example is bicycle riding...You could ride a bicycle for just one RMB (about Rs. 28)." Focusing on empowering people with technology, Latif believes e-commerce will be a "game-changer" for Pakistan, and that China and Pakistan can cooperate with each

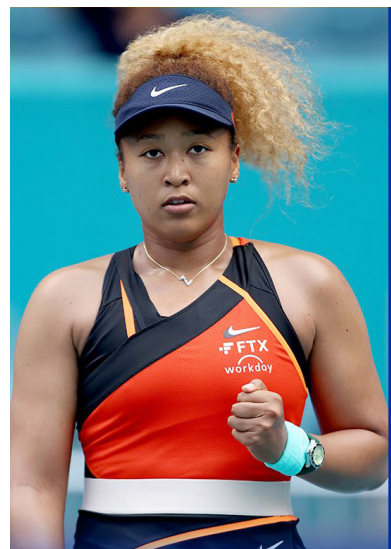
other in e-commerce-driven poverty alleviation. "In July 2018, the Pakistan-China fibre optic was laid down for the purpose of boosting the digital technology in Pakistan. I think this type of initiative is not only beneficial for raising GDP but for raising people's living standards," shared Latif, adding that more bilateral cooperation is possible in reducing poverty in Pakistan through e-commerce. But to replicate China's experience of reducing poverty through e-commerce, Hassan Rizvi mentioned that Pakistan has to increase the internet penetration in the country. "In my opinion, the common goal of poverty elevation can be embedded in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor as well. It's a good resource and can become a good channel to promote e-commerce," said Rizvi. Organised by the Shandong Foreign Trade Vocational College and hosted by China's Ministry of Commerce in partnership with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), the training seminar is designed to facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity development on cross-border e-commerce for policymakers, practitioners, and entrepreneurs from developing countries. A total of over 1,100 participants from more than 90 countries and regions, including 37 Pakistanis, participated in the training seminar.

Umar Gul appointed Afghanistan bowling coach

DNA

LAHORE: Former Pakistan pacer Umar Gul has been named the new bowling coach and consultant of the Afghanistan men's team. While talking to this correspondent, the 37-year-old said that he will join the Afghanistan cricket team's camp in Abu Dhabi on April 4. The right-handed pacer, who has taken over 400 wickets, said that an agreement was initially reached with the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) for three weeks. After the completion, it is possible that the extension will be made. "After coaching at PSL, KPL, LPL and domestic level, it is a pleasure to be associated with an international team. I will try my best to help the Afghan bowlers with my experience," Umar Gul said. Remember, former England batsman Graham Thorpe was named head coach of Afghanistan few days back.

Swiatek sets up Miami Open final against Osaka



SPORTS DESK

MIAMI: Second seed Iga Swiatek will face Naomi Osaka for the Miami Open title after the Pole defeated American Jessica Pegula in Thursday's semi-finals. After Japan's Osaka battled past Belinda Bencic 4-6 6-3 6-4 earlier in the day, Swiatek, who will become world number one on Monday, claimed her 16th straight win with a 6-2 7-5 victory over Pegula to reach a third straight WTA 1000 final. Swiatek sailed through the opening set but had to fight back from an early break down in the second. She squan-

dered two match points at 5-4 before sealing victory two games later. The 21-year-old is the first player to make back-to-back finals at Indian Wells and Miami since Victoria Azarenka won the 'Sunshine Double' in 2016. Swiatek has faced Osaka only once, with the Japanese player winning in straight sets at Toronto in 2019. "My second match on the WTA Tour, when I felt I am doing a breakthrough, was against her (Osaka)," said Swiatek, who will go top of the rankings following Ash Barty's retirement. "Even though I lost that match, it inspired me to work harder because she was number one back then. Right now

I feel like I am on a different level, so I can actually compete... We'll see how it is going to go. I'm really excited." Four-times Grand Slam winner Osaka fired off 18 aces as she defeated Olympic champion Bencic to reach her first Miami Open final. Osaka conceded only two first-serve points in the first set but was unable to convert when it counted as Bencic saved a pair of break points in the second game. Osaka, who had not dropped a set in the tournament, then lost her serve in the third game and again in the fifth. The pair traded breaks early in the second set before Osaka seized the momentum after breaking in the sixth game. "She had a really amazing service return - there were times I thought that I hit great serves but she just hit winners," Osaka said. "(I was) just battling my inner thoughts and trying to know that I must play one point at a time and adjust if I have to but try not to overwhelm myself with my thoughts." Osaka saved five of six break points in the third before closing out the match with an ace and a grin, having reached her first final since her second Australian Open title a year ago. "I feel like if I was negative for a split second I would have lost the match today," said Osaka, who will play in her fourth WTA 1000 showpiece match on Saturday. "I have to keep pumping myself up and I haven't played as many matches as a lot of these other players so I just have to keep learning."

Five things to know about Hungary

FOREIGN DESK

BUDAPEST: Five things to know about Hungary where general elections are being held on Sunday. Hungary has a rich past that fills Hungarians with pride. Nostalgia is everywhere, whether its harking back to the glorious exploits of the Magical Magyars football team or the days of Greater Hungary, when the country was three times its current size, or even to the era of communist dictator Janos Kadar. Sometimes nostalgia colours political life. Politicians such as Prime Minister Viktor Orban like to paint themselves as "defenders of Europe", an allusion to 15th century victories over the Ottomans, such as the 1456 siege of Nandorfehervar in modern-day Belgrade, which still resonates in Hungary today. Then there is Attila the Hun, the tribal ruler from the first century. Although the link between Huns and Hungarians is still debated, the conqueror of the steppes still inspires countless myths, particularly in nationalist circles.

PM's defeat imminent, says Shehbaz Sharif

FROM PAGE 01

The Opposition leader said during the PML-N's government, Nawaz Sharif condemned drone attacks on every forum. In his address to the nation, the premier had claimed that he was the first politician to raise his voice against drone attacks and that no other politician had done it before him. "His narrative of accountability has been shattered [...] in the name of accountability, he took the worst political revenge against political opponents," he added. During the press conference, PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif telephoned Shahbaz, where, the former prime minister wanted to discuss the current political developments with his brother. But cutting the call short, Shahbaz told Nawaz that he was in the middle of a press conference and would talk to him later. "I am in a press conference [...] we are in consultation with our allies," he said. Meanwhile, Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing a press conference at Zardari House Islamabad has said that the country is in a quagmire of crises, be it foreign affairs, financial or political. In this situation, our responsibility is to help the country emerge from these crises. The prime minister has been defeated. He is acting like a batsman who has been clean bowled but is crying and does not want to leave the field. Running the country is not a game of cricket. He is not accepting his defeat but it does not mean that he hasn't lost. The actions the prime minister is taking in his last days are an attack on institutions. Such actions harm the country. Imran Khan is a habitual liar. We had announced our no-confidence long before it was submitted. We had decided in our CEC meeting in January. Did we know at that time that Imran Khan will visit Russia? Did we know at that time that Russia will attack Ukraine? Imran should tell as much as people can digest. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said that first, this man called the no-confidence a gift by the opposition but later termed it a conspiracy. Imran had an honourable way to quit but he did not. He should face the no-confidence in the assembly. No one should play with the future of the country. He should not create a clash or constitutional crisis by any of his actions. Chairman PPP hoped that there would be no contempt of court. Chairman PPP said that prime minister did not fulfil a single responsibility while in power. The economic crisis is increasing by the day. The so-called letter is an internal diplomatic cable. The Speaker should come to his senses as we are progressing towards the restoration of democracy. If we want political and economic stability, then the only way to achieve those is through the success of the no-confidence. The election should be held after the electoral reforms. We can solve the problems with the people's mandate. We hope that no un-democratic means will be adopted during the voting on the no-confidence. If the Speaker delays Sunday's session on any pretext, he will be charged under Article 6. The Supreme Court has also given clear instructions regarding the no-confidence process. We hope that the Speaker will not commit contempt of court.

Djokovic stays No 1 as Medvedev falls

AGENCIES

MIAMI: Daniil Medvedev said physical struggles destroyed any chance of a victory to reclaim the world number one ranking on Friday after falling to Poland's Hubert Hurkacz 7-6 (9/7), 6-3 at the Miami Open. Medvedev dropped to second with a third-round loss to Gael Monfils at Indian Wells last week, but would have taken back the top spot from Serbia's Novak Djokovic had he defeated Hurkacz, the defending Miami Open champion. Instead, 10th-ranked Hurkacz advanced to the semi-finals by ousting the reigning US Open champion at Hard Rock Stadium and 20-time Grand Slam champion Djokovic stays number one.



48th-ranked Serbian Miomir Kecmanovic in three sets in one of the best matches of the tournament. Medvedev said he found it hard to breathe at times and was cramping so badly in the locker room he was like "a fish on a sofa." "All match, I wasn't

feeling my best," Medvedev said. "After the tough points I was struggling to get my breath. I wasn't recovering fast enough. You just have to fight but in the second set I felt strange. "I don't often feel like this but it happens sometimes when it's

hot. Maybe it was the heat but I was feeling dizzy and tired and there was one game where I couldn't serve anymore. In the locker room I was cramping," Medvedev called for medical trainers in the second set. "The physio gave me something," he said. "You never know. You're hoping it will be like a magic thing but it doesn't always work like this." Hurkacz played well, taking full advantage of Medvedev's struggles, which lasted well after he walked off the court. "Normally I would just sit for a bit in the locker room but then I started cramping," he said. "I had a shower and felt a bit better. That was good advice because I was sitting down, was really tired and every muscle started going cramp, cramp, cramp. I was like a fish on the sofa. "It's nothing serious. I'll wake up and probably be fine, but that's no good if I'm out of the tournament."

Balochistan outclass KPK to lift Pakistan Cup

Bangalzai, during his wonderful knock, looked in complete control and adopted an aggressive approach. He scored 80 runs off 77 balls with the help of nine fours and two sixes

DNA

MULTAN: Yasir Shah (4 wickets) was handy with ball while Abdul Bangalzai (80) shined with the bat as Balochistan outclassed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by eight wickets in the final sided final match of the Pakistan Cup of the ongoing domestic season at the Multan Cricket Stadium. Balochistan, bowling first after their skipper and leggie Yasir won the toss, and they kept KP under pressure from the word go. Apart from Yasir's four wickets in a great spell, Khurram Shahzad and Aki Javed also took two scalps each as they bowled out KP for 171 in 46 overs with only Kamran Ghulam (70). In reply, Balochistan were given a 28-run opening stand before

Imran Butt (17) was removed by Khalid Usman. But, after that, both Haseebullah Khan (45) and

Bangalzai took the charge and forged a 77-run stand. Khalid also removed Khan, while Bangalzai

and Asad Shafiq (21) noted a match-winning 70 run stand, as Balochistan chased down the tar-

get in 31.2 overs. Bangalzai, during his wonderful knock, looked in complete control and adopted an aggressive approach. He scored 80 runs off 77 balls with the help of nine fours and two sixes. While for KP, apart from Khalid's two scalps, no other bowler managed to take any wicket. And KP, while batting first, lost their first wicket without any score as Shahzad dismissed Ashfaq Ahmed for zero. Though, Mohsin Khan and Kamran did held the innings with a 58-run stand, but they kept losing regular intervals and never picked the momentum for posing a huge total. Kamran did managed to show some fight as he played a good knock of 70 runs. While for Balochistan, all their bowlers contributed well.



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Briefs

Pakistan participates in Int'l tourism exhibition

DNA

MINSK: Pakistan participated in the 24th International Tourism Exhibition "Leisure-2022", from 31 March to 2 April. The Programme included screening of a documentary on tourism and cultural heritage of Pakistan, quiz game with gifts distribution and performance of Pakistani instrumental songs by the violinists duet "Neringa and Diana". Ambassador of Pakistan to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan attended the inauguration ceremony, opened by the Belarusian Minister of Sport and Tourism. This annual exhibition is the biggest tourism exhibition in Belarus, an international business platform for countries, regions and tourist companies worldwide to present their services to the Belarusian market and an effective business platform for advertising tourist routes as well as for establishing new business contacts.

Tajikistan marks 29 years of UNESCO membership

FOREIGN DESK

DUSHANBE: 29 years have passed since the Republic of Tajikistan joined UNESCO and the National Commission of the Republic of Tajikistan for UNESCO was established. The National Commission is committed to achieving the goals of UNESCO and the dialogue between citizens and civil society in different countries. The National Commission brings together ministers, scientists, and artists. The Republic of Tajikistan is making efforts to preserve peace through education, science, culture, and the promotion of freedom of opinion.

Participation of the Leader of the Nation, President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Emomali Rahmon at the 34th Session of the UNESCO General Conference opened a new page on the relations between Tajikistan and UNESCO, giving new impetus to the fruitful cooperation between two sides. During the visit, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Republic of Tajikistan and UNESCO was signed. In addition, within the framework of the conference Cultural Days of Tajikistan were held in UNESCO Headquarters. At the 34th Session of the UNESCO General Conference in 2007, the Republic of Tajikistan for the first time was elected as a member of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee on information and communication. Celebration and drawing attention to prominent figures, artworks or events that have contributed to the mutual enrichment of cultures, promote the development of international understanding and rapprochement of the peoples of the world.

Somalia's next peacekeeping mission

NAIROBI: For 15 years, African soldiers have rotated through Somalia as part of a 20,000-strong force mandated by the United Nations to protect the fragile central government from an Islamist insurgency. But the mission is winding up, with a transitional force given less than two years to hand over security responsibilities to Somalia's national army and withdraw from the troubled country. Will it work? Created in 2007 by the UN Security Council, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) was tasked with fighting the Al-Shabaab militants bent on overthrowing the foreign-backed government in Mogadishu. Drawn from across Africa, the mission drove Al-Shabaab out of Mogadishu in 2011, creating enough stability for government and federal agencies to take shape, and two rounds of elections to be held. "AMISOM played a part in securing and providing a conducive environment for politics and for economic activity," said Samira Gaid, executive director of the Hiraa Institute, a Somalia-based security think tank. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Minister of plantation industries and commodities (MPIC) of Malaysia, Zuraida Binti Kamaruddin calling on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House. - DNA

Sanjrani vows to enhance Pakistan, Malaysia relations

"The Parliamentary relations between the two countries will be further strengthened and the trade volume between the two countries will increase which will significantly boost the economy of the country" he added.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Minister for Plantation Industries and Commodities of Malaysia Ms. Zuraida Binti Kamaruddin, along with a delegation called on the Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and discussed in detail issues of mutual interest including the bilateral relations between both the countries, here at the Parliament House on Friday. The Chairman Senate said that Pakistan and Malaysia have a long standing fraternal relationship which

has been developing with the passage of time. The recent exchange of high level delegations between the two countries has further enhanced the bilateral relations. "The Parliamentary relations between the two countries will be further strengthened and the trade volume between the two countries will increase which will significantly boost the economy of the country" he added. The Chairman Senate said that Pakistan attaches great importance to friendly relations with Malaysia and mutual partnership in various fields and the two

countries have always fully supported each other's stance at international forums. He said that due to their geographical importance, Pakistan and Malaysia could provide strategic and economic benefits to each other by providing access to their respective markets. Education, defense products, trade investment, electronics and IT industry, Bilateral cooperation in the fields of halal food, oil and gas, renewable energy, tourism will pave the way for meeting each other's needs and further strengthening relations between the two

countries. Regarding the promotion of trade and investment in Pakistan, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani said that Malaysia may benefit from increasing exports of fishing, textile, pharmaceutical, surgical instruments, fruits, vegetables, and dairy products from Pakistan. He said that Gwadar would be the economic hub in the world in the near future and CPEC corridor projects would significantly boost trade and investment through access to Central Asia countries. Malaysia should also take advantage of the vast investment op-

portunities in Pakistan. The Chairman Senate said that Pakistan was taking effective steps to promote tourism and Pakistan was keen to benefit from Malaysia's expertise in tourism as well as Malaysian investment in the tourism sector. Pakistan also wants to benefit from the "Malaysia, Trolley Asia" experience. Increasing trade volume and boosting investment between the two countries will be beneficial for economic growth. "This will benefit not only the two countries but also their people" he added. Chairman Senate Muham-

mad Sadiq Sanjrani said that Pakistan encourages Malaysian investment in Small and Medium Enterprises. Malaysian Minister Ms. Zuraida Binti Kamaruddin, while agreeing with the views of the Chairman Senate, said that there were vast investment opportunities in both the countries and it was essential to increase trade volume and take advantage of existing investment opportunities for the betterment of the economy. "Pakistan is an important country in the region. Malaysian investors are keen to invest in Pakistan" she added

Kazakh President receives Supreme Mufti

NEWS DESK

NUR-SULTAN: Head of State Kassym-Jomart Tokayev had a meeting with the Chairman of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan, Supreme Mufti Naurzyba i Kazhy Taganuly. During the meeting, the President congratulated all Muslims of Kazakhstan on the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan. Tokayev was familiarized with the main focuses of the work of the Spiritual Administration of Muslims of Kazakhstan and the plans for the upcoming period. Naurzybaikazhy Taganuly informed the Head of State that this year's theme is «Islam is the religion of unity and solidarity» at the initiative of the Administration. Different forums are planned throughout the year to this end. The Supreme Mufti told about the realization of a number of initiatives of spiritual and educational nature.

Ukraine claims 17,700 Russian troops killed

FOREIGN DESK

KYIV: Some 17,700 Russian soldiers have been killed in Ukraine so far, according to the Ukrainian military on Friday. Ukrainian forces have destroyed 143 Russian planes, 131 helicopters, 625 tanks, 1,751 armored vehicles, 85 unmanned aerial vehicles, 76 fuel tankers, and seven boats, according to the latest Ukrainian General Staff update. At least 316 Russian artillery weapons, 96 multiple rocket launcher systems, and 54 air defense systems have also been destroyed, it added. The Russia-Ukraine war, which started on Feb. 24, has been met with international outrage, with the EU, US, and the UK, among others, implementing tough financial sanctions on Moscow.

China's Yiwu city welcomes Pakistan to share dividends

BEIJING: China's City Yiwu has welcomed Pakistan to share dividends of China's consumption upgrade, Gwadar Pro reported on Friday. "Yiwu has been working to establish itself as a powerhouse for import trade. At present, the city has gathered about 150,000 kinds of imported goods from more than 100 countries and regions. Yiwu hopes to bring more Pakistani products to the city and the wider Chinese market, and enhance cooperation with Pakistan to share the dividends of China's consumption upgrade," highlighted Mr Ye Bangrui, Mayor of Yiwu at a webinar on building China-Pakistan Trade Corridor. The mayor further said that in recent years, e-commerce in Yiwu has been booming, with cross-border e-commerce trade volume exceeding RMB 100 billion [or USD 15.72 billion] in 2021. "Since Yiwu is blessed with prospering cross-border e-commerce, bonded areas, live streaming, and efficient logistics, we hope to set up Pakistani merchandise pavilions in Yiwu to help Pakistan explore the Chinese market," revealed Mr Ye.

On the occasion, Hussain Haider, Consul General of Pakistan in Shanghai, emphasized the significant progress, huge potential and good momentum of China-Pakistan trade exchanges. He added that, "this webinar demonstrated the determination of

China and Pakistan, especially Yiwu and Karachi, to further strengthen bilateral trade and investment relations. I believe enterprises in Karachi will establish more win-win cooperative relations with enterprises in Yiwu and strengthen economic ties between the two countries." The Consulate General of Pakistan in Shanghai will provide full support and facilitation services to promote such cooperation, he mentioned. Li Bijian, Consul General of China in Karachi, underlined Yiwu has served as a bridge between China and the rest of the world, especially for Pakistani cities like Karachi. To further strengthen the existing friendly cooperation and relations, he proposed to promote bilateral trade, reduce trade deficit, and enhance two-way investment by making full use of the China-Pakistan free trade agreement (FTA). Arif Ahmed Khan, Chief Executive of TDAP noted that tapping the huge potential of Pakistan's exports to China on a large scale requires the development of digital connectivity between Pakistani suppliers and Chinese customers, as well as recognised brands for Pakistani products and expanded agricultural quotas. Viable solutions will be devised to grapple with these issues, according to Wang Xiang, Director of Pakistan Purchasing Service Centre. - Agencies

Pakistan urges revamping of commodity-dependent model

WEB DESK

NEW YORK: Pakistan, speaking on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China, has underscored the need for transforming commodity-dependent developing countries' economies structurally so as to increase their earnings by adding value to commodities, basically creating new valuable products traded at fairer prices. Speaking in an interactive dialogue on "commodities" convened by the UN General Assembly President, Ambassador Aamir Khan, Pakistan's permanent representative to the UN, said developing countries look forward to implementing projects with development partners that will help those countries to diversify their economies, improve value addition and commodity sectors into major sources of growth and sustainable development. Pakistan is the current chairman of G-77 and China, which now has 134 members and is the United Nations' biggest

intergovernmental group of emerging countries. Noting the increase in the number of commodity-dependent countries in the last decade, Aamir Khan voiced G-77's interest in the analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on the trends and prospects of commodity markets, more so on how to get back on a track that would move them forward to breaking away from commodity dependency. High price volatility undermines the development prospects of G-77 members that are commodity dependent, he said, adding that instability of prices adds to increasing risks to trade and investment, both public and private and to uncertainty in revenues prospects. "The Group of 77 and China supports the aspiration of its members towards increasing export revenues as this will help in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals." Some developing countries managed to increase their

export earnings by adding new commodities to their export baskets, but he said the price risks can also affect these new commodities. Through linkages, Aamir Khan said this leads to growth of other sectors, including industrial and services sectors, also expanding domestic demand and imports substitution, an approach that contribute to the creation of employment and investment in infrastructure. "But this is not easy for most developing countries, which recognize that the challenges to adding value to the commodities they produce are limited due to the absence of technology and other productive capacities". Most commodity-dependent developing countries, he said, need to overcome several constraints, including lack of experience in manufacturing and marketing non-traditional commodities in international markets, inadequate infrastructure, difficulties in access to finance, access to technology, and unfair trade barriers.

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(WORKS DIVISION-II)

TENDER NOTICE

CDA invites the sealed tenders on percentage basis duly filled in figures as well as in words from the contractors registered with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) in relevant category, specific codes and Income Tax Department for the year 2021-22, as per details given below:-

Sr.#	Name of Work	NIT Cost (Rs.)	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Tender Fee (Rs.)	Bid submission date & Time	Bid Opening date & time
1	Construction of Boundary wall of Official Residence of Chief Election Commissioner at Minister's Enclave, F-5/2, Islamabad	2,238,530/- Million	Rs.67160/-	3,000/-	19-04-2022 at 11:30 AM	19-04-2022 at 12:00 Noon

Tender details are also available at CDA web site www.cda.gov.pk and PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk

- Bidding documents can be obtained from the office of Dy. Director, Works Division-II CDA, located at Room No. 22, CDA Office, Old Navel Complex, G-6 Markaz, Islamabad, on cash payment as given above per set (Non-refundable) on any working day up to 18-04-2022 before 12.00 PM against written request.
- Application should be on letterhead having name, address, phone numbers and signature of the contractor enclosing call deposit and attested copies of CNIC, valid PEC registration certificate with codes CE-01, CE-10, Income Tax registration number/certificate, valid Professional Tax certificate and ownership proof in shape of partnership deed/sole proprietor /power of attorney in favor of authorized representative.
- In case of incomplete documents mentioned in Sr. 2, bidding documents will not be issued to the applicant. Original documents should also be available with the applicant/authorized representative for verification, if deemed necessary.
- The earnest money in shape of bank draft/call deposit (CDR) from local scheduled banks in favor of Dy. Director, Works Division-II must accompany with the application for issuance of tender documents.
- That only legitimate attorney holder may be allowed to get tender documents.
- The Bid Security of all bidders would be deposited in the CDA bank account and same may be returned after the acceptance of the contract with the successful bidders.
- The eligibility criteria of the firms with the relevant experience i.e. at least three number of work in last two financial years may be observed / fulfilled before issuance of tender documents.
- Bids will be received/opened publically as per date and time given above in the office of Director Works, CDA located at Room No. 21, Old Navel Complex, G-6 Markaz, Islamabad.
- CDA reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tenders as per PPRA rules 33(1) CDA, upon request of bidder/contractor who submitted a bid, will communicate the grounds for its rejection, but is not required to justify those grounds.
- Conditional tender will not be entertained.

(Jamil Ahmed)

Dy. Director, Works Division-II, CDA.

PID (I) No.6926/21

Briefs

Indonesia president, Malaysia PM witness MoU signing

DNA

JAKARTA: Indonesian President Joko Widodo and Malaysian Prime Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob met on Friday in Jakarta, witnessing the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on migrant workers. Widodo said the MoU regulates the process of placing, monitoring and repatriating Indonesian migrant workers working in Malaysia. "Indonesian migrant workers have contributed a lot to the development in Malaysia, and they should be offered rights and protections from both countries," Widodo told a joint press conference here at the Merdeka Palace. The two sides also discussed cooperation in issues of human trafficking and the national border. On the same occasion, the Malaysian prime minister said that this MoU ensures that all processes and mechanisms for the protection of migrant workers will be carried out comprehensively. "Several initiatives were also carried out by the Kingdom of Malaysia regarding the welfare and social protections of domestic workers, including efforts to prevent violence," he added.

PM turns down hike in petrol price by Rs55.78

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan on Friday turned down a summary from Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (Ogra) to hike petrol price by Rs55.78 per litre in order to facilitate the masses. The Ogra has sent a summary to hike fuel prices upto Rs68.87 per litre with petrol price recommended to be increased by Rs55.78, high speed diesel by Rs68.87 per litre, Kerosene oil by Rs37.82 litre and light diesel by Rs40.24 per litre. Prime Minister Imran Khan in order to provide relief to the masses has rejected the fuel hike and the government would bear the increase through a subsidy of Rs33 billion. The overall loss in terms of subsidy and revenue will be at Rs63 billion. It is pertinent to mention here that the federal government has retained the prices of petroleum products for the next 15 days of April following the February 28 decision of Prime Minister Imran Khan. According to the notification issued by the Finance Ministry, the petrol price was retained at Rs149.86 litre, high-speed diesel (HSD) at Rs144.15, kerosene oil at Rs125.56 and light diesel at Rs118.31. The previous fuel prices will remain in effect from April 1 to 15. The notification read that the federal government will bear the financial burden of Rs33 billion for retaining the previous POL prices.

Chinese FM meets with Uzbek deputy PM on ties

BEIJING: Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi Thursday met with Uzbek Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade Sardor Umurzakov on the sidelines of the third foreign ministers' meeting among the neighboring countries of Afghanistan in Tunxi, east China's Anhui Province. Wang said that, since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Uzbekistan 30 years ago, the two countries have trusted and supported each other, and cooperation in various fields has been continuously deepened, reaching an unprecedented high level. He said China will continue to support Uzbekistan in exploring a development path suited to its own national conditions and stands ready to work with Uzbekistan to jointly implement the important consensus reached by the two heads of state to promote the development of bilateral relations. - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: Editor daily Islamabad POST/Centreline/DNA Ansar Mahmood Bhatti and Deputy Editor Abid Raza posing for a picture with Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf Saeed Al Maliki and Head of Press Section Mr. Fawaz. - DNA

Sovereignty of states should be respected: Saudi envoy

Says Saudi Arabia stresses the importance of a Middle East free from Weapons of Mass Destruction and supports int'l efforts towards this end

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan Nawaf Saeed Al Maliki has said the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes in preserving international understanding and cooperation on the basis of mutual respect and sovereignty among all countries. The Kingdom firmly believes that the future of security in Asia is linked to respecting the sovereignty of all countries in the region, non-interference in internal affairs of other countries and commitment to international principles and resolutions. He made these remarks while speaking during the Security Dialogue held under the aegis of the Security Division. The ambassador thanked Dr. Moeed Yusuf, National Security of Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for organizing this forum of National Security Advisers of Asian countries to discuss the future of security in the region.

Ambassador Maliki further said the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continues to pursue cooperation with its partner countries and the international community to strengthen peace and security, supporting dialogue and peaceful solutions, and creating the right conditions for achieving development and meeting the aspirations for a better tomorrow in the Middle East and around the world. He added, the Kingdom reaffirms our support for



reviving the peace process to find a lasting solution to the Palestinian question with the establishment of an independent Palestinian State in a way that ensures the rights of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state in line with international resolutions. The continued escalation of the conflict by the Houthi group and their attacks against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia demonstrate their unwillingness and rejection of peaceful solu-

tions as a way forward for the resolution of the conflict, he added. 'The Kingdom calls for the implementation of UN resolutions to halt the negative fallout of the Houthi group and the supply of arms and ammunitions to the Houthi group from outside Yemen continued Houthi attacks against civilians in the Kingdom, and undermining international navigation and global energy supplies pose a threat to the region. The Kingdom, he said, reserves the legitimate right to defend itself against missile, UAV and other forms of attacks. We call on the international community to apply more pressure on the Houthi group to ensure humanitarian assistance for the people of Yemen and bring a political settlement to the conflict. While concluding his speech the ambassador said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stresses the importance of a Middle East free from Weapons of Mass Destruction and supports international efforts towards this end.

Australia wishes Ramadan Mubarak to Pakistan

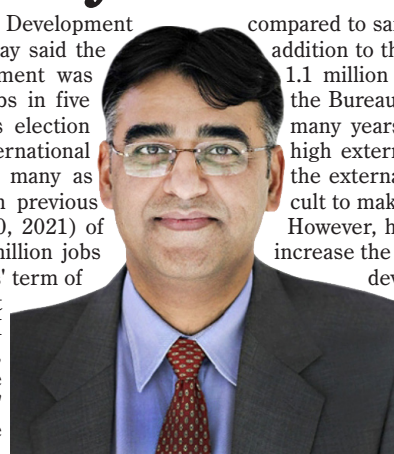
DNA

ISLAMABAD: Australia's Acting High Commissioner to Pakistan, Joanne Frederiksen wishes all Muslims in Pakistan, Australia and around the world 'Ramzan Mubarak'. In a special message, she said, "As Muslims in Pakistan, back home in Australia and across the world begin the holy month of Ramadan I want to wish you all Ramadan Kareem. Ramadan with its daily iftars and sehri is a month-long opportunity for people and communities to come together in peace, a spirit of equality and respect. It's a time to reflect on the values of compassion, charity and selflessness. Values that unite us all. Pakistan has a rich tradition of celebrating religious and cultural festivals, bringing together neighbours, friends and colleagues with warm hospitality - which everyone, including many Australians visiting Pakistan during the Australia-Pakistan cricket series, has experienced. This Ramadan, I want to highlight the valuable contributions that Australian Muslims, including Pakistanis, make to Australian society. Australia is home to more than 600,000 Muslims from all over world, including more than 80,000 Pakistanis. Our people-to-people links continue to strengthen longstanding friendship between Australia and Pakistan."



PTI govt on target to create 10 million jobs: Asad Umar

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Asad Umar Friday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government was well on target to create 10 million jobs in five years as per commitment made in its election manifesto. He said in the recent International Labour Organization (ILO) survey, as many as 5.55 million new jobs were created in previous three years (calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021) of the PTI government while some 5.7 million jobs were created during complete five years' term of the PML-N government. "If the present policies and the direction set by the PTI government continued in coming years, I believe that we will go very near to the 10 million jobs by end of the year 2023," he said in his press briefing here. The minister highlighted when Prime Minister Imran Khan announced its manifesto to create 10 million jobs, some of the media persons and the political leaders mimicked the PM's claim terming it as impossible. However, he said the ILO survey had proved that the target was quite achievable in five years. The minister said during the PML-N government some 720,000 people lost their jobs in agriculture sector, on the other hand, in three years of PTI government, around 1.42 million new jobs were created in the sector. In industrial sector, he said that the PTI government created 2.404 million jobs in three years while during PML-N's complete five years term only 2.08 million employment opportunities were created. The yearly increasing rate shows that on average, 62 percent more jobs were created during PTI government's three years



compared to same period of the PML-N government. In addition to these jobs, he said that during this period, 1.1 million people were given jobs abroad through the Bureau of Immigration. Asad Umar said for last many years, the economy was going down due to high external deficit. As the economic growth and the external deficit were inter-linked so it was difficult to make a sudden increase in the GDP growth. However, he said in a bid to create jobs along with increase the exports, the government focused fully on development of the export-oriented industrial sector, which not only created jobs, but also increased the country's exports. The minister said that the agriculture growth witnessed unprecedented growth during recent years, which was never seen in decades. The most important thing is that the agriculture growers were now getting a handsome price of their produce due to surge in support price of various crops. He said the PTI government has increased the support price of Rs900 per 40 kg of wheat crop in three years against only Rs100 per 40 kg increase during the complete tenure of PML-N government. Due to reforms introduced by the government in industrial sector and introduction of the textile policy, the sector witnessed rapid growth, he said adding that billions of dollar worth of investment was brought to the textile sector producing millions of new jobs. Asad Umar explained that during the two years of COVID pandemic, the world's economies plunged to new lows, but during that period some 3.2 million new jobs were created in the country due to the prudent policies of the incumbent government. - DNA

NAB, a role model for SAARC countries: Chairman

DNA

ISLAMABAD: NAB Chairman honourable Justice Javed Iqbal has said that NAB is the focal institute of Pakistan under UN Convention against Corruption and a role model not only for Pakistan but also for SAARC countries. The bureau has been elected Chairman of SAARC Anti-Corruption Forum which is a great success and honour for Pakistan. SAARC countries has lauded NAB's performance. Transparency International Pakistan, World Economic Forum, Global Peace Canada, PILDAT, Mashal Pakistan has also appreciated NAB's efforts whereas as per Gilani & Gallup survey, 59 percent of people have expressed confidence in NAB. Pakistan is the only country that has signed a memorandum of understanding with China to fight corruption. Pakistan and China are working together to ensure transparency in the ongoing CPEC projects in Pakistan. NAB is the only institution in the country which since its inception has recovered Rs. 864 billion from corrupt elements. NAB is the only institution in the country which has returned the recovered money to various federal, provincial agencies and affected citizens. NAB officials not only consider eradication of corruption from the country as their national duty

but Also committed to eradicate corruption. Because corruption is the mother of all evils and a major obstacle to Pakistan's development and prosperity. The NAB has formulated an effective national anti-corruption strategy which has been recognized as the best anti-corruption strategy. Bureau has also introduced a new system of Combine Investigation Team (CIT) in order to benefit from the experiences and collective wisdoms of superior officers. The CIT mechanism has not only brought quality to the overall work procedures but also assured that not a single individual could influence the proceedings and results of the



CIT and it was very encouraging. Encouraging results has already started pouring in. On the contrary, thanks to the effective legal follow-up of NAB, the esteemed accountability courts have convicted 1405 accused during the last four years and also imposed fines. The NAB attaches great importance to the training of its officers and personnel in order to enhance their competence in line with modern requirements. That is why NAB has set up its Pakistan Training and Research Academy in which money laundering and white collar crimes' training of officers has been started for modern investigation of cases. NAB has set up a Forensic Science Laboratory in Rawalpindi to examine documents, fingerprints and digital data, which has greatly improved the quality of investigations. NAB has set up Anti-Money Laundering Cells at NAB headquarters to improve the quality of investigations. Witness Handling Cells have also been set up in all NAB regional bureaus to help NAB witnesses. NAB is a national body of corruption which has no affiliation with any political party group or individual and its affiliation is exclusively with the state of Pakistan. NAB has been given the responsibility to recover the months ey looted from plunderers. NAB is a people-friendly organization that believes in taking care of everyone's self-esteem in accordance with the law.

NATO should have been dissolved in 1991: China

FOREIGN DESK

BEIJING: China believes NATO should have been dissolved after the USSR, which it was created to contain, no longer existed, the Foreign Ministry explained on Friday. Spokesman Zhao Lijian lamented the fact that instead the US-led military bloc expanded and cornered Russia, eventually triggering the present bloodshed in Ukraine. "As a product of the Cold War, NATO should have become history when the Soviet Union disintegrated," he said during a daily press conference on Friday, when asked about remarks on NATO's role as a US geopolitical tool made by his Russian counterpart, Maria Zakharova. Zhao said that NATO expanded eastwards in Europe for decades, in violation of promises made to the Soviet leadership. This pushed Russia "into a corner step by step," so ultimately, NATO was "the initiator and biggest promoter of the Ukraine crisis" on behalf of the US, he stated, adding that the organization should reflect on what exactly it contributes to European security. Moscow cited the threat posed by NATO's creeping expansion into Ukraine as the key reason why it attacked the country in late February. Beijing agreed with the justification, even as it criticized the use of military force as the method of resolving the situation.

PTI's foreign policy based on national interests

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Friday said the government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf was not in favour of brewing discords with other countries, however, stressed that it believed that no compromise should be made on national sovereignty and integrity. Speaking to the officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he said the vision of foreign policy in Naya Pakistan was about keeping national interests supreme. The foreign minister said the PTI government did not support bloc politics at the international level. He emphasized that attaining economic stability was vital to pursuing a strong foreign policy. FM Qureshi mentioned several initiatives taken by the government at the foreign policy front including economic diplomacy, Engage Africa policy, Central Asia Vision policy, and the establishment of the Strategic Communication Division. He said the efforts of Pakistani diplomats were being acknowledged abroad and mentioned that the huge remittances sent by the diaspora was a reflection of this fact. He lauded Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood and the officials of MoFA for the successful holding of the 48th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Islamabad in March.

Bomb blasts kill 5 in Herat

HERAT: At least five people were killed and 20 more wounded when two bombs exploded in quick succession in the western Afghan city of Herat on Friday, officials said. The incident happened in the evening when a group of young men and children had gathered to play at a ground where the bombs were planted. "Five people have been killed and 20 others have been wounded," Sabit Harwi, spokesman for the intelligence office in Herat, told AFP. Harwi said the local police defused two other bombs found in the area. He said the entire area had been demined recently to remove all unexploded ordnances left from the war and the bombs that exploded on Friday appeared to have been planted just before the group came to play. Ibrahim Mohammadi, head of Herat's ambulance service, confirmed the toll and said the dead included a child. - APP