



# Islamabad POST

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

**New Zealand pledges additional aid for Ukraine amid war**

Detailed News On Page-07

**Political change will not affect China-Pak ties**

Detailed News On Page-08



**Babar Azam wins ICC Player of the Month**

Detailed News On Page-06



## Announces incentives Shehbaz says will work for better Pakistan

Takes oath as Prime Minister; Alvi on leave; Sanjrani administers oath; vows to have friendly ties with US, China, India and other countries

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Shehbaz Sharif took oath on Monday as the 23rd prime minister of Pakistan. He was administered the oath by Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani as President Arif Alvi complained of "discomfort", according to the president's Twitter account, hours before the oath-taking ceremony. Shehbaz was elected as the premier after the ouster of PTI Chairman Imran Khan through a no-confidence motion. Earlier in the day, Shehbaz secured 174 votes in the NA as opposed to PTI's candidate Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who received no votes after his party decided to boycott the polling process. In his maiden speech after being elected as Leader of the House this afternoon, he said he would also appeal to the business community to increase ten percent salary of their employees drawing less than one hundred thousand rupees per month with effect from this month. The Prime Minister-elect also announced to increase minimum wages up to 25,000 rupees per month. He said Benazir Card will be revived and extended linking it with education. He said the youth will be provided skills and technical education to become useful citizens of the country. Shehbaz Sharif also announced provision of subsidized flour under Ramazan package. The Prime Minister-elect said people have been suffering a lot due to high inflation and unemployment. During the last government, he said, six million people became unemployed and 20 million were pushed below the poverty line.

Continued on Page 06

## Resignations from PTI lawmakers pour in

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister Imran Khan has reportedly decided to tender his resignation as a member of the National Assembly ahead of the election for the new prime minister of Pakistan. The decision was reportedly made during the PTI's parliamentary party meeting. Sources privy to the matter quoted Khan as saying: "We will not sit in this Assembly under any circumstances." He said that PTI will not sit in the Assembly with the "people who have robbed Pakistan" and who have been "imported by foreign forces". "We have made this decision to keep the institutions under pressure who want this government to run the country [...] we will not let them continue." However, sources said that most of the parliamentary party members opposed Khan's decision to tender resignations, and instead, advised that they should not leave the field empty and face the Opposition strongly on every front.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani administers oath from Prime Minister elect Shehbaz Sharif at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

## Erdogan, Modi greet PM Shehbaz



ISLAMABAD: Soon after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was sworn in as prime minister of Pakistan, his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi congratulated the newly-elected premier, saying his country desired peace and stability in the region. Shehbaz became Pakistan's 23rd prime minister after receiving 174 votes from the lower house of the parliament. "Congratulations to H. E. Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on his election as the Prime Minister of Pakistan," PM Modi wrote on his official Twitter handle. The Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan also greeted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and wished his success. He said both countries enjoy excellent relations adding these relations would grow further. - DNA

## Pak condemns Indian killing spree in IIOJK

According to FO, more than 560 innocent Kashmiris had been martyred since the Indian illegal and actions of August 5, 2019

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan strongly condemned Indian occupation forces' relentless killing spree resulting in martyrdom of two more Kashmiri youth in Srinagar during a staged cordon and search operation on April 10, 2022. According to statement of the Foreign Office Spokesperson here on Monday, more than 560 innocent Kashmiris had been martyred by the occupation forces in staged encounters since, the Indian illegal and unilateral actions of August 5, 2019. The intensified military crackdown and the rising numbers of extra-judicial killings in fake encounters and staged operations in IIOJK were part of the extremist anti-Muslim designs of the "Hindutva" inspired BJP-RSS combine in India. Ironically, Kashmiri youth had been a specific target of the 900,000 strong Indian military force which was stationed in the IIOJK to muzzle the voice of the besieged Kashmiris.

Equally condemnable was the Indian Occupation forces' criminal act of opening fire at two Kashmiris inside a mosque compound in Handwara, Kupwara district on April 7, 2022. It was deplorable that during the holy month of Ramadan, the Indian occupation forces had rather intensified their repression against innocent Kashmiris. The unrelenting killings of the Kashmiri youth and willful attacks on Muslim worshippers including harassment and intrusive surveillance of those visiting the mosques were patent manifestations of the continuing blatant violations of the fundamental rights of the Kashmiris and the widely pervasive Islamophobia among the Indian Occupation forces in IIOJK. Through a dossier unveiled last year, Pakistan had provided to the world, incontrovertible evidence of the systemic oppression, human rights violations and war crimes committed by the Indian occupation forces in the IIOJK.

Continued on Page 06

## Sindh, KP governors resign

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Shah Farman Monday stepped down from office after the ouster of Imran Khan as the prime minister, with the country's political situation changing with every passing day. Farman, who has tendered his resignation to President Arif Alvi, was the 32nd governor of the province - and took the oath on September 5, 2018. Since joining PTI in 1995, Farman was elected to the provincial assembly, while he remained a minister from 2013 to 2018. The Sindh Governor Imran Ismael also sent his resignation to the President of Pakistan.

## Briefs Only Allah bestows grace on people

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan said on Monday that only The Almighty Allah bestows upon a person grace and dignity. He was responding to a question put by a reporter on his arrival at the Parliament House for chairing PTI's parliamentary party meeting as how he felt about party's countrywide power shows held yesterday (Sunday, April 10). PTI leaders, on the occasion, also chanted slogans in favour of Imran.

## Maryam says corrupt will be held accountable

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PML-N Vice President Maryam Nawaz has said that there will be no political victimization but there will be accountability. While talking to media outside the Parliament House where she came to attend assembly session on Monday, the PML-N vice president said that she was thankful to Allah that we got rid of an inept government. She said it was not old PML-N. She vowed that though the new government would not indulge in political revenge but it would hold accountability of all corrupt people. "Those who used to chug freight train from Lahore to Bani Gala will be held accountable," she added.

## Ukraine: Separatists claim control of the Mariupol port

Russian troops have for over a month besieged Mariupol on the shores of the Sea of Azov

NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: A pro-Russia rebel leader said Monday that separatist forces in eastern Ukraine have taken control of the port of the strategic city of Mariupol. "Regarding the port of Mariupol, it is already under our control," Denis Pushilin, leader of the separatists in the breakaway Donetsk region, said in televised remarks. Russian troops have for over a month besieged Mariupol on the shores of the Sea of Azov. Thousands of civilians are believed to have died there since the start of Russia's military operation in Ukraine. Eduard Basurin, a senior official in the rebel stronghold of Donetsk, said the remaining Ukrainian forces in Mariupol were concentrated in the city's large Azovstal metallurgical plant. Earlier Monday, Pushilin told journalists that separatist forces would intensify fighting in eastern Ukraine. Moscow has now made this area its primary target. "Now the operation will be intensified,"

Continued on Page 06

## Zelensky warns of new offensive

DNA

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has warned of a ramped-up Russian offensive in his country's east, with civilians rushing to flee the region ahead of what many fear could be a brutal new phase in the war. Russia has deployed tens of thousands of troops to "prepare new attacks," Zelenskyy warned on Monday, a day after he vowed his country's troops were prepared to "respond" to the fresh assault Moscow's forces appeared poised to launch in eastern Ukraine.

Continued on Page 06

## Challenges ahead for the Shehbaz Sharif government

ANALYSIS

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Punjab being the biggest province holds a key to success of governments at the federal level. Imran Khan when came to power decided to keep control of the Punjab province in his own hands by appointing a 'puppet' chief minister. Usman Buzdar virtually failed to deliver good governance. Law and order and especially corruption touched new heights during his tenure. It was in fact a starting point of differences between Imran Khan and the establishment. Everybody wanted Buzdar to be replaced by some dab hands but Imran Khan turned a deaf ear to all such calls. He announced to replace Buzdar at a time when his own ship was about to sink. His intransigence to continue with Buzdar cost him his government. PML N President Shehbaz Sharif has

been elected as the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He would like to stay in power for the rest of the tenure if things go well. As his close aides would suggest, he wants to call early elections but if his son grabs Chief Minister slot in the Punjab province then the father and son may wish to stay in power for rest of one year and four months period. The PTI MPs have resigned from the National Assembly therefore the PML N and allies government will have no resistance whatsoever while doing legislation. But at the same time, the PTI would continue to exert pressure on the government to hold early elections.

The biggest challenge for Shehbaz Sharif unequivocally would be the economic challenge. If I say that the only one single factor that led to unpopularity of Imran Khan was the dollar factor, won't be wrong. It was not a prudent move when the Imran Khan govt allowed a free movement of the dollar. The idea was to boost Pakistani exports and decrease imports. But ironically the idea backfired. In that situation the govt was required to do some damage control but instead it just saw the dollar playing havoc. The

Shehbaz Sharif government will be facing the same threat therefore their damage control measures should be much effective than that of the PTI government if they really would like to deal with this monster. During the previous PML N regime the then Finance Minister Ishaq Dar was able to keep the dollar between Rs 100 to 115. People don't care about any monetary backlash in case the dollar is controlled through artificial arrangements; they simply want to have access to basic amenities at a low price. On foreign policy matters, the new government is likely to do well since PML N enjoys excellent relations with Saudi Arabia, China, UAE and even European Union. It will also try to mend fences with the USA. Similarly, Pakistan's relations with the Central Asian states and brother country Azerbaijan have witnessed new heights. Pakistan accords huge importance to its ties with these neighboring states, which indeed makes sense as we can do together a host of things ranging from diversification of trade activities to greater connectivity. Imran Khan too contributed greatly towards building new linkages with the Central Asia by visiting

these countries and inviting heads of these states to Pakistan. Hopefully, the new government will try to preserve and protect these relations. Corruption happens to be Pakistan's number one problem. Rather, it has been a number one problem all along but intriguingly no government ever tried to put an end or at least minimize quantum of this menace, the reason being obvious that everybody seemed to be involved. The PML N and his allies have vowed to introduce better governance system, which is free from all these ills. If they are able to do so, it will indeed be a great service to this country and the nation as well. Political independence comes with the economic independence. Shehbaz Sharif in his recent speech rightly said that beggars cannot be the choosers. Now he has got an opportunity of taking Pakistan out of the list of beggars. As regards the composition of the government, of course all allies will have their pie. In normal circumstances it would be next to impossible to gather all these parties on a single platform since all of them have diametrically different views on almost all issues. It therefore

can rightly be called an 'unnatural' alliance. In the past all these parties have accused one another of being even 'traitors' and 'thugs'. My understanding is that their alliance is for only a short period of time. They all are likely to contest the general elections with a different game plan and with alliances of their own choosing. The new government intends to make changes in the electoral laws by disallowing the overseas Pakistanis to cast their votes. Similarly it also wants to clip wings of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB). The incumbent NAB chief will be replaced for sure since he has already completed his term. The govt may also disallow Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in the next elections. All said and done, I personally don't think the government will be allowed to introduce all such changes. In this case even the govt allies may create hurdles. The Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in his inaugural speech resolved to clear the mess created by the previous government. Let us hope and wish that the new set up brings hope and prosperity for the people of Pakistan.

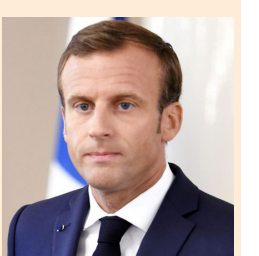
## Macron wins 27.85% in French first round

Far-left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon came in third at 21.95 percent

PARIS: Emmanuel Macron won 27.85 percent of votes in the first round of France's presidential election, while far-right veteran Marine Le Pen scored 23.15 percent, according to final results from the interior ministry on Monday. The results allow both to advance to a run-off, while far-left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon came in third at 21.95 percent, knocking him out of the first round but still a higher score than many polls had predicted. Analysts say his electorate will be key for determining how Macron and Le Pen will fare in the second round on April 24. Among the nine other

candidates only one scored above five percent, the upstart far-right media pundit Eric Zemmour, who obtained 7.07 percent and has called on his voters to support Le Pen. Next was Valerie Pécresse of the conservative Republicans at 4.78 percent, below the five percent threshold for having campaign spending largely reimbursed by the state. On Monday, she issued an emergency plea for donations to ensure her party's survival, saying she personally had racked

Continued on Page 06





## Briefs

PSX gains  
1,700 points to  
close at 46,144  
points

ISLAMABAD: The KSE 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 1,700.38 points, with a positive change of 3.83 percent, closing at 46,144.96 points against 44,444.58 points on the last working day. A total of 557,672,451 shares were traded during the day compared to the trade of 227,885,722 shares the previous day whereas the price of shares stood at Rs13.362 billion against Rs6.785 billion on last trading day. As many as 386 companies transacted shares in the stock market, 330 of them recorded gain and 45 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 11 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with a volume of 140,797,500 shares and price per share of Rs2.13, Cnergyco PK with a volume of 40,149,171 and price per share of Rs6.00 and Fauji Cement with volume of 18,176,500 and price per share of Rs17.86. Bata (Pak) witnessed a maximum increase of Rs145.19 per share, closing at Rs2,484.39 whereas the runner up was Raffhan Maize, the share prices of which climbed up by Rs100 to Rs11,500. GatronInd witnessed maximum decrease of Rs30.23 closing at Rs471.67 followed by Mitchells Fruit, the share price of which declined by Rs9.21 to close at Rs118.82. - APP

Bardana  
distribution  
starts in  
Faisalabad

FAISALABAD: Distribution of Bardana (gunny bags) has been started in district Faisalabad on Monday to accomplish wheat procurement target within stipulated time period. Visiting wheat procurement center No.3, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ali Shehzad said that all necessary arrangements had been completed to commence wheat procurement drive from April 13 (Wednesday). He said that 11 wheat procurement centers were established across the district to purchase wheat from the wheat growers at support price of Rs.2200 per 40 kg. In this connection, issuance of Bardana had been started from all procurement centers and the farmers could obtain gunny bags according to their produce, he added. He also directed the Food department staff to facilitate the growers at wheat procurement centers by dealing them politely and providing them all necessary facilities including proper shadow and seating capacity. He said that strict monitoring of wheat procurement drive would be ensured and no lethargy, negligence and delinquency would be tolerated at any cost, he added. - APP

199  
shopkeepers  
fined, three  
arrested

FAISALABAD: Price control magistrates on Monday imposed a fine of Rs 439,000 on 199 shopkeepers and arrested three profiteers in the district. A spokesman for the district administration said magistrates inspected 3,786 shops in different markets and bazaars, and found 199 shopkeepers involved in profiteering and overcharging. The magistrates imposed a total fine of Rs 439,000 on them and arrested three profiteers. - APP

70-year-old  
man set on  
fire in Chiniot

## DNA

CHINIOT: A 70-year-old man on Monday sustained critical burns after he was set on fire by a suspect over some monetary dispute in Lalian tehsil, Chiniot. The incident took place in the Muhammadwala police precincts," police said. "The injured was identified as Sultan. A suspect named Wajid poured petrol on him and set him on fire over monetary dispute. A case was registered against the accused," they added. "Sultan was shifted to THQ Hospital where the doctors referred him to Allied Hospital, Faisalabad due to lack of burn unit in the THQ hospital," they stated.

UNFPA humanitarian director  
visits BHU in Peshawar

Construction of 24 projects for the provision of non-existent facilities under the auspices of School Education will be completed in the same financial year

## OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Ms. Shoko Arakaki, Director of UNFPA's Humanitarian Office in Geneva visited the UNFPA-supported government Basic Health Unit (BHU), Phandu in district Peshawar and interacted with women and girls from Afghan refugee and hosting communities to hear from them on the quality of services provided, the challenges in accessing reproductive health and protection services and solutions they propose. She also met with midwives, psychologists and social mobilizers who are attending deliveries, providing psycho-social support and referrals to GBV survivors and at-risk groups, and raising awareness among communities about the available services. She appreciated their commitment to serve the women and girls in need in the remote areas of the province.

Ms. Arakaki also met with representatives of UNFPA partner organizations including Provincial Disaster Management Authority



(PDMA), Department of Health (DoH), Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) and Prime Foundation to discuss the progress on existing interventions and explore ways of scaling up the partnerships around ensuring repro-

ductive health, rights and prevention and response to gender-based violence is integrated into preparedness and response to emergencies in the province. "We must be accountable for women and girls who suffer most during disasters and

emergencies. Rights and health of women and girls are at the heart of UNFPA's work. We will only be able to achieve Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 if we continue to work in partnerships through innovative and multi-sectoral approaches.

I am certain that our partnerships in the province will grow stronger owing to our common vision of serving and meeting the health and protection needs of women and girls in refugee and hosting communities." Ms. Arakaki added.

It is worth mentioning that BHU Phandu, functions 24/7 and it is one of the eight government health facilities in KP, where UNFPA, with support of its partner Sarhad Rural Support Program (SRSP), is providing comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care (CEmONC) services and psychosocial support, multi sectoral referrals and community mobilization services in refugee hosting communities. The BHU receives around 1,600 out patients every month and one delivery is attended every day on average. Psychologists conduct counseling sessions with 15 to 20 women every month on average. The UNFPA and department of health KP also signed documents to hand-over the four fully-equipped and prefabricated Women-Friendly Health Spaces, Labor Room and OPD unit for installation in the remote and rugged region of Tirah Valley in the newly merged districts of KP province to cater the health needs of temporarily displaced women and girls who are now returning to their homes.

FIEDMC offering best  
possible facilities

Regarding FDI, he said that our focus is to attract maximum foreign investment and in this connection the apprehension of foreign companies would be redressed on top priority basis by providing them much needed confidence and

## ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: Best possible facilities are being offered in different industrial estates developed by the Faisalabad Industrial Estate Development & Management Company (FIEDMC), said Mr. Zafar Iqbal Sarwar, Chairman BOD of the FIEDMC. Presiding over 118th Board meeting, he welcomed the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Manzar Javed Ali and hoped that

he would give productive input for the early and speedy colonization of industrial estates. He also briefed about the progress on the decisions taken during the last Board meeting and said that federal and provincial governments are extending full cooperation to provide electricity, gas and other utilities in addition to the provision of other basic and fundamental facilities. He hoped that these measures would yield positive results as FIEDMC was

in touch with the Government for the early completion of the under construction projects and works. The BOD also sanctioned different development and construction related projects. Mr. Zafar Iqbal Sarwar hoped that a positive improvement would be visible in the FIEDMC which would also spur the industrial, commercial and economic activities in this region. Regarding FDI, he said that our focus is to attract maximum foreign investment

and in this connection the apprehension of foreign companies would be redressed on top priority basis by providing them much needed confidence and security. Mr. Zafar Iqbal Sarwar said that the entire team of FIEDMC is exploiting its best capabilities to reactivate and play its pivotal role in providing all basic and fundamental facilities at the door step of industrial units established in the different industrial zones of the FIEDMC.

PTI throngs the  
streets of Gujrat

## YOUSUF BHUTTA

GUJRAT: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on Sunday took out rallies in several cities of the country to protest against the ouster of former prime minister and party chairman Imran Khan through an allegedly foreign funded vote of no-confidence the previous night. It is reported that supporters and workers of PTI on Sunday night began to pour into the streets of Gujrat in a show of support for the ousted premier Imran Khan. Tens of thousands of protesters including women and children turned up at GTS Chowk Gu-

jratt and expressed solidarity with the ousted prime minister. The crowd chanted slogans against Pakistan Democratic Movement chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and the heads of other political parties. PTI MPA from Gujrat city Choudhary Saleem Sarwar Jaura, PTI leader Mudassar Machiana, Al-Hajj Muhammad Afzal Gondal, Mohsin Butt, Mirza Farooq Sohail, and others were also present in the rally. Similar protests were recorded in various adjacent towns of Gujrat district including Kunjah, Lalamusa, Kharian, Jalalpur Jattan, Kotla Arab Ali Khan, Tanda, Karianwala and Bhagowal etc.

'Govt taking  
steps to promote  
tourism in  
Shangla'

Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has announced several mega developmental projects for Shangla which is likely to start soon

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Labour and Culture Shaukat Yousafzai Monday said that he is taking all possible steps to promote tourism in Shangla which would help to create multiple jobs in the area. The developmental works on far flung communication roads are underway in several areas which would facilitate and relieve the public in this regard. The Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has announced several mega developmental projects for Shangla which is likely to start soon. He expressed these views while addressing a public gathering at Alpuri Shangla during a party joining programme. He was accompanied by the district president PTI Waqar Khan and senior Vice President Malakand Division Sadeed Urehaman. The Minister for labour and culture welcomed the newly joined group and said that

there are multiple opportunities in the tourism sector which could help to create jobs for the local community. The minister reiterated that record developmental projects are carried out in the district which would bring prosperity opportunities in the area soon after its completion. - APP



MULTAN: PML-N leaders and workers celebrating the victory of PML-N President Mian Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif after being elected as new Prime Minister of Pakistan. - APP

Roadside "Iftars" return to  
streets as COVID cases fell sharply

ISLAMABAD: All-out return of roadside "Iftars" amidst a sharp decline in the coronavirus cases feed thousands of fasting persons on the country's streets in an environment of sharing and compassion. Such festivity has also returned to the streets of twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad where the philanthropists roll out long sheets almost an hour prior to the sunset. Around 10 to 15 minutes before the

'Maghrib Azan', the sheets filled with dates, food, snacks, fruits and sweet beverages get fully occupied by the passers-by, labourers and others. This reflects that the end of the coronavirus related restrictions has brought the spirit of Ramadan and aroma of food back to the twin cities' streets. Pakistan is among the most generous nations of the world and such joint "Iftars" are main feature of the holy month

of Ramadan observed by the Muslims here and across the globe with great religious fervor and enthusiasm. In Islamabad, green belts along the different roads are used for 'Iftars' while in Rawalpindi 'dastarkhwan' are set up at major markets and arteries including Commercial Market, Sixth Road, Saddar and Murree Road. "Long sheets laden with platters having fruits, snacks, dates and fritters are spread

just an hour before the "Azan" of "Maghrib" so that maximum people can benefit from the facility," a philanthropist, who did not want to be named, told APP on Friday at Committee Chowk Rawalpindi. He said he could not arrange the roadside 'Iftar' during the last two Ramazans due to the coronavirus restrictions, imposed by the local administration. The philanthropist thanked to Almighty for providing him

opportunity again by subsidizing the pandemic. Another volunteer Attique Afridi, who arranges "Iftar" near Sector G-9 Metro Bus Station daily, said a large number of people were served rice, dates, fritters, beverages and other food items. Afridi said such religious activities did not only help poor and needy but were also imperative to promote the spirit of charity and sharing in the country. - APP

Opposition  
withdraws no  
confidence  
motion  
against CM

PESHAWAR: The joint opposition parties here Monday withdrew no confidence motion against Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan. A letter signed by the opposition leaders including members provincial assembly Sardar Hussain Babak, Khushdil Khan and Sobia Shahid addressed to the Secretary Provincial Assembly has decided to withdraw the no confidence motion against the Chief Minister. - APP

Wani  
concerned  
over situation  
in IIOJK

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Senior All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) leader Ataf Hussain Wani while voicing his concern over the stepped-up human rights violations and state-terrorism in the Indian occupied territory of Jammu and Kashmir said that the Modi led fascist regime was hell bent to choke every dissenting voice in Kashmir through the use of its repressive state apparatus and draconian laws enforced in the state.

In a statement the APHC leader said under a new wave of state oppression, Indian occupation forces were harassing and humiliating worshippers in the mosques. Referring to the recent incidents in which Indian forces barged into mosques at Kupwara and Srinagar Wani said two civilians were injured when Indian forces opened fire on worshippers in the Mosque premises in Handwara whereas 13 Kashmiris were arrested for raising pro-freedom and anti-India slogans at the historic Jamia Masjid in Srinagar.

APBUMA  
welcomes  
Shahbaz as  
new PM

FAISALABAD: Central Chairman of All Pakistan Bedsheet and Upholstery Manufacturers Association (APBUMA) Arif Ehsan Malik has welcomed Shahbaz Sharif as new Prime Minister of Pakistan and hoped that the new PM would strive hard for the progress and prosperity of the country. In a statement on Monday, APBUMA Chairman said that Shahbaz Sharif was elected as 23rd PM of Pakistan with 174 votes which clearly indicated that he was a favorite leader in the parliament. He also hailed verdict of apex court and said that in-time decision of Supreme Court saved the country from political as well as economic setback. He hoped that new PM would also review the decision of State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) regarding increase in interest rate so that national economy could be saved from destabilization. - APP

Islamabad POST  
Available in  
following cities

ISLAMABAD  
Qamar News Agency  
03105460372

RAWALPINDI  
Asim News Agency  
03435802610

KARACHI  
Nazir Siyal  
03337554016

PESHAWAR  
Zarbagh News Agency  
03005412069

FAISALABAD  
Ishfaq Mughal  
03007689850

GUJRAT  
M. Yousuf Bhutta  
03338436820

JHELUM  
Iqrash News Agency  
03005412069

KHARIAN  
Ijaz News Agency  
03068863870

LALAMUSA  
Gulzar Ahmed Noshi  
03359494788

SARA-I-ALMAGIR  
0300 5428178



**National Days and Armed Forces Days**

- 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



**Emergency**

- Rescue (Police).....15
- Bomb Disposal.....15
- Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16
- Emergency Ambulance.....1122
- & Rescue Services.....4451122
- Motorway Police.....9266044
- Motorway Police.....9270601-20
- Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
- Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



**Enquiry**

- Edhi Ambulance.....115
- PIA Flight Info.....114
- PIA Cargo.....9280979
- Railway Inquiry.....117
- Railway Exchange 9270831-5
- WASA Rawalpindi.....5555489
- CAA.....9281092



**Hospitals**

- CMH.....5611111
- MH.....5611116
- Cantt Hospital.....9270907-11
- DHQ.....5556311-4
- RGH.....9290301-7
- Holy Family.....9290322-7
- PIMS.....9261170-79
- Polyclinic.....9218300-09
- Shifa International.....4603666



**Departments**

- CDA.....9221334-43
- CDA.....9208301-04
- Met Office.....9250360-6
- RDA.....5555864
- TMA.....5770886
- Cantonment Board 9270151-3

**Islamabad Metropolitan**

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

**Water Tank**

- Islamabad.....0321-5744480

## King Salman relief center starts food security project

This project comes under the umbrella of humanitarian projects by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center to assist needy families and Achieving food security for the neediest groups in Pakistan

**KHAYAM ABBASI**

ISLAMABAD: King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (Ksrelief) has launched a project to support food Security by distributing 75,000 food packages in three phases with the collaboration of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in all provinces of Pakistan. According to a press release issued by Embassy of Saudi

Arabia in Islamabad on Monday, in first phase 25,000 food packages will be distributed in the holy month of Ramadan. The project will benefit about 175,000 people in 09 districts of Sindh, 03 districts of Punjab and earthquake victims of district Roundu of Gilgit-Baltistan. The food bags will be distributed under the supervision of Ksrelief. The beneficiaries will be selected with the help of local government. Moreover, 25,000 food bags



مركز الملك سلمان للإغاثة والأعمال الإنسانية  
KING SALMAN HUMANITARIAN AID & RELIEF CENTRE

will be distributed in Badin, Tharparkar, Mirpurkhas, Umerkot, Sajawal, Sanghar, Shaheed Benazir Abad, Khairpur, Ghotki of Sindh province and Rajanpur, Muzaffargarh, Rahim Yar Khan of Punjab province and also

among earthquake affectees of district Roundu of Gilgit-Baltistan. Each package weighing 97 kgs contained 80kg of flour, cooking oil of 5 liters, 5kg of Sugar, 5kg of Daal/Chana, 2kgs of Dates which will be sufficient for

a family throughout the holy month of Ramadan. The second phase will start in July and 25,000 food packages will be distributed in KP and the third will commence in October 2022 to meet humanitarian food crises and needs across Pakistan. This project comes under the umbrella of humanitarian projects by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center to assist needy

families and Achieving food security for the neediest groups in Pakistan. It is pertinent to mention here that the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (Ksrelief) has provided humanitarian and development aid to more than 80 countries over four continents. With international, regional and local partners in place in recipient countries to implement Saudi's programmes and initiatives.

### IESCO notifies power suspension schedule

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Monday issued a power suspension schedule for Tuesday for various areas of its region due to necessary maintenance and routine development work. According to IESCO Spokesman, the power supply of different feeders and grid stations would remain suspended for the period from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Karpa, Alipur, Quaidabad, Pirwadhai, Bagh Sardaran, Carriage Factory, Sanghoi, Nathwala, Saifdar Shaheed, Machine Mohalla, Langarpur, Smoot, Galyana, New Kalliam, Old Kalliam. HPT-III, Industrial, Basali, Pindjatta, Chakral, Pepli, Blixar, CS Shah, Basharat, Adi Feeders, from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., DM Textile, Pir Sohawa Feeders and surroundings. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Turkish Ambassador Mustafa Yurdakul distributing 30 ton of food packages by Turkish Red Crescent in deserving families. - DNA

## CDA allocates Rs21 mln for beautification of green belts

ISLAMABAD: The Capital Development Authority (CDA) has allocated Rs21 million for beautification and preservation of green belts. The authority would soon float tenders in that regard in newspapers, its spokesman told APP on Monday. He said the CDA management has taken multiple steps to maintain and protect the natural beauty of Islamabad. The federal apex agency, he said would commence beautification work from green belts situated in sectors I-8/2, H-8/4. He said the green belts would be decorated with natural stone walls, allied works, landscaping and other materials to keep the area away from encroachments.



The protection of green belts was among the top priorities of the federal apex agency, the spokesman added. To a query, he said special drive to target encroachments established on the green belts and beyond the plot lines was also underway. The teams of the Enforcement Directorate were demolishing illegal car parking, building material depots and other encroachments from green belts in different sectors of Islamabad. Anti-encroachment drive was being participated by Islamabad Capital Territory administration MCI, the federal capital police and concerned formations, he maintained. - APP

## India's intransigence behind bloodshed in IIOJK: APHC

ISLAMABAD: The All Parties Hurriyat Conference General Secretary, Molvi Bashir Ahmad Irfani in IIOJK has expressed profound concern over rising Indian state terrorism in the territory. According to Kashmir Media Service, Molvi Bashir Ahmad Irfani in a statement issued in Srinagar said that Kashmiri people are peace-loving and it is Modi-led India which out of arrogance and intransigence has unleashed bloodshed in the occupied territory. He deplored that India's stubbornness was consuming innocent lives in the territory. The APHC General Secretary said "Communist Indian rulers are using inhuman tactics to suppress the peaceful struggle for Kashmir's freedom." He termed it a deep-rooted conspiracy to implicate Hurriyat leadership, journalist fraternity and youth in fake cases and detain them in jails to overcome the freedom sentiment. - APP

## Secy Info for capacity building of maximum officials

**STAFF REPORT**

ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Shahera Shahid on Monday underlined the need for augmenting the numbers of training courses for officers and officials of the ministry and its attached departments to enhance overall performance. Addressing the graduation ceremony of 3rd ex-cadre training course, she proposed to make the capacity building courses mandatory for all the officials of ministry and its attached departments. The secretary said only those officials should be considered for promotion who got training under such courses. She appreciated the Information Service Academy (ISA) for conducting capacity building courses to improve the performance of officials. On the occasion, as many as 16 officials from attached departments of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting were given certificates on completing the



refresher course. The refresher course was a three-month capacity building programme, which included workshops, hands-on trainings,

lectures on different issues, discussions and briefings, and visits to the media houses and NGOs (non-governmental organisations)

in the Federal Capital. The indoor graduation ceremony was also attended by the higher officials of the Ministry of Information and

Broadcasting, Director Training ISA Ghazala Ambreen shared the details of training courses conducted from January 17 to April 11.

## Efforts underway for uplift of merged areas

President BCCI Lali Shah, Vice-President BCCI, Miraj Uddin Khan, and executive members of the BCCI, attended the meeting

**STAFF REPORT**

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi Monday said that the steps were being taken to focus on the development of the erstwhile FATA to bring it at par with other areas of the country. The president, talking to a delegation of the Bajaur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), which called on him, at

Aiwan-e-Sadr, called for facilitating and providing a congenial business and investment environment to the business community of the newly merged districts for the enhancement of trade and business activities in the country. President BCCI Lali Shah, Vice-President BCCI, Miraj Uddin Khan, and executive members of the BCCI, attended the meeting. The president said that despite limited resources and a global financial

crunch, Pakistan provided maximum relief to the business community and vulnerable segments of society during the COVID-19 pandemic. The delegation apprised the president of the problems being faced by the trader and business community of Bajaur district. It was informed that the business community of Bajaur was facing difficulties in getting loans from commercial banks. They also highlighted the need to open trading points with Afghan-

istan to enhance bilateral trade with the neighbouring countries. Addressing the meeting, the president said that the business community needed to benefit from the loans being offered by the government. The young entrepreneurs can also avail business loans on easy terms and conditions to establish their businesses. He also encouraged the businessmen to adopt modern business practices which would help in-

crease the outreach of their businesses, besides contributing to the socio-economic development of the country. The president also asked the trader community to help encourage the youth of Bajaur to benefit from the digiskills program of online skill development initiated by the Ministry of IT and Telecommunication. He assured the delegation to convey their issues to the relevant departments for their resolution.

## Rupee recovers Rs 1.76 against dollar

ISLAMABAD: Exchange rate of Pak rupee recovered by Rs1.76 against the US dollar in the interbank trading on Monday and closed at Rs182.92 against the previous day's closing of Rs184.68. According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollar in the open market were recorded at Rs185 and Rs186.6 respectively. Similarly, the price of the euro was depreciated by Rs1.29 and closed at Rs199.47 against the previous day's closing of Rs 200.76. The Japanese Yen lost two paises to close at Rs1.46, whereas a decrease of Rs2.54 was witnessed in the exchange rate of British Pound, which was traded at Rs238.11 as compared to its last closing of Rs240.65. The exchange rates of Emirates Dirham and Saudi Riyal decreased by 47 paises to close at Rs49.80 and Rs48.77 respectively. - APP

## FWO starts work on Rwp Ring Road project

RAWALPINDI: The Frontier Works Organization (FWO) on Monday started the construction work on Rawalpindi Ring Road project. The Chairman, Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) Tariq Mehmood Murtaza inaugurated the construction work and cut the ribbon at Thallian. On the occasion, Director General, RDA Tahir Zafar Abbasi, Chief Engineer RDA Dr. Habib ul Haq Randhawa, FWO team Incharge Col. Muhammad Irfan and others were also present. Tariq Mehmood Murtaza said that the construction work of 38.3 km long main carriageway from Baanth (N-5) to Thallian (M-2) under Rwp Ring Road project would be completed in two years under the supervision of RDA. He said RDA had awarded the contract of Rwp Ring Road worth Rs 22.8 billion to the FWO and requested the authorities concerned to complete the project within shortest possible time frame. He said the basic aim of the project was to ease traffic congestion on the roads of the twin cities, Rawalpindi and Islamabad. On the occasion, the Chief Engineer RDA Dr Habib ul Haq Randhawa giving a detailed briefing on Rwp Ring Road project informed that the length for this project would 38.3 km. The government of Punjab had approved the project which would be completed at a cost of Rs 33694.43 million. - APP

## Gold prices decline by Rs900 to Rs131,400 per tola

ISLAMABAD: The price of 24 karat per tola gold decreased by Rs900 and was sold at Rs131,400 on Monday against its sale at Rs132,300 in the local market the previous day. The price of 10 gram 24 karat gold decreased by Rs772 to Rs112,654 from Rs113,426 while that of 10 gram 22 karat also declined to Rs103,266 from Rs103,974, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs1520 and Rs1303.15 respectively. The price of gold in international market increased by \$5 and was traded at US\$1945 against its sale at US\$1948, the association reported. - APP

## 2 new corona cases reported

RAWALPINDI: Two more people were diagnosed with fatal coronavirus during the last 24 hours, raising the district's tally of confirmed cases to 46,517. As per the latest data released by the District Health Authority here on Monday, the total infected cases included 43,015 from Rawalpindi and 3,502 from other districts. The report said that one of each case had arrived from Taxila and the Potohar town area among the new patients. "Presently, only one confirmed patient is admitted to the Bilal Hospital." - APP



## Briefs

## PTI to win next elections

ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan on Monday said with the end of PTI government in Center, the party would now wage a new struggle with the support of the people. Talking at the parliamentary meeting of PTI here, the Chief Minister further said that Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf would triumph the next general elections and emerge victorious with two-third majority. Our struggle, he said was against the corruption. Mahmood Khan urged upon the party workers to restrain from criticizing the government institutions adding that all our institutions were much respectable for us. Mahmood Khan said people from all over the country were coming out to support Imran Khan which has no precedent in the past. The Chief Minister continued that on April 13, a big public gathering would be held in Peshawar that would be addressed by the PTI chief Imran Khan. He stressed upon the participants of the meeting to make this public gathering a historical event. He said it was the time to stand with our leader and vowed that we would stand with our Captain till the last breath. He said we did not want the old Pakistan and rather happy in new Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. - APP

## COVID jab, PCR test essential for Hajj: Official

ISLAMABAD: The aspirant pilgrims who had got COVID-19 vaccinations were eligible to proceed for Hajj to Saudi Arabia this year, said an official of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on Monday. Talking to APP, he informed that according to the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, the Hajj was open to those who had received approved COVID-19 vaccinations by the Saudi Ministry of Health.

He said the pilgrims were required to submit a negative COVID-19 PCR test result performed within 72 hours of the time of departure to the Saudi Arabia. The people above the age of 65 years could not perform Hajj this year, he added. He said the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah had instructed all the pilgrims to follow the health instructions and comply with precautionary measures to preserve their health and safety while performing the Hajj rituals. The official said it had authorized one million pilgrims, both foreign and domestic, to perform Hajj this year. According to the Saudi General Authority for Statistics, in 2021, 58,745 pilgrims performed Hajj rituals while 1,000 in 2020, he added. To a query about the Hajj quota for Pakistan, the official said the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah had not announced yet, although it was expected before the advent of Ramadan. - APP

## One wheeling going unnoticed in Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI: One wheeling going unnoticed on various roads of the city particularly after Iftar as motor bikers, mostly teenagers, continued to perform dangerous stunts and riding their motorcycles on one wheel on different roads of the city.

The one-wheelers were seen performing dangerous antics on the roads near AyubPark, Peshawar Road, Saddar, Murree Road and other areas especially during Ramzan nights and usually succeeded to dodge the police deployed on the roads. Despite all efforts of police to eliminate the activity, the trend of one-wheeling is increasing and growing at a very fast pace instead. Meanwhile, Chief Traffic Officer Naveed Irshad said that strict orders have been issued to all the traffic wardens, inspectors and Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) of all sectors to impound altered motorcycles prepared for wheelies from youngsters moving around the city roads and send the violators to jail. - APP

## PRCS distributes food packs among deserving families

A Solarized Water Filtration Plant also inaugurated in Pind Begwal village of Islamabad with the support of IFRC and ECHO

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) distributed food packs among deserving families at a ceremony held here at the National Headquarters on Monday. The food packs were distributed among 100 families as part of an initiative launched in collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) under which a total of 750 families will be provided with ration packs in Islamabad and Hari-pur during the holy month of Ramazan. Iftar Packs will also be provided to 2000 families under this initiative. Ambassador of Turkey Ihsan

Mustafa Yurdakul, PRCS Chairman Abrar ul Haq, Head of Turkish Red Crescent in Pakistan Ibraheem Carlos, PRCS and TRC officials and volunteers attended the ceremony. In his address on the occasion, Chairman Abrar ul Haq said the PRCS has been serving the suffering humanity across country to the best of its capabilities and without any discrimination. He said the PRCS officers and trained volunteers have the unique honour of being the first to reach and last to leave the troubled spots in the wake of any disaster or emergency situation in any part of the country. Abrar ul Haq said the holy

month of Ramazan affords an opportunity to the faithful to win Allah Almighty's boundless blessings by serving the deserving people. He said every year, the PRCS distributes food packs among the deserving families in collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent. He said the TRC has supported several development and humanitarian interventions in Pakistan for decades. He wished a stronger partnership between PRCS and TRC in future to ensure a better future to the vulnerable segments of the society. "Together, we have to work for the betterment of our communities with greater commitment and

dedication," he added. In his speech, Turkish Ambassador Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul said that this ceremony is the expression of solidarity with the deserving people of Pakistan amid these challenging times. "The quantity of food packs being distributed may not be that huge, but what matters is the demonstration of close relations and brotherhood between the people of Pakistan and Turkey," he said, adding that the TRC has reached out to thousands of people in Pakistan in the time of need in the recent years. The ambassador hailed the PRCS for its services towards the suffering humanity.

Later, Ambassador Ihsan Mustafa Yurdakul, Chairman Abrar ul Haq distributed ration packs among the deserving families. On Monday, PRCS also inaugurated a solarized water filtration plant in Pind Begwal village of Islamabad. The water filtration plant was built by PRCS in collaboration with International Federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), to facilitate the communities residing in Pind Begwal.

with the communities on the occasion, PRCS Chairman Abrar ul Haq said that It was a great pleasure for him to inaugurate the solar water filtration plant that is envisioned to uplift the quality of life for the targeted communities, instilling a sense of hope for a healthier future. He said the water filtration plant will provide safe drinking water with the capacity of producing 1000 gallons per hour and the solar panel will also generate free of cost electricity for 200 street lights in the village. Abrar-ul-Haq thanked ICRC, IFRC, Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Partners, ECHO and all the other external partners for supporting PRCS in its humanitarian endeavors across Pakistan.

## 3 bikers killed by speeding dumper

ISLAMABAD: Three youths were killed when a speeding dumper truck ramed into their motorcycle on Ferozpur Road in Lahore on Monday. As per details, Rescue 1122 said that the accident occurred on Ferozpur road where a rashly-driven dumper hit a speeding dumper hit a motorcycle from behind, as a result of which 3 persons died on the spot while a youth was injured. Police and rescue teams reached the spot and shifted bodies to the morgue, a private news channel reported. According to rescue sources, the dead have not been identified yet. The driver of the dumper managed to escape from the scene after the accident. - APP

## Surra Dam to address water scarcity

ISLAMABAD: The first of its kind rainwater harvesting project of Surra Dam will address the water scarcity and irrigation issues of Taunsa Tehsil of District Dera Ghazi Khan as the dam has the potential to store a large quantity of water. The Surra Dam would provide water to people of Taunsa in abundant quantity, besides ensuring development of agriculture sector, adding, "The Surra dam project will prove to be a game-changer for the area", an official of the Punjab Government told APP.

The Punjab government, he said has decided to initiate Surra Dam project near Sanghar town of Dera Ghazi Khan District to store hill-torrents water in the district which would be used for agriculture and irrigation purposes. "The torrential floods are major concern in the area during monsoon and abrupt rain spells. The dam will be constructed to store the hill-torrents' water in Dera Ghazi Khan", he added. The Punjab government has directed that the feasibility study of the Surra dam project should be completed at the earliest. The Punjab government would start the Surra dam as a pilot project to conserve rainwater that went down the drain during the rainy season. He added it was very important to utilize this water after storing it. The project would also generate jobs for the local people to earn their livelihood. He said the dam construction would also promote tourism in the area. - APP

## IRSA releases 99150 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD: Indus River System Authority (IRSA) Monday released 99150 cusecs water from various rim stations with an inflow of 98115 cases. According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in the Jhelum River at Mangla Dam was 1088.25 feet, which was 38.25 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet whereas the inflow and outflow of water was recorded a 31134 and 32969 cusecs respectively. The release of water at Kalabagh, Taunsa and Sukkur was recorded as 49108, 26011 and 22560 cases respectively. Similarly, from the Kabul River, a total of 14000 cusecs of water was released at Nowshera and 19081 cusecs released from the Chenab River at Marala. - APP

## PTI lawmakers to tender resignation

## DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Farukh Habib said on Monday that PTI parliamentary party had decided to resign from the assemblies. In a tweet, he said the PTI would not accept this "imported government."

## LalChowk massacre a gruesome act against humanity

ISLAMABAD: LalChowk massacre of 1993 is still considered as one of the gristliest incidents of brutality and gross human rights violations committed by Indian forces in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IOJK), exposing the repugnant masquerade of the Indian government.

According to Kashmir Media Service, on April 10, 1993, a large section of downtown Srinagar known as LalChowk was burnt to the ground by Indian paramilitary troops. More than 60 houses, five commercial buildings, 150 shops, two official buildings, shrines, schools were completely burnt to ashes. A total of 47 innocent civilians were burnt alive and over 125 were killed by Indian Border Security Forces (BSF). This massacre was consistent with the policy of repression and subjugation by the government of India and its collaborators to silence the people's resistance against the illegal occupation, according to experts. They were of the

view that India had purposefully adopted laws and policies that systematically discriminated against Muslims, turning India into an unsafe place for the Muslims. Besides, Indian judicial system was sanctioned that failed to provide justice to the Muslims and due to this, convicted criminals of LalChowk massacre were still freely moving in India. India has been the largest violator of the human rights. From Kashmir to mainland India, minorities rights had been violated under the patronage of Indian state. "Indian army doesn't regard international humanitarian laws and violates human rights with sheer impunity. India disrespects international laws and international norms and has become a threat to regional peace.

Excessive chauvinism and pseudo-pride have engulfed the whole state; thus, India acts irrationally on the global stage and uses disinformation to hide its heinous crimes," the experts opined. - APP

## Pakistan earns 434m by exporting transport services

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan earned US \$434.015 million by providing different transport services in various countries during the first seven months of financial year (2021-22) as compared to the corresponding period of last year.

This shows growth of 23.32 percent as compared to \$351.935 million earned through provision of services during the corresponding period of fiscal year (2020-21), Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. During the period under review, the exports of sea transport services witnessed an increase of 29.62 percent, by going up from \$51.680 million last year to \$66.990 million during the period under review.

Among the sea transport services, the exports of freight services increased by 96.03 percent from \$19.640 million last year to \$38.500 million whereas the exports of other sea transport services however decrease by 11.08 percent from \$32.040 million to \$28.490 million current year, the PBS data revealed. The exports of air transport rose by 24.78 per-

cent by going up from \$283.195 million last year to \$353.375 million during July-January (2021-22). Among the air transport services, the exports of passenger services increased by 27.63 percent, from \$182.320 million to \$232.690 million, whereas the exports of freight services dipped by 4.93 percent, from \$19.060 million to \$18.120 million, in addition the export of other air transport services increased by 25.36 percent from \$81.815 million to \$102.656 million.

Meanwhile, the exports of road transport services during the period under review witnessed a decline of 11.51 percent by going down from \$10.690 million to \$9.460 million during this year, it added. Among the road transport services, the exports of freight services decreased by 73.25 percent, from \$7.440 million to \$1.990 million during the fiscal year under review, while the export of postal and courier services also decreased by 34.22 percent, from \$6.370 million to \$4.190 million, the data revealed. - APP



RAWALPINDI: Women on a queue to purchase sugar during Holy fasting month of Ramadan ul Mubarak at Sasta Ramadan Bazar Shamabad. - DNA

## Reviving economy should be top priority: ICCI

ISLAMABAD: Reviving the economy and putting it on the path of sustainable growth should be the top priority of the new government as making the economy stable and resilient is the key for a better future of Pakistan. This was said by Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI). In a statement issued here Monday, he said that currently the economy of Pakistan was facing multiple challenges

including unbearable local and foreign debt, rising inflation, falling value of rupee, declining foreign exchange reserves, growing fiscal imbalances and dwindling foreign direct investments. He said these challenges required that the new government should immediately engage the private sector in the consultation process to evolve a comprehensive strategy for economic revival of the country. He urged for making all economic

policies by taking the business community fully on board that would help in creating a conducive environment for the growth of business and economic activities. Jamshaid Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President ICCI said that the new Finance Minister after assuming charge should immediately start visiting the major Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the country starting such visits

from ICCI to consult with the business community and get their input before finalizing the upcoming budget. They urged the new government to focus on reducing high tax rates and broadening the tax base in the upcoming budget to improve the tax revenue of the country. They said that the budget should facilitate promotion of business and investment activities instead of putting more tax burden on the existing taxpayers. - APP

## Advanced Dental Laboratory with Chinese technology inaugurated

ISLAMABAD: The Advanced Dental Laboratory at Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS) Jamshoro was inaugurated at LUMHS Advanced Dental Care Center equipped with the Chinese technology, according to report published by Gwadar Pro. Vice Chancellor, Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences Jamshoro, Professor Dr Ikram Din Ujjan inaugurated the Laboratory.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, the VC said that dental treatment

was highly expensive and beyond the reach of poor people.

He mentioned that people cannot afford dental treatment in private clinics and hospitals therefore LUMHS management had established the dental laboratory. He informed that artificial teeth of patients will be

made at 70 percent discount in this laboratory which was equipped with the latest Chinese technology.

Professionist Ujjan told the audience that a tooth which costs Rs.12,000 in a private laboratory will be made here at Rs.2,500. "LUMHS Dental Laboratory is a complete and modern

dentistry laboratory in which all kinds of teeth will be made. Its advanced machinery has been imported from China and some from Germany," he added. Dean of Dentistry LUMHS Professor Feroz Kalhoro, Chairman Prosthodontics Professor Aamir Mehmood Butt, Dr Irifan Sheikh, Professor Kashif Channa, Professor Amir Iqbal Memon, Dr Asif Gulzar, Professor Munir Banglani, Professor Rizwan Memon, Professor Shahzad, Azar Akbar Memon, Rahim Sheikh and Sharif Baig were also present on the occasion. - APP



## IHC dismisses petition seeking Khan's name on ECL

At the outset of hearing, the chief justice asked the petitioner that why he wanted to politicise the subject, adding that the state was as strong to view such matters

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday dismissed a petition seeking orders for registration of high treason case against former prime minister Imran Khan and his former cabinet members, and placing their names on exit control list in 'letter gate' matter.

The court declared the petition as non-maintainable and imposed a fine worth Rs,100,000 against the petitioner citizen Molvilqbal Haider. Chief Justice Athar Minallah announced the ver-



dict which was reserved earlier by the court after

listening arguments from the petitioner.

The citizen had prayed the court to also place the names of ex-ministers including Chaudhry Fawad Hussain, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Qasim Suri and Asad Majeed on ECL after registering high treason case against them.

At the outset of hearing, the chief justice asked the petitioner that why he wanted to politicise the subject, adding that the state was as strong to view such matters. The court in its decision said that the petitioner had leveled baseless alle-

gations against an elected prime minister. It was the responsibility of every citizen for not politicising and create thrill in national security issues. Dragging ambassadors and their classified reports into political disputes could weaken the national interests.

The court also stopped the petitioner for comparing Imran Khan with ex-president Pervez Musharraf and said that Imran Khan was a democratic elected prime minister. The petitioner had adopted the stance that if the gov-

ernment had received the letter on March 27, then it should have investigated it. The court said it was a cable instead of a letter. The petitioner further said that Imran Khan remained silent when the no confidence move was submitted against him. He said it was necessary to interrogate the matter as it was related to foreign policy and relations with US.

Earlier, the court reversed the judgment and later on dismissed the case while declaring it as non-maintainable. - APP



## What next for PTI?

THE Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf on Monday decided to resign from the National Assembly, minutes before the election for the new prime minister is scheduled to place. The decision was taken in a party's parliamentary meeting, which was chaired by PTI Chairman Imran Khan, at the Parliament House. Immediately after the announcement, Murad Saeed tendered his resignation as member of the NA – the first from the party. Former maritime affairs minister Ali Haider Zaidi also followed suit, announcing his resignation on Twitter. He said he had submitted his resignation to the party chairman. "No way we should legitimise this foreign-funded regime change in Pakistan. The battle for the sovereignty of Pakistan will now be decided on the streets by the people, not the looters," he said. Former minister for Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Ali Amin Gandapur also shared a photo of his resignation on the party's letterhead. "I am proud to be a follower of Imran Khan and will fight till my death for the freedom of Pakistan and parliament," he said. PTI leaders Shireen Mazari, Hammad Azhar, and Shafiqat Mahmood shared their resignations on Twitter too. Yesterday, PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry had said that the decision to resign was tied to the acceptance of PML-N President Shehbaz Sharif's nomination papers for prime minister's elections, to which the PTI had raised objections. He said it was a "great injustice" that Shehbaz would be contesting the election for the prime minister on the same day he is to be indicted in a money laundering case. The elections will also be setting the course for the PTI's next moves. It seems they will be sticking to the 'imported government' slogan, since they have little to show for their time in government. We have previously cautioned against using certificates of patriotism as a political tool: it will not end well, and could easily put people's lives in danger. At the moment, the PTI is looking at street agitation but if the party thinks that street protest is enough and can replace parliamentary space, it needs to learn from history – and critically evaluate its own support base. Protests can only go on for some time – especially in the summer and especially in this economy – but political representation is done in parliament. We hope that some sense prevails and we see a return to normal parliamentary practices with the PTI and Imran Khan finally realizing the importance of parliament, which they all but ignored for four years in government. That in itself will be a hugely positive outcome of all that transpired the past week in the country's politics.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 287

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



## First round of French voting

MORE than 48 million French citizens are entitled to cast ballots in the first round of the presidential elections – a pivotal moment in determining the future course of Europe's second largest economy and only nuclear-armed nation. While 12 candidates are running in this initial stage, only the top two will go ahead to battle for the presidency in the second round of voting on April 24. And as things stand now, this first round of voting looks as if incumbent Emmanuel Macron and right-wing National Rally leader Marine Le Pen will contest that ballot. There is also an outside chance that leftist Jean-Luc Melenchon might pip Le Pen. All indications on Sunday pointed to a lower-than-expected voter turnout, perhaps showing that voters believe that the first round is a foregone conclusion, with Macron and Le Pen set to win. The last opinion polls published on Thursday gave Macron 26.5 per cent support, with Le Pen at 23 per cent and trending upwards. Ten days ago, Melenchon was at 16 per cent but also gaining support – unlikely though that he will be able to catch the two frontrunners. French politics is particularly gruelling for incumbents, and Macron is trying to become only the first French president in two decades to be returned to the Elysee Palace. Five years ago, Macron swept to power, brushing aside Le Pen's second round challenge with the support of three voters out of every five. Opinion polls suggest that should Macron face off again against Le Pen, the outcome would indeed be similar – exactly the expectation that has led to low voter turnout in Sunday's first round of poll. Should Le Pen finish second and head into the final vote in two weeks' time, it will be her third consecutive final ballot. This time around, her National Rally party has rebranded itself and adopted a more mainstream message.

# Afghanistan is on the verge of peace or chaos

Fayaz Ali



As Afghanistan's closest neighbor, Pakistan has borne the brunt of the fallout of Afghan crisis in the past decades. Fiscal and human loss Pakistan suffered is simply incalculable. "The strategic, political, economic, ecological, social and cultural impact of the Afghan crisis on Pakistan would be felt for a long time to come." Geographic contiguity, mutual trust and shared interests are the primary factors which drive our approach to Afghanistan

AFGHANISTAN has been invaded by number of different invaders. It is called the graveyard of the empires because no one was able to rule Afghanistan permanently. The people of Afghanistan are warriors. They came through the generations of fighters. That makes them rigid; unable to break and unable to be ruled by some foreign invaders. Now again the super power which fought a decade long war in Afghanistan has left. The withdrawal of U.S creates a defining moment for Afghanistan's future. It is accompanied by tremendous uncertainty about the nature of overall disengagement, its repercussions on the ground as well as regional security. The country is at the verge of peace or chaos. The Taliban moving forward and capturing number of districts and making a mark is itself a point of chaos. As Afghanistan remains unstable, the peace in the region too is at question. Afghan security paradigm is one of the most complex one, where a number of players are playing their game without defined lines and interests. The key problem with US leaving Afghanistan is that whether it would lead a lasting peace or end in a chaos? The worry remains that is USA repeating the historical mistake which it did in 1989 by leaving Afghanistan in a turmoil without making it stable after the USSR withdrawal from Afghanistan. Orit would bear fruit and bring Afghan government, Taliban and other factions to an agreed framework for peaceful Afghanistan. Within all the reconciliation efforts, role of some stake holders in general and especially of US remains unpredictable, however, the overarching fact is that peace in Afghanistan is of significance to all domestic, regional and global stakeholders. Prolong history of wars in Afghanistan, particularly in the last century has left deep scars on Afghan society. It has always remained as a center stage for a great game between different imperialist and neo imperialist powers, Afghanistan get more significance because of its close proximity to Central Asian Republics, a gateway to energy reservoir. Present wave of war and

instability spans over approximately forty years which began with the invasion by USSR in 1979, US led Taliban war against USSR, almost decade long civil war, rise of Taliban, 9/11, decades of violence and bloodshed and looming US-Taliban/ Afghan reconciliation. However, this reconciliation effort is blurred by the intricacies of complexities emanating from external and internal volatile situation which is likely to persist in foreseeable future. As Afghanistan's closest neighbor, Pakistan has borne the brunt of the fallout of Afghan crisis in the past decades. Fiscal and human loss Pakistan suffered is simply incalculable. "The strategic, political, economic, ecological, social and cultural impact of the Afghan crisis on Pakistan would be felt for a long time to come." Geographic contiguity, mutual trust and shared interests are the primary factors which drive our approach to Afghanistan. Its location at intersection of South and Central Asia further adds value to us. Our relationship with Afghanistan has, however, remained an uneasy one. Post 9/11 geo-strategic realities coupled with overhaul of the Afghan power structure, therefore, makes it imperative for us to review Afghanistan policies by all stake holders to bring it in line with the ground realities and the new dynamics being enacted in the region for peace. Pakistan is a significant actor and has a vital role in future Afghanistan. Pakistan wants to have tranquility and permanence of peace in Afghanistan because of its own interests. "The geo-strategic location of Pakistan lends it central position in the overall economic and security calculus of the region." Peace and stability in Afghanistan will facilitate Pakistan's desire to transport energy from Central Asia and will also lead to improvement in Pakistan's internal security situation. Off late, Afghanistan's reconciliation process will also be of special interest to Pakistan which had suffered the most and is still suffering the fallout of instability in Afghanistan. Therefore, there is a need to study the situation in Afghanistan carefully with the aim of predicting possible scenarios in the wake of

US-Taliban peace deal, holistic reconciliation amongst all players and the future shape of Afghanistan as a peaceful and stable country. Pakistan believes that both Pakistan and Afghanistan has a significant prospect to seize the momentum and urge Afghanistan to look beyond the "blame games" that have too often dominated their relationship. India is using the soft power projection tools to bind Afghanistan on their side. Pakistan has been portrayed as an enemy state. The recent developments and the hash tag of "sanction Pakistan" rose by the Afghans, is serious issue for Pakistan. Pakistan has been the advocate of peace in Afghanistan and has always considered Afghanistan as an Islamic brotherly state. Pakistan has given lot of sacrifices for bringing peace and stability in Afghanistan. Such voices from Afghanistan and such point of views are heartbreaking for Pakistan. Afghanistan has proven the power to survive. The solution of Afghan problem can only be provided through negotiation amid US, Taliban and Afghan government with the efforts of Pakistan, being the major stakeholder and the victim of instability. Millions of words have been written and spoken on the issue but the fundamental reality is that Pakistan will be an indispensable part of solutions in peace building process and this process inside and outside Afghanistan will only be successful if it is Afghan led, owned and driven, recognizing the ground realities of both War and Peace. US withdrawal has opened the scenario again. Taliban are rushing to take control of the country and taking control of some major districts as well. Afghan government is trying to counter the Taliban and pursuing for the help and solutions from different perspectives. Pakistan by not allowing US to establish bases in its territory is looking for Afghans to get into stable position. India is trying to act as the policeman of the region. China is looking at the scenario and continuing for its main objectives. All this has been going on in parallel universe. And this is surely the time that Afghanistan is again on the verge of peace or chaos!

# There is more than one way to reach a two-state solution

Yossi Mekelberg

The proponents of a confederation imagine it as a way of fulfilling the national aspirations of both peoples without the necessity of living their lives behind physical security barriers and walls of suspicion. This vision of Israeli-Palestinian coexistence acknowledges that there can be no lasting solution unless the most crucial, and equally controversial, differences are addressed. There is a recognition that as much as physical borders are still essential between sovereign states, efforts to ensure the well-being of citizens demand a move away from a zero-sum game approach to one that benefits all concerned by maintaining open borders and doing so without compromising security

THERE is some sort of consensus among Israelis and Palestinians that a peace agreement based on a two-state solution belongs to the past. According to this prevailing view, the likelihood of such a solution was eliminated by the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by a Jewish extremist in 1995 and the blood-soaked years of the Second Intifada of the early 2000s, which claimed thousands of lives and destroyed what little confidence had been built between the two communities after the Oslo Accords were signed. There is much truth in this assertion but it is also anchored in the underlying supposition of the 1993 Oslo Accords, although not explicitly expressed in them, that the end goal was to ensure that both peoples could fulfill their respective national aspirations to live in their own sovereign state, separated by a well-demarcated border – a goal that in retrospect overemphasized peaceful coexistence through separation. Much of the despair about the fate of the two-state solution derives from a misinformed view that every avenue for reaching it has been explored and this conflict is simply unsolvable. Moreover, nearly a century of bloodshed has bred deep-seated distrust, even hatred, that inevitably, although misguided, has led to the belief that peace is more about separation than reconciliation and peaceful coexistence. This despite the tiny territory of the holy land that Israelis and Arabs share. From the very first idea for a partition plan, put forward in 1937 by Britain's Peel Commission, to the UN's 1947 Partition Plan and subsequent diplomatic engagements to bring about an agreement based on the notion of two states, it has been assumed that only a complete separation of the two peoples could guarantee the absence of war and conflict. However, partition and separation, even if not desired, were more viable when the total population was much smaller – in 1947 it was one-tenth of what it is today – and the main occupations were in agriculture, trade and light industry. Since then, wars have changed relations between the two nations, the political landscape has changed dramatically in both societies, the global economy has created new opportunities, the overall population has multiplied and its demography has altered considerably. Consequently, relations between Israelis and

Palestinians are more complex, negating the idea that these two peoples could coexist only if physically separated from one another. In recent years, therefore, a growing number of Israeli and Palestinian thinkers have turned their attention to developing a two-state solution paradigm that is not based on complete separation, but is derived from the values of both peoples and as a reflection of the facts on the ground. More than 13 million people live in a territory smaller than the US state of Massachusetts. In Israel proper, one-fifth of the population comprises Palestinian Arabs, and 600,000 Jews now reside in the West Bank – in breach of international law but with no feasible prospect of the vast majority of them returning to the Israeli side of the Green Line – so a more complex formula for "independently living together" is required, as an enabler and a guarantor of two sovereign states. Therefore, the concept of an Israeli-Palestinian confederation is gaining traction, though it has also met with some suspicion and skepticism. The proponents of a confederation imagine it as a way of fulfilling the national aspirations of both peoples without the necessity of living their lives behind physical security barriers and walls of suspicion. This vision of Israeli-Palestinian coexistence acknowledges that there can be no lasting solution unless the most crucial, and equally controversial, differences are addressed. There is a recognition that as much as physical borders are still essential between sovereign states, efforts to ensure the well-being of citizens demand a move away from a zero-sum game approach to one that benefits all concerned by maintaining open borders and doing so without compromising security. A confederative arrangement might be a permanent state of affairs or a facilitator for two states to live in peace while building close ties between themselves on an array of issues crucial for both states and the well-being of their citizens. By creating an umbrella framework that allows for Jerusalem to become the capital of both Israel and Palestine, and without physically dividing the city, both sides could fulfill their national aspirations in the city but without imposing restrictions on its residents in terms of movement and employment, a scenario that could only stimulate security and prosperity. Similarly, a confederation could substantially heal

the thorny issue of evacuating Jewish settlers from the West Bank, as it would allow an agreed number of Palestinian refugees to live in Israel, although this would need much work to convince both societies of its merits. Jews in Israel would be suspicious about changing the demographic balance, even if Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Palestinian refugees living in Israel were to be residents in Palestine and Israel respectively while remaining citizens of their home country. Palestinians, for their part, would be apprehensive of the more extreme elements among the settler community who might undermine, and violently so, such an agreement and deliberately undermine a Palestinian state. In light of the profound distrust that exists between the two peoples, a confederative solution would require much persuasion and dealing with the psychology of the conflict as much as its practical elements. This is true regardless of how creative, rational or beneficial it might be in addressing the most difficult aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which include Jerusalem, refugees, borders, security and settlements. Nevertheless, considering the current standoff, it would be completely absurd not to examine this option and its potential not only for ending the prevailing animosity but also for reaping the economic benefits of the free movement of people and goods, and allowing the Palestinians to enjoy the benefits of living next to a country whose gross domestic product per capita has reached \$50,000. An Israeli-Palestinian confederation might not be the "silver bullet" to fix all the ills affecting relations between the two peoples but it is definitely better than the other type of bullets commonly used in the conflict. The task for those who can see its potential is to convince others that it is neither a path to a one-state solution nor an unstable two-state solution between two antagonistic political entities that would lead to at least one of them abandoning a future confederation. It will require attention to the fine details and to the difficult task of overcoming mutual distrust, but it is probably the most promising proposal on the table right now and it deserves to be widely considered and debated.

– Courtesy: Arab News



## Briefs

## Shehbaz says will work for better Pakistan

FROM PAGE 01

He said the total debt of Pakistan was 25,000 billion rupees till 2018, but during the last three and a half years, 20,000 billion rupees were added to the total debt of the country. Shehbaz Sharif expressed confidence that the situation will improve in days to come through hard-work of the new government. He said "Khadim-e-Pakistan," he would do his best to bring the country out of crises. He said he would take all the provinces along in his efforts for progress of the country. He said we will have to set aside mutual differences and move forward with consensus.

The Prime Minister-elect announced to arrange at the earliest an in-camera briefing for Parliamentary Committee on Security on the matter of a letter received by the last government from a Pakistani ambassador about an alleged foreign conspiracy for regime change. He said the services chiefs, DG ISI, the Foreign Secretary and the Ambassador concerned will be invited to the briefing.

Shehbaz Sharif said the facts about this much hyped issue will be brought before the nation. Referring to foreign policy, he said relations will be further strengthened with all friendly countries including China, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar and Turkey. He said Pakistan's relations with China are time tested as Beijing has always supported Pakistan in the hour of need. He said China-Pakistan Economic Corridor mega project will be implemented at "Pakistan Speed."

The Prime Minister-elect said Saudi Arabia is our brotherly Islamic country that has always extended cooperation in difficult times. He said Afghanistan is our neighboring country facing difficult times. He said we will raise voice for assistance of the people of Afghanistan.

Shehbaz Sharif said the European Union is the biggest destination of Pakistani textile exports as fifty percent of Pakistan's textile goods go to the European countries. He expressed the confidence that GSP Plus status for Pakistan will be renewed. He said the United Kingdom has always backed democracy in Pakistan, and he will try his best to further strengthen Pakistan's relations with UK.

Talking about relations with the United States, Shehbaz Sharif said we want relationship with Washington at equal level. He said our trade with the United States is worth billions of dollars.

He said Pakistan wants good neighborly relations with India, but durable peace is not possible without resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions. He said Pakistan will continue extending its moral, diplomatic and political support to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

He also assured Palestinians to raise their voice for their right to self-determination for resolution of Palestine issue. The House will now meet on Saturday at 4:00 pm. Meanwhile, President Arif Alvi Monday complained of "discomfort", according to the president's Twitter account, hours before Prime Minister-elect Shehbaz Sharif's oath-taking ceremony.

"President Dr Arif Alvi has complained of discomfort. The physician has examined him thoroughly and has advised him [to] rest for a few days," the tweet added. In absence of the president - a PTI and Imran Khan loyalist - Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani administered the oath to the newly-elected prime minister.

Shehbaz secured 174 votes as opposed to PTI's candidate Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who received no votes after his party decided to boycott the polling process. The poll took place under the chairmanship of MNA Ayaz Sadiq, two days after the lower house of Parliament voted in favour of removing Imran Khan from office, following a nearly 14-hour standoff between the Opposition and Khan's ruling party that started on Saturday morning.



LALAMUSA: Players of Young Stars Hockey Club posing for a picture after a match. In the inset club's coach and senior hockey player Abdul Shaheed Shah also seen. - DNA

## Babar first player to win ICC Player of the Month twice

The ICC also announced that Australia's run-machine Rachael Haynes have been named the Women's Player of the Month for March 2022

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan skipper Babar Azam has become the first player to win the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's Player of the Month award on two occasions, the ICC announced on Monday. The 27-year-old Babar was previously crowned in April 2021. He scoops the latest Men's award following a number of thrilling batting displays in Pakistan's multi-format series against Australia. Amassing 390 runs in the pulsating Test series,

his supreme contribution was highlighted by his record-breaking innings of 196 in the second Test, salvaging a draw for his side against the odds on the final day in Karachi. At the forefront of his side's batting outfit, his exploits during the subsequent ODI battles that took place in March also cemented his claim as the standout player in international cricket during the month. Scores of 57 and 114 - the latter helping his side chase down an imposing 349 set by Australia, saw him as a constant threat to an otherwise

formidable bowling attack. The Pakistan superstar receives the award ahead of fellow nominees KraiggBrathwaite (West Indies) and Pat Cummins (Australia). Speaking about Babar's phenomenal performances in March, member of the voting panel and former West Indies international Daren Ganga said, "Babar wins this award not only because of the significant glut of runs scored during the Pakistan vs Australia tour, but also because his success with the bat across formats. Being able to fulfill the burden of expectation as a captain and batter for Paki-

stan as host to an Australian team visiting after 24 years is a monumental achievement." The ICC also announced that Australia's run-machine Rachael Haynes have been named the Women's Player of the Month for March 2022. Rachael Haynes celebrates becoming the ICC Women's Player of the Month following a formidable set of displays on the road to Australia's seventh ICC Women's Cricket World Cup trophy. Scoring 429 priceless runs in eight matches at an average of 61.28, her extraordinary feats at the top of the order proved crucial to her side's

unbeaten run to the final, where they subsequently overcame England to cap a thrilling tournament. Her accomplishments at the crease throughout the month laid the foundations for her team to set imposing totals and chase down big targets, and were made even more impressive by her ability to perform during pivotal times. Her 130 against England in the opening game set the tone for a dominant unbeaten run to the final, while her other standout performance came in the form of a classy 85 during the semi-final win against the West Indies.

## Luuk De Jong gives Barca late victory

DNA

MADRID: Luuk de Jong headed in a 92nd-minute winner on Sunday as Barcelona prevailed in a five-goal thriller against Levante to return to second in La Liga. De Jong's late goal, his sixth in the league for Barca, proved the decisive moment in a 3-2 victory in Valencia but it was the introduction of the 19-year-old Pedri off the bench that turned the momentum of the contest. Asked if the team are too reliant on Pedri, Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez said: "I wouldn't put it like that

but he is an extraordinary player. I don't hold back any praise, he is a player who excites people and makes a difference." A frantic 11 minutes early in the second half saw Levante score one penalty in the 52nd minute through Jose Luis Morales before missing a second in the 55th, this time Roger Marti stepping up, only to be denied by Marc-Andre ter Stegen. Pedri came off the bench in the 56th minute and three minutes later Barcelona equalised, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang heading in Ousmane Dembele's cross to score his 10th goal for his

new club. Then in the 63rd minute, Pedri fired Barca in front with a first-time finish into the corner, only for Levante to level again after being awarded a third penalty, Gonzalo Melero this time making no mistake. Levante looked set to claim a point but De Jong snatched the win, meeting Jordi Alba's cross and heading in at the near post. "When we don't play well and we pull through, it shows we have that winning mentality," said Xavi. Barca climb back above Sevilla into second, still 12 points behind Real Madrid, who eased to a 2-0 victory over Getafe on Saturday.



## Henry Cejudo to make UFC return

KARACHI: Following the conclusion of UFC 273 last weekend, Henry Cejudo was encouraged to return to MMA. Cejudo, a former two-weight champion, has been considering a return to the cage for months, but he has now confirmed his intention to re-enter the USADA testing pool in preparation for a comeback. The development surfaced after featherweight champ Alexander Volkanovski and titleholder Aljamain Sterling both successfully defended their crowns at UFC 273, which are two weight classes in which Cejudo is interested in competing. "You've inspired me to come back. When it comes to wrestling, you couldn't pin a tweet. I would take you down and choke you out quicker than a [Conor] McGregor relapse. Sign the contract," In a message to Volkanovski after his win, Cejudo wrote, according to Mirror UK. Ali Abdelaziz, Cejudo's manager, has confirmed his fighter's comeback. "Henry is one of the greatest fighters ever seen. I think the fans and all of us wanna see him come back. He is gonna focus on his fighting stuff. I'm gonna focus on the business side of things. I believe we will see him back end of the summer," Abdelaziz said. - APP



## Bencic defeats Jabeur to win Charleston title

CHARLESTON: Swiss Tennis star Belinda Bencic won the WTA Charleston championship with a three-set victory over Tunisia's Ons Jabeur. The 25-year-old won 6-1 5-7 6-4 in a two-hour-and-35-minute encounter. "It's a CLAY COURT title. So happy with my week here in Charleston," Bencic wrote on Twitter. Bencic has won six WTA titles in her career, and she is the first Swiss woman to win the event since Martina Hingis in 1999. - APP

## Bastianini wins Grand Prix of the Americas

The 29-year-old Spaniard, who missed last weekend's race in Argentina due to double vision after a violent high-side crash in Indonesia, had started ninth on the grid, his worst qualifying performance ever at the Circuit of the Americas

WEB DESK

AUSTIN: Italy's Enea Bastianini won his second MotoGP race of the season at the Grand Prix of the Americas on Sunday and seized control of the world championship. The 24-year-old passed fellow Ducati rider, and long-time leader, Jack Miller with five laps left to add the Austin win to his maiden elite class victory at the season-opener in Qatar. Australian Miller, who had stormed into the lead at the start, finished third having also being passed by the Suzuki of Alex Rins, the winner in Texas in 2019. "It's a fantastic day. Miller had fantastic pace in the first part of the race, then I felt like I had to push, I accelerated like crazy and I won," said Bastianini. "Winning here in America is fantastic. Now we can eat some burgers!" Six-time MotoGP champion Marc Marquez,

bidding for an eighth win in nine visits to the Texas circuit, finished sixth, having slipped to the back of the field at lights out on his Honda. The 29-year-old Spaniard, who missed last weekend's race in Argentina due to double vision after a violent high-side crash in Indonesia, had started ninth on the grid, his worst qualifying performance ever at the Circuit of the Americas. However, he stormed back through the field into the top 10 at the midway point, even setting a fastest lap. Fourth on Sunday was Suzuki's Joan Mir, the 2020 world



champion, with Francesco Bagnaia on another Ducati coming home fifth. Reigning world champion Fabio Quartararo of Yamaha was seventh behind Marquez with pole-sitter Jorge Martin on a Ducati-Pramac having to settle for eighth. Previous world championship leader Aleix Espargaro of Aprilia was only 11th on Sunday. Bastianini has a five-point lead in the standings over Rins and is 11 in front of Espargaro who won his first MotoGP race in Argentina last week in his 200th race.

Mir and Quartararo are fourth and fifth respectively, 15 and 17 points off the lead after four rounds. "I have mixed feelings," said Miller who led for 15 of the 20 laps. "I had a fantastic race, Enea passed me but I didn't make any mistakes." Rins dedicated his second place "to Ukraine, and to all the people who suffer from the war and also from the Covid". In the Moto2 race, Italy's Tony Arbolino claimed a maiden victory by 3.4sec over Ai Ogura. Britain's Jake Dixon took third to secure his first ever podium while American pole sitter Cameron Beaubier failed to finish. Jaume Masia won the Moto3 race, his first success since Qatar last year. Dennis Foggia was second and takes over the world championship lead while Andrea Migno was third. Former series leader Sergio Garcia failed to finish. The fifth round of the 2022 world championship is the Portuguese Grand Prix on April 24.

## Pakistan condemns Indian killing spree in IIOJK

FROM PAGE 01

Islamabad Declaration adopted at the culmination of the 48th Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of the OIC unequivocally condemned massive violations of human rights and persecution of Muslims in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). Pakistan reiterated its call for the investigation of extra-judicial killings in IIOJK by the Commission of Inquiry as recommended by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in its Kashmir Reports of 2018 and 2019.

Pakistan also urged the international community to hold India responsible for its brazen suppression of the innocent Kashmiris and play its due role in ensuring a just and peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people.

## Ukraine: Separatists claim...

FROM PAGE 01

Pushilin told reporters in the region's de-facto capital Donetsk. "Because the more we delay, the more the civilian population simply suffers, being held hostage to the situation. We have identified areas where certain steps will need to be accelerated," Pushilin added. Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine have been locked in conflict with the Ukrainian army since 2014, the year Moscow annexed Crimea. Lugansk People's Republics.

## Zelensky warns of new offensive

FROM PAGE 01

Satellite images captured by Maxar, a commercial firm that works with the U.S. government, appeared to show an 8-mile-long convoy of Russian military vehicles moving south toward the Donbas area that seems likely to be the focus of a major new offensive. It comes as Russia has appointed a general with a record of brutality in Syria to take over its operations in Ukraine, a U.S. official and a Western official confirmed to NBC News. In Mariupol, the besieged southeastern port city, Zelensky said tens of thousands of people had likely been killed.

## Macron wins 27.85% in French first round

FROM PAGE 01

up campaign debt of five million euros (\$5.5 million). Greens candidate Yannick Jadot got 4.63 percent, ruralist outsider Jean Lassalle got 3.13 percent, Communist Fabien Roussel got 2.28 percent, and far-right sovereigntist Nicolas Dupont-Aignan got 2.06 percent. Socialist Anne Hidalgo, the mayor of Paris, scored just 1.75 percent, while anti-capitalists Philippe Poutou won 0.77 percent and Nathalie Arthaud came in last at 0.56 percent. Turnout reached 73.69 percent, resulting in abstentions of 26.31 percent - up four percentage points from the abstentions of 22.2 percent in the first round of 2017, which also saw Macron and Le Pen advance to the run-off.

## Australian journalist hails pak tour in his article

KARACHI: Australian cricket journalist Peter Lalor highly praised the hospitality he received during his tour to Pakistan after 28 years. In his article on Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)'s website, Lalor recalled his last tour to Pakistan and how things changed over the period of time. "In 1994, I walked across the border from Amritsar, turned right at Lahore and entered the magical tribal world of what was then the North West Frontier Province. - APP



## Briefs

## Germany's family minister steps down

BERLIN: Germany's Anne Spiegel said on Monday she had decided to step down as Family Minister after controversy over her decision to go on vacation last year just after devastating floods in the state where she was then serving as a senior official. Spiegel, a member of the Greens, is the first minister to quit Chancellor Olaf Scholz's federal government, which comprises his Social Democrats (SPD), the environmentalist party, and the liberal Free Democrats (FDP). "Today, due to political pressure, I have decided to stand down from the office of Federal Minister for Family Affairs," Spiegel said in a statement. "I am doing this to avert damage to the office, which is facing major political challenges." Spiegel had apologized on Sunday for taking a four-week family holiday shortly after the flood disaster in 2021. At the time, she was state environment minister in the region of Rhineland-Palatinate, which took the brunt of Germany's most lethal floods in six decades that killed more than 170 people. Spiegel's decision to step down came ahead of regional elections next month in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany's most populous state, which was also hit hard by the floods. Last week, the environment minister for North Rhine-Westphalia also quit after revelations she had spent much of the time after the flood in Mallorca. Spiegel's decision to quit her post in the federal government came despite Scholz backing her. Greens party co-leader Omid Nouripour told journalists Spiegel's decision was right. - REUTERS

## Pro-Russia protesters rally in Germany

AGENCIES

BERLIN: Pro-Russia protesters rallied in Germany on Sunday, the country's significant Russian-speaking population demanding an end to the discrimination it says it has suffered since the crisis began in Ukraine. Germany is home to 1.2 million people of Russian origin and 325,000 from Ukraine. Authorities fear the conflict could be imported into Germany and the protests used to promote Moscow's narrative. Police have recorded 383 anti-Russian offences and 181 anti-Ukrainian offences since the Russia-Ukraine conflict started on February 24. Around 800 people descended on financial hub Frankfurt Sunday, police said, amid a sea of Russian flags to protest "against hatred and harassment," an AFP journalist saw. There was a heavy police presence. The protesters were outnumbered by 2,500 people taking part in a counter-demonstration in support of Ukraine. "I came here because I support peace," Ozan Yilmaz, 24, told AFP. "Children are beaten at school because they speak Russian, that's not acceptable." Sebastian, 25, was also in the pro-Russia crowd. "The war didn't start this year," he said. "It has been going on since 2014 and so I find that speaking of an attack against Ukraine by Russia is 'not really appropriate.'" Local police threw up a large cordon to separate the protesters - marching behind a banner that read "Truth and diversity of opinion over PROPAGANDA" - from a pro-Ukraine counter-demonstration near the city's central banking district. Ukraine's Ambassador to Germany, Andriy Melnyk, strongly opposed the green light given by German authorities to the protests, describing it as a "huge shame" for the country. Approximately 600 demonstrators staged a car convoy in the northern city of Hanover following an appeal by the Russian-speaking community, local police told AFP, while 200 people took part in a rally in Osnabruck, northwest Germany.

## Pak-China co-op in sorghum industry: a new milestone

In 2020-21, we have carried out planting trials of more than ten sorghum varieties in Pakistan and achieved preliminary results, of which five varieties-01, 02, 03, 04, and 12 performed better

BEIJING: Pak-China cooperation in sorghum industry has turned into a new milestone in CPEC, says a report published by China Economic Net (CEN) on Monday. As agricultural countries, China and Pakistan are currently facing the same challenges - growing food demand and tight agricultural land jointly threaten food security. In addition to the three major staple foods in the world, a crop has gradually attracted attention-sorghum, or sarghu in Urdu. According to the report, as an indispensable dry food crop, sorghum is second only to wheat, corn, rice and barley in China in terms of planting area and output. Agricultural experts call it "the camel of crops" based on its numerous excellent qualities such as resistance to pests and diseases, high temperature, cold and salinity. "Sorghum is a multi-purpose crop that can play an important role in food and fodder provision. At a time when the world is facing the dual challenges of the epidemic and the food crisis, it is a win-win choice to incorporate this multi-purpose crop into the CPEC coop-

eration framework and add another layer of guarantee to the food security of China and Pakistan," which was the consensus shared by experts on the Symposium on Sorghum Industry Development of China Pakistan organized recently. According to Dr. Shahzad Gul, Assistant Professor, Institute of Food Sciences and Technology, Sindh Agriculture University, in Pakistan, as the climatic conditions are excellent for sorghum production and emerging water shortage has necessitated the production of sorghum on wide scale, this cash crop means the most affordable option. "Sorghum produces about 5.4 tonnes per hectare in Pakistan, more than wheat and rice, which have 3.0 and 2.2 tonnes per hectare, respectively. Meanwhile, because wheat is mainly a winter crop and sorghum is primarily a summer crop, demand for sorghum is significantly lower, and there is no direct competition," Dr. Gul told CEN. However, he pointed out in the mean time that sorghum yields in Pakistan are still meager due to a lack of better cultivators, an insufficient plant population,

unscientific fertilizer application, weed control techniques, and water conservation procedures. In addition, Dr. Gul also indicated that the consumption pattern of sorghum is quite traditional, and it is not available as a commercially processed food in the Pakistani market. "This is mainly due to lack of processing technologies and availability of machinery. And Sorghum has not been used in our beverage and baking food industry due to a variety of factors including lack of awareness and taste. Nowadays, there are not much sorghum grain processing plants in Pakistan. This industry holds immense potential to offer employment to hundreds of thousands people." Similar views are echoed by Dr. Shahzad Sabir from Punjab Agriculture Department, "Punjab and Sindh are the major sorghum producing Provinces of Pakistan contributing respectively 47 percent and 26 percent of the total," he said. "On the other hand, in 2019, we exported USD 23, 500 in sorghum, making Pakistan the 53rd largest exporter of sorghum in the world.

At the same year, sorghum was the 91st most exported product in Pakistan. Obviously, it is far from meeting expectations, especially in the face of growing global food crisis. Countless opportunities are waiting for us to discover together." China-Pakistan cooperation to heat up Pakistan's sorghum industry "In 2020-21, we have carried out planting trials of more than ten sorghum varieties in Pakistan and achieved preliminary results, of which five varieties-01, 02, 03, 04, and 12 performed better. The tannin content of domestically grown sorghum is generally around 1.3 to 1.6 percent, however, according to trials data in Pakistan, benefited from local excellent light and temperature conditions, the tannin number can climb up to 2.3 percent. Given that the important role of tannin in food processing and industrial production, we can promote the cultivation of these varieties in Pakistan, and then ship it back to China for further processing," noted Yuan Guobao, Vice Chairman of the Council and Chairman of the Committee of Agricultural Experts at

the NEXT Federation, in an exclusive interview with China Economic Net (CEN). At the symposium a few days ago, Yuan Guobao not only systematically introduced the preliminary results of planting trials, but also pointed out the multiple economic benefits brought by possible large-scale planting in the future, "The superior drought, barren and saline-alkaline tolerance of Chinese hybrid sorghum varieties make it a good choice for Pakistan's water-deficient and saline-alkali areas. Secondly, Pakistan has a vast rice-growing area. In some areas in the south near the Indian Ocean, after rice is harvested, sorghum can be planted in autumn and winter, thus the income of the local farmers can be increased by crop rotation. If the planting area can be expanded in the future, the offshore area means that our ships will be more convenient to transport the processed sorghum and save transportation costs. Beyond doubt, it is an excellent model of cooperation with multiple economic benefits, increasing Pakistan's foreign exchange effectively." Animal husbandry contributes 60 percent to Pakistan's agricultural

gross domestic product (GDP), emphasized Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research Syed Fakhar Imam, and more than 8 million rural households in Pakistan are engaged in livestock production. Accordingly, forage sorghum can give full play to its superiority. "Compared with another main forage-silage corn, in southern China, forage sorghum can be harvested 4-5 times a year, and the yield per unit area can reach more than 6 tons. If planted in a place with sufficient light and heat conditions like Xinjiang, its yield can exceed 10 tons. At present, the blueprint of China-Pakistan sorghum cooperation has drawn a strong first stroke, "Our first step, the sorghum planting training program for Pakistani students is progressing smoothly, with the high-quality seed sources as the top priority. People engaged in agricultural science often say that 'seeds are the chips of agriculture', and I believe that the day when China-Pakistan sorghum cooperation bear fruit is not too far away," Yuan concluded confidently.



KARACHI: Ambassador of Bulgaria Irena Gancheva held meetings in Karachi with representatives of FPCCI, KCCI & TDAP. The discussions were focused on identifying areas with good potential for business, trade & investment cooperation. - DNA

## China slams NATO over provocative remarks

BEIJING: NATO should immediately stop spreading disinformation and provocative remarks targeting China, and abandon the confrontational approach of drawing ideological lines, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Monday, adding that China has lodged solemn representations with NATO for many times. "China is strongly dissatisfied and firmly opposed to this, and has lodged solemn representations with NATO for many times. As the world's largest military alliance and a product of the Cold War, NATO has long adhered to its old-fashioned security concept, engaged in camp confrontation in the old Cold War way, and has become a tool for individual countries to seek hegemony, Zhao said.

head of NATO has been making false remarks on China's foreign policy, hyping up the so-called "China threat" theory and has recently engaged in coercion against China. "China is strongly dissatisfied and firmly opposed to this, and has lodged solemn representations with NATO for many times. As the world's largest military alliance and a product of the Cold War, NATO has long adhered to its old-fashioned security concept, engaged in camp confrontation in the old Cold War way, and has become a tool for individual countries to seek hegemony, Zhao said.

NATO claims to be a "defensive organization," but it is, in fact, constantly creating confrontations and disturbances, said the spokesperson, adding that the organization demands that other countries abide by the basic norms of international relations, yet wages war and indiscriminate bombing against sovereign states, killing and displacing innocent civilians. NATO is clearly a military organization in the North Atlantic, but in recent years it has been throwing its weight around and stirring up conflicts in the Asia-Pacific region, Zhao noted.

"NATO continues to break through geographical and territorial boundaries and advocates a new Cold War of bloc confrontation. The international community should be on high alert and firmly oppose this," he added. Zhao emphasized that China has always been a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development and a defender of the international order, and will unswervingly follow the path of peaceful development. China's development means opportunities for the world, instead of a threat to anyone, he said. - Agencies

## UK warns of chemical weapons use by Russia

LONDON: The British government on Monday warned of a possible use of chemical weapons by Russian forces in the besieged Ukrainian port city of Mariupol. After analyzing Russian operations in the eastern regions of the country and in particular the Donetsk Oblast, where phosphorus gas was reportedly deployed by Russian forces, Downing Street has raised concerns over possible deployment of chemical weapons in Mariupol to enforce a Russian victory. "Russian forces prior use of phosphorus munitions in the Donetsk Oblast raises the possibility of their future employment in Mariupol as fighting for the city intensifies," the Defense Ministry said in a statement. "Russian shelling has continued in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, with Ukrainian forces repulsing several assaults resulting in the de-

struction of Russian tanks, vehicles, and artillery equipment," the statement added. The Defense Ministry also warned of the use of unguided bombs by Moscow that greatly increases the risk of civilian casualties and fatalities as in Ukraine's eastern Kramatorsk city last week in which hundreds of civilians were killed in a rocket attack at a train station. "Russia's continued reliance on unguided bombs decreases their ability to discriminate when targeting and conducting strikes while greatly increasing the risk of further civilian casualties." At least 1,793 civilians have been killed and 2,439 injured in Ukraine since Russia declared war on Feb. 24, according to UN estimates, with the true figure feared to be much higher. Over 4.5 million Ukrainians have fled to other countries, with millions more internally displaced, according to the UN refugee agency. - APP

## Russia destroys S-300 delivered to Ukraine

MOSCOW: Russia on Monday said it destroyed an S-300 air defense system, delivered to Ukraine by a European country, near the central city of Dnipro the day before. "On Sunday, April 10, on the southern outskirts of the city of Dnepropetrovsk, high-precision sea-based Kalibr missiles destroyed an S-300 air defense system hidden in a hangar, which was delivered to the Kiev regime by one of the European countries," Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said at a daily press briefing in Mos-

cow. Four S-300 launchers and up to 25 personnel of the Ukrainian armed forces were also hit, he added. Further, a repair facility with two air defense systems Buk-M1 and Osa AKM were struck with high-precision air-based missiles near the Velyka Novosilka settlement in Donetsk, he said. In addition, two ammunition depots, an S-300 radar, nine tanks, five self-propelled artillery, five multiple rocket launchers, and more than 60 nationalists were destroyed over the past night, the spokesman said. - APP

## New Zealand announces aid for Ukraine

ANKARA: New Zealand on Monday announced an additional \$13 million in the military and legal aid for Ukraine including deployment of C-130 Hercules transport aircraft to Europe, officials said. In a statement, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said the cabinet has approved providing \$7.5 million to the UK to procure weapons and ammunition for Ukraine's armed forces from the additional \$13 million aid. The remaining amount will be provided to Ukraine to support commercial satellite access for their defense intelligence, the statement added. Wellington will also give \$1 million to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and \$500,000 to the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court. "Our support is to assist



the Ukraine Army to repel a brutal Russian invasion because peace in the region of Europe is essential for global stability," said Jacinda Ardern. "Such a blatant attack on a country's sovereignty is a threat to all of us and that's why we too have a role to play," she added. According to the pre-

mier, the cabinet also decided to deploy Defense Forces C-130 Hercules transport aircraft with 50 support personnel from Wednesday to Europe - for two months. However, the New Zealand aircraft and personnel will not enter Ukraine, it explained. "Over the next few

months, our team will travel throughout Europe transporting much-needed equipment and supplies to key distribution centers, but at no point will they enter Ukraine," said Defense Minister Peeni Henare. Russia's war on Ukraine, which began on Feb. 24, has been met with international outrage, with the European Union, US, and the UK, among others, implementing stringent economic penalties on Moscow. At least 1,793 civilians have been killed in Ukraine and 2,439 injured, according to estimates by the UN, which noted that the true figure is likely far higher. More than 4.5 million Ukrainians have also fled to several European countries, with millions more displaced inside the country, according to the UN refugee agency. -APP

## Germany calls for sending weapons



BERLIN: Germany on Monday said European countries should send heavy weapons and more military equipment to Ukraine, amid fears that Russia will soon intensify attacks in the eastern Donbas region. "Ukraine needs further military support to defend itself," German Foreign Minister Annalena Baer-

bock told reporters, ahead of an EU foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg. "It is clear that Ukraine needs further military equipment, especially heavy weapons. Now we need creativity and pragmatism, it's not the time for excuses," she stressed, adding that Germany will continue its efforts in close coordination with the allies. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has repeatedly called on Western nations to increase their arms supplies to the country, with heavy weapons, air defense systems, tanks, and planes. EU's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell warned earlier on Monday that the war is likely to intensify in the coming days. - APP

## Croatia expels 18 Russian diplomats

BELGRADE: Croatia on Monday expelled 18 Russian diplomats and six administrative staff members working at the Russian embassy in the capital Zagreb, the Foreign Ministry said Monday. "Eighteen diplomats and six members of administrative staff (24 employees in total) at the Embassy of the Russian Federation have been asked to leave the Republic of Croatia," a ministry statement said. Russian Ambassador to Zagreb Andrey Nesterenko was summoned to the ministry to protest Russia's "brutal aggression and numerous crimes" against Ukraine, the statement added. With the announcement, Croatia has joined Poland, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Denmark, and others in expelling Russian embassy staff. Some 382 Russian diplomats have been expelled from European countries since Russia launched its war on Ukraine on Feb. 24. - APP

## Sweden begins debate on joining NATO

FOREIGN DESK

STOCKHOLM: Sweden's ruling Social Democrats have begun an internal debate about joining NATO following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Members of the party - who have previously opposed Swedish membership of the alliance - have met to discuss the country's strategic situation. Deputy party leader Tobias Baudin said Monday's debate will be a "broader discussion than just a yes or no question on NATO membership". "We have to seek a broader understanding of what is happening in the world around us and understand the advantages and disadvantages of the current security policy line," Baudin said. The "security policy dialogue" should be completed before the summer, he added in a statement. Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson said in a u-turn last month that she "does not rule out" a bid to join NATO. Neighboring EU member state Finland is also set to decide on joining the military alliance by the summer. Support for membership almost doubled since Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, jumping to almost 50% in Sweden and 60% in Finland. The issue is also set to be a major campaign issue in the upcoming Swedish general election on 11 September. Ulf Kristersson, leader of Sweden's opposition Conservative party, has said he would apply to join NATO if he wins a majority in parliament. Russia meanwhile has warned Finland and Sweden against joining NATO, arguing the move would not bring stability to Europe. "The alliance remains a tool geared towards confrontation," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

## Russian forces will take Kyiv: Kadyrov

WEB DESK

GROZNY: Ramzan Kadyrov, the powerful head of Russia's republic of Chechnya, said early on Monday that there will be an offensive by Russian forces not only on the besieged port of Mariupol, but also on Kyiv and other Ukrainian cities. "There will be an offensive ... not only on Mariupol, but also on other places, cities and villages," Kadyrov said in a video posted on his Telegram channel. "Luhansk and Donetsk - we will fully liberate in the first place ... and then take Kyiv and all other cities." Kadyrov, who has often described himself as Russian President Vladimir Putin's "foot soldier," said there should be no doubt about Kyiv. "I assure you: not one step will be taken back," Kadyrov said. Kadyrov has been repeatedly accused by the United States and European Union of rights abuses, which he denies. Moscow fought two wars with separatists in Chechnya, a mainly Muslim region in southern Russia, after the 1991 break-up of the Soviet Union. But it has since poured huge sums of money into the region to rebuild it and given Kadyrov a large measure of autonomy.



**Briefs**

**PTI announces rally in Karachi on April 17**

**DNA**  
ISLAMABAD: As part of a countrywide protest campaign against the removal of its government, the PTI will hold a public meeting in Karachi on April 17. A Twitter post, PTI leader Asad Umar asked Karachiites to "get ready" to welcome former prime minister Imran Khan. The PTI will stage a rally at Mazar-e-Quaid ground on April 17, he added. Pakistan will see how Karachi stands with its leader for a Khuddar Pakistan," he added. Earlier today, PTI decided to resign from the National Assembly after Prime Minister Imran Khan said that he would not sit in the assemblies with "thieves". Confirming the decision, Sheikh Rasheed said that sitting in the assemblies would further strengthen Shehbaz Sharif and therefore it has been decided to submit resignations from the National Assembly.

**Italy PM in Algeria seeking gas**

**ALGIERS:** Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi arrived in gas powerhouse Algeria on Monday as Rome steps up efforts to reduce its heavy reliance on Russian energy imports. Italy buys the vast majority of its natural gas from overseas, with over 40 percent of those imports coming from Russia. But the war in Ukraine has sparked a European push for sanctions against Moscow, including moves to drastically cut such purchases. Rome is hoping its second-biggest supplier Algeria can boost output via an undersea pipeline in order to provide alternatives. The Italian premier was invited by President Abdelmadjid Tebboune to discuss "reinforcing relations of cooperation between the two countries", Tebboune's office said, without giving more details. - APP

**Niger ex-minister held over 'attempted coups'**

**NIAMEY:** A former interior minister in Niger, Ousmane Cisse, is being detained for his suspected part in two attempted coups, including one that took place last month, an official said on Monday. Cisse, who was interior minister from 2010-11, "has been placed in custody in Birni N'Gaoure prison (in southern Niger) for his part in two attempted coups, one foiled in March 2021 and another just recently, in March 2022," the Nigerien official said. The government has previously said that a coup was averted in March 2021 just ahead of the newly-elected president's inauguration, but has not referred to any second coup attempt. - AFP

# President stresses enhancing Pak-Kazakh bilateral ties

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and Kazakhstan have reiterated the resolve to further enhance bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, economy and defence. Both sides emphasised the need to work together for the peace and prosperity of the region. This was discussed during a meeting between the visiting First Deputy Defence Minister/Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of Kazakhstan, Lt Gen Khussainov Marat Rakhimovich, who along with the members of his delegation called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. The Ambassador of Kazakhstan, Mr Yerzhan Kistafin, and senior officials of the government also attended the meeting. Welcoming the delegation, the President said that Pakistan highly valued its ties with Kazakhstan and wanted to further expand bilateral cooperation in various areas of mutual interest. He highlighted that tremendous opportunities of cooperation existed between the two countries which needed to be capitalized upon for the mutual benefit of the two sides. He said that Gwadar port offered enormous opportunities to Kazakhstan for promoting trade with Middle East and other countries of the world. Expressing concern over the human rights violations



The First Deputy Defence Minister/Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces of Kazakhstan, Lt Gen Khussainov Marat Rakhimovich, along with the members of his delegation, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), the President said that India was involved in the genocide of the Muslims and its belligerent attitude posed threat to regional peace and stability. He urged that the international community should play a positive role to resolve the Kashmir issue in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions. He

informed that the incidents of Uranium smuggling and the firing of missile into Pakistani territory showed the irresponsible behaviour of India and the international community should

take note of the Indian behaviour. The visiting Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Kazakhstan underlined the need for enhanced defence and economic coop-

eration between the two countries. He appreciated the preparedness of the Armed Forces of Pakistan, which had played important role in ensuring peace and stability in the region.

## US donates over 61.5m vaccine doses to Pakistan

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: With the delivery of the most recent tranche of 4.7 million Pfizer vaccines on April 10, the United States has now donated over 61.5 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to Pakistan. The close coordination between the United States and Pakistani authorities, doctors, nurses, and logistics professionals has produced tangible, life-saving results. We are collectively driving down COVID-19 numbers, allow-

ing all of us to safely return to more normal operations. Every additional vaccine administered boosts our ability to defeat future COVID-19 waves. Expressing appreciation for the strong bilateral health cooperation and Pakistan's commitment to deploying U.S.-donated vaccines, Chargé d'affaires a.i. William Steuer said, "Thanks to the dedication of Pakistan's public health officials and robust efforts to vaccinate the country, Pakistan is seeing a record low in COVID-19 cases and is a model in fighting the

COVID-19 pandemic." United States is the single largest donor of lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines to Pakistan. In addition to Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, the United States has provided Pakistan with more than 1.2 million N95 masks, 96,000 surgical masks, 52,000 protective goggles, one million COVID-19 rapid diagnostic tests, 1,200 pulse oximeters, and 200 ventilators for 64 Pakistani hospitals - all of which has helped save lives and protect people across Pakistan. The U.S. government also trained

over 30,000 women health workers across Pakistan on home-based care for COVID-19 patients and established a national network of disease surveillance and response units and teams - providing an infrastructure to combat the current pandemic and building resiliency for the future. These efforts are part of the nearly \$70 million in direct support and \$9.2 million in in-kind support that the U.S. government has donated to assist the Pakistani people in the fight against COVID-19, a fight we are in together.

## ECP announces delimitation schedule

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has announced the delimitation schedule for the National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies for the general elections. According to the ECP spokesman, the final list of constituencies will be published on August 3, 2022, while from today no new administrative unit will be formed anywhere in the country. Chief Secretaries and Provincial Election Commissioners have been asked to provide required maps and other documents for demarcation work documents from April 11, 2022, to April 26, 2022. He added the training of delimitation committees will be conducted from April 20, 2022, to April 24, 2022. The preliminary delimitations will be published on May 28, 2022. From May 29, 2022, to June 28, 2022, the people will present their objections and recommendations to the Election Commission on the initial delimitation. The Election Commission will hear and decide all objections from July 1, 2022, to July 30, 2022, the spokesman added. - APP

## Russia threatens legal action over sovereign debt default

AGENCIES

**MOSCOW:** Russia will take legal action if the West tries to force it to default on its sovereign debt, Finance Minister Anton Siluanov told the pro-Kremlin Izvestia newspaper on Monday, sharpening Moscow's tone in its financial wrestle with the West. Russia faces its first external sovereign default in more than a century after it made arrangements to make an international bond repayment in rubles last week, even though the payment was due in U.S. dollars. It had been due on April 4

to make a payment of \$649 million to holders of two of its sovereign bonds, but the U.S. Treasury blocked the transfer, preventing Russia from using any of its frozen foreign currency reserves to service its debt. "Of course we will sue, because we have taken all the necessary steps to ensure that investors receive their payments," Siluanov told the newspaper in an interview. "We will present in court our bills confirming our efforts to pay both in foreign currency and in rubles. It will not be an easy process. We will have to very actively prove our case, despite all the difficulties."

Siluanov did not elaborate on Russia's legal options and did not say where any court hearing could happen. The bonds in question were issued under English law, which allows a borrower to defend itself by saying that an external force made it impossible to honour obligations, so the court may postpone the payment, said Mitu Gulati, professor of law at the University of Virginia. "So I think Russia is going to argue this but ... this is a war ... caused by Russia," said Gulati, also an expert on debt restructuring, adding: "This is not a completely implausible legal argument." - APP

## 24 dead in Philippines landslides, flooding

**ABUYOG, PHILIPPINES:** At least 24 people have been killed in landslides and flooding across central and southern Philippines, authorities said Monday, after tropical storm Megi dumped heavy rain and disrupted travel ahead of the Easter holidays. More than 13,000 people fled to emergency shelters as the storm pounded the region Sunday, the national disaster agency said, flooding houses, inundating fields, cutting off roads and knocking out power. The central province of Leyte was among the hardest hit, with landslides leaving 21 people dead in four villages, Baybay City disaster officer Rhysy Austero. - AFP

## 'China to adhere to friendly policy towards Pakistan'

**BEIJING:** Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson on Monday said China would firmly adhere to its friendly policy towards Pakistan and the all-weather ironclad friendship would not be affected by the leadership change in the country. "No matter how the political affairs in Pakistan may change, China will firmly adhere to our friendly policy to Pakistan and we don't believe the political change will affect the bilateral relations whatsoever," Zhao Lijian said during his regular briefing in response to a question about change of leadership in Pakistan after former prime minister Imran Khan was voted out through a no-confidence move. The spokesperson said Chi-

na wished all parties in Pakistan to remain united and maintain the stability and development of the country together. "We noted some changes in the political circle of Pakistan. As a close neighbour and ironclad friend, we sincerely hope all parties in Pakistan will maintain solidarity and jointly uphold stability and development in their country," he said. Replying to another question about the claim of foreign interference in no-trust move, he said China was firmly opposed to any other country's interference. The no-confidence motion tabled by the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) against Imran Khan succeeded early Sunday morning. - APP

## Sri Lanka doctors warn of 'catastrophic deaths'

WEB DESK

**COLOMBO:** Doctors in Sri Lanka have warned that a catastrophic number of people could die as the crisis-hit country's healthcare system teeters on the edge of collapse amid crippling power cuts and shortages of life-saving medications. Drugs to treat heart attacks and tubes to help newborn babies breathe are in short supply nationwide, officials and health workers said, while blackouts are forcing doctors in rural Sri Lanka to stitch wounds and treat snakebites in the dark. The situation is so dire that several hospitals have suspended routine surgeries and greatly reduced the number of laboratory tests, according to internal documents, forcing doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers to take to the streets in protest. Some have also backed a growing protest movement that has been calling for President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's resignation. "All Sri Lankan hospitals are on the verge of collapse," said Dr Senal Fernando, secretary at the Government Medical Officers Association. "The situation will deteriorate in the next two weeks and people will start dying if action is not taken now."

## Our numbers adequate by grace of Allah: Ch brothers

DNA

**LAHORE:** Punjab Governor Omar Sarfraz Cheema called on PML President and former Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujat Hussain and Speaker Punjab Assembly Chaudhry Parvez Elahi at their residence here and inquired about the welfare of Ch Shujat Hussain. Shafay Hussain and Chaudhry Javed Chattha were also present on the occasion. Detailed discussion on the current political situation in the country, including the election of a new Chief Minister of Punjab was held during the meeting. Punjab Governor Omar Sarfraz Cheema said that PTI would give full support to Ch Parvez Elahi in the election of CM Punjab; communication is underway with angry PTI MPs.

## 'Govt to complete constitutional tenure'

**ISLAMABAD:** Senior Leader of Pakistan Muslim League-N, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Monday said the government would complete its constitutional tenure under the leadership of Shehbaz Sharif. The PML-N was holding sufficient seats in the assembly to run the government in a befitting manner, he said. Commenting on resignation of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI) members, he said the PTI should sit in the Opposition benches. He further stated that Imran Khan has resigned by using constitutional rights of this country. He said, it is the responsibility of the ECP, to arrange elections after completion of the constitutional tenure of the PML-N government. - APP

## IHC rejects plea seeking probe into 'diplomatic cable'

US authorities rejected the letter, hence, the diplomatic cable should be investigated, pleaded the petitioner

USMAN CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday rejected a petition seeking to place the names of the former prime minister Imran Khan and ex-ministers on the Exit Control List (ECL) and ordering an investigation into an alleged threat letter. Maulvi Iqbal Haider had filed a petition in the IHC on Saturday seeking investigations into the diplomatic cable. On March 27, PM Imran Khan claimed to have received a "threat letter"

against his government from a foreign country. He named the United States to be behind the conspiracy. Later, the prime minister revealed that the "threatening message" that was received from the US was sent by its Assistant Secretary of State for the South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu. In a five-paragraph order, IHC CJ Justice Minallah rejected Maulvi Iqbal Haider's petition, declaring it inadmissible. At the outset of today's hearing, IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah asked the petitioner why are you politicising the

issue? "It is the responsibility of the state," he noted. "PM Imran kept silence in the beginning but when the opposition parties filed a no-confidence motion against him, the premier, while showing the letter, claimed that a foreign conspiracy has been hatched against his government," argued the petitioner. The US authorities rejected the letter, hence, the diplomatic cable should be investigated, pleaded the petitioner. The judge remarked that it is the responsibility of the state and asked, "Why did you come to court? What is your

request to the court? Pakistan's relations with the US were damaged due to the letter, hence the court should order to probe the letter, pleaded the petitioner. "Secretary interior is bound to probe the letter. It was the responsibility of the federal government to probe the letter and take the issue to the International Court of Justice," he added. The petitioner had also sought the court orders to lodge a serious treason case against the concerned people. Later, the court rejected the petition and fined the petitioner Rs100,000.

**APRIL 2022**  
Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

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

@Postislamabad/ @Editordnanews

A sister concern of  
**Islamabad POST**  
11# Block 18-A, Awan Plaza,  
G-8 Markez, Islamabad-Pakistan  
Ph: 051-2261960, 051-2266165