

Islamabad POST

Saturday, April 16, 2022

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

Price Rs. 20

Efforts underway to protect Al-Aqsa Mosque: Al-Maliki

Detailed News On Page-08

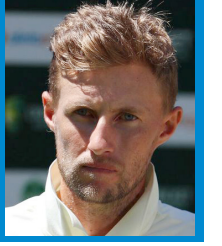
Sherry slams Imran over division politics

Detailed News On Page-08



Root gives up England test captaincy

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Bilquis Edhi passes away

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Philanthropist and humanitarian Bilquis Edhi passed away at a Karachi hospital at the age of 74 on Friday. Her death was confirmed by her son Faisal Edhi, who also said that the funeral would be announced shortly. A spokesperson for the Edhi Foundation said Bilquis was suffering from "multiple ailments". "She had heart problems in addition to lung issues," he said. Earlier this week, Bilquis — the wife of renowned humanitarian and philanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi — was rushed to a private hospital in Karachi after her blood pressure suddenly dropped. At the time, Edhi Foundation spokesperson Muhammad Bilal said she would remain at the hospital for a couple more days even though her condition was not serious.

IK never sought mily help: Mazari

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former cabinet minister Shireen Mazari has categorically said that prime minister (now deposed) Imran Khan had never called the military for help to break the 'political deadlock' ensuing from the National Assembly deputy speaker's ruling against the no-confidence resolution moved by the joint opposition. "Let me be clear. I am stating on record PM [Imran Khan] did not call military for help on 'breaking political deadlock". The military sought the meeting through then defence minister [Pervaiz] Khattak and they put forward the three proposals of either the PM resigning or taking part in VNC [vote of no confidence] or fresh elections," Mazari said in a series of tweets. "Why would Imran Khan give option of resigning when he had already stated categorically & repeatedly he would never resign! Makes no sense!"

Holiday Notice

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

7 soldiers martyred in ambush

Terrorists ambushed a military convoy near Pakistan-Afghan border; troops effectively engaged and killed 4 terrorists



STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: Seven Pakistan Army soldiers have embraced shahadat in a terrorist ambush in North Waziristan District. On 14 April 2022, terrorists ambushed a military convoy near Pak-Afghan border in general area Isham, North Waziristan District. According to an Inter Services Public Relations (IPR) press statement, own troops initiated a prompt response, effectively engaged and killed 4 terrorists. However, during intense exchange of fire, 7 soldiers embraced Shuhada. Details of Shuhada is: Havaldar Tariq Yousaf (age 36 years, resident of Faisalabad). Sepoy Suleman Waqas (age 34 years, resident of Layyah).

Sepoy Junaid Ali (age 26 years, resident of Layyah). Sepoy Ijaz Hussain (age 27 years, resident of Khairpur). Sepoy Waqar Ahmed (age 25 years, resident of Mirpur Khas). Sepoy Muhammad Jawad Ameer (age 24 years, resident of Chakwal). Sepoy Arshad Ali (age 23 years, resident of Sohbatpur). According to ISPR, clearance operation in the area is underway to eliminate any terrorists. Pakistan Army is determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

On Wednesday, a Pakistan Army soldier was martyred in an exchange of fire between troops and terrorists in North Waziristan's Isham area, according to a statement issued by the military's media wing. The statement from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) identified the soldier as Sepoy Asmatullah Khan, 28, who was a resident of Mianwali. The statement said he fought "gallantly". "Sanitisation of the area is being carried out to eliminate

Continued on Page 06

Government finalizes names for cabinet

Bilawal likely to get Foreign Minister portfolio

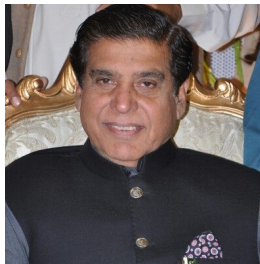
STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: For the constitution of the federal cabinet, the Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) government has shortlisted names for ministries in an iftar dinner hosted by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif today, ARY News reported. Sources said that several names from the coalition parties have been shortlisted for the ministries of the PML-N government. Rana Sanaullah has been recommended for the position of the law minister and Ahsan Iqbal for the Minister of Interior, Ayaz Sadiq IT ministry, Khawaja Asif as defence minister, Rana Tanveer Hussain as defence production minister, Mariyum Aurangzeb as information minister, whereas, Miftah Ismail is likely to be appointed as the finance adviser. Barjees Tahir, Khawaja Saad Rafique, PPP's Khurshid Shah and Naveed Qamar are also expected to be given different ministries in the PML-N government. It has been recommended to appoint Maulana Asad Mahmood of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Fazl (JUI-F) as the religious affairs minister. Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is likely to get the foreign ministry. Sources said that the PML-N government will consider the names of Sherry Rehman and Hina Rabbani Khar for the position of the foreign minister if PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari rejects to assume the position.

PPP's Raja Pervaiz elected NA Speaker

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) leader Raja Pervaiz Ashraf has been elected Speaker National Assembly unopposed. His election came after National Assembly Speaker Asad Qaiser resigned from his position after joint opposition submitted a no-confidence motion against former prime minister Imran Khan. Raja Pervaiz Ashraf after approval from the party had submitted his nomination papers in the assembly secretariat. According to the National Assembly Secretariat, notification regarding the election of Raja Pervaiz Ashraf as Speaker will be issued in accordance with the rules. PPP leaders Khurshid Shah and Naveed Qamar were the guarantors of the former prime minister. Raja Pervaiz Ashraf is a Pakistan-based businessperson, politician, and agriculturist. He remained the 19th PM of Pakistan from Jun 2012 to Mar 2013.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif addressing an Iftar Dinner, given to government coalition leaders at PM House. — APP

Pak values brotherly ties with Tunisia

COAS expressed these views in a meeting with Tunisian ambassador

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Borhene El Kamel, Ambassador of Tunisia called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest and regional security and bilateral cooperation in various fields were discussed. COAS said that Pakistan values its brotherly and historic relations with Tunisia and we earnestly look forward to enhance mutually beneficial multi-domain relations based on common interests. Both reiterated the desire to further enhance bilateral relations in all fields. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's efforts for regional stability and pledged to play his role for further improvement in diplomatic cooperation with Pakistan at all levels.

PM thanks Saudi leaders for messages

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday thanked King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for their felicitations messages on his assumption of the office of the Premier. In a tweet, the Prime Minister said the relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were "special and marked by exceptional trust." "I resolve to work closely to realize our shared vision of strategic partnership," Shehbaz Sharif said. Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany Olaf Scholz has also felicitated Shehbaz Sharif on becoming Pakistan's prime minister and expressed hope that Western European country will contribute to the improvement of bilateral relations. — APP

PM accuses Imran Khan of selling toshakhana gifts

Terms reports regarding closure of Ehsaas program, panagahs as baseless

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday accused PTI chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan of selling gifts received during foreign visits. Prime Minister Sharif made these claims during a meeting with senior journalists at PM House on Friday. "I can confirm you that Imran Khan took gifts worth Rs140 million from Toshakhana and sold them in Dubai," he said, adding that valuable state gifts include diamond jewellery, bracelets and watches. As per the country's law, any gift received from dignitaries of a foreign state must be put in the state depository or the Toshakhana. The prime minister also termed reports regarding closure of Ehsaas program, panagahs [shelter homes] and as baseless. "Govt will not close panagahs," he added. In September 2021, former SAPM Shehbaz Gill refuted allegations and said that gifts received by Prime Minister Imran Khan during foreign visits had been deposited to Toshakhana. He was responding to a debate on social media regarding secrecy maintained in the gifts received by the then premier during official tours.

Imran did nothing wrong, says Fawad

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Former information minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Fawad Chaudhry has defended former prime minister Imran Khan's action of selling a watch that he received as a state gift during his prime ministership, saying that there is nothing wrong with selling state gifts. "If the watch was Khan's and he sold it, what is wrong with it," Fawad Chaudhry asked, saying that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was trying to malign Imran Khan through such allegations. "He should pay attention to the issues facing the country," the former minister said. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was on Thursday quoted as confirming that his predecessor Imran Khan kept the gifts that were supposed to be in the Toshakhana and sold them in Dubai. He was quoted as telling journalists during an Iftar in

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

Punjab Assembly to elect CM today

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) stated on Friday that postponing the assembly session until April 16 was against the Constitution in a detailed ruling on the election of the Punjab Chief Minister and the restoration of the Punjab Assembly deputy speaker's powers. The 31-page judgement was dubbed a judicial precedent by LHC Chief Justice Muhammad Ameer Bhatti, who added that the court will investigate every unconstitutional act by Punjab Assembly Speaker because the Constitution did not protect any ruling given by abusing power. "The Supreme Court had also declared the National Assembly deputy speaker's



ruling null and void," it pointed out and added that Parvez Elahi, being a candidate for the slot of Punjab Chief Minister, could not use the powers of Punjab Assembly Speaker. "Before a vote of no-confidence against the deputy speaker, the election of Punjab Chief Minister is a priority.

Continued on Page 06

Inside...

- DS PR assures to take steps to facilitate trade — Page 02
- CDA making 80 filtration plants operational soon — Page 03
- Pak needs to reactivate soft diplomacy with Afghanistan — Page 04
- World needs to hear more about Israel's serial murders — Page 05
- PCB announces 12 months busy schedule for green shirts — Page 06
- Pakistan's sesame seed export to China surging around 191% — Page 07
- Clashes in Shanghai over lockdown evictions — Page 08

Israeli forces raid Al-Aqsa, injure over 150 Palestinians

Israeli police said they arrested at least 300 Palestinians during the latest escalation. However, Palestinian sources put the number at 400

NEWS DESK

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM: Israeli police have raided the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East Jerusalem, with medics reporting at least 158 Palestinians injured in the ensuing violence as hundreds were detained. The Islamic endowment that runs the site said Israeli police entered in force before dawn on Friday, as thousands of worshippers were gathered at the mosque for early morning prayers. Videos circulating online showed Palestinians throwing rocks and police firing tear gas and stun grenades. Others showed worshippers barricading themselves inside the mosque amid what appeared to be clouds of tear gas. The Palestinian Red Crescent

emergency service said it evacuated the majority of the wounded to hospitals. The endowment said one of the guards at the site was shot in the eye with a rubber bullet. The Palestinian Red Crescent added that Israeli forces had hindered the arrival of ambulances and paramedics to the mosque, as Palestinian media said dozens of injured worshippers remained trapped inside the compound. Israeli police said they arrested at least 300 Palestinians during the latest escalation. However, Palestinian sources put the number at 400. Israeli police said they entered the compound, the third holiest site in Islam and revered by Jews as the Temple Mount, to break up a "violent" crowd that remained at the end of the morning prayers. They said they went in "to dis-

Pakistan expresses grave concern

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Friday expressed its grave concern over the latest developments in various parts of the occupied Palestinian territories. Reports of Israeli forces' raid on Al-Aqsa Mosque, today, indicate 152 injured and more than 300 Palestinians detained. This highly condemnable assault on worshippers, especially during the holy month of Ramadan, is an egregious violation of all humanitarian norms and human rights laws. In recent weeks, Israeli forces have killed dozens and injured countless Palestinians in the occupied East Jerusalem and other areas. This escalation of violence by Israeli forces in the Palestinian territories is deplorable. The statement from Foreign Office read, "We pray for the earliest recovery of those injured. Pakistan also calls upon the international community to take urgent steps to protect innocent Palestinian lives, and uphold international law and principles of the UN Charter". Pakistan reaffirms its consistent and unstinted support for the Palestinian cause. We support the Palestinian people for the realization of their right to self-determination. — DNA

perse and push back" the crowd after a group of Palestinians began throwing rocks towards the nearby Jewish prayer space of the Western Wall. But Palestinian cameraman, Rami al-Khatib, who witnessed the raid, said: "They [Israeli forces] brutally emptied the compound. They were attacking the mosque staff, normal people, elders, young people. "There were many injured people, they fired rubber bullets inside Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. They were beating everyone, even the paramedics, they hit them," said al-Khatib, who too was injured. Reporting from Damascus Gate, Al Jazeera's Najwan al-Samri said Israeli police stormed the mosque compound without pretext and assaulted worshippers near the Qibly prayer hall follow-

ing the morning prayer. She added that the escalation came as far-right Jewish groups called for raids of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound during the Jewish Passover holiday, and the offering of animal sacrifices in its courtyards, which has not occurred since ancient times. Al Jazeera's Natasha Ghoneim said Palestinians considered Israel's actions inside the compound as a provocation. "Simply seeing Israeli police actually inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque with men laying face down on the carpet, hearing the bang-bang of stun grenades, seeing the cloud of tear gas, seeing distressed Palestinians being carted outside of the compound after being injured...deeply outraged and upset Palestinians," she said, speaking from outside Damascus Gate.

Briefs

Fertilizer urea sale point sealed

PESHAWAR: The district administration Kurram Muhammad Amir Khan is taking solid measures to facilitate growers. As part of such efforts, Additional Assistant Commissioner Upper Kurram Muhammad Amir Khan on Friday paid visit to Parachinar bazaar and sealed a fertilizer urea sale point and arrested its owner for overcharging people. The action was taken following directives of Deputy Commissioner Wasal Khan Khattak after receiving complaints. - APP

12 corona patients in Peshawar's hospitals

PESHAWAR: As many as 12 patients infected with coronavirus were being under treatment in two major hospitals of Peshawar including Khyber Teaching Hospital and Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar, said an official of the Health Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa here on Friday.

Giving complete detail about the corona patients, he said, four patients infected with corona are undergoing treatment in Khyber Teaching Hospital and 8 others are being admitted in Lady Reading Hospital. He said "122 beds are allotted for corona patients in Khyber Teaching Hospital and the hospital has 28 ventilators reserved for corona patients with one patient infected with Corona is undergoing treatment at HDU." The official further added "Four patients are undergoing treatment on 31 beds of oxygen and a Corona patient has been admitted in the last 24 hours, however, 117 beds allotted for Corona in Khyber Teaching Hospital are vacant." - APP

Elections for KMu Syndicate held

PESHAWAR: The elections of Khyber Medical University (KMU) Peshawar Syndicate for different categories of Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors and Directors were held at KMU Multi-Purpose Hall and KMU-Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) Kohat on Friday. These elections were held in accordance with the prevailing rules and regulations of the University to fill the vacant seats reserved for Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, and Directors in the Syndicate. Prof. Dr. Lal Muhammad Khattak, Pro Vice Chancellor KMU was the Chairman Election Committee while he was accompanied by other members including Dean of Allied Health Sciences Prof. Dr. Haider Darain, Additional Director of Academics Mohammad Islam and Deputy Director of academics Fawad Ahmad. - APP

DS PR assures to take steps to facilitate trade

OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Ziaul Haq Sarhadi, Chairman, Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Standing Committee on Railways/Dryport, former senior vice president, Pak-Afghan Joint Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI) vice president held a meeting with newly appointed Pakistan Railways Divisional Superintendent (DS) Peshawar M Nasir Khalili and assured him to cooperate and support at every level.

According to a statement issued here on Friday, he congratulated Nasir Khalili to appointment as DS Railways Peshawar second time. The DS Railways Peshawar, Nasir Khalili on the occasion assured that the Pakistan Railways would take all possible measures to facilitate trade and businesses. On the occasion he also assured he will personally visit the Aza Khel Dryport and would take practical steps to resolve all issues at the dryport. During the meeting, Ziaul Haq Sarhadi said the Azakhel dryport was

inaugurated by former prime minister Imran Khan but the newly established dryport is yet not fully functional despite the passage of two years. He demanded the restoration of the cargo train from Peshawar to Karachi in order to facilitate trade for imports and exports. Similarly, he said that Afghan transit trade goods (GITA) via goods transit train railways would supply raw materials and recondition vehicles to industrial estates from Karachi. He mentioned for the last 22 years,

the export cargo train had suspended from Peshawar Cantt Dryport, despite the fact that KP has god-gifted treasures of natural resources like mine, mineral, oil, gas, gemstones, furniture, handicraft, carpet, honey and other, besides match largest industry is in KP. Sarhadi said if the export would be boosted from this region then the country would earn hefty revenue as well as provide employment opportunities to a large number of people. Likewise, he said Pakistan Railways would

also fetch massive revenue on head of freights. Later, the DS Railways Peshawar, Nasir Khalili assured that the Pakistan Railways would take all possible measures to facilitate trade and business. On the occasion he also assured he will personally visit the Aza Khel Dryport and would take practical steps to resolve all issues at the dryport. At the end, the SCCI former vice president thanked DS Peshawar and invited him to visit Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Peshawar.

Assessment of skilled workforce held

DNA

LAHORE: The assessment of skilled workforce under National Vocational and Technical Training Commission, NAVTTC -TAKAMOL Skill Verification Program (SVP) was conducted at DESCON Training Institute, Lahore. A total of 11 aspirants with required skill set of electrician trade appeared in the skill verification program. All 11 participants successfully qualified the SVP Test. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed a landmark agreement for certification and employment of Pakistani skilled workforce through Takamol and NAVTTC in December last year.

Ministry of Human Resource and Social Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) has introduced Skill Verification Program (SVP) implemented from July 2021 in order to regulate its labor market. After the implementation of SVP in KSA, skill verification has become necessary for the Pakistani skilled workers, who intend to have employment in Saudi Arabia.

Court issues restraining order on AJK PM election

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: The Azad Kashmir High Court on Friday issued a restraining order on the conduct of new AJK Prime Minister election. A two-judge bench of AJK court comprising Justice Shahid Bahar and Justice Sardar Jaz announced the verdict on the petition filed by the PPP. The High Court has also restrained the Legislative Assembly from further proceedings till Monday. Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) had challenged the session of the AJK Assembly that was scheduled for today (Friday). PPP leaders Chaudhry Latif Akbar and Chaudhry Yasin filed petition in the High Court. Whereas the joint opposition has decided to boycott the election process for the Prime Minister of Azad Kashmir and they have further agreed upon not nominating their leader of the House. It is pertinent to mention here that Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Niazi had resigned from his office on Thursday. In a meeting with the PTI chief on Wednesday, Qayyum Niazi had informed Imran Khan about the facts and the alleged conspiracy being hatched against him in AJK.

Saqib Mannan inspects Ramazan Bazar



ISHFAQ MUGHAL

FAISALABAD: The benefits of Ramzan Bazars is being provided to the masses and proper monitoring is being carried out to maintain the Ramzan arrangements. This was stated by Secretary Archeology Punjab Saqib Mannan while visiting to Ramzan Bazar Chatri wali ground Jinnah Colony, Kaleem Shaheed Park and the bazar of Tehsil Samundri and reviewed the prices and quality of essential items including

fruits, vegetables, sugar, rice, mutton and chicken. He said that the Punjab Government is taken all out measures for providing relief to the consumers during the holy month of Ramzan and Ramzan

Package is being implemented for providing subsidy on flour and sugar and other items as well. He expressed his satisfaction over the Ramzan Bazar arrangements and stressed upon maintaining these arrangements in letter and spirit. Adding he said that it was appreciable steps to provide all daily essential items on cheaper rates

under one roof which was a big relief to the public. He checked the purchase process of sugar and flour and checked the record also. Earlier Deputy Commissioner Ali Shahzad gave briefing to the Secretary at DC office. He informed the Secretary that Punjab Govt has decided to sell at least 5 Kilogram Patato to buyers while other items would also available in two Kilograms except Lemon and Garlic. He gave detail of other subsidies items. ADCR Fazal e Rabi Cheema, ACs Umar Maqbool, Sahibzada Yousaf and other officers were also present.

FPCCI: Shahzeb appointed as convener Govt Affairs

DNA

KARACHI: Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, President FPCCI, has appointed Khawaja Shahzeb Akram, immediate past Senior Vice President of FPCCI, as the Convener of the high-powered Government Affairs & Coordination Committee of the apex chamber. Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh emphasized that FPCCI is an apolitical institution of the national importance and we want amicable working relations with all the governmental ministries & departments - federal or provincial.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh added that renowned industrialist, serial entrepreneur and accomplished business leader will be the focal person of the business, industry and trade community of Pakistan for the business-to-government (B2G) relations and redressal of the issues, complaints, anomalies &

grievances in the matters of tariffs & taxation; trade & industry; policy advocacy & budget-making; law & order; EPZs & SEZs; governmental support in international delegations & exhibitions; sectorial facilitation packages, etc.

Mr. Irfan Iqbal Sheikh has also appointed experienced businessman Mr. Aethesham UI Haq as the Deputy Convener of the aforementioned committee to assist Khawaja Shahzeb Akram. Mr. Aethesham UI Haq specializes in policy advocacy and representing the business community on government forums. Muhammad Nadeem Qureshi, Regional Chairman of FPCCI, stated that it is an absolute imperative to have a functional B2G liaison to keep the wheel of the economy going; post robust growth in exports on a sustainable basis; generate employment and pay taxes to the national exchequer in an anomaly-free manner.

Govt establishing 'Education City' in S Waziristan

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Higher Education Kamran Khan Bangash Friday said that for the first time in the province an Education City was being set up in South Waziristan to provide quality education to the youth. He said this while signing a Memorandum of Understanding between University of Engineering and Applied Sciences Swat.

Kamran Bangash said "Around 7,000 kanals of land has been allotted for this Education City and it will cost Rs 2.7 million. He said that commercial and residential blocks will also be set up in Education City." "Registration for making tenders and campuses on it will be started within two months," said Kamran Bangash. - APP

108 shopkeepers fined over profiteering

DNA

FAISALABAD: Price control magistrates have imposed Rs 87,000 fine on 108 shopkeepers on the charge of profiteering in the district during the past 12 hours.

A spokesman for the administration said on Friday that price control magistrates inspected 772 shops in different markets and bazaars of Faisalabad and found dozens of shopkeepers involved in profiteering and overcharging. Therefore, the magistrates imposed fine on them and warned that they would be sent behind bars if they did not shun profiteering, he added.

Barrister Saif lauds Pak Army, judiciary's role

Opposition is master in running negative propaganda and they resorted to such tactics for their personal interest

PESHAWAR: Special Assistant to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Information Barrister Muhammad Ali Saif here on Friday paid rich tributes to the Pakistan Army, saying no one who loves Pakistan can deny the sacrifices of our armed forces for defending ideological and geographical frontiers of the country. "Pakistan Army is our army and protecting us and if anyone talks against Pak Army by using our name, we have nothing to do with it," the Chief Minister's Special Assistant said while addressing a press conference at Itila Cell, Civil Secretariat.

He said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) strongly rejected propaganda against Pakistan Army and added that strict action would be taken against any such member at every forum including at Party level. Similarly, he said that the judiciary was a respectable institution and its sanctity would be maintained. He however said that objections would be raised as legal rights. Referring to the ISPR's press conference, Barrister Saif welcomed

the position of the Pak Army that has cleared following the political situation. The Opposition is master in running negative propaganda and they resorted to such tactics for their personal interest, he added.

Barrister Saif said that some people were having sleepless nights after watching the massive Peshawar rally of the PTI, adding that they had resorted to pitting Pak Army and PTI against each other to achieve their personnel and political gains.

He regretted that some events took place in the rally due to mismanagement for which, he said, an apology had sought from the press club.

He said the joint opposition included some bogus names of a Jamaat-e-Islami member in a resolution against the Chief Minister. He asked Shahram Khan and the Speaker of the provincial assembly to investigate this incident. He said that it was part of the political strategy of the PTI to continue its government in KP where there existed a strong opposition. - APP



KARACHI: Consulate General of Turkey in Karachi hosts Iftar dinner for the mission chiefs of Muslim countries in Karachi. - DNA

Customer data management, a crucial step in sales management

ALI NAWAZ KHAN

A business which strives to know who their customers are, through the process of customer data management (CDM) will have success in the long term, implementation of this process in the business can help boost sales by a huge margin, CDM is the term used for the strategies, processes, tools and standards businesses use for managing their customer's data, the acquisition, storage, organizing and use of data is all part of CDM.

Creating a customer data base can do wonders for the business as well as the customers of the business, it helps to create brand affinity, customers these days want to buy from places that they know, with CDM a brand can build affinity by reaching out to them by marketing emails and share what they have to offer, new products, special offers or even news about the company can help the brand connect with the customers. CDM helps encourage customer loyalty, the customers whom have prior purchased from the business can be given a red-carpet

treatment, CDM allows to identify those individuals, their purchases and their preferences, a brand can reach out to them whenever they have a new version of the item they purchased or if there is a complementary product that goes with their initial purchase, not to mention special discounts and offers as well. This process is great way to encourage customers to make new purchases and help build a better bond with them. Through CDM a better customer service can be provided, customers whose data is stored with the business can be used to have

personalized communication with them, a very good example would be automobile dealerships in Pakistan such as Toyota, Honda, KIA, MG motors etc. they are fully utilizing the art of CDM in their business through the help of feedback and complaint portals at their dealerships as well as online on their websites if any customer has problem with their service they can write it up and they will be contacted by the company in hopes of rectifying the problem. This is how CDM can ensure a business can look out for its customers and in turn that ensures the cus-

tomers keeps coming back rather than switching to an alternative. CDM has a lot of part to play in new product launches as well, such as at MG motors Islamabad, they get hundreds of calls a day, people asking about when new models are coming out? what they do is simply note down their name, number, the models in which they are interested in and their preferences and whenever a new model is launched, they call them up and pitch them in a personalized manner and many times they end up closing deals, these sales are solely through CDM and

the amount is always noteworthy. This habit of CDM is practiced in almost all automobile companies in Pakistan as well as worldwide. In short CDM has allowed businesses to meet their customer's expectations, with personalized selling and communication through their data, the more a business knows about the customer's interests the more its likely to pitch them products they are interested in and end up closing deals. Customers data is gold for a business in today's world and customer data management is the process of mining that gold.

Islamabad POST

Available in following cities

ISLAMABAD
Qamar News Agency
03105460372RAWALPINDI
Asim News Agency
03435802610KARACHI
Nazir Siyal
03337554016PESHAWAR
Zarbagh News Agency
03005412069FAISALABAD
Ishfaq Mughal
03007689850GUJRAT
M. Yousuf Bhutta
03338436820JHELUM
Iqrahs News Agency
03005412069KHARIAN
Ijaz News Agency
03068863870LALAMUSA
Gulzar Ahmed Noshi
03359494788SARA-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.....927060120
Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596
Rawalpindi.....9270601-20



Enquiry

- Edhi Ambulance.....115
PIAFlightInfo.....114
PIACargo.....9280979
Railway Inquiry.....117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
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
RawalTown.....5773343

Water Tank

- Islamabad.....0321-5744480

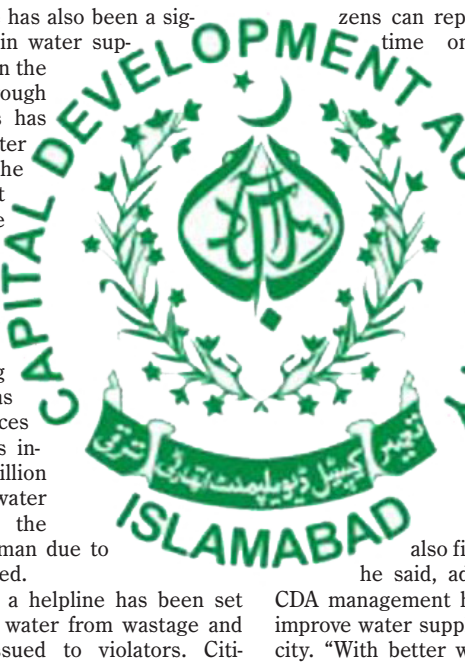
CDA making 80 filtration plants operational soon

“CDA is supplying water regularly as per available sources and the Wing has increased two (2) million gallons per day water on directions of the Authority’s Chairman due to Ramadan,” he noted

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The water supply wing of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) has completed installation of 80 water filtration plants at various locations in Islamabad to provide clean drinking water to the residents of the federal capital.

said adding, there has also been a significant increase in water supply and pressure in the area. The CDA through various measures has overcome the water shortage issue, he said, adding that earlier there were around 350 daily complaints but nowadays they have been reduced to 150.



izens can report the leakage at any time on WhatsApp number 03357775444 while inquiry offices for water tankers supply were functional in all the sectors, he added.

ing winter, we have saved sufficient water in reservoir by rationing. Now we have enough water sources in dam till next monsoon. Also saved about 10 MG per day water by removing leakages and replacement of profusely leaking lines in a year,” he added.

NEPRA notifies Rs 4.85 per unit increase

ISLAMABAD: The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Friday notified Rs 4.85 per unit increase in power tariff for February under monthly Fuel Cost Adjustment (FCA) mechanism.



ISLAMABAD: A large number of people offering Namaz-e-Jumma in Masjid o Imam Bargha at Blue area. – APP

Shan Foods shares necessary reminder this Ramadan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Shan Foods, a leading name in the food industry, under its CSR identity, Shan Shares, is back with another thought-provoking and innovative message for the month of Ramadan that creatively channels the spirit of sharing and giving back to the society.

through the end note which encourages people to reduce food waste and share their meals with others. Muslims all over the world donate generously during the month of Ramadan, be it monetary or any other type of donation. Food is one of the major things that is highly focused upon during Ramadan and consequently a lot of it also goes to waste.

Sharing her thoughts on the digital campaign, Maria Rashdi, Head of Corporate Communications and PR Shan Foods, said, “Food wastage and hunger are global problems. As the world is battling to end hunger, we also want to play our part in the process by creating awareness regarding the problem and taking necessary steps to overcome it.

In its commitment to sustainability, Shan Shares’ efforts are majorly guided by the UN Sustainable Developmental Goals, particularly the goals of ‘Zero Hunger’ and ‘Responsible Consumption and Production’.

‘Fantastic beasts’ holds positives and negatives alike

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore, the third film in the ‘Harry Potter’ spinoff franchise has received mixed reviews from both the critics and the viewers.

According to the reviews given by critics of Rotten Tomatoes, it is a return to the fun and excitement of former ‘Harry Potter’ days. Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets Of Dumbledore take the audience on an adventure that encompasses China, the U.K, Germany, the Austrian Alps, New York and fan favorite ‘Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry’.

ITP launches crackdown against unregistered vehicles

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has launched a crackdown against unregistered vehicles in the city. According to the details, the ITP issued tickets to 2,827 unregistered vehicles and motorcycles during the ongoing year 2022.

IG Capital Police orders crackdown on gangsters

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Muhammad Ahsan Younus Friday directed the field police officers to intensify operations against the fugitives and anti-social elements to break networks of the nefarious gangs of criminals.



cases in the federal capital. Ahsan Younus asked the DIG Operations to provide extra personnel and vehicles to police stations with deployment of Egal and Falcon Squad to improve the performance. He said there was no place in the force for corruption and abuse of power

and full action should be taken against such elements so that the process of self-accountability could be made more effective. “Delay in registration of FIR will not be tolerated, if any complaint is lodged in this regard, strict departmental action will be taken against the SHO concerned,” he warned.

ITP starts crackdown against wrong parking

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Traffic Police (ITP) has decided to launch crackdown against those involved in wrong parking in markets and other busy areas of the city. Following directions of Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Mazhar Iqbal, ITP reviewed arrangements to ensure smooth flow of traffic in the city.

The SSP (Traffic) Mazhar Iqbal said that it is our top priority to ensure convenience for road users by maintaining traffic discipline and every possible effort would be made for the purpose. – APP

NHMP to take action against unauthorized police lights

ISLAMABAD: National Highways and Motorway Police (NH&MP) will take strict action against vehicles using illegal registration number plates and unauthorised police lights. In a statement, NHMP said that the law was clear that no one could install emergency lights in private vehicles and we had zero tolerance in that regard.

NPO to organize webinar on ‘PFMS’ on April 20

ISLAMABAD: The National Productivity Organization (NPO) would organize a webinar on “Public Financial Management System (PFMS)” on April 20. The PFMS is a set of rules and institutions, policies and processes that govern the use of public funds across all sectors from revenue collection to monitoring of public expenditures, according to NPO document.

Briefs

NHA plans to build DG Khan northern Bypass

ISLAMABAD: National Highway Authority (NHA) has planned to construct the Dera Ghazi Khan Northern bypass as a part of 80 kilometre rehabilitation, widening and improvement project of DG Khan-Rakhi Gajj section of Multan-Qilla Saifullah Highway (N-70). Procurement process to hire a consultant firm to conduct feasibility study and detailed design has been initiated, an official of NHA informed APP on Friday. The official said that PCI for Dera Ghazi Khan Northern bypass was approved by ECNEC in 2018 and ground-breaking was conducted but the project could not be executed due to non-availability of funds. He said that now NHA had published a Request for Proposal (RFP) for consultancy services for feasibility study and detailed design for rehabilitation, widening and improvement of N-70 from D. G. Khan to Rakhi Gajj in November 2021. He said that PCI will be submitted in 4 months' time period after award of the contract. After approval of PCI from competent forum and allocation of funds in PSDP, NHA will initiate procurement of Civil Works and Services, he informed. - APP

Christian community celebrated 'Good Friday'

ISLAMABAD: The Christian community in Pakistan celebrated Good Friday today (Friday) with religious fervor and zeal, while Easter will be celebrated on Sunday, like in other parts of the world. Archbishop Joseph Arshad new Bishop of Islamabad-Rawalpindi talking to the PTV news channel said that special prayer ceremonies were held in Churches across Pakistan. Good Friday is observed before Easter Sunday as a religious day on which Christians commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and his death. Dr. Joseph said that on this occasion, all the churches of Pakistan have been decorated with colorful little flags and decorative electric lights. After Christmas, Easter is Christianity's second biggest festival which they celebrate to remember the return of Jesus Christ from death. He said all religious minorities living in the country were enjoying equal rights under the Constitution of Pakistan which was appreciable. "On this day, we spread the message of love, forgiveness, and sacrifice. We pray for peace in the country," he added. - APP

'Chilam Joshi festival' preparations in full swing

ISLAMABAD: A huge number of tourists including foreigners from all over the world would participate in the traditional four-day 'Chilam Joshi spring festival' of Kalash valley next month where preparations for the upcoming festival are in full swing. Chilam Joshi is the most important festival celebrated in May for four days and attracts visitors from all over the world. The celebrations would highlight their cultural richness, a plethora of colors, and the underlying message of peace said a report aired by a private news channel. Preparations have already kicked off for the festival in all the three valleys that including the renovation of houses and tailoring of traditional dresses as well as a collection of ingredients to cook special cuisines for the occasion. During the festival, the Kalasha people would seek the blessing of their God and pray for the safety of the herds and crops of the community. The women would be dressed up in traditional clothes of vibrant colors, gold and silver jewelry, and elaborate headgear. Men wear traditional ShalwarKameez with a woolen waistcoat. The Kalash women and men dance and sing in a circle on the rhythmic chant of drum beats. - APP

Pak needs to reactivate soft diplomacy with Afghanistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Soft Diplomacy was one of the approaches that was underutilized by Pakistan, said Dr Qibla Ayaz, Chairman Islamic Ideology Council. He was delivering a talk at a session titled 'Pak-Afghan Relations and Islamic Ideology: Diplomacy, Existing Challenges, and Future Prospects'. The session was jointly organized by the Pak-Afghan Youth Forum (PAYF) and the Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) under the former institute's series titled 'Stories We Live By'. Reflecting on some of his personal experiences with the Afghan students, Dr Ayaz appreciated Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz's support and initiatives to allow them in Pakistani universities during his tenure. Dr Ayaz was of the opinion that such initiatives played a vital role in establishing students as ambassadors of peace and prosperity. He added, that he had experienced the affiliations that the Afghan students had formed over the years here in Pakistani universities and how they had invariably become ambassadors of their institutes. This soft diplomacy, he said, was the critical need of the hour to shun down any other narratives surrounding the debate on Pak-Afghan relations. He added further that although a lot of Afghan students were currently enrolled in Pakistani universities, there was still a need for the relevant stakeholders in the



country to come up with specific goal-oriented capacity-building courses for the Afghan students in order to enable them further in their respective fields. Referring to his brief tenure as the Associate Vice Chancellor (VC) at the Islamia University Peshawar, Dr Qibla Ayaz mentioned that he had always been active proponent of an 'open door policy' towards the Afghan students.

Expressing his opinion on the issue of education of girls in Afghanistan, Dr Ayaz said that there were two groups in Afghanistan. One was the exposed group the other was the mahaaz group that had fought and won. The latter, he said, was rather extremist practicing ideals such as negating girls' education and enforcing burka etc. There was currently an internal tussle between these two groups

and that was why they were unable to deliver what the international government wanted from them, i.e., an inclusive and representative government. Reflecting on his role as Chairman Islamic Ideology Council, Dr Qibla quoted his experience(s) from bringing together ulema from different Muslim countries together and iterated that ulema diplomacy could also

contribute a great deal to ensure peace and stability within the two countries and across the region. In that, he added, that Pakistan could play a vital role as a mediator. However, considering the fact that the Council of Islamic Ideology was a constitutional body, this could be possible with the support and approval of the relevant ministries and security organizations in the country.

From junk to traditional, necessary during Ramadan

DNA

RAWALPINDI: The nutrition experts of the National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) have called on Friday for a cultural shift from junk food to traditional unprocessed Pakistani cuisines and drinks for ensuring a healthy diet and avoid gaining weight during the month of Ramadan. They said that lack of awareness about "mindful eating" among people residing both in urban and rural areas, reduce the life span of their families while increasing the risk of non-communicable diseases like hypertension, diabetes, heart problem and obesity. The month of fasting provides them an opportunity to ponder over their unhealthy eating habits and switch to healthy life style, said Head of NUMS Department of Nutrition and Dietetic DrSeharIqbal PhD in Public Health and Nutrition and Assistant Prof and consultant Dietitian Dr Abdul Momin, PhD in Food and Nutrition while dilating on benefits of nutritious diet. "Cultural shift is required to use healthy diets and drinks through reverting people choices to organic products, fruits and vegetables and use of traditional Pakistani drinks like lemon and "lassi" by abandoning the consumption junk food and fizzy drinks", said DrSeharIqbal. The role of the media is critical in promoting a balanced diet which will help to lessen disease burden on health facilities of the country. Olive oil is the best option for cooking while "Desi Ghee", (clarified butter) being non-processed, is far better than other cooking oils available in the market. People could use vegetables, fruits, pulses and salads for a healthy life style and keep at bay many health problems.

MMBL, IWCCI join hands for access of DFS



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's largest digital bank, Mobilink Microfinance Bank Limited (MMBL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Islamabad Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IWCCI) to promote and strengthen access to Digital Financial Solutions (DFS) for women borrowers and micro-entrepreneurs. Promotion of financial inclusion is one of the core pillars at MMBL whereby the Bank is committed to facilitating its women borrowers by paving the path to easy, seamless, and affordable DFS offerings. With custom-designed female-centric products, MMBL is continuously striving to fulfill the financing needs of women by eliminating barriers that restrict their access to financial services. Through this MoU, access to financial credit for women entrepreneurs will be further simplified. MMBL's collaboration with IWCCI is another step forward in endorsing multiple initiatives to establish a supportive environment for women borrowers and micro-entrepreneurs allowing them to not only build their businesses but also enhance outreach. Through tailored entrepreneurial ca-

capacity-building workshops and training programs, IWCCI will not only provide marketing opportunities for micro-entrepreneurs but also support strengthening their financial position. This alliance is dedicated to creating better opportunities for women's financial inclusion by generating awareness about DFS including mobile wallets. Commenting on the occasion, President & CEO MMBL, Ghazanfar Azam said: "It is a challenge for Pakistan to achieve complete financial inclusion and attain sustainable growth unless access to financial resources to the 49% of the population that comprises women, is ensured. MMBL, through its Women Inspirational Network (WIN) program, has made conscious efforts to include women borrowers and micro-entrepreneurs in the financial net. Since the program's inception, we have upskilled more than 500 women in urban and rural startups in financial management, and our drive to foster financial literacy spurs ever on. Through this collaboration with IWCCI, we will continue enabling women to further understand Pakistan's digital financial ecosystem while opening

more avenues for them to gain formal access to financial capital." President IWCCI, Naima Ansari said: "At IWCCI, we are focused on helping businesses achieve ambitions. Now it is imperative for women-owned businesses to take advantage of financial offerings for business scalability and expansion. We look forward to working with MMBL to design financial products customized to the needs of women business owners, that will pave the way for their financial inclusion and growth." MMBL acknowledges the need to uplift Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) that contribute approximately 40% to the country's GDP. MMBL and IWCCI emphasize that upskilling women in DFS and mobile wallets is vital to building and fostering a digital economy. MMBL, with its strategic partnerships, is dedicated to fostering financial inclusion through its diverse portfolio and skills development workshops in numerous capacities including but not limited to financial management, personal entrepreneurial competencies, and business planning. - APP

Chinese-tech classrooms to invigorate edu system

Construction of the project started from September, 2021

ISLAMABAD: In the past decade, emphasis has been placed on improving higher education system and educational infrastructure by the Pakistani government. Now, a project under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) called 'Smart Classroom' is growing vigorously in 50 universities across Pakistan, which may breathe new life into Pakistan's education system in the near future. According to Chen Chun, project manager from China Railway Signal & Communication Shanghai Engineering Bureau Group Co., Ltd., in the smart classrooms, teaching can be realized both offline and online at the same time, overstepping the boundaries of time and space, and interaction between teachers and students will be much more enhanced. Moreover, through advanced information and communication technology from China, an intelligent system of data sharing and assessment will be established. "The smart classrooms will improve the accessibility of students from one location to the best teachers located at another place," Umar Idrees, Pakistani site engineer of the 'Smart Classroom' project told CEN. It's learned that a total of 100 smart classrooms will be built at 50 public universities in 49 cities from Hunza in the

northernmost to Karachi in the far south, covering all the provinces and regions of Pakistan, which means the state-of-the-art educational resources will be better utilized and distributed over the whole country. It's indeed inspiring for students who currently lack high-quality educational resources in the country. The construction of the 'Smart Classroom' project started from September, 2021. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the team has risen to many challenges in equipment and material imports, customs clearance and construction, etc. "Now all the equipment and materials of the project have arrived at our warehouse in Pakistan. We're striving to complete the whole project by November," Chen Chun said. As CPEC entered the second phase of improving people's livelihood, education has become one of the key areas to develop to help the Pakistan alleviate poverty and let more Pakistani people live a better life. "The Smart Classroom project will benefit the university students in Pakistan who are the pillar of the state in the future. It will greatly promote the development of higher education in Pakistan, supporting Pakistan to evolve into a knowledge-based economy," Chen Chun concluded. - APP

Opportunity for govt. to tame budget deficit

ISLAMABAD: The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) here on Friday organized a session with journalists to discuss the opportunity for the new government to generate revenue by increasing tobacco taxes. Public Health experts recommended the new government to increase Federal Excise Duty (FED) on Tobacco Products by 30 percent to generate additional revenue that can be used for the well being of the people since the budget is a crucial challenge for the government. Mr. Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager SPARC told the media that Tobacco taxes were the most cost-effective tobacco control measure and the use of tobacco caused an annual economic burden of 615 billion which is 1.6 percent of Pakistan's GDP. This leads to significant negative externalities, including high healthcare costs and lost productivity due to tobacco-attributable diseases. But contrary, the revenue generated from the tobacco industry is 120 billion in 2019 which is approximately just 20 percent of the total cost of smoking, he expressed. - APP

PIA offers 15 % discount to ICCI members on domestic flights

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has offered 15 percent discount on domestic flights and 10 percent discount on international flights to the members of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI). For this purpose, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between PIA and ICCI. Muhammad Shakeel Munir President ICCI and Junaid Khan, District Manager, PIA Islamabad signed the MoU during a ceremony held at ICCI. According to the MoU, PIA will offer 15% discount on domestic sectors and 10% discount on international sectors on economy & executive economy classes on applicable base fare along with the waiver of service charges, if applicable to ICCI members and their immediate family, on request from ICCI secretariat letterhead with production of valid ICCI Membership Card by the members.



ICCI will extend support and will facilitate promotion of PIA products and services from all its platforms including electronic, print and social media. ICCI will declare PIA as official travel

partner and PIA will be preferred travel airline for all of their members' visits on both international and domestic sectors. Speaking at the occasion, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, President,

Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) appreciated the initiatives of PIA for offering discounts to ICCI members in domestic and international flights. He said that airlines play an important

role in business and economic development of a country, therefore, improving the performance of PIA is vital to promote Pakistan's trade and exports to international markets. He hoped that the PIA discounted offer would help the business community in exploring new markets for improving trade and exports of the country. He assured that the business community would cooperate in promoting PIA's branding. Junaid Khan, District Manager, said that PIA is now focusing on corporate customers for business generation and signing MoU with ICCI is a part of such efforts. He said that the business community should facilitate PIA in improving its cargo business. He said that PIA is ready to dedicate aircrafts for cargo flights if the private sector supports it with more business volume. He said that PIA is making efforts to expand its foreign destination that would help the business community in tapping new markets for business opportunities.

'See Pakistan' nature exhibition concludes

ISLAMABAD: A fascinating Photo Exhibition 'See Pakistan' by M.H. Toori concluded here on Friday at Pakistan National Council of the Arts (PNCA) in which unseen beauty of Pakistan was showcased. A large number of the public from various walks of life alongside the press and media visited the exhibition to see the blend of culture and nature in Pakistan. This show in particular is very important because M.H. Toori showed his photographs for the very first time at the PNCA. PNCA is committed to promoting significant aspects of the country and encourages community participation in gallery activities, fostering curatorial practice to artists' own understanding of their work and encouraging a healthy and sustainable local arts industry. - APP

Ukraine conflict may spiral out of control

HOPES of an early end to the Ukraine crisis, raised by the start of talks between Moscow and Kyiv a couple of weeks ago, seem to be fading quickly. There is fear that the conflict could escalate beyond its current peripheries. The crisis, which began on February 24 when Moscow sent thousands of troops into Ukraine, is slowly but steadily becoming a war by proxy between Russia and the West, led by the United States, despite the repeated assurances of Nato leaders that the alliance member countries will not be dragged into what so far has been a limited war.

A few weeks ago, the world had hoped for a quick end of the war as senior delegations from the two countries met several times in Minsk and Istanbul with reports that a first draft agreement was being written to pave the way for a meeting between the two countries' leaders. To support those efforts, Russia last week announced that it was withdrawing its troops from the region surrounding the Ukrainian capital Kyiv.

However, Ukraine, buoyed by the Russian partial drawdown and the intensifying Western military and financial support, has since taken a harder line. Any hope of compromise seems unrealistic today, especially after Wednesday's announcement by President Joe Biden of a \$800 million package of offensive weapons including heavy artillery and assault helicopters. The nature of the US military aid to Ukraine and Biden's unusual rhetoric (describing the war as a genocide) suggests that for the US and its Western allies, this has become a war by proxy. Another indication of the escalation of the war is the latest statements coming from Nordic countries, which are not Nato members. Wary of the possibility of a wider conflict, these states, such as Finland and Sweden, seem to have abandoned their long-held policy of neutrality and took major steps towards joining the organisation, despite Russian objections.

Finnish Prime Minister, Sanna Marin, said on Wednesday that her country, which shares a 1,300km border with Russia, would decide on this "quite fast, in weeks not months". The Ukraine war has not only changed Europe's "whole security landscape" but also "reshaped mindsets" in her and neighbouring countries.

Moscow was quick to warn Nato of admitting those countries. UN chief, Antonio Guterres, on Wednesday warned that the war in Ukraine looks more like a "perfect storm" of global catastrophes and will devastate economies in dozens of developing countries. The US, Nato and Russia must work together for an immediate ceasefire. This war needs to end now before it spirals out of control – with the increasingly hardened position of the US and its allies, that is no longer a distant possibility.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

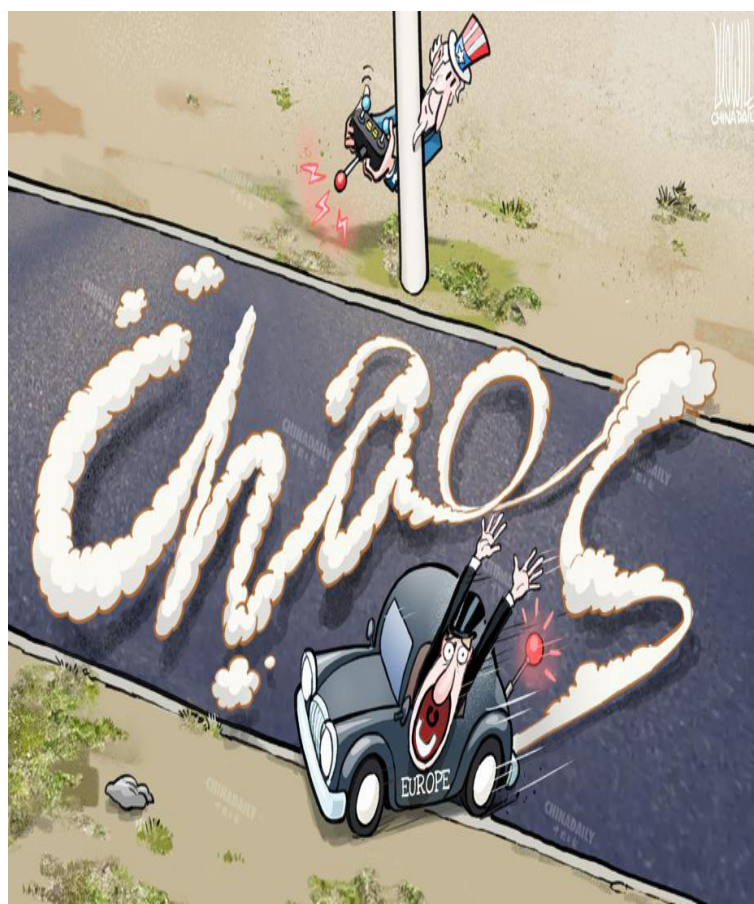
Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 02 Issue: 291

Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com

Phone: 051-2266165 / 051-2261960

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



Cost of living crisis

THE UK is sliding into a social and economic crisis, the likes of which its people have not seen for decades. Household fuel bills are on course to top £2,400 by this autumn, while the price of a grocery shop is rocketing. Meanwhile, the economy is flatlining and the average employee's pay keeps falling behind inflation, which hit 7% in March, the highest rate since 1992. No wonder that the charities and analysts that work on poverty and inequality are issuing such dire warnings. On one projection, one in three Britons – 23.5 million people – will be unable to afford the cost of living this year.

The rest of the world is being buffeted by the same storms: Covid, followed by soaring prices for food and fuel, and then Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has led to another massive rise in the cost of basics. The difference is that most other countries do not have our wealth, or social security system, or infrastructure. So imagine the devastation felt elsewhere, in countries less wealthy, less stable and less powerful. In Somalia, the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) predicts, more than 6 million people will fall into "crisis, emergency, or catastrophic levels of hunger" within the next two months.

Add in southern Ethiopia and Kenya, and the total facing "crisis or worse" jumps to 16 million. A terse, bureaucratic, economical phrase – "crisis or worse" – denotes unimaginable human trauma: selling all you have to feed your children, leaving your family home and wandering miles for sustenance. You need a lot of luck to survive such rigours.

Now imagine this fate befalling families from Africa to Asia to Latin America, because that is what lies ahead. Oxfam projects that 260 million people will be pushed into extreme poverty this year alone – that is to say, living on \$1.90 (roughly £1.50) a day or less. These are vast numbers that so far have gone largely ignored. To take a small example: at the start of this year, the FAO appealed for \$138m in aid for farming families in Somalia; four months later, it is still nearly two-thirds short. Much of the rich world – its governments, households and businesses – is focused on helping Ukraine, but sadly it is only one among many countries in desperate need of help.

The cost of not doing at least some of the above will be high: in human lives, in geopolitical stability, in financial markets. This week, Sri Lanka warned that it would renege on its foreign debts, even as thousands of protesters took to the streets of Colombo to demand the overthrow of their president. More dominoes are bound to fall.

World needs to hear more about Israel's serial murders

Ray Hanania



Immediately after the attack, the Israelis invaded the village where the alleged attacker hailed from and arrested, beat and shot several other Palestinians who had nothing to do with the attack. Israel stereotypes all Palestinians as being co-conspirators and accomplices in violence against Jews

IN the rare instance that an Israeli Jew is brought to trial for committing an act of violence, the accused is given every benefit, including a defense lawyer, a public hearing and the benefit of any doubt. But when a Palestinian is accused of violence, they are usually shot dead first and then vilified by the Israeli government's propaganda machine, which spins events to demonize the victim without trial, justice or a shred of honesty. Even if the murdered suspects are presumed guilty, convicted in the Israeli government's court of public propaganda and demonization, the punishments do not stop with the suspects. Israel's government not only condemns the suspects, dead or alive, but also condemns their relatives, as long as they are Christian or Muslim and not Jewish. Collective punishment is a clear violation of the

international rule of law, but Israel's government rejects that assertion – offering further clear evidence of its apartheid.

Israel's government asserts that it does not recognize the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the excessive punishment of civilians during conflict, and therefore claims that it is not subject to its articles. Meanwhile, Israel also asserts that it is a democracy. Refusing to recognize the international rule of law is proof that Israel is not really a democracy. It is only pretending to be a democracy, which means that, when it wants to appeal for support from Western democracies, it can get support. A nation that embraces apartheid policies is neither a democracy nor a follower of the international rule of law.

Israel's government this week announced that it would impose sanctions on Jenin to restrict movement in and out of the city, further decimating its already crippled economy. Its reasoning was that several Palestinian civilians who were recently murdered by the Israeli Defense Forces were from Jenin or nearby villages. The Palestinians were killed while protesting against Israel's continued killing of other civilians. Some were killed by the IDF, armed racist settlers and Israeli police because a Palestinian was accused of attacking and killing three Israelis at a bar in Tel Aviv last week. A dozen other Israeli civilians were wounded in the gun attack.

Had the attack been carried out by a Jew against Christians or Muslims, the attacker would have been arrested, given a defense attorney and prosecuted publicly in a court of law, where people are, in a democracy, innocent until proven guilty. The family of the Jewish suspect would receive all kinds of legal and financial aid from supporters and no one would be talking about destroying the suspect's mother's home or putting his sisters and brothers out on the street. But the Tel Aviv attack was by a Muslim Palestinian, who was shot dead on the spot, as is the practice of the Israeli military when responding to violence against Jews. Immediately after the attack, the Israelis invaded the village where the alleged attacker hailed from and arrested, beat and shot several other Palestinians who

had nothing to do with the attack. Israel stereotypes all Palestinians as being co-conspirators and accomplices in violence against Jews. So they destroyed the homes of his relatives. It is part of what Prime Minister Naftali Bennett describes as giving Israeli soldiers "no limits" in how they respond to such attacks.

If this did not involve death, destruction and civilian suffering, it might be funny because Israel already offers "no limits" to its forces when they target Christians and Muslims.

Last week, widowed mother-of-six Ghada Sabateen was walking down the street in Husan, a village near Bethlehem. Israeli soldiers ordered her to stop and shot her dead when she did not. This murder did not make headlines in mainstream American newspapers and, where it was reported, it was buried in wordy pro-Israel propaganda as part of stories that focused on the Tel Aviv killings, which are being used to justify every attack in which the victims are Palestinian.

The biggest problem, however, is that the Palestinians are dysfunctional when it comes to communicating and producing counter-propaganda. They cannot seem to document the names and identities of all the victims. Although, in fairness, the killings are happening too frequently.

Instead of pressuring the major news media to be fair, Palestinians in the US are more focused on extremist rhetoric against Israel. They have failed to orchestrate an effective campaign to raise the profile of these routine killings. Palestinian deaths are wrapped in a fog of incomplete information, while the Israelis take every death and spin it like it was the end of the world, with the victim's every detail widely distributed.

Something needs to be done to stop Israel's serial murders. They need to be fully publicized and documented – quickly.

The Israeli propagandists spew a series of rapid responses through a network of communications, press releases, press conferences, choreographed statements and expertly created videos. Meanwhile, the Palestinians are headlocked by extremist voices that focus more on anger-driven hate than on justice.

– Courtesy: Arab News

3 technologies that can revolutionize retail in Pakistan

Muhammad Husnain



The self checkout solutions help customers to bill on their own, avoid long queues, improves customer engagement with the brand. It also adds up for retailers as one person can manage multiple self checkouts therefore saving...

RETAIL has been slowly and steadily transforming in Pakistan with consumer interest changing from buying in small shops on high street to shopping centers. Traditionally the retail particularly fashion was driven in the clusters of shops located in the different bazaars offering customers with clothing options. Lately in past decade the retail has seen a shift as customers prefer to buy in the shopping malls and expect experience in store.

The younger generation is more tech-savvy and aware on global trends in innovation. With increase in demand and vast geographical area retailers in Pakistan are continuously evolving to improve on consumer experience. Three Technologies that can benefit retail in Pakistan: RFID: Radio Frequency Identification is the world leading technology in retail, that help retailers have correct and real time inventory visibility, increases on shelf availability, helps to reduce the inventory covers and improve sales.

The technology has been implemented in global retail groups like, Tesco, Inditex, H&M to name a few and have resulted in tremendous results for the businesses. RFID is an end to end solution from Vendor to DC receiving, store receiving and billing and as security mechanism. With its range of benefits, RFID helps to increase inventory accuracy in stores by more than 95% which traditionally stands at 65% for most of the retailers, resulting in over buys, wrong data visibility and more important-

ly on shelf availability which leads to customer satisfaction. The RFID chips are placed on each merchandise and are read through using RFID scanners and finally the data is interpreted through using RFID softwares. This helps to have the correct inventory information, track the merchandise movement across the supply chain even between the back stores to sales floor and vice versa leading to improved replenishments for the store. Furthermore, this technology helps retailer build a clean inventory base, avoids the need of annual inventory audits saving time and money. The store packs the orders and ships to the customer reducing lead times to delivery. This model has proven to increase sales, NPS and customer satisfaction.

Self Checkouts: The life has gone busy and so have the customer expectations in retail stores, as the shoppings are planned with the other entertainment for most of the customers, time is the most important factor in determining brand experience for customers.

In mid to large segment retailers, the queues on cash tills are common and seen in all stores during peak hours, customers are always willing to spend more time on shop floor but always wish to checkout as soon as possible. Generally a SCO recovers its investments in the first year itself for mid-large size retailers.

– The author is a Dubai based retail professional and may be accessed at muhammadhusnain23@gmail.com

The Florence Nightingale of Pakistan

Huma Arshad

The main milestone in the life of Bilqees Edhi was placing more than 500 cradles across the country with the message "Do not kill, leave the baby to live in the cradle." she acted selflessly throughout her life and tried to provide for orphans and needy utter happiness

BILQUIS Bano Edhi an epitome of dedication, wife of Abdul Sattar Edhi was a visionary philanthropist and a dedicated nurse by profession. She devoted her entire life to the services of the poor people of Pakistan. Before her marriage to Abdul Sattar Edhi, she had adopted nursing as a profession by choice. Nursing is a Profession and not just simply a mixture of special skills. The nursing profession is



the perfect blend of today's health care industry with a touch of the traditional past. It is a noble profession and the greatest service to humanity. It is focused on the care of every individual so they can maintain and recover their health and quality of life. "Nursing is the noblest of all professions as it is based on motherly care and sisterly affection."

She got married to Abdul Sattar Edhi at the age of nineteen and both husband and wife lived their whole life believing the motto "Making a difference and changing lives forever." According to sources she had a different personality but she had embraced her husband's lifestyle and then stood by him until his death. Abdul Sattar Edhi first opened a nursing home and made Bilqees Edhi a co-chair of the Edhi Foundation. As a wife, she accompanied her husband and stood by his side even when his work became more tedious during the 1965 India-Pakistan war when aerial

bombardment left dead bodies on the ground, which she and her husband picked up with the help of a team of volunteers. In a country where government-run services have been glaringly ill-equipped to deal with humanitarian crises, the Edhis' social welfare system is a trusted household name only because of the Edhis. And though there is a drop in donations since Edhi's death, Bilqees Edhi tried her level best till her death to carry on her husband's legacy.

The main milestone in the life of Bilqees Edhi was placing more than 500 cradles across the country with the message "Do not kill, leave the baby to live in the cradle." she acted selflessly throughout her life and tried to provide for orphans and needy utter happiness and the comfort of their homes by establishing shelters homes with her husband. She was kind as a mother and loving as a sister. She worked day and night to serve the people in need.

She died on 15th April 2022; She worked tirelessly for the people of Pakistan. In recognition of her services, she received Mother Teresa Memorial International Award, Lenin Peace Prize, Hilal-e-Intiaz & Ramon Magsaysay Award for Public Service. Throughout her life with her husband, she lived modestly and served her entire life for people around her. "Mankind must make heaven before we can 'go to heaven' in this world as in any other."

– Florence Nightingale

Briefs

City housing society
Jhelum, new opportunity

KAMRAN GUJJAR

JHELUM: Jhelum city's largest housing society has given billions of rupees to the investors, and for the last time. Despite receiving all the funds from the citizens in the block named Eiffel Tower, the plots have not yet been shaped. No road has been built or there is no landscape chain, but the reminder of paying timely dues to plot buyers is being repeated, but it is used to take control of those who pay the dues. Citizens say that society has become a silent spectator after earning billions of rupees. Millions of people are being stuck again and again, the administration has forgotten the old blocks in the land cycle. The investment citizens say that if we do not develop the blocks, our money should be returned. There is no responsibility for the society that can solve our problems.

Russian warship
Moskva sinks in Black Sea

MOSCOW: A Russian warship that was damaged by an explosion on Wednesday has sunk, Russia's defence ministry has said. Moskva, the flagship of Russia's Black Sea Fleet, was being towed to port when "stormy seas" caused it to sink, according to a ministry message. The 510-crew missile cruiser was a symbol of Russia's military power, leading its naval assault on Ukraine. Kyiv says its missiles hit the warship. Moscow has not reported any attack - it says the vessel sank after a fire. The blaze caused the explosion of the warship's ammunition, Russia says, adding that the entire crew were later evacuated to nearby Russian vessels in the Black Sea. After saying initially the warship was afloat, late on Thursday the Russian defence ministry announced that the Moskva had been lost. The 12,490-tonne vessel is the biggest Russian warship to be sunk in action since World War Two. "While being towed... towards the destined port, the vessel lost its balance due to damage sustained in the hull as fire broke out after ammunition exploded. Given the choppy seas, the vessel sank," the Russian defence ministry said. - APP

Swiatek stretches win streak to 18

PARIS: Iga Swiatek marked her first match as world number one with an 18th straight victory as she steered Poland closer to the Billie Jean King Cup Finals on Friday. The 20-year-old swept past 123rd-ranked Mihaela Buzarnescu 6-1, 6-0 in just 55 minutes on the back of five service breaks as the Poles opened a 2-0 lead over Romania in their qualifier in Radom. Swiatek went into the tie on a hot streak, putting together 17 successive wins on her way to titles in Doha, Indian Wells and Miami. Teammate Magda Linette earlier fought off the challenge of experienced Irina-Camelia Begu 6-1, 4-6, 6-2. "I'm much more confident right now," said Swiatek who lost both her singles matches when she last played in the tournament on home soil against Ukraine in 2019. "I feel like I have grown up for sure."

Russia hits Kyiv missile factory

KYIV: Russian strikes pounded a military factory near Kyiv that makes the missiles Ukraine claims it used to sink the Moskva naval flagship, with Moscow on Friday vowing renewed attacks on the capital. A workshop and an administrative building at the Vizit plant, which lies near Kyiv's international Zhuliany airport, were seriously damaged in the overnight strikes, an AFP journalist saw. Russia had earlier announced it had used Kalibr sea-based long-range missiles to hit the factory, which Ukraine's state weapons manufacturer Ukroboronprom says produced Neptune missiles. - Agencies

PCB announces 12 months busy schedule for green shirts

The women's national side have a demanding but exciting and challenging 12 months, which will provide them more opportunities to improve and excel as well as to showcase their talent and potential to the world

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced a busy schedule for the Men in Green, where they will play seven Tests, 17 ODIs, and a minimum of 25 T20Is in the next 12 months. The seven ICC World Test Championship fixtures will be against three opponents - Sri Lanka (2), England (3), and New Zealand (2) - while the 12 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League matches will be versus West Indies, Sri Lanka, Netherlands and New Zealand (three each).

In the shortest format of the game, the Babar Azam-led unit will feature in the ACC Asia Cup T20 in August/September and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Australia 2022 from 15 October to 15 November where they are guaranteed a minimum of five T20Is each. Outside the two events, their other T20Is will be against

England (seven), West Indies (three), and New Zealand (five). New Zealand, in addition to the five ODIs in April 2023, will also play five T20Is.

In the shortest format of the game, Pakistan men's side will feature in the ACC Asia Cup T20 in August/September and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Australia 2022 from 15 October to 15 November where they are guaranteed a minimum of five T20Is each.

Outside the two events, their other T20Is will be against England (seven), West Indies (three) and New Zealand (five). New Zealand, in addition to the five ODIs in April 2023, will also play five T20Is.

The women's national side have a demanding but exciting and challenging 12 months, which will provide them more opportunities to improve and excel as well as to showcase their talent and potential to the world.

The women's side will feature in three ICC Women's Championship

series matches against Sri Lanka, Ireland (both home) and Australia (away), the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, the 19th Asian Games in Guangzhou, the ACC Women's T20 Cup (venue TBC), the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup 2023 South Africa and the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2023 South Africa.

In addition to this, Pakistan women will take on Ireland and Australia in a triangular T20 series in Belfast in the lead up to the Birmingham Games.

At this stage, Pakistan Shaheens' participation in the 19th Asian Games is confirmed, though efforts are being made to add a few more series for the Shaheens so that there are more opportunities for players who are knocking at the doors of the national side.

While there is more international cricket for the men's and women's sides as compared to the 2021-22 season, Pakistan is set to host more international cricket in the

coming season. West Indies, England and New Zealand men's sides will tour Pakistan twice each, while Sri Lanka and Ireland women will visit Pakistan in May/June and October/November.

This exciting and back-to-back international cricket will be in addition to the 2022-23 domestic cricket season, which will run concurrently to the international season. In the 2021-22 season, the PCB delivered 314 matches in 12 tournaments between September 2021 and April 2022.

24-May-5 June - Sri Lanka Women in Karachi (3 ODIs & 3 T20Is)

5-12 June - West Indies Men in Rawalpindi (3 ODIs)

7-12 July - Pakistan Men to Sri Lanka (2 Tests & 3 ODIs)

12-24 Jul - Pakistan Women to Belfast for tri-series (4T20Is)

25 Jul-8 Aug - Pakistan Women for Birmingham Commonwealth Games (7 T20Is)

Aug - Pakistan Men to Netherlands (three ODIs)

1-17 Sept - Pakistan Men to Sri Lanka for ACC T20 Cup (5 T20Is)

10-25 Sep - Pakistan Women and Pakistan Shaheens to Gangzhou, China, for 19th Asia Games

Sep-Oct - England Men to Pakistan (7 T20Is)

Oct - ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup (8 T20Is, venue TBC)

15 Oct-15 Nov - ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Australia, (5 T20Is)

30 Oct-19 Nov - Ireland Women to Lahore/Karachi (3 ODIs & 3 T20Is)

Nov-Dec - England Men to Pakistan (3 Tests)

Dec-Jan - New Zealand Men to Pakistan (2 Tests & 3 ODIs)

4 Jan-1 Feb - Pakistan Women to Australia (3 ODIs & 3 T20Is)

Jan - West Indies Men to Pakistan (3 T20Is)

Jan-Feb - ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup, South Africa

2-26 Feb - ICC Women's T20 World Cup, South Africa

Apr-May - New Zealand Men to Pakistan (5 ODIs & 5 T20Is)

UN refugee agency opposes British plan

GENEVA: The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) expressed "strong opposition and concerns" on Thursday about the UK's plan to export its asylum obligations. It urged the UK, which is a key financial contributor to the UNHCR, to refrain from transferring asylum seekers and refugees to Rwanda for asylum processing. "UNHCR remains firmly opposed to arrangements that seek to transfer refugees and asylum seekers to third countries in the absence of sufficient safeguards and standards," said UNHCR's assistant head, Gillian Triggs. "Such arrangements simply shift asylum responsibilities, evade international obligations, and are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Refugee Convention."

Earlier Thursday, the British government announced a new and controversial relocation plan that would see asylum seekers attempting to enter the UK sent to Rwanda for resettlement. Triggs said those fleeing war, conflict and persecution deserve compassion and empathy. "They should not be traded like commodities and transferred abroad for processing," he said. The refugee agency urged the UK and Rwanda to re-think the plans. It also warned that instead of deterring refugees from resorting to perilous journeys, the externalization arrangements would only magnify risks, causing refugees to seek alternative routes and exacerbating pressures on frontline states. UNHCR said Rwanda has "generously" provided a haven to refugees fleeing conflict and persecution for decades. Most live in camps with limited access to economic opportunities. The UNHCR believes wealthier nations must show solidarity in supporting Rwanda and the refugees it already hosts and not the other way around. - Agencies

Root gives up England Test captaincy

LONDON: Joe Root, England's top batter, has resigned as Test captain, claiming the toll and impact the position has had on him. In 2017, the 31-year-old was named Sir Alastair Cook's successor, and he retains the record for most matches and victories as captain. However, Root's most recent series as captain ended in defeat to the West Indies, with the 10-wicket third Test defeat extending England's losing streak to nine matches. Root previously stated that he wished to continue but has now changed his mind, saying that the moment is right. "After returning from the Caribbean tour and having time to reflect, I have decided to step down as England Men's Test captain. It has been the most challenging decision I have had to make in my career but having discussed this with my family and those closest to me; I know the timing is right." "It has been the most challenging decision I have had to make in my career - but having discussed this with my family and those closest to me, I know the timing is right." "I am immensely proud to have captained my country and will look back on the past five years with enormous pride. "It has been an honour to have done the job and to have been a custodian of what is the pinnacle of English cricket. "I have loved leading my country, but recently it's hit home how much of a toll it has taken on me and the impact it has had on me away from the game," he added. Root's 5,295 runs as captain are the most of any England captain, and he also hit 14 centuries during his time in charge. He is England's second-highest Test run-scorer of all time, having guided his side to a record 64 Test victories but also overseeing the most losses (27). (26). - APP

BJK: GB's Raducanu wins after Harriet Dart loses

SPORTS DESK

PRAGUE: Emma Raducanu won her Billie Jean King Cup debut to haul Great Britain level with the Czech Republic and leave the qualifying tie delicately poised. Raducanu, 19, was playing her first senior match on clay, adjusting well to the surface to win 7-5 against world number 50 Tereza Martincova. The US Open champion levelled the best-offensive tie after Harriet Dart lost 6-0 to Marketa Vondrousova. The nations play two singles matches on Saturday, plus a doubles if needed. The winners will qualify for November's finals, while the runners-up face a play-off tie the same week. Britain are among the countries bidding to host the finals and could also still qualify as the host nation. Following her stunning ascent in the past year, it is easy to forget how Raducanu is still a novice in terms of professional experience. But she showed every bit of her talent and mentality to come through a tough battle with 27-year-old Martincova. The teenager saved a set point at 5-4 in the opener before winning the next three games, and also fought back from a 4-1 deficit in the second. Raducanu won six of the final seven games to clinch a vital victory for herself and her team, showing her elation with an enthusiastic celebration before she was hugged by her team-mates. "This one means so much to me," said Raducanu, who is set to play

in the reverse singles on Saturday. "Playing on clay definitely took some adjusting, even now. The conditions were very windy and some bad bounces, so to adjust and adapt in the situation was very challenging but I'm very proud of how I dug in. "In the beginning of the second set, I went a bit flat and everyone in my team was telling me the intensity had dropped. It is difficult to regain that but I'm very happy I did in the end." Raducanu leads a new-look British side in Prague, with the side net able to call on either recently retired Johanna Konta or Heather Watson for the first time since 2010.

Captain Anne Keothavong recognises it is a "changing of the guard" and says she is excited by the crop of young players she has at her disposal. But they face a difficult task against the Czechs, who have won the team event six times since 2011, on the outdoor clay, even though they are without star trio Barbora Krejckikova, Karolina Pliskova and Petra Kvitova. Dart, 25, broke into the world top 100 recently after reaching the fourth round at Indian Wells, but she was unable to deliver a strong start for Britain. Vondrousova is ranked 32nd in the world and her quality on clay showed.

China launches military drills around Taiwan as US lawmakers visit island

BEIJING: China carried out military exercises around Taiwan on Friday as a delegation of US lawmakers reached the island for a visit that Beijing termed a "deliberate provocative action." The Chinese military's Eastern Theater Command said it sent destroyers, frigates, bombers and fighter jets for drills "in the East China Sea and waters and airspace surrounding Taiwan." "The misbehavior and tricks of the US side are very dangerous and will only end in vain; playing with fire will only get oneself burnt," it said in a statement. China's Defense Ministry said the drills are "necessary action taken in light of the current security situation in the Taiwan Strait and the need to safeguard China's national sovereignty." It said the "deliberate provocative action... seriously violates the One China principle and the stipulations of the three China-US joint communiqués, severely undermines

the political foundation of China-US relations, and escalates the tension across the Taiwan Strait." "It is extremely hypocritical and untrustworthy for the US to pledge not to support 'Taiwan independence' on the one hand and send a serious wrong signal to the 'Taiwan independence' secessionist forces on the other," said ministry spokesman Sr. Col. Wu Qian. China's Foreign Ministry, in a separate statement, said Beijing "opposes official exchanges between the US and the island of Taiwan in any form." While China sees Taiwan as its "breakaway province," Taipei has been insisting on its independence since 1949. The US formally recognized China in 1979 and shifted diplomatic relations from Taipei to Beijing, including Taiwan as part of mainland China. The military drills around Taiwan are "a countermeasure toward recent US moves, including visits by US lawmakers," state-run Global Times quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian as saying. A six-member US Congressional delegation led by Republican Senator Lindsey Graham arrived in Taiwan on Thursday, defying previous threats from Beijing of "forceful measures" in response. - Agencies

Barcelona dumped out of Europa League

The game carried on into an 11th added minute when Depay netted a penalty after Evan Ndicka was sent off, receiving a second caution for a foul on Luuk de Jong

PARIS: Favourites Barcelona were dumped out of the Europa League by Eintracht Frankfurt in the quarter-finals on Thursday, while West Ham United and Rangers joined RB Leipzig in qualifying for the last four. Serbian international Filip Kostic scored twice on either side of a Rafael Santos Borré strike at the Camp Nou for Frankfurt, who survived a late fightback to win 3-2 on the night and 4-3 on aggregate. Sergio Busquets scored a late consolation before Memphis Depay's even later penalty for Barcelona but Eintracht held on, to the delight of the estimated 30,000 German supporters who travelled for the game. They go through to their second Europa League semi-final in four seasons, having lost on penalties to Chelsea at the same stage in 2019. "I am speechless. Nobody expected this, if you are honest. Everyone expected us to suffer," said Frankfurt goalkeeper Kevin Trapp. Barcelona's recent revival under Xavi Hernandez has been remarkable but this defeat means they have won just once at home all season in Europe, and their campaign is now set to end without silverware. "It's a hammer blow for us. They deserved to go through," admitted Xavi. After conceding three penalties in their weekend win over Levante, Barca fell behind to another spot-kick inside four min-



utes against Eintracht, as Kostic converted after a foul by Eric Garcia to the delight of the enormous away support. The visitors scored again in the 36th minute as Colombian forward Borré fired high into the net from range, and Kostic's low finish into the far corner made it 3-0 midway through the second half. Busquets had a late goal disallowed for offside before he found the net with a fantastic strike from 20 metres in the first minute of injury time. The game carried on into an 11th added minute when Depay netted a penalty after Evan Ndicka was sent off, receiving a sec-

ond caution for a foul on Luuk de Jong. West Ham outclass Lyon Yet Eintracht maintained their record of not having lost to Spanish opposition since the 1960 European Cup final against Real Madrid, and they will face West Ham in the semi-finals. The English side are through to their first European semi-final since losing the 1976 Cup Winners' Cup final to Anderlecht after they outclassed Lyon in France, winning 3-0 on the night and 4-1 on aggregate. The Hammers took the lead in the 38th minute of the return when Craig Dawson headed in a Pablo Fornals corner. Captain Declan

Rice slotted in their second just before the break, his sidefoot effort from the edge of the area beating Lyon goalkeeper Julian Pollersbeck with the aid of a deflection. The outcome was put beyond doubt when West Ham scored again three minutes after the restart as Fornals sent Jarrod Bowen away to make it 3-0. "The journey in two years, we were talking about relegation, and now we're talking about getting to the semi-final of a European tournament. It's fabulous, and we're all going to look forward to it," said West Ham manager David Moyes. Rangers through in extra time There was drama in Glasgow as Rangers were taken to extra time by Braga before winning 3-1 on the night and 3-2 on aggregate as the Portuguese side finished the game with nine men. James Tavernier gave Rangers a second-minute lead to level the tie on aggregate, and they had another goal disallowed and then hit the woodwork before winning a penalty just before the interval. VitorTormena was sent off for a foul on KemarRoofe, and Tavernier netted from the spot. David Carmo's 83rd-minute header took the tie to extra time, but Roofe's 101st-minute finish put Rangers back in front on aggregate and Braga then had Iuri Medeiros dismissed. - Agencies

7 soldiers martyred in ambush

FROM PAGE 01
any terrorists found in the area. Pakistan Army is determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve," the ISPR statement said. On Tuesday, an army major and a soldier were martyred and two terrorists were killed during an exchange of fire between members of security forces and a group of terrorists in the Birmal area of South Waziristan tribal district.

PM accuses Imran Khan of selling...

FROM PAGE 01
It is pertinent to mention here that cases are pending in the Pakistan courts against former prime ministers and a president including Asif Ali Zardari, Nawaz Sharif and Yusuf Raza Gilani regarding gifts received by them during official tours. Ex-PM Nawaz Sharif, former president Asif Ali Zardari and former prime minister Yousuf Raza Gilani are named in a reference for allegedly obtaining luxury vehicles from the treasury by paying 15 percent of the actual price.

Imran did nothing wrong, says Fawad

FROM PAGE 01
Islamabad that Khan sold these gifts Rs140 million in Dubai. According to Shehbaz Sharif, these gifts included diamond jewellery sets, bracelets and wrist watches. Earlier, investigation against former prime minister Imran Khan in a case pertaining to the receipt of expensive state gifts reportedly began, with the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) coming into action.

Punjab Assembly to elect CM today

FROM PAGE 01
Till then, the no-confidence motion against him will remain pending," said the verdict. The petition for cross-examination of Hamza Shehbaz and Punjab Assembly Deputy Speaker Dost Muhammad Mazari for recording a fraudulent affidavit was also denied. The appeal against the transfer of Punjab Chief Secretary and Inspector General of Police (IGP) was also declared ineffectual. The court further stated that the election of the Punjab Chief Minister shall be conducted in accordance with the law, with voting conducted in a dignified and honourable manner.

Macron clashes with Le Pen over Hijab ban

PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron has clashed with his rival Marine Le Pen over her plan to ban women from wearing the Islamic headscarf in public, with an eye on the votes of Muslims in the second round of elections. Le Pen on April 24 will seek to cause the greatest upset in the history of modern French politics by defeating Macron in a run-off in presidential elections. While polls indicate Macron is ahead they also point to a far tighter race between the centrist and the far-right leader than in their 2017 run-off. Analysts say one reason for her advance is Le Pen's success in cultivating a more moderate image and portraying herself as the candidate best equipped to deal with problems like rising prices. But one signature headline policy the anti-immigration Le Pen has not dropped is her opposition to the Islamic headscarf, saying women who wear the hijab in public in France will be fined if she wins power. Macron meanwhile has sought to seize on her insistence to argue that Le Pen's policies are no different from those of the headline National Front (FN) founded by her father Jean-Marie. - APP

Briefs

341 dead in S.Africa floods

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA: The death toll from South Africa's "unprecedented" floods climbed to 341 on Thursday as helicopters fanned out across the southeastern city of Durban in an increasingly desperate search for survivors. With roads and bridges washed away by freak rainfall this week, rescuers battled to deliver supplies across the city, where some residents have been without power or water since Monday.

"The level of devastation of human life, infrastructure, and service delivery network in the province is unprecedented," said Sihle Zikalala, the premier of KwaZulu-Natal province.

"A total number of 40,723 people have been affected. Sadly, 341 fatalities have been recorded," he told a news conference.

At a small airport north of Durban, helicopters carried rescuers in and out. The air support was pulled from military and police, but also a fleet of volunteers, private contractors and schools.

But one day after the rains finally subsided, fewer survivors were being found, said Travis Trower, a director for the volunteer-run organisation Rescue South Africa. - APP

Azerbaijan, Albania eye expanding CO-OP

BAKU: Azerbaijan Prime Minister Ali Asadov and his Albanian counterpart Edi Rama have discussed the development of bilateral relations between the two countries in various fields. Expressing satisfaction with the development of relations, the parties emphasized the importance of the Albanian prime minister's visit to Azerbaijan in terms of expanding bilateral cooperation.

The sides underlined that energy cooperation is one of the main directions of Azerbaijani-Albanian relations. In this regard, they noted the importance of joint implementation of the Southern Gas Corridor project. Additionally, they discussed the strengthening of political ties between the two countries, and the prospects for expanding cooperation in trade and economic, energy, investment, tourism and other spheres. It should be noted that Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama arrived in Azerbaijan for an official visit on April 14. On the same day, President Ilham Aliyev and Prime Minister Edi Rama held a one-on-one meeting.

The trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Albania amounted to \$4.9 million in 2021. Both countries are predominantly Muslim and members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Council of Europe. Relations between the two countries were established on September 23, 1992, after Azerbaijan gained independence from the Soviet Union. Albania and Azerbaijan are developing economic and cultural ties. Albania supports Azerbaijan's territorial integrity. - APP

Turkish ship rescued 54 sailors

ANKARA: A Turkish ship evacuated 54 personnel onboard the Russian Black Sea Fleet flagship cruiser Moskva, which was reportedly hit by Ukraine, Lithuania's Defense Minister said Thursday.

The Russian cruiser sent out a distress call at night, Arvydas Anusauskas said on Facebook. "At 1.14 a.m., the cruiser lay on its side, and after half an hour, all the electricity went out. From 2 a.m., the Turkish ship evacuated 54 sailors from the cruiser, and at about 3 a.m., Turkey and Romania reported that the ship had completely sunk.

The related loss of Russian personnel is still unknown, although there were 485 crew on board (66 of them officers)," Anusauskas said. Late Wednesday, Maksym Marchenko, the head of Ukraine's Odessa Regional Military Administration, said on Telegram that the Moskva was hit with two Neptune anti-ship missiles. - Agencies



MOGADISHU: Khadija Al Makhzoumi former Somali Ambassador to Pakistan along with her colleagues taking oath as the Member of the Somali Parliament. - DNA

Pakistan's sesame seed export to China surging around 191%

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan's sesame seed export to China surged to \$42.88 million in the first two months of 2022, showing a growth of 190.48 percent on a year-on-year basis, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday. According to General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC), China imported 28,662.66 tons of sesame seeds worth \$42.88 million, marking an increase of

141.37% by volume while last year in the same period it was 11,874.82 tons worth \$14.76 million. During the first two months of 2022, the bilateral trade has increased significantly and Pakistan's exports to China crossed \$670 million in the first two months of 2022, which recorded a nearly 23% increase this year. In January, Rakesh Pal Khumani, Director of Exports & Business Development told China Economic Net that sesame seed trade increased between China and Pakistan after the free

trade agreement took effect. He said that China and Pakistan have always supported each other for better bilateral trade and China is the biggest importer of sesame seeds whose demand is huge and increasing every year because they also do value addition and re-export. "In the crop year 2021-2022 (current), 90% of the crop production is exported from August 2021 to March 2022. This is the first time in history that the crop is finished earlier even before the new harvest starts, from which 80% has been just ex-

ported to China with shipments in September 2021 to March 2022," he added. Rakesh stated that sesame seed trade has been very important recently in Pakistan. On average Pakistan produces 100,000 tons of sesame seeds from which 85% is exported and the rest during the winter is used in the local market for bakery and sweets. This year the exports have crossed 85% of the total production in just 7 months of this fiscal year and there are 5 more months until the new har-

vest crops of 2022-2023. "If we look into the year 2022, from January to March only 35% of the total production was exported to China which we were expecting much more. However, if we compare September to December 2021, the exports to China were 85% of the total production", he mentioned. He believes that Pakistan due to the border and geographical location, the transit time will be given priority to the Chinese buyers. However, Pakistan must have good crops with

both quantity and quality. He added that weather plays an important role when it comes to the production of sesame seeds. He mentioned that it is too early to talk about the new crop in 2022-2023 as the sowing will start after April 2022. It is to be noted that Pakistan's export of sesame seeds to China achieved a historical figure of \$120.44 million in 2021. China imported 92,516.55 tons in 2021 and was one of the main destinations for sesame seed exports from Pakistan.

Modi govt asked to stop stocking anti-Muslim sentiment

ISLAMABAD: Canadian politician Jagmeet Singh has expressed his serious concerns over the ongoing atrocities and hate crimes against the Muslims in India. According to Kashmir Media Service, Jagmeet Singh slammed the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government over oppression of the Muslims and asked them to stop inciting anti-Muslim sentiment. "I am deeply concerned about images, videos, and targeted threats of violence against the Muslim community in India. The Modi government must stop stoking anti-Muslim sentiment," Singh said in a tweet. Human rights must be protected, he said, adding that Canada must play a strong role in working towards peace everywhere. Jagmeet

Singh, who is a lawyer, was elected the Leader of Canada's New Democratic Party (NDP) to lead it into the 2019 election against Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberals. Muslims across states are on edge after Hindutva mobs came out in processions, making hate speeches and attacking their properties on the occasion of Hindu festival Ram Navmi. Several videos have been going viral on social media, showing processions of saffron-clad Hindutva men, many of them even carrying sticks and swords stopping their vehicles in Muslim dominated localities. They raised hate slogans and played provocative songs with threats of genocide outside the homes and mosques of the community. - APP

Pakistan navy takes over command CTF-151

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Navy has taken over Command of Multinational Combined Task Force 151 (CTF-151) from Royal Jordanian Navy at the Change of Command ceremony held at HQ US NAVCENT, Bahrain. Commodore Ahmed Hussain of Pakistan Navy took over the Command from Colonel Mohammad Ismail Al-Tarawneh of Royal Jordanian Navy.

Speaking on the Occasion, PN Commander Combined Task Force-151 (CTF-151) Commodore Ahmed Hussain assured that his team is fully prepared to efficiently shoulder this challenging responsibility. He reaffirmed his resolve to continue operations with zeal and zest.

The mission of CTF-151 is to deter, disrupt, suppress piracy and armed robbery at sea. The Task Force engages with regional and other partners to strengthen relevant capabilities in order to protect global maritime commerce.

Pakistan Navy has the distinction of commanding CTF-151 nine times prior to present Command. Earlier, this year Pakistan Navy took over the Command of CTF-150 for the



12th time. Pakistan Navy is the first one amongst CMF partner nations to Command the two Task Forces concurrently. The historic achievement speaks of not only PN dedication and commitment to maritime peace and stability in the region but also of the

trust reposed by world navies. The change of Command ceremony was attended by Military and civilian dignitaries, Ambassadors of Pakistan and Kingdom of Jordan and senior officers from other navies forming the maritime coalition.

Uzbek-Kyrgyz development fund launched

DNA

TASHKENT: As part of the visit of the Government delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the Kyrgyz Republic, the opening ceremony of the Uzbek-Kyrgyz Development Fund was held in Bishkek city, reports "Dunyo" IA correspondent.

According to MIFT, the event was attended by: Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade Sardor Umurzakov on the Uzbek side and Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers - Head of the Presidential Administration Akybek Japarov on the Kyrgyz side.

The priority task of the Fund's activities is to finance investment projects aimed at implementing joint ventures in the fields of agriculture, industry, as well as transport and logistics. The implementation of these projects will contribute to the development of industrial cooperation and the creation of interconnected value chains between Uzbek and Kyrgyz producers through the use of competitive advantages of the econo-



mies of the two countries. The Fund acts as a financing in-

strument, not only at its own expense, but also by attracting other

commercial sources - international financial institutions, commer-

Chinese envoy calls for effects to maintain Yemen truce

BEIJING: A Chinese envoy called on the parties to the conflict in Yemen to maintain the current two-month truce and work toward its renewal. With the parties agreeing on a two-month truce starting on April 2, the Yemeni people entered the holy month of Ramadan free of fighting for the first time in seven years, said Dai Bing, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, at a UN Security Council briefing on Yemen on Thursday.

"Peace and stability is the common wish of the Yemeni people. It is in no one's interests to resume hostilities," Dai said.

"The current truce, hard-won and fragile, must be cherished with greater care by all parties. We call on all parties in Yemen to do their utmost to make it hold and make every effort to maintain the momentum for its renewal," he said. The Yemen conflict should be resolved through a Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political process, he added. With the truce in place, some goods have started to enter the Hodeidah port, and commercial flights have begun to depart from and land at Sanaa airport. - APP

Azerbaijan defuses 700 munitions in April

DNA

BAKU: Over 700 mines and unexploded ordnance have been defused as a result of joint demining activities carried out in Azerbaijan's liberated lands on April 1-14. The next meeting of the Working Group on mine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) of the Interdepartmental Center under the Coordination Headquarters discussed the results of the mine clearance activities carried out in the liberated lands under the annual action plan approved by Azerbaijan's Cabinet of Ministers by April 14.

The meeting was attended by officials of the Azerbaijan Mine Action Agency (ANAMA), as well as the Cabinet of Ministers, the Foreign Ministry, the Economy Ministry, the Defence Ministry, the Emergencies Ministry and the State Border Service. As a result of humanitarian demining activities carried out by ANAMA on the liberated territories some 506.4 hectares of land were cleared, 595 mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) were neutralized on April 1-14. In general, some 8372.9 hectares of land were cleared, and 30,572 mines and UXO were defused from November 10, 2020, to April 14, 2022, by ANAMA in the area. At the meeting, discussions were held on completed and ongoing demining projects based on the requests received by ANAMA.

FM: Italy committed to implementing curbs against Russia

ROME: Italy remains committed to implementing sanctions against Russia and supporting diplomatic efforts to end the war, Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio said Thursday in a phone call with Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba.

"The forthcoming return of Embassy of Italy to Kyiv testifies to Italy's support for Ukrainian people & government," the Italian Foreign Ministry said in a Twitter post. "We are determined to implement sanctions against Russia and support negotiation efforts," it added.

Last Saturday, Di Maio said Italy's Embassy in Ukraine will move to Kyiv just after Easter, which will be observed on April 17. Following the example of other countries, Italy relocated its embassy to the western city of Lviv on March 1, one week after Russian troops invaded Ukraine, when it looked like they were closing in on the capital. At least 1,964 civilians have been killed and 2,613 injured in Ukraine since Russia launched the war on Feb. 24, according to UN estimates, with the true figure believed to be much higher. - Agencies

Briefs

Finland, Sweden's admission to NATO will harm peace: Russia

WEB DESK

MOSCOW: The admission of Finland and Sweden to NATO will have negative consequences for peace and stability in northern Europe, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Friday. In a statement, spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Finland and Sweden's international policy of military non-alignment served as a solid foundation in building mutually beneficial relations with Russia. Zakharova argued that becoming part of the military alliance will not help Finland and Sweden in strengthening their security, but will bring them to the frontline. The choice is up to the authorities of Sweden and Finland, but they should understand the consequences of such a step for relations with Russia and, in general, the European security architecture, which is now in a state of crisis, she added.

Finland 'highly likely' to apply for NATO

HELSINKI: A Finnish cabinet minister said Friday it was "highly likely" that Finland would apply for NATO membership, just hours after Russia warned of unspecified "consequences" should Helsinki and Stockholm join the military alliance. Moscow's February 24 invasion of Ukraine has sparked a dramatic U-turn in public and political opinion in both Finland and Sweden over long-held policies of military non-alignment. Finland's prime minister said Wednesday that Nordic nations would decide whether to apply for NATO membership "within weeks", and Sweden is also discussing joining the alliance.

"At this point I can say that it is highly likely, but the decision is not yet made," said Finland's European Affairs Minister Tytti Tuppurainen. "The people of Finland, they seem to have already made up their mind and there is a huge majority for the NATO membership," she told Britain's Sky News. - Agencies

ECP forms 50 Union Councils in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The Delimitation Committee for Local Government Islamabad on Friday released the preliminary list of constituencies as per the schedule of delimitation of local bodies. According to ECP, fifty union councils have been formed in Islamabad while within each union council six general wards and two women's wards have been formed. Preliminary list of constituencies has been posted and citizens have been asked to contact the District Election Commissioner's Office Islamabad and the Regional Election Commissioner office Rawalpindi for suggestions and objections. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Chairman D Watson and Secretary General of UBG, Zafar Bakhtawari hosted iftar dinner in honour of diplomats. Seen in the picture are from left to right, envoys of Palestine, Morocco, Poland, TRNC, Maldives, Nepal, Vietnam and Philippines. Former Senate Gen @ Abdul Qayyum, Ahsan Bakhtawari are also seen in the picture. - DNA

NAB removes Lahore DG, brings back former chief

DNA

LAHORE: NAB Director General Lahore Jamil Ahmad has been removed from his office and former NAB DG Lahore Salim Shahzad has been appointed in his place. After the approval of NAB Chief Justice @ Javed Iqbal, the notification of Salim Shahzad's appointment was issued on Friday. Mr Salim was transferred from Lahore to A&P Division Headquarters, Islamabad a few months ago. He became famous after he made arrests of the PML-N leaders. He went on leave when he was transferred to Islamabad. He was still on leave, when on Thursday he gave his rejoining. Today, he has again been appointed as NAB DG Lahore.

ECP to hear foreign funding case on da3basis

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Day after Islamabad High Court (IHC) ordered to pronounce verdict in 30 days, the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday decided to hear foreign funding case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) on daily basis. It is pertinent to mention here that the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had directed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to decide on the foreign funding case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) within 30 days. Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani of the Islamabad High Court had announced the decision. In the judgment, the IHC also rejected the PTI's request to stop giving the record of foreign funding case to Akbar S Babar and to separate the disgruntled party leader from the proceedings of the prohibited funding case. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had challenged the ECP's decision to reject the petitions filed on January 25 and January 31, while the prohibited foreign funding case has been pending before the ECP since November 2014.

EU embargo on Russian oil, gas will take 'months'

BRUSSELS: The EU is working on broadening sanctions on Russia to include oil and gas embargoes but such measures would take "several months", European officials told AFP on Friday. The bloc last week announced a ban on Russian coal in a first step against Russian energy exports - together, Moscow's main hard currency earner. But the coal sanction only kicks in from mid-August, and would hit around eight billion euros (\$8.7 billion) in Russia's sales abroad, annually. Russian oil and gas sales to the EU account for a far higher amount of revenue: between a quarter of a billion to a billion euros per day, per different estimates. Public and political opinion in the EU is swinging towards a total energy ban as Moscow's war in Ukraine grinds on and yields discoveries of atrocities. - APP

Clashes in Shanghai over lockdown evictions

NEWS DESK

SHANBHAI: Video has emerged of clashes between police and people being forced out of their homes in Shanghai, as the city enters a third week of Covid lockdown. Some residential compounds are being turned into quarantine centres. Millions are confined to their homes as Shanghai battles a fresh outbreak of the virus. Anyone who tests positive is placed in quarantine. But with more than 20,000 new cases a day, authorities are struggling to find enough space. The city in recent weeks has converted exhibition halls and schools into quarantine centres, and set up makeshift hospitals. The low numbers of serious cases in Shanghai have led some to ask

whether a lockdown is necessary, correspondents say. Media caption, Viral videos show anger and desperation in Shanghai. In recent weeks many residents have taken to social media to complain about the restrictions and the lack of food supplies. People have to order in food and water and wait for government drop-offs of vegetables, meat and eggs, and analysts say many are running low on supplies. The lockdown extension has overwhelmed delivery services, grocery shop websites and even the distribution of government supplies. Three weeks into lockdown, some here in Shanghai are angry. Head to toe in protective suits in an eastern district of the city, officers were forcing people out of their rented apartments so they could turn them into temporary quar-

antine facilities, all in the name of a war against a resurgent Covid. But for some it was just too much, their homes sequestered, their desperation easy for all to hear. A few miles away, there was an organised protest, a bold stand as the lockdown takes hold in a country where you can be arrested for picking quarrels. They're angry about a local school being turned into another quarantine facility. Police with riot shields forced them off the streets in the end. This was on a small scale but it's a sign of anger and frustration as this lockdown goes on. Meanwhile the Chinese government has sent teams to the city to help more than 660 companies in key sectors of the economy such as semiconductor and car manufacturing to resume production, reports state media.

The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said on Friday they would ensure the supply of medical goods and the smooth flow of supply chains. The move follows reports that parts of China's manufacturing sector might soon have to close, at least temporarily, because companies cannot get essential components from Shanghai. He Xiaopeng, president of electrical vehicle manufacturer XPeng, said that if work did not start again in Shanghai during May, potentially all car factories across the country might have to stop operating. China is one of the last remaining nations still committed to eradicating Covid, in contrast to most of the world which is trying to live with the virus. But this zero-Covid policy has come under strain in recent weeks with the spread of the Omicron variant.

Efforts underway to protect Al-Aqsa: Al-Maliki

RAMALLAH: Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Riyad al-Maliki said that efforts are being made by the Palestinian leadership at all international levels to protect the Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem. Al-Maliki condemned in a statement the recent Israeli onslaught on defenseless Muslim worshippers inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque, which resulted in several injuries among the worshippers, including women, children and elderly. He said the brutal storming by the Israeli occupation forces and police into Al-Aqsa Mosque on the second Friday of the holy month of Ramadan was the latest in Israel's attempts "to Israelize and Judaize Jerusalem and abuse its Christian and Islamic sanctities, especially the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque." "The Israeli occupation authorities

are exploiting the double international standards to perpetuate their occupation of Jerusalem to completely separate it from its Palestinian sphere," said the Foreign Minister. "The Israeli government is exporting its crises to the Palestinian arena at the expense of the rights of our people." Al-Maliki urged the UN Secretary-General to quickly activate the system of international protection for the Palestinian people, calling on the US administration to pressure the Israeli occupation authorities to stop their violations and crimes against our people and their sanctities. He stressed the importance of Palestinian-Jordanian coordination to reinforce the joint political and diplomatic efforts at all levels in order to protect Al-Aqsa Mosque from the danger of Judaization. - APP

Sherry criticizes Imran over politics of division

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Senior Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Sherry Rehman has criticized former Prime Minister (PM) Imran Khan for pursuing the politics of division. Addressing a news conference along with PPP leaders Nadeem Afzal Chan and Faisal Karim Kundi, in Islamabad, she said the PPP leadership welcomes

the news conference of the Director General (DG) Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) in which he made many things clear. She said there is no mention of conspiracy in the communiqué of National Security Committee. She said the narrative of Imran Khan is dangerous for Pakistan. PPP leader Nadeem Afzal Chan called for collective efforts to strengthen democracy in the country.

5m people flee Ukraine war

More than 2.7 million Ukrainian refugees - nearly six in 10 who left since war began - have fled to Poland

GENEVA: More than five million people have fled Ukraine since the Russian invasion, UN figures showed on Friday, in Europe's fastest-growing refugee crisis since World War II. UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, said 4,796,245 million Ukrainians had left the country since February 24. The UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) says nearly 215,000 third-country

nationals have also escaped to neighbouring countries. Friday's figures from the UNHCR were up 59,774 on those issued Thursday. More than 2.7 million Ukrainian refugees - nearly six in 10 who have left since the war began - have fled to Poland. More than 725,000 reached Romania. UNHCR figures show nearly 645,000 Ukrainians fled in February, with nearly 3.4 million doing so in

March and more than 760,000 leaving so far this month. Women and children account for 90 percent of those who escaped, with men aged 18 to 60 eligible for military call-up and unable to leave. Nearly two-thirds of all Ukrainian children have been forced from their homes, including those still inside the country. The nearly 215,000 third-country nationals who have fled - people who are citizens of

neither Ukraine nor the country they entered - are largely students and migrant workers. Beyond the refugees, the IOM estimates 7.1 million people have left their homes but are still in Ukraine. Before the invasion, Ukraine had a population of 37 million in the regions under government control, excluding Russia-annexed Crimea and the pro-Russian separatist-controlled regions in the east. - Agencies

Pak, KSA sign agreement for skilled workforce

It is expected millions of Pakistani skilled workers get gainful employment opportunities with higher earning through this skill verification programme

ISLAMABAD: The assessment of skilled workforce under National Vocational and Technical Training Commission, NAVTTC TAKAMOL Skill Verification Program (SVP) was conducted at DESCON Training Institute, Lahore. A total of 11 aspirants with required skill set of electrician trade appeared in the skill verification program. All 11 participants successfully qualified the SVP Test. Pakistan and Saudi Arabia signed a landmark agreement for certification and

employment of Pakistani skilled workforce through Takamol and NAVTTC in December last year. Ministry of Human Resource and Social Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) has introduced Skill Verification Program (SVP) implemented from July 2021 in order to regulate its labor market. After the implementation of SVP in KSA, skill verification has become necessary for the Pakistani skilled workers, who intend to have employment in Saudi

Arabia. Under this partnership, NAVTTC, National Vocational, and Technical Training Commission Pakistan and Takamol, a subsidiary of the Government of Saudi Arabia is establishing the testing regime under the Skills Verification Program, by exchanging the National Occupational Standards (NOS) and facilitating skill verification of candidates through competency-based assessment-theory & practical at exam Centers in Pakistan for candidates desirous

of working in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This program will enable the Pakistani skill workforce to have authentic and internationally recognized joint certification by both Takamol Saudi Arabia and NAVTTC Pakistan, through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) assessment. It is expected that millions of Pakistani skilled workers will get gainful employment opportunities with higher earning through this skill verification program. - APP

APRIL 2022

Pakistan's Premier News & Diplomatic Affairs Magazine

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

