



Islamabad POST

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Getting civilians out of 'places of hell' UN's top priority

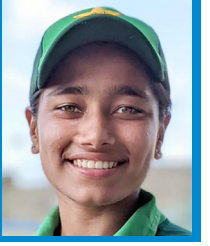
Detailed News On Page-07

Serena Hotels host grand iftar dinner

Detailed News On Page-08

Fatima wins emerging cricketer

Detailed News On Page-06



Saddened by court verdict

Will not accept 'imported' govt, says PM Imran

Says I respect the Supreme Court verdict; reiterates his stance to expose turncoats; resolves to take the lettergate issue to the streets



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan addressing nation. - DNA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday addressed the nation and said that while he respected the decision of the Supreme Court regarding the restoration of the National Assembly, he is saddened by the verdict. He said he will not accept the imported government adding people should come on streets on Sunday to stage a peaceful protest. Recalling the time when he was arrested,

Continued on Page 06

No-trust vote against PM Imran today

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly's session for voting on the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan will take place at 10:30am today (Saturday) in line with the Supreme Court's order. In the National Assembly's (NA) agenda issued Friday, voting on the no-confidence motion is at the fourth position in the six-point agenda. The top court restored the NA a day earlier after it declared the government's decision to dissolve the assembly and NA Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri's ruling against the Constitution. The top court has ordered NA Speaker Asad Qasir to summon the session on Saturday (April 9) no later

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ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Somalia to Pakistan, Mrs Khadija M. Almahzoumi, paid a farewell call on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on 08-04-2022. - DNA

Two terrorists killed in Balochistan

These terrorists were involved in different security incidents in District Awaran

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The army said on Friday that two terrorists were killed while two soldiers embraced martyrdom in Balochistan.

An army statement said On night 7/8 April 22, based on information of presence of Terrorists in Singi, near Mashkai, Balochistan, Security Forces conducted an operation to apprehend them. The ISPR said Once the troops started establishing blocking positions in the area, Terrorists tried to escape from their hide-out and opened fire onto security forces. 2 Terrorists have been killed in ensuing heavy exchange of fire. These terrorists were involved in different security incidents in District Awaran and surroundings.

In addition, arms and ammunition have also been recovered which were intended to be used by the terrorists for disrupting peace and security in the area. During the operation, two valiant sons of soil, Naik Tajwali and Sepoy Osama embraced Shihadat while one officer got injured. Security Forces remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan.

Pakistan wants robust ties with Somalia: Alvi

The outgoing Ambassador of Somalia, Mrs Khadija M. Almahzoumi, paid a farewell call on President Dr Arif Alvi

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called for strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Somalia in all areas of mutual interest, particularly trade and economy. He said that Pakistan had initiated the "Look Africa Policy", which would further boost bilateral relations with all African countries. The President expressed these views while talking to the outgoing Ambassador of Somalia to Pakistan, Mrs Khadija M. Almahzoumi, who paid a farewell call on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today.

Talking to the outgoing envoy, the President thanked Somalia for participating in the two sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC Countries in Islamabad.

He underscored the need for increasing the exchange of parliamentary delegations between the two countries and invited the Somali Parliamentarians to benefit from the Parliamentary Services Program offered by the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Service (PIPS), Islamabad. He highlighted that Pakistan eagerly welcomed African students and a large number of Somali students were already enrolled in Pakistani academic institutions. He further stated that Pakistan was host to a sizeable number of Somali refugees and was desirous of their safe and early return to their homes. The President appreciated the services of the outgoing envoy in promoting bilateral ties between the two countries and conveyed his best wishes for her future responsibilities.

Commission formed to probe "foreign conspiracy"

Gen Tariq declines to become the commission head

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry on Friday announced the federal cabinet has formed a commission to investigate the alleged foreign conspiracy behind the no-confidence motion against PM Imran Khan. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader told media that Lieutenant General (ret'd) Tariq Khan will lead the commission which will probe the alleged "threatening memo"



which reportedly points towards regime change in Pakistan and also mentions 'no-confidence vote'. Fawad Chaudhry said the commission will look into how the conspiracy was hatched and who was in-

involved from within the country. However, Lt Gen (ret'd) Tariq Khan has refused to head the government's commission that was formed to probe the "threat letter" allegedly sent from the United States, a private TV channel reported citing sources. The sources said that the Lt Gen (ret'd) Khan has conveyed his decision to the government. The minister said eight to nine opposition leaders were

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

EU chief in Kyiv for talks

DNA

KYIV: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and an EU delegation arrived in the Ukrainian capital on the first trip by senior European Commission officials since Russia's invasion started. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the EU's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, are in Kyiv on Friday for talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The visit is to offer support and reassurance to Zelenskyy in his bid for EU membership, von der Leyen said.

'Mass resignations' only option

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed - who was restored as a cabinet member just a day back after the Supreme Court's landmark judgement - has said mass resignations from the treasury benches could resolve the current political turmoil. "I used to suggest three months back: tender your resignations, dissolve the assemblies, impose emergency, impose governor's rule. I was right in all instances," the interior minister told journalists in the federal capital.

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

Ukraine: 50 killed in train station strike

Zelenskyy called the strike a deliberate attack on civilians

CENTRELINE REPORT

KYIV: Ukraine said as many as 50 people, including five children, were killed and many more were wounded and lost limbs in a rocket strike at a railway station packed with civilians fleeing the threat of a major Russian offensive in the country's east. As regional authorities scrambled to rush civilians out of harm's way, a group of European Union leaders meanwhile visited Kyiv to offer President Volodymyr Zelenskyy support and assure him there will be a path to EU membership for Ukraine. Zelenskyy called the strike on the station in Kramatorsk in the eastern region of Donetsk region a deliberate attack on civilians. Regional governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said the death toll rose to 50 from an earlier reported 39 as some of the several dozen wounded had died after being taken to hospital or medical centers. He said the station was hit by a Tochka U short-range ballistic missile that contained cluster munitions, which explode in mid-air, spraying small lethal bomblets over a wider area. They wanted to sow panic and fear, they wanted to take as many civilians as possible," he said.

Continued on Page 06

EU adopts new sanctions against Russia

AGENCIES

BRUSSELS: The European Union on Friday formally adopted its fifth package of sanctions against Russia since the country's Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, including bans on the import of coal, wood, chemicals and other products. The measures also prevent many Russian vessels and trucks from accessing the EU, further crippling trade, and will ban all transactions with four Russian banks, including VTB. The ban on coal imports will be fully effective from the second week of August. No new contracts can be signed from Friday, when sanctions are to be published in the EU's official journal. Existing contracts will have to be terminated by the second week of August, meaning that Russia can continue to receive payments from the EU on coal exports until then.

IHC declares PECA ordinance unconstitutional

The media bodies had challenged the "draconian law" in the IHC following countrywide protests

COURT REPORTER

PPP, PML-N hail IHC's verdict

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday declared the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016 ordinance "unconstitutional." The court instructed the federal government to investigate the abuse of law and submit a report in 30 days. The petition against the Peca ordinance was heard by IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah. The petition was filed by the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), President Dr Arif Alvi promulgated an ordinance in February to amend the PECA law as the government moved to curb "fake news". According to journalists and experts, the government's move aimed to silence dissent on social media and control the media. The media bodies had challenged the "draconian law" in the IHC following countrywide protests. The journalist associations, including Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors (AEMEND) and some senior journalists of the country, had filed the petition through senior lawyer Munir A Malik. The four-page order of the IHC issued today stated that free speech protected under Article 19 and the right to receive information under Article 19-A of the Constitution are essential for the development, progress and prosperity of a society and suppression thereof is unconstitutional and contrary to the democratic values. "The criminalisation of defamation, protection of individual reputations through

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party has expressed pleasure and welcomed the decision of Islamabad High Court's to null and void the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) amendment ordinance. Central Information Secretary of PPPP and member of the National Assembly Shazia Atta Marri has said that Pakistan Peoples Party has warmly welcomed and expressed its pleasure on the Islamabad High Court's decision to declare Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act amendment ordinance unconstitutional and she termed it, the victory of the constitution of Pakistan. This she expressed in a statement issued hereon today. Shazia Marri said that she congratulated the entire nation and the journalists community of the country over this constitutional victory. Islamabad Court's decision regarding the rejection of PECA ordinance is immense pleasureable to all of us because selected Imran Khan Niazi wanted to snatch the freedom of the expression of the common man like the dictators of the past. Ms Marri said that Pakistan Peoples Party had already rejected draconian black law of PECA, today, Islamabad High Court has taken a constitutional step by declaring the PECA amendment ordinance as



unconstitutional move. She added that Imran Khan's government has turned the President House into center of conspiracies. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday commended the decision of Islamabad high court to strike down the Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022. The spokesperson, in a tweet, congratulated the people of Pakistan, journalists, civil society, media institutions including Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), and Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors (AEMEND).

arrest and imprisonment and the resultant chilling effect violates the letter of the Constitution and the invalidity thereof is beyond a reasonable doubt," said the order authored by IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah. The court ruled that the ordinance was promulgated in derogation of the Constitution and the fundamental rights guaranteed thereunder, particularly Articles 9, 14, 19 and 19-A. "The jurisdictional preconditions were also not in existence," it further said. "The Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022 and promulgation thereof is declared as unconstitutional, invalid beyond reasonable doubt and it is, therefore, struck down." The offence under section 20 of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 to the extent of the expression "or harms the reputation" and the punishment thereof is unconstitutional, invalid beyond reasonable doubt and is, therefore, struck down. The court also quashed the proceedings against the petitioners. "The Federal Government is expected to review the defamatory laws, particularly the Defamation Ordinance, 2002 and thereafter propose appropriate legislation to the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) for making its implementation effective," the court order stated. IHC CJ Athar Minallah also directed the Interior Ministry to probe the conduct of the officials of the Cyber Crime Wing of the Federal Investigation Agency, which had led to widespread abuse of powers and the consequent grave violations of the fundamental rights of the citizens. The secretary has been ordered to submit the report within thirty days.

Shujaat's brother stands with ideology of opposition

Bulldozing the democratic system will not benefit anyone: Shafaat

YOOSUF BHUTTA

GUJRAT: Former District Nazim Gujrat and Younger brother of veteran politician Choudhary Shujaat's younger brother Ch. Shafaat Hussain on Thursday evening hailed the decision of the Supreme Court setting aside the National Assembly's deputy speaker's ruling who had

dismissed the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan. In a statement, he also welcomed the restoration of the National Assembly and the order of the Supreme Court to hold voting on the no-trust motion on coming Saturday. He added that it was a historic decision and a victory for the rule of law and de-

mocracy. He congratulated the entire nation on the unanimous landmark decision of the five judges of the Supreme Court. He said "After this decision it has become clear that all the assemblies should complete their term. It is the fundamental right of the people's representatives to elect their leader of the House.

"Bulldozing the democratic system will not benefit anyone, he commented. Chaudhry Shafaat Hussain said that people should not be put to the test just because of personal ego and stubbornness. He concluded, "A government that benefits the common man and is accessible to all, will always be considered successful."

'Nation trusts PM Imran'

DNA

PESHAWAR: KP Minister for Zakat, Usher, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Anwar Zeb Khan has said that the whole nation was standing behind Prime Minister Imran Khan. He expressed these views while addressing a solidarity rally in favour of Prime Minister Imran Khan in his home district Bajaur on Friday. He said in the second phase of the Local Government Elections, people have also given their verdict in favour of PTL. He said that the nation has full confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan and his popularity was growing with each passing day.

COURT NOTICE

In The court of Khuda Yar civil Judge Gujrat

Title Muhammad Afzal versus: Muhsin of Punjab etc.

Amended Suit for Declaration with consequential relief

Notice to: Province of Punjab through Collector Gujrat, Sub Registrar Kharian, Nasreen Kousar Widow, Umar Hayat, Muhammad Shahzad Sons, Faiza Bi Bi, Nooshen Bi Bi, Parveen Bi Bi D/o, Zulfiqar Ahmad cast rajpootbehrot tehsil kharian District gujrat. Muhammad Khurshed Late, Gulzar Ahmad Late, Dildar Ahmad, Rasheed Ahmad, Gulraiz Ahmad Sons, Asima Bi Bi, Gulshan Bi Bi, D/o, Muhammad Khurshed Late, Muhammad Razaq, Liaqat Ali sons Sardar Khan, Balqees Begum Late, Tariq Mehmood, Adil Mehmood, Muhammad Ali Sons, Rehana Kousar D/o, Balqees Begum D/o, Sardar Khan, Naseem Begum Late, Asima Gulnar, Parveen Akhtar Dautgters, Muhammad Javed, Gulraiz Ahmad, Muhammad Parvez, Sher Ali S/o, Naseem Begum D/o, Sardar Khan Cast rajpoot Village Behrot Tehil Kharian District Gujrat. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendant is not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 26-04-2022. Otherwise case will be decided ex party.

COURT NOTICE

In The court of Umar Rizwan Civil Judge Gujrat

Title Muzamil Javed versus: Qamar Abbas

Suit for performance specification relief through Haqshuffa

Notice to: 2-Zaheer Abbas S/o, Ghulam Abbas Cast Jutt Warraich R/o, Chak Jaspal Tehsil & District Gujrat Presently Residing Post office box No 3625 Sheikh Khalifa Bin Saeed Street Abu Dhabi UAE. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendant is not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 12-04-2022. Otherwise case will be decided ex party.

Given under my hand seal of the court this 7th April, 2022.

Qaisar Mehmood Warraich, Court Reporter Gujrat, Kharian 0333-8409964 Daily Islam Abad Post

SBP urged to cut markup, export financing rates

DNA

KARACHI: President of Employer's Federation of Pakistan (EFP), Ismail Suttar, was completely perplexed by the Central Bank's actions towards the recent inflation rates, and affirmed that the State Bank's action to run riot in increasing the level of already augmented interest rates proves that there is an absolute uncertainty about the correlation between inflation and interest rates in our noble political structure. In a statement, Ismail Suttar said that as per the Central Bank's decision the interest rates were increased, yet again, by 250 basis points to 12.25%. The State bank claimed that this increase in interest rate was due to heightened domestic political uncertainty along with increasing oil prices. The

abrupt and unstable decision to increase the interest rate in the country has led Pakistan to become one of the most inflated countries in the region, since the start of 2022. "The point to be highlighted is that, the interest rates in corresponding countries such as India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan are still in a range of 4% to 7.16%. Yet a country such as Pakistan, that is experiencing socio-economic instability to a large extent has been driven to sudden rash decisions in the name of stability", he opined. Moreover, the Central Bank's decision has also spiked up the interest rates for the export financing under Export Finance Scheme (EFS) by 2.5% in line with the increase in policy rate announced in the MPC meeting held recently. If such actions subvert the business community of Pakistan is bound

to see another setback in terms of exports, the so called solution to the problem is actually adding fuel to the fire by spiking up prices of cost of goods sold for the business community of Pakistan and hence contributing to an increase in prices for the average everyday individual, eventually pushing the local businessman out of foreign markets. Analyzing the economic structure at hand, Employer's Federation of Pakistan adheres to the belief that the economic structure of Pakistan, is in actual reality, a cost push inflationary structure, where an increase in interest rates will cause a boisterous rise in prices as opposed to a decrease. The historic trends of the past few decades are enough to prove that an increase in interest rates have adversely affected the economy of Pakistan time and again.

MD USC reviews Ramadan relief package

ISLAMABAD: Managing Director Utility Stores Corporation Taha Aziz Maghribi is monitoring the Ramadan relief package vigilantly. Accompanied by General Manager Operations, Managing Director USC has visited various stores in Peshawar, Abbottabad and has reviewed the supply and sale of basic items provided under the package and has expressed satisfaction over it. He has also issued orders to USC staff to take positive

steps to facilitate the customers. Till date more than 2.5 million families have availed the Ramadan relief package, and the process is ongoing successfully. The management of Utility Stores Corporation is working hard day and night to ensure ample supply to customers across Pakistan. A spokesman of Utility Stores Corporation termed the reports of shortage of sugar, ghee and flour in the media as untrue and said that we

are ensuring the uninterrupted supply of subsidized items to USC consumers across the country. Basic items like sugar, ghee and flour are supplied daily but are sold out fast due to inundation of keen customers. At present Utility Stores Corporation has a substantial stock of subsidized ghee and sugar to cater the demands of public for next 10 days. Continued procurement is in process to ensure availability across 9 zones. - DNA



HYDERABAD: PPP Supporters distributing sweets as they celebrate the supreme court order outside Hyderabad press club. - DNA Photo by Jan Ali Laghari

Askari Institute of Higher Education

The university also provides mentoring sessions catered for the aspiring students to hone their technical and soft skills aiding them to adopt in the corporate world

HUMA ARSHAD

KHARIAN: Askari Institute of Higher Education is styled on the modern educational system of international standards, specially designed to meet the requirement of the students to meet the challenges by involving the three E's approach EXPOSURE - EXPANSION - EXPLORATION. The main aim of Askari Institute of Higher Education is to transform the lives of youth through world class education which is located in the heart of Kharian on main G. T Road; It is an institute where you can get quality education on an affordable price. Main aim of AIHE is to prepare individuals for future by providing best teaching and learning facilities in their own area. Askari Institute of Higher Education (AIHE) aims to provide highest quality research-led teaching and learning to challenge the boundaries of knowledge,

research and discipline. The university also provides mentoring sessions catered for the aspiring students to hone their technical and soft skills aiding them to adopt in the corporate world. In addition to core curriculum we provide soft skills training in the areas

of grooming, personality development, change management, technical knowledge areas. In addition to core curriculum, TMUC provides soft-skills training, in the areas of grooming, personality development, report writing, change management, presentation

skills and other technical knowledge areas. We also assist in providing volunteering. The quality of education depends upon the university facilities as well as it is the part of students' learning. The quality of university environment and its facilities has a strong impact on students' life. The Institute has all kinds of facilities which make it to compete with international standards our, University library, laboratories and huge auditorium makes it distinguish from others. The auditorium has the capacity to accommodate more than 1200 people at a time. AIHE aims to be a university committed to meeting the needs and ambitions of a diverse range of students by providing affiliated programmes with the universities abroad as well. Do not miss the opportunity to visit this amazing campus with a covered area of 12.5 acre, only in your own city Kharian.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Belarus Andrei Metelitsa calls on Hamed Yaqoob Sheikh, Federal Secretary Finance of the Government of Pakistan. - DNA

Roadside 'Iftars' bring back spirit of Ramzan

ISLAMABAD: Removal of all the Coronavirus related restrictions has boosted the number of traditional roadside 'Iftars' in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Roadside or joint 'Iftars' are main feature of the holy month of Ramzan observed by the Muslims across the globe with religious fervor and great enthusiasm. The spirit of generosity and sharing was also witnessed at the roads and streets of the twin cities where traditional roadside 'Iftars' were being arranged by a group of philanthropists or volunteers and charitable trusts for the passers-by, daily wage earners, motorists and others.

In Islamabad, green belts along the different roads was used for the roadside 'Iftars' while in Rawalpindi, such 'dastarkhwan' were being set up at major markets and highways like Commercial, Sixth Road, Saddar, Murree road and others. "Long sheets laden with platters having fruits, snacks, dates and fritters were spread just an hour before the 'Azan' of 'Maghrib' so that maximum people could benefit from the facility," a philanthropist, who did not want to be named, told APP on Friday at Committee Chowk Rawalpindi. He said he did not arrange the roadside 'iftar' during the last two Ramzan due to the Coronavirus related restrictions imposed by the local administration. - APP

Commissioner Faisalabad visits Ramadan Bazars



ISHFAQ MUGHAL

Faisalabad: 08 April 2022: Divisional Commissioner Zahid Hussain has said that provision of maximum economic relief to the masses and elaborated arrangements have been made for providing essential commodities on especially reduced prices during the holy month of Ramzan. He was inspecting Ramzan Bazars established at different areas of the city and appreciated district govt. For overall arrangements. The Commissioner visited Ramzan Bazar Riaz Shahid Chowk, Susan road Faizan e

Madina and other located in the city. He took a detailed round in these Bazars and checked the quality and prices of fruit, vegetables and other grocery items. He also inspected the counters of cheap sugar and flour and observed the sale process. He directed that the transparent sale of subsidized items should be ensured on proper record of sale be kept in order. The Commissioner also checked the stalls of meat & poultry. He interacted with the consumers and asked from them about the benefits and arrangements of the Ramzan Bazars.

He said that consumer's confidence was a success of these bazars. He expressed his satisfaction over the arrangements of Ramzan Bazars and directed that best arrangements should be maintained throughout month. It was informed to the Commissioner that 19 Ramzan Bazars had been set up in the district and comprehensive mechanism was being followed for the supply of essential commodities, while fair price shops was also part of these bazars and considerable subsidy was being provided on different items on these stalls.

Shopkeepers fined over profiteering

DNA

FAISALABAD: Price control magistrates have imposed Rs 269,000 fine on 89 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 583 shops in different markets and bazars 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 mend their ways, he added.

Sudden rise in interest rates is worrisome

KARACHI: President of Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) Salman Aslam has expressed concern over the sudden increase in interest rate by SBP by 2.5% and setting the policy rate at 12.25%. He said that the unexpected meeting and decision of the Monetary Policy Committee would cause irreparable damage to the economy. Salman Aslam said that already due to increase in production cost, stabilization in electricity, gas and petrol prices, it is very difficult to compete with other countries in the region including India, China and Bangladesh. Salman Aslam said that increase in interest rates, export orders are also likely to be affected due to which the wheel of the industry is becoming extremely difficult to move. The country's economy is already under pressure due to the political crisis. In such a scenario, the abrupt rise in interest rates by the SBP is beyond comprehension. He said that in view of such measures, there were concerns over the undue autonomy of the SBP in the business community. - DNA

Islamabad POST

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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



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- Serena Hotel.....111 133 133
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- Monal.....0334-5421812



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- Turkish Airlines.....8494949



Emergency

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Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

- Islamabad.....0321-544480

CG COMSTECH, Uzbek envoy discuss co-op

The dignitaries had a comprehensive discussion on exploring possible avenues of co-op between COMSTECH and Uzbekistan in 2022, and 2023, respectively

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator General COMSTECH, H. E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary visited the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Islamabad and had a meeting with the Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. Mr. Oybek Arif Usmanov in Pakistan on Thursday. The dignitaries had a comprehensive discussion on exploring possible avenues of cooperation between COMSTECH and Uzbekistan in 2022, and 2023, respectively. The Ambassador appreciated the role of COMSTECH and the passion of Prof. Choudhary for the development of science and technology in OIC region. Prof. Choudhary briefed the Uzbek Ambassador about COMSTECH programs' contribution to Uzbekistan and joint initiatives conducted in the past, and in-



formed him on current programs and future planned initiatives of cooperation between COMSTECH and Uzbekistan. The dignitaries discussed the organization of 2nd OIC robotics competition and Olympiad in mathematics in Uzbekistan. They also discussed conducting global celebrations of Mirza Muhammad Ulugh Beg – renowned astronomer and mathematician – by organizing series of events including a large international conference, jointly by COMSTECH, OIC General Secretariat and the Government of Uzbekistan in 2024. They exchanged ideas on the establishment of a center on information technology and artificial intelligence for OIC, and the training of managers of science and technology parks in Uzbekistan. Both the dignitaries agreed to enhance cooperation and work together to implement the above mentioned programs.

Fawad grieved over demise of journalist's mother

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Husain on Friday extended condolences on the death of the mother of senior journalist Ali Sher. In a statement the minister said he shared the grief of the bereaved family. He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude. Rupee rebounds, recovers Rs 3.49 against dollar

ANF seizes 910 gram heroin from an office

ISLAMABAD: Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) on Friday on an intelligence-led recovered 910 grams of heroin from a parcel being sent to the US from the office of a private courier company located in New Airport Town, Islamabad. According to a spokesman of ANF, the seized heroin was skillfully hidden in the bed sheets. The seized parcel was being sent by a resident of Chakwal named Mubashar Hassan to a person in the United States. A case has been registered under the Anti-Narcotics Act. Further investigation was underway.

Massive decrease in gold prices in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The gold prices in the country on Friday saw a massive decrease on the backdrop of decrease in US dollar price against the Pakistani rupee. According to the details, the gold price for one tola gold was decreased by Rs2000. This decrease took the per tola price of 24-carat gold to Rs132,300. Similarly, the price of 10-gram of 24-carat gold increased by Rs1715 and was being traded for Rs113,426. In the international market, the price of per ounce gold increased by \$6 to reach \$1933. On Thursday, the gold price had reached all time high as one tola gold was being traded at Rs134,300.

PMC to improve healthcare education standards

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) was striving to improve healthcare education through the advancement of quality medical and dental education in the country. According to PMC, the commission is setting benchmarking in line with best global practices to ensure quality healthcare for every citizen of the nation. The PMC amended the old, obsolete, and archaic mode of the Act which usually hampered the due processes, creating difficulties for students, doctors, and other stakeholders, and implemented a digital system that brought ease to all stakeholders and meeting the need of the hour. The commission determined to fast-track all stakeholders in negotiations with the government on the EFT agreement, State Bank taking advantage of the political will. The commission has chosen to hit our national economy.

Chinese provider signs MOU with Pakistan Integra Solar

ISLAMABAD: Chinese provider signed MoU with Pakistan Integra Solar to supply PV module, China Economic Net (CEN) reported on Friday. According to the MoU, C&D Clean Energy will provide Integra Pakistan with integrated supply chain services of 100MW solar modules in 2022. Recently C&D Clean Energy has announced a partnership with Integra Solar for panel supply chain services. "Integra's value concept is to write the earth's green future by choosing high-quality products, and we are in line with C&D Clean Energy on this point," commented Mahmood Tahir, CEO of Integra Solar Pakistan. "We are honored to find a global supply chain partner like C&D Clean Energy, a Fortune 500 company member, in a global solar market that requires high flexibility and competitiveness. The comprehensive supply chain services provided by C&D Clean Energy have given us more competitive advantages in the development of new energy business."

General Manager of C&D Clean Energy, Michael K. Lee, offered online congratulations at the MOU signing ceremony, adding: "It is an honor to partner with Integra and play a part in this low-carbon and green cooperation. Integra has developed an extensive cooperation with C&D Clean Energy on inverters and

Pakistan (NEPRA), it is estimated that by 2030, Pakistan's photovoltaic installed capacity will reach 12.8GW, and by 2047 this figure will reach 26.9GW, providing a broad market space for the development of the solar PV industry. "The development of solar and wind power generation will enhance Pakistan's se-



solar modules over the past year and we will continue to support the company with integrated and valued-added supply chain services in the future, extending our cooperation in Pakistan and other parts of the world to make joint contributions to global green and low-carbon development." According to the Power Generation Capacity Expansion Plan issued by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority,

curity of electricity supply and put Pakistan at the forefront of the global energy transition," emphasized Najib Benhassine, the Country Director for Pakistan for the South Asia region in World Bank. Pakistan has launched a new round of bidding for photovoltaic and wind power projects this month, aiming to further increase the share of clean electricity in the country's current energy mix to 61%.

Taj Haider slams SBP for hike in interest rate

PTI govt got passed the SBP (Amendment) Act 2022 on the admitted dictates of the IMF

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Member Core Committee of the Pakistan People's Party, Senator Taj Haider in a press statement issued today has severely criticized the decision of the State Bank of Pakistan to raise the policy rate by a devastating 250 bps. Governor State Bank should realize that the present inflation is not due to demand factors. It is specifically because of the tax ridden escalating cost of inputs in the production cycle on the supply side and high interest rates.

production. Our central bank is not doing just the usual thing which will only result in increasing imports and diminishing our exports unemployment and inflation. Unfortunately, PTI government of the nation. The SBP (Amendment) Act 2022 on the admitted dictates of the IMF through the due processes, creating difficulties for students, doctors, and other stakeholders, and implemented a digital system that brought ease to all stakeholders and meeting the need of the hour. The commission determined to fast-track all stakeholders in negotiations with the government on the EFT agreement, State Bank taking advantage of the political will. The commission has chosen to hit our national economy.

At a time when the country needs higher and higher production, any increase in policy rate is a self-defeating exercise. Central banks all over the world are decreasing policy rates in order to give a much needed boost to

Senator Taj Haider has demanded that not only the recent increase in policy rate should be withdrawn, a substantial decrease in these rates should be brought about in order to give a boost to our production and exports.



RAWALPINDI: A view of people offering first Namaz-e-Jumma on a road in Saddar during Holy Fasting Month of Ramzan ul Mubarak. – APP

IHC directs President to meet Baloch students

USMAN CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday directed President Arif Alvi to meet Baloch students in light of the petition against their harassment at Quaid-e-Azam University. Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the petition and ordered the home secretary to meet with and ensure the safety of Baloch students. The Baloch student's advocate, Zainab Janjua, informed the high court that students are apprehensive to go back to Balochistan due to fear of abduction. Highlighting the disappearance of QAU student Hafeez Baloch, the IHC chief justice questioned the deputy attorney general on why students go missing, "why is a child missing for even one day?" The IHC ordered the country's institutions to eliminate the fear of harassment and abduction of Baloch students in their province, adding that there is no justification for the experiences of the students. "Whatever the current situation may be, it does not matter, Baloch students are the favourite students of this court," Chief Justice Athar Minallah stated. The chief justice urged that relevant authorities must do more to eliminate the reservations of Baloch students and added that not enough initiative was being taken.

RCB starts repair work of roads

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) has started reconstruction and repair work of roads in different cantt areas. According to RCB spokesman, the projects had been started on the special instructions of Executive Officer, RCB Imran Gulzar and the roads of Dhoke Mustakeem, Atta ul Haq Road, Convoy Road, Range Road and other roads would be reconstructed and repaired. The CEO had issued strict instructions that no compromise should be made on quality of material and construction work. The CEO also directed the authorities concerned that earnest efforts should also be made to address complaints of the residents. The spokesman informed, the street lights installation work at a cost of over Rs 30 million had also been started in different Cantt areas. – APP

ICCI hosts iftar dinner for Sweet Homes children

Patron in Chief of Pakistan Sweet Homes Zamrud Khan thanked the Office Bearers of ICCI for hosting a wonderful Iftar dinner in honor of the angels and fairies of Sweet Homes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir President, Jamshed Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) hosted an Iftar dinner in honor of the angels and fairies of Pakistan Sweet Homes, which was attended by former Presidents ICCI Khalid Javed & Baser Daud, former Senior Vice Presidents Khalid Chaudhry, Muhammad Naveed Malik & Ms. Fatma Azim, former Vice President Ashfaq Husain Chatha, ICCI Executive Members and a large number of business community from the twin cities. Speaking on the occasion, Patron in Chief of Pakistan Sweet Homes Zamrud Khan thanked the Office Bearers of ICCI for hosting a wonderful Iftar dinner in honor of the angels and fairies of Sweet Homes. He said that with the blessings of Allah the Almighty

and the cooperation of philanthropists, Pakistan Sweet Homes has been making good progress day by day and at present branches of Pakistan Sweet Homes in 8 major cities of the country are operating to take care of the orphans while its network will be further expanded. He said that with the help of philanthropists, the first cadet college in the history of the world has been set up on an area of 80 kanals for orphans on GT Road in Sohawa in which 141 students are currently studying. He said that his aim



was to make the children of Pakistan Sweet Homes proud citizens of Pakistan so that they could not only play an active role in the development of Pakistan but also make the country proud of them. He said that due to Covid-19 pandemic, after almost two years, a wonderful event has been organized in Pakistan Sweet Homes for which the credit goes to ICCI. He said that the Chamber has always cooperated with Pakistan Sweet Homes and hoped that this tradition would be maintained in future as well. Addressing the function, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Shakeel Munir paid tributes to the services of Zamrud Khan, Patron in Chief of Pakistan Sweet Homes, who has dedicated his life for the welfare of orphans. He said that Zamrud Khan was grooming and educating orphans like a father which was commendable. He urged the business community to fully cooperate with Pakistan Sweet Homes so that the institution could further grow and provide better care to the orphans.

ECP decides to start delimitation exercise

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday decided to immediately start the delimitation exercise of all National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies constituencies on the basis of the 2017 census and population statistics. Keeping in view the current scenario of the country, the ECP has decided not to wait for the digital census which is yet to be decided and proceed with the delimitation exercise. – APP

Covid-19 at ease

AS the number of fatalities vanish from the Pakistani coronavirus pandemic for the fifth consecutive day, the rate of infections along with other Covid-19 indicators was also going down gradually. Pakistan has reported the fifth continuous coronavirus death-free day with the number of single-day infections plunging to 141 during the last 24 hours (Thursday), showed the figures released by the National Institute of Health Pakistan on Friday morning.

As per the latest NIH data, the death toll from the coronavirus remained unchanged for the fifth continuous day at 30,361, whereas the number of total infections now stood at 1,526,234 after adding the fresh 141 cases. During the last 24 hours, 27,003 tests were conducted throughout Pakistan whereas the positivity ratio stood at 0.52 percent. The number of patients in critical care was 280.

During the last 24 hours, as many as 116 patients have recovered from the virus whereas the total recoveries stood at 1,486,650. As of Friday, the total count of active cases in the country was recorded at 9,223.

As many as 576,110 coronavirus cases have so far been confirmed in Sindh, 505,307 in Punjab, 219,223 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 135,112 in Islamabad, 35,479 in Balochistan, 43,286 in Azad Kashmir and 11,717 in Gilgit-Baltistan.

As many as 13,558 individuals have lost their lives to the pandemic in Punjab so far, 8,097 in Sindh, 6,322 in KP, 1,023 in Islamabad, 792 in Azad Kashmir, 378 in Balochistan and 191 in Gilgit Baltistan.

Even when the Covid-19 seems to be lessening its deadly impacts, the people must not take this relative peace for granted. Common SOPs need to be followed in order to keep another covid wave at bay.

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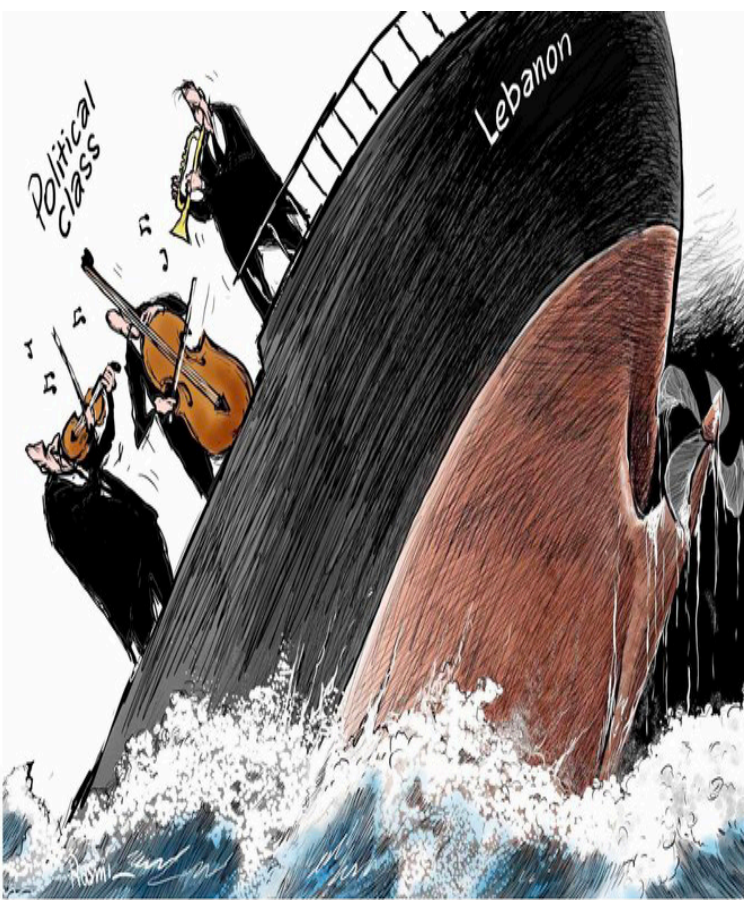
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Yemen's new leadership council

YEMEN'S President AbdRabbo Mansour Hadi practically stepped down on Thursday, delegating all his powers to a new presidential council in a move that will hopefully pave the way for peace in the 7-year-old war. The 8-member council, whose members come equally from the north and south of Yemen and represent the main political entities, is tasked mainly with negotiating with the Iran-backed Al Houthi militia to end the war, based on the United Nations-endorsed road map drawn by the Gulf Cooperation's Council (GCC). The move came as the UN-backed 2-month truce in Yemen has already taken effect at the start of Ramadan.

Hadi said he made this decision as per the results of the intra-Yemeni consultations that took place in Riyadh in recent weeks and out of his "historic responsibility" to pave the way for a peaceful settlement to the conflict. His decision to relinquish the presidential powers to the leadership council is expected to unite politically, militarily and financially influential Yemeni parties with the aim to form a united block in the face of the Al Houthis' growing threat. A strong united front is needed at this stage to negotiate with the Iran-backed militia, which still controls large parts of the North, including the capital Sana'a.

All Gulf states have welcomed Hadi's decision because supporting this important move at this critical stage of the war will help create the right conditions for the UN and GCC efforts to revive the peace talks. In addition, it will encourage the anti-Al Houthi forces to unite and focus on the national goal of saving Yemen, restoring stability and preserving its territorial unity. But the main task is to unite all national forces to stop Al Houthi aggression and pressure the militia into ending its war on the Yemeni people.

Financial disparities in Civil Service of AJK

Chaudhry Muhammad Latif

The first and foremost problem of AJK civil servants posted in the far-flung and unattractive areas is their deprivation of Karnah Allowance.

During winter Leepa valley is completely blocked by snow fall and the only way out is the Army Helicopter facility extended by the local army authorities on compassionate grounds.

In Iran, our near and dear brother country, their medical staff opt for posting in rural area due to substantial amount of rural area allowance. Before 1947, at the time of liberation of AJK civil servants posted in Karnah area were granted a special allowance of Rs. 50 called Karnah allowance

MOST of the financial policies of the country including AJK and GB are originated, formulated and enforced by the Federal Finance Department, Islamabad. These financial policies are invariably adopted by the provinces, AJK and GB. As the Federal Finance department has no offices in the rural areas therefore they do not get feedback of their policies in rural areas. So they are not abreast of the difficulties and disorders generated by their policies in the rural and far flung areas of the country where the 80% of population lives. As such the unrealistic financial policies cause constant problems in rural areas and apparently it looks like penny wise pound foolish.

As AJK government follows federal fiscal policies, therefore, AJK Civil Servants are also affected by some faulty policies regarding rural and hard areas having tough terrain. In Azad Kashmir pay and other privileges of civil servants are determined on the basis of principle of parity with Punjab.

The first and foremost problem of AJK civil servants posted in the far-flung and unattractive areas is their deprivation of Karnah Allowance. During winter Leepa valley is completely blocked by snow fall and the only way out is the Army Helicopter facility extended by the local army authorities on compassionate grounds. In Iran, our near and dear brother country, their medical staff opt for posting in rural area due to substantial amount of rural area allowance. Before 1947, at the time of liberation of AJK civil servants posted in Karnah area were granted a special allowance of Rs. 50 called Karnah allowance. Karnah allowance at a rate of Rs. 50/- continued up to the year 1990, then it was revised to Rs. 100/- per month and now it is Rs. 200 to every civil

servants posted from outside. Hill allowance was also freezed in 1996 should be restored. The Karnah allowance has to be increased commensurate with present salary structure and obtaining hardships faced by the civil servants posted there.

Second and strange financial disparity is that in urban areas house rent is 45 % of pay whereas in rural areas it is only 30 %.

Logic and justice demands that if not more as an incentive atleast house rent must be equalized for the civil servants posted in rural areas. Further there is also big city allowance. The situation seems unreasonable and unfair for which financial policy makers need to attend to the genuine demand of the civil servants posted in rural areas and also for the benefit and development of rural population.

As a consequence, there is absenteeism in rural areas in schools and medical units. There is severe problem of on duty system where by civil servants are attached in urban areas drawing their salary against their rural area post. In schools the teachers engage unqualified local teachers in rural areas and pay them petty compensation and thereby impair the quality of education. It also results in litigation in case of transfer from urban areas to rural areas as the transfer results in reduction of amount of emoluments. Buildings and offices built in rural areas for the health staff and education employees have gone waste. There are ghost schools also. Instead of extending incentives the staff posted in rural areas they are penalized and consequently the rural population suffers from the non-availability of essential facilities.

So it is imperative for the Finance Secretary of AJK, to take up the matter with the Federal

Finance Department. The Inspector General of Police, a lent officer however enjoys admirable reputation in AJK as there is the lowest crime rate and the area is an island of peace highly conducive for tourism. The intelligence agencies of the base camp have all along been vigilant and efficient. So tourism could flourish hence if government staff in rural areas is adequately paid to their satisfaction. At present, how the civil servants posted in hard areas are subjected to physical and mental torture would be evident from one concrete example of one adhoc lady lecturer Mrs. Sumaria Kashif posted in Girls Degree College Leepa. She is resident of Muzaffarabad city and was appointed adhoc lecturer on June 1st, 2010, and posted in Authmaqam for seven years, transferred to Kohi Ratta for 3 years and further posted to Girls Degree College Leepa for 2 years up to date). She is B.S in computer science with Silver Medal, M.Ed First division with advance diploma in computer science.

Her result for 12 year has been 100 percent. She qualified Public Service Commission written test in 2019 and placed 3rd in top three. As per their practice the PSC called up only top two for interviews and she could not be called for interview. Despite 12 years meritorious adhoc service, Silver Medal, and cent per cent annual results. She is worried for her service career. This example shows the failure of supervision of education department at the secretariat level.

Inequitable representation of different departments like education, forest and public works at secretariat level exhibits some administrative difficulties along with financial disparities.

— The writer is Retired Additional Chief Secretary of AJK and advocate Supreme Court of AJK.

Unemployment as a determinant of crime

Sadia Saleem

The crime rate from 2010-20 increased from 642,762 to 876,430 - which is a 36 percent increase in crime as accompanied by a 33 percent increase in population. According to the official statistics, the crime rate of Pakistan in 2001 includes a total of 8,906 murders, which reached its all-time high in 2013 with 13,937 murders.

It reduced to 8,490 in 2020. Kidnapping cases registered in 2001 were 7,126 as opposed to 19,658 in 2020. Robbery cases have seen an alarming increase, due to the lack of government interest, from 7,513 to 19,904. There were 6,618 reported cases of cattle theft in 2001, and it escalated to 8,649 in 2020

THERE is no country in the world, developed or developing, without the plague called crime. Since it tainted civilization, this characteristic has been passed on from generation to generation as a treasured family legacy. The question of how much it exists, on the other hand, has long been a cause of considerable disagreements. Understanding the amount of crime at any one moment is critical for enforcement agencies, lawmakers, and other political officials. The ability to quantify crime enables the establishment to analyze crime statistics. Those well versed with crime statistics can calibrate their contrivance with such trends and compare their statistics on a local level. Crime may range from robbery, burglary, kidnapping and murder to rape and sexual assault. One thing that remains common in all these is the fear that makes its way into the hearts of the citizens of a country.

As reported by the FBI, the number of hate crime offenses in 2000 (pre 9/11) was 28, which increased drastically to 481 in 2001. In 2001, approximately 17.7 percent of single-bias hate crimes were of religious prejudice. 26.2 percent of them were targeted due to intolerance against the Islamic religion.

The development of a country has a direct relation to its crime rate. Although it is not the only determinant, it does dominate the regress. In the Human development Index 2020 Norway, Ireland and Switzerland are the top three countries that are given the title of highly developed countries with 31, 38 and 42 cases of intentional homicides in 2019. Chad, Central African Republic and Niger are at the bottom of this list with 1430, 1009 and 1244 cases of intentional homicides in a year. Pakistan at the 154th position has unusually high intentional homicides that reach up to 13000. Germany is ranked 6th in the development index yet there were 769 intentional homicides registered to its name in 2019.

There has been an alarming increase in crimi-

nal activities in the past few years throughout the world. Pakistan is teeming with narcotics trafficking, political instability, domestic terrorism, mafias, income inequality, and extremist groups. Some dominant factors that influence the increase in crime rate are unemployment, inflation, and lack of education, poverty and Urbanization. It is indirectly affected by a number of factors all of which are common in Pakistan which includes Nepotism, lack of recreational activities and drug abuse.

The crime rate from 2010-20 increased from 642,762 to 876,430 - which is a 36 percent increase in crime as accompanied by a 33 percent increase in population. According to the official statistics, the crime rate of Pakistan in 2001 includes a total of 8,906 murders, which reached its all-time high in 2013 with 13,937 murders. It reduced to 8,490 in 2020. Kidnapping cases registered in 2001 were 7,126 as opposed to 19,658 in 2020. Robbery cases have seen an alarming increase, due to the lack of government interest, from 7,513 to 19,904. There were 6,618 reported cases of cattle theft in 2001, and it escalated to 8,649 in 2020. Data collected by Gender Crime Cell (GCC) of National Police Bureau (NPB) records 25,935 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) reported in the country in the year 2020 as compared to 28,095 reported cases in 2019. The trend analysis shows that there is a slight decline in crime cases of GBV in 2020 (48%) compared to 2019 (52%)

Punjab and KPK experience the highest number of crimes with values in 6 digits. From 2006-2019 numbers of reported crimes in Punjab increased from 342,149 to 490,313 which show a 43 percent increase. As opposed to Sindh, KPK, Balochistan and Islamabad that show a 56 percent, -20 percent, 23 percent and 129 percent change respectively. The unemployment rate of Pakistan in 2006 was 0.58 which increased almost six times to 3.542 in 2019. It is an increase of 510 percent and it is not even the highest unem-

ployment rate reached by Pakistan. Pakistan's highest unemployment rate was reached in 2018 which was 4.08.

Both crime rate and unemployment show a direct relationship. There has been a gradual increase in unemployment just as there has been in crime rate. The only difference is that unemployment is not the only factor that affects the crime rate so it tends to fluctuate against that direct relationship. Moreover the data plotted is of every type of crime reported while studies show that it is more likely when a person becomes unemployed that they will cease to be a contributing member of the economy. If someone is unable to find a job they will shift towards criminal activities. The primary motive in a crime would be financial gain which usually includes property crime, theft and black-mailing. An unemployed person doesn't necessarily shift towards violent crimes. Although income inequality is one of the major issues that Pakistan faces, GDP per capita gives us a basic view of the Standard of living (SOL) of its inhabitants. It not only has a negative relation with Crime rate but also with the Unemployment rate.

To reduce the rate of criminal offences, the government and policy makers should take steps to address the issues that fuel the rate of crime. Politicians, for example, should focus on economic development rather than crime-fighting methods such as conviction and jail time. However, it is a temporary solution to a constant problem. The state has a crucial influence in lowering the rate of unemployment. Qualified individuals should be actively involved in income-generating ventures that will keep them busy while also providing for them. Employees' salary should be enticing so that they are not forced to engage in criminal activities such as the sale of harmful substances or taking bribes. To address unemployment, the government should prioritize economic growth. When the economy expands at a rapid pace, it immediately corresponds to an increase in work opportunities.

Briefs

Will not accept 'imported' govt, says PM Imran

FROM PAGE 01

the premier said that he strongly believes that the judiciary is the guardian of justice in the country. The premier said that while he respected the country's judiciary, he complained that the Supreme Court should have at least initiated the probe on the "foreign conspiracy" matter.

"I respect the Supreme Court and the judiciary, but the apex court should have looked at the threat letter before issuing the verdict," he said. PM Imran Khan further complained that the apex court did not take the matter of the "threat letter" as seriously as it should have been taken.

PM Imran Khan further said that the decision on Article 63 (A), regarding horse-trading, also added to his disappointment. "The youth of Pakistan is our future and if they see leaders selling their conscience, what precedent are we setting for them?" he asked, adding that even MNAs who came on reserved seats have become sellouts. He said that nations must stand against wrong, otherwise, nobody can protect them if they don't raise their voices against the corruption and other evils prevalent in the country.

Speaking about the "threat letter", he explained what a cipher is — a coded message sent by embassies to their country — adding that this message cannot be shared with the media and public because if these codes are unveiled, all secret information of Pakistan will be unveiled.

On Thursday, the Supreme Court of Pakistan restored the National Assembly after it declared the government's decision to dissolve the assembly and NA Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri's ruling against the Constitution. The top court has ordered National Assembly Speaker Asad Qasir to summon the session on Saturday (April 9) and not later than 10:30am to allow the vote on the no-confidence motion against the premier.

Earlier in the day, PM Imran Khan chaired a cabinet meeting, following which Minister for Information and Law Fawad Chaudhry said a commission will be formed that would probe the "threat letter". The commission would present its report within 90 days after it investigates how many dissident MPs were in contact with foreign powers. "We have evidence of eight dissident MPs being in contact with foreign dignitaries," Fawad said, adding: "The commission will look at a connection between local handlers and regime change." He said that the parliamentarians would be briefed regarding the details of the threat letter before the voting on the no-confidence motion.

No-trust vote against PM Imran today

FROM PAGE 01

than 10:30am to allow the vote on the no-confidence motion against the premier. The Supreme Court also "declared that the assembly was in existence at all times, and continues to remain and be so". The apex court also stated that the speaker cannot prorogue the assembly and bring the session to an end if the no-trust motion fails or after a new prime minister is elected if a no-confidence motion is passed.

Atlético charged by UEFA

NYON: Atlético Madrid was charged by UEFA on Friday after a fan was filmed apparently making Nazi salutes at a Champions League game. The club was charged with "discriminatory behavior" and for fans throwing objects during Atlético's 1-0 loss at Manchester City on Tuesday. UEFA disciplinary rules hold clubs responsible for fan misconduct inside stadiums. No timetable was given for a verdict. Atlético hosts the second leg of the quarterfinals on Wednesday. — APP

SCO delegations discussed issues of media support

The parties exchanged views on opportunities for deepening cooperation in the information sphere, including through the organization of mutual press tours, internships, joint roundtable discussions and conferences

DNA

TASHKENT: Uzbekistan chaired a regular round of consultations "On the interaction of the information services of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States in the process of information support for the activities of the SCO" via videoconference. According to Uzbekistan MFA, at the meeting, representatives of the SCO member states considered the issues of media support for events held within the framework of Uzbekistan's chairmanship. The participants focused on the website www.sco-summit2022.uz dedicated to the chairmanship of Uzbekistan in the SCO. The importance of extensive media coverage of the upcoming meetings of the Council of Foreign Min-



isters, the Council of Heads of Government and the Council of Heads of State of the SCO was emphasized. The procedure for accreditation of media representatives participating in the SCO events was discussed. The parties exchanged views on opportunities for deepening cooperation in the information sphere, including through the organization of mutual press tours, internships, joint roundtable discussions and conferences. The delegations welcomed the active efforts made by the Uzbek side within the framework of the chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The member states expressed their readiness to work together to implement Uzbekistan's priorities and initiatives to further strengthen multilateral cooperation, and enhance the international role and authority of the SCO.

EU froze \$32B in Russian, Belarusian assets amid war

BRUSSELS: The European Union has so far frozen nearly 30 billion euros in assets from blacklisted Russian and Belarusian individuals and companies under sanctions imposed over Moscow's offensive in Ukraine.

A total of \$32 billion (29.5 billion euros) "including assets such as boats, helicopters, real estate and artwork" have been seized, the European Commission said in a statement on Friday. Another over \$212 billion (196 billion euros) of transactions have reportedly been blocked as well.

The EU's figures were partial, based on data from around half of the EU's 27 member states given to the

bloc's "Freeze and Seize" task force operating in coordination with G7 partners, including the United States. The EU and US have said they will aggressively hunt down and seize assets of those on their blacklists, deemed to benefit from the Kremlin and contribute to its offensive.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his two adult daughters are on them, along with oligarchs, influential business people and politicians including Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and their relatives. The blacklists of individuals and companies are part of waves of swingeing sanctions imposed by the EU, US and G7 countries

since Russia's February 24 offensive in Ukraine, conducted in part from Belarusian territory. They have been repeatedly expanded, including on Friday in the EU's agreed 5th package of sanctions, which also includes a ban on Russian coal imports and expanded financial sanctions and trade restrictions. Oligarchs' superyachts and luxurious properties have been prominent assets targeted, with several seized in the EU while others have been sailed out of the jurisdictional reach of the G7 sanctions.

In many cases, ascertaining ownership is a tricky task for authorities, given fiscal smokescreens used

by the ultra-wealthy, such as shell companies, trusts and proxies. It's for that reason the EU and US have set up specific task forces to collate information and coordinate. The commission said a joint meeting of the EU and US task forces would take place later on Friday, with Ukrainian officials participating.

The next meeting of the EU's task force will be in two weeks. The bloc's commissioner for financial services Mairead McGuinness said the sanctions were "crucial for imposing economic pain on Putin's regime and those complicit in the war" and implementation of them was "essential". — Agencies

Fatima Sana receives emerging cricketer of the year trophy

LAHORE: Pakistan women cricket team prodigy Fatima Sana has secured the International Cricket Council (ICC) trophy for Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year award for 2021. Fatima shared her thoughts on Twitter and said: "Alhamdulillah [...] It's an absolute honor to receive the trophy of @ICC Women's Emerging Cricketer Of The Year." "Onwards and upwards InshaAllah. Pakistan Zindabad," Fatima further added as she expressed her intent to perform well in the future. The pacer has made the nation proud by not only bagging the ICC award but also by becoming the first female cricketer from the country to win an ICC accolade. Fatima Sana has delivered some memorable performances as she has captured international attention on the international stage; she has now become the first female cricketer from Pakistan to win an ICC trophy. The ICC in a statement said that the 20-year-old "impressed one and all with her all-around efforts in 2021". — DNA



Commission formed to probe "foreign conspiracy"

FROM PAGE 01

approached by a foreign embassy which got commitments from them. He said intelligence agencies have records of their meeting. He also announced that the contents of the letter will also be presented in the National Assembly tomorrow ahead of no-confidence vote so that the nation can see who is siding with whom. Earlier, Prime Minister Imran Khan said that he had a letter that carried evidence of a foreign conspiracy to topple his government. According to the letter, problems for Pakistan will increase, if the no-confidence motion against PM Imran Khan fails. "We are not happy, everything will be fine, only when the no-trust motion passes."

The premier in his briefing said that the letter also showed concerns over his recent visit to Russia. PM Imran Khan said that the letter highlighted the future ties by connecting it with the foreign policy that threatened regime change in Pakistan. The opposition parties got accused of supporting the conspirators. It resulted in the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly ruling out their no-confidence motion against the prime minister. However, the premier did not tell the journalists from where it was written to him.

Wasim Khan shortlisted for ICC GM role

DNA

LAHORE: Former Chief Executive of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) - Wasim Khan - is in line to become the General Manager at the International Cricket Council (ICC). Wasim Khan has been shortlisted for the role and will be interviewed in Dubai next week, according to George Dobell. Currently, the GM position at the ICC remains vacant as Geoff Allardice was promoted to the role of ICC's CEO. Geoff had occupied the position for the previous eight years before his step up. According to sources, Wasim Khan is set to fight former West Indies batter Adrian Griffith for the role. It is worth pointing out that Khan was also in contention to replace Tom Harrison as the ECB chief executive. However, if he is appointed as the GM at the ICC then he will be ruled out of the race for the position.

Abid Ali makes an epic comeback

KARACHI: Pakistan opening batsman Abid Ali has made his way back to the training nets after successfully recovering from his heart surgery last year. The 34-year-old was diagnosed with acute coronary syndrome in December 2021 and since has been under rehabilitation. Abid was hospitalized after feeling discomfort in the chest during the last round fixture of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy between Central Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. — APP

Mesmerizing cricket ground in Upper Chitral

DNA

KARACHI: Former England cricketer and current fast bowling technician Ian Pont has shared a picture of a mesmerizing cricket ground situated in the District Upper Chitral of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The ground is located amid the serene and lush green Shepheshun Meadows in Upper Chitral's headquarter, Booni.

"Pakistan has some seriously awesome backdrops for cricket," Pont wrote. The location remains a tourist attraction from the end of March till the end of May. Locals, as well as people from different



parts of Pakistan, visit Shepheshun Meadows. Every day, a massive number of locals go to this scenic

setting surrounded by snow-capped mountains to play cricket, football, and polo. Annually, Jashn-e-Shephe-

sun is held at this location, where players compete in sports like cricket, polo, and some local sports.

UK lifts defense export ban on Turkey

ANKARA: Amid war in Ukraine, the United Kingdom has lifted the defense industry export ban imposed on Turkey, Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu said Thursday. The minister hinted that Canada is also aiming to loosen the ban. Çavuşoğlu was speaking at a press conference in Brussels, where he attended the NATO foreign ministers' meeting "We spoke with British Foreign Secretary

Liz Truss. We followed up the issues that came to the fore in the meeting between U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in this hall about 15 days ago," the minister said, emphasizing that one of the issues concerns engine procurement of the TFX National Combat Aircraft, Turkey's one of the most awaited defense projects. "The U.K. has lifted export restrictions. We are

pleased with that," Çavuşoğlu said. However, he added that they want to improve cooperation with the U.K. in important defense projects, including warplanes, warships and aircraft carriers. Russia invaded its neighbor, Ukraine, on Feb. 24, though Moscow calls it a "special military operation." NATO ally Turkey shares a maritime border with Ukraine and Russia in the Black Sea and maintains good rela-

tions with both. While it has criticized Russia's offensive, Ankara is trying to balance its close ties and has positioned itself as a neutral party trying to mediate. Turkey, meanwhile, has also sold Ukraine its world-renowned combat drones, which were proven effective in Syria, Libya and Nagorno Karabakh — either operated by the Turkish army or the purchasing countries. — Agencies

Sales management in the textile sector of Pakistan

AHMER NAQVI

THE textile industry in Pakistan, especially in the product, is a fiercely competitive business in which sales teams compete for orders from large retail chains in Europe and the United States. As a result, sales management teams must showcase their firms' ability to imitate 'storyboards' (provided by the consumers' originators) at significant expenditures. A sales executive in the textile sector's success depends on their ability to turn a storyboard into a compelling instrument. A person's grasp of the components of a plan and the item's appearance and feel determines the cost of the product. For instance, the textile sector sales teams approach value-based pricing for textile dealing. Cost is a big differentiation in material since there isn't anything else that a competitor can not copy. So sales managers also apply the approach of cost leadership for textile sales. As a

result, a few options at varied costs (and effects) are also presented to sellers in several parts of Pakistan. For instance, in Peshawar, Lahore and Karachi fabric markets. Indeed, even after the request has arrived, the sales team continues to devote resources to preparing for customer endorsements, which are expected to pre-orders from the (Project Plan Service) PPS inspection stage to mass production. This essentially means that there will be several consumers with whom separate entries are being made concerning both pre-order testing (for the upcoming season) and PPS tests at the same time (of the momentum season). Each goes through cycles, with a few tense messages and remarks from the authors thrown in. At both the inspection and mass-assembly processes, endorsements must be searched for sources of unpolished components. Sales management dilemma in Pakistan's textile sector Existing consumers are closely monitored by the sales manage-

ment teams, especially when new consumers are difficult to come by. The geographical criteria are first: the consumer isn't the same position as the maker. Furthermore, these consumers (massive retailers) are few, and those that are a good fit for a certain organization's manufacturing capability are even fewer. However, the most difficult test for the sales team will be getting the major meeting with another customer. Sales executives need to put in some effort, patience, and consistency to get in. For instance, the sales management team, "Alkaram's" sales team, is aware of the next consumer's opening business in their current store network. It can demonstrate relevant capabilities to fill the identified gaps. Similarly, the sales team of Alkaram also support the preliminary tests to decipher the consumer's preferences (item quality/ assortment/ cost/ innovations). They also obtain the underlying request, execute it, identify gaps in internal

creation abilities, and construct the business expansion plan (and consumer certainty) with limited improvements. The core problems faced by sales management teams in Textile According to most businesses, consumers want to have all of their request-related talks with a single salesperson in the company, such as a "solitary window" of correspondence. It is also stated that a single individual must be assigned to secure the request edge, especially in 'Akhtar Group,' 'Gul Ahmed,' and 'ADM'. This is used to keep the edge from eroding while the request passes through the regular emphases and revisions at various stages. To protect margins in the piece of the clothing manufacturing sector, 'Akhtar Group' also smooths out all customer interaction through the sales management teams. An alternate strategy When no orders are recognized into the framework without ensuring that the organization benefits

from the trade, the reaction of the sales team edges disintegrate in any way. Similarly, the group in charge of the various duties sales team juggles many balls at different levels - from pre-request through PPS to mass assembly. Occasionally, among the chaos, a ball is dropped. For example, among the many talks the business faculty is having about several things in various stages of development, a consumer email mentioning an extra pocket in a piece of clothing plan in the PPS test stage may be ignored. As a result, when the enraged customer finally brings it up, the organization loses credibility, but it also needs to change following the consumer's instructions. This causes the request to be postponed, resulting in the need for airfreight or the imposition of penalties. Such order edge disintegration reinforces the belief that it is critical to hold the outreach group accountable. — The writer is a student at SZABIST



Islamabad POST

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Getting civilians out of 'places of hell' UN's top priority

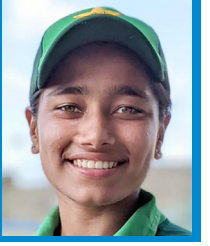
Detailed News On Page-07

Serena Hotels host grand iftar dinner

Detailed News On Page-08

Fatima wins emerging cricketer

Detailed News On Page-06



Saddened by court verdict

Will not accept 'imported' govt, says PM Imran

Says I respect the Supreme Court verdict; reiterates his stance to expose turncoats; resolves to take the lettergate issue to the streets



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan addressing nation. – DNA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Imran Khan Friday addressed the nation and said that while he respected the decision of the Supreme Court regarding the restoration of the National Assembly, he is saddened by the verdict. He said he will not accept the imported government adding people should come on streets on Sunday to stage a peaceful protest. Recalling the time when he was arrested,

Continued on Page 06

No-trust vote against PM Imran today

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: The National Assembly's session for voting on the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan will take place at 10:30am today (Saturday) in line with the Supreme Court's order. In the National Assembly's (NA) agenda issued Friday, voting on the no-confidence motion is at the fourth position in the six-point agenda. The top court restored the NA a day earlier after it declared the government's decision to dissolve the assembly and NA Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri's ruling against the Constitution. The top court has ordered NA Speaker Asad Qasir to summon the session on Saturday (April 9) no later

Continued on Page 06



ISLAMABAD: The outgoing Ambassador of Somalia to Pakistan, Mrs Khadija M. Almahzoumi, paid a farewell call on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on 08-04-2022. – DNA

Two terrorists killed in Balochistan

These terrorists were involved in different security incidents in District Awaran

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The army said on Friday that two terrorists were killed while two soldiers embraced martyrdom in Balochistan.

An army statement said On night 7/8 April 22, based on information of presence of Terrorists in Singi, near Mashkai, Balochistan, Security Forces conducted an operation to apprehend them. The ISPR said Once the troops started establishing blocking positions in the area, Terrorists tried to escape from their hide-out and opened fire onto security forces. 2 Terrorists have been killed in ensuing heavy exchange of fire. These terrorists were involved in different security incidents in District Awaran and surroundings.

In addition, arms and ammunition have also been recovered which were intended to be used by the terrorists for disrupting peace and security in the area. During the operation, two valiant sons of soil, Naik Tajwali and Sepoy Osama embraced Shihadat while one officer got injured. Security Forces remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace, stability and progress of Balochistan.

Pakistan wants robust ties with Somalia: Alvi

The outgoing Ambassador of Somalia, Mrs Khadija M. Almahzoumi, paid a farewell call on President Dr Arif Alvi

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has called for strengthening bilateral relations between Pakistan and Somalia in all areas of mutual interest, particularly trade and economy. He said that Pakistan had initiated the "Look Africa Policy", which would further boost bilateral relations with all African countries. The President expressed these views while talking to the outgoing Ambassador of Somalia to Pakistan, Mrs Khadija M. Almahzoumi, who paid a farewell call on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, today. Talking to the outgoing envoy, the President thanked Somalia for participating in the two sessions of the Council of Foreign Ministers of OIC Countries in Islamabad.

He underscored the need for increasing the exchange of parliamentary delegations between the two countries and invited the Somali Parliamentarians to benefit from the Parliamentary Services Program offered by the Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Service (PIPS), Islamabad. He highlighted that Pakistan eagerly welcomed African students and a large number of Somali students were already enrolled in Pakistani academic institutions. He further stated that Pakistan was host to a sizeable number of Somali refugees and was desirous of their safe and early return to their homes. The President appreciated the services of the outgoing envoy in promoting bilateral ties between the two countries and conveyed his best wishes for her future responsibilities.

Commission formed to probe "foreign conspiracy"

Gen Tariq declines to become the commission head

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry on Friday announced the federal cabinet has formed a commission to investigate the alleged foreign conspiracy behind the no-confidence motion against PM Imran Khan. The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader told media that Lieutenant General (ret'd) Tariq Khan will lead the commission which will probe the alleged "threatening memo"



which reportedly points towards regime change in Pakistan and also mentions 'no-confidence vote'. Fawad Chaudhry said the commission will look into how the conspiracy was hatched and who was in-

involved from within the country. However, Lt Gen (ret'd) Tariq Khan has refused to head the government's commission that was formed to probe the "threat letter" allegedly sent from the United States, a private TV channel reported citing sources. The sources said that the Lt Gen (ret'd) Khan has conveyed his decision to the government. The minister said eight to nine opposition leaders were

Continued on Page 06

Briefs

EU chief in Kyiv for talks

DNA

KYIV: European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and an EU delegation arrived in the Ukrainian capital on the first trip by senior European Commission officials since Russia's invasion started. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the EU's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, are in Kyiv on Friday for talks with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The visit is to offer support and reassurance to Zelenskyy in his bid for EU membership, von der Leyen said.

'Mass resignations' only option

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed - who was restored as a cabinet member just a day back after the Supreme Court's landmark judgement - has said mass resignations from the treasury benches could resolve the current political turmoil. "I used to suggest three months back: tender your resignations, dissolve the assemblies, impose an emergency, impose governor's rule. I was right in all instances," the interior minister told journalists in the federal capital.

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

Ukraine: 50 killed in train station strike

Zelenskyy called the strike a deliberate attack on civilians

CENTRELINE REPORT

KYIV: Ukraine said as many as 50 people, including five children, were killed and many more were wounded and lost limbs in a rocket strike at a railway station packed with civilians fleeing the threat of a major Russian offensive in the country's east. As regional authorities scrambled to rush civilians out of harm's way, a group of European Union leaders meanwhile visited Kyiv to offer President Volodymyr Zelenskyy support and assure him there will be a path to EU membership for Ukraine. Zelenskyy called the strike on the station in Kramatorsk in the eastern region of Donetsk region a deliberate attack on civilians. Regional governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said the death toll rose to 50 from an earlier reported 39 as some of the several dozen wounded had died after being taken to hospital or medical centers. He said the station was hit by a Tochka U short-range ballistic missile that contained cluster munitions, which explode in mid-air, spraying small lethal bomblets over a wider area. They wanted to sow panic and fear, they wanted to take as many civilians as possible," he said.

Continued on Page 06

EU adopts new sanctions against Russia

AGENCIES

BRUSSELS: The European Union on Friday formally adopted its fifth package of sanctions against Russia since the country's Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine, including bans on the import of coal, wood, chemicals and other products. The measures also prevent many Russian vessels and trucks from accessing the EU, further crippling trade, and will ban all transactions with four Russian banks, including VTB. The ban on coal imports will be fully effective from the second week of August. No new contracts can be signed from Friday, when sanctions are to be published in the EU's official journal. Existing contracts will have to be terminated by the second week of August, meaning that Russia can continue to receive payments from the EU on coal exports until then.

IHC declares PECA ordinance unconstitutional

The media bodies had challenged the "draconian law" in the IHC following countrywide protests

COURT REPORTER

PPP, PML-N hail IHC's verdict

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday declared the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) 2016 ordinance "unconstitutional." The court instructed the federal government to investigate the abuse of law and submit a report in 30 days. The petition against the Peca ordinance was heard by IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah. The petition was filed by the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), President Dr Arif Alvi promulgated an ordinance in February to amend the PECA law as the government moved to curb "fake news". According to journalists and experts, the government's move aimed to silence dissent on social media and control the media. The media bodies had challenged the "draconian law" in the IHC following countrywide protests. The journalist associations, including Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors (AEMEND) and some senior journalists of the country, had filed the petition through senior lawyer Munir A Malik. The four-page order of the IHC issued today stated that free speech protected under Article 19 and the right to receive information under Article 19-A of the Constitution are essential for the development, progress and prosperity of a society and suppression thereof is unconstitutional and contrary to the democratic values. "The criminalisation of defamation, protection of individual reputations through

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Peoples Party has expressed pleasure and welcomed the decision of Islamabad High Court's to null and void the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) amendment ordinance. Central Information Secretary of PPPP and member of the National Assembly Shazia Atta Marri has said that Pakistan Peoples Party has warmly welcomed and expressed its pleasure on the Islamabad High Court's decision to declare Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act amendment ordinance unconstitutional and she termed it, the victory of the constitution of Pakistan. This she expressed in a statement issued hereon today. Shazia Marri said that she congratulated the entire nation and the journalists community of the country over this constitutional victory. Islamabad Court's decision regarding the rejection of PECA ordinance is immense pleasureable to all of us because selected Imran Khan Niazi wanted to snatch the freedom of the expression of the common man like the dictators of the past. Ms Marri said that Pakistan Peoples Party had already rejected draconian black law of PECA, today, Islamabad High Court has taken a constitutional step by declaring the PECA amendment ordinance as



unconstitutional move. She added that Imran Khan's government has turned the President House into center of conspiracies. Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Spokesperson Marriyum Aurangzeb on Friday commended the decision of Islamabad high court to strike down the Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022. The spokesperson, in a tweet, congratulated the people of Pakistan, journalists, civil society, media institutions including Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), and Association of Electronic Media Editors and News Directors (AEMEND).

arrest and imprisonment and the resultant chilling effect violates the letter of the Constitution and the invalidity thereof is beyond a reasonable doubt," said the order authored by IHC Chief Justice Athar Minallah. The court ruled that the ordinance was promulgated in derogation of the Constitution and the fundamental rights guaranteed thereunder, particularly Articles 9, 14, 19 and 19-A. "The jurisdictional preconditions were also not in existence," it further said. "The Prevention of Electronic Crimes (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022 and promulgation thereof is declared as unconstitutional, invalid beyond reasonable doubt and it is, therefore, struck down." The offence under section 20 of the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act, 2016 to the extent of the expression "or harms the reputation" and the punishment thereof is unconstitutional, invalid beyond reasonable doubt and is, therefore, struck down. The court also quashed the proceedings against the petitioners. "The Federal Government is expected to review the defamation laws, particularly the Defamation Ordinance, 2002 and thereafter propose appropriate legislation to the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament) for making its implementation effective," the court order stated. IHC CJ Athar Minallah also directed the Interior Ministry to probe the conduct of the officials of the Cyber Crime Wing of the Federal Investigation Agency, which had led to widespread abuse of powers and the consequent grave violations of the fundamental rights of the citizens. The secretary has been ordered to submit the report within thirty days.

Shujaat's brother stands with ideology of opposition

Bulldozing the democratic system will not benefit anyone: Shafaat

YOOSUF BHUTTA

GUJRAT: Former District Nazim Gujrat and Younger brother of veteran politician Choudhary Shujaat's younger brother Ch. Shafaat Hussain on Thursday evening hailed the decision of the Supreme Court setting aside the National Assembly's deputy speaker's ruling who had

dismissed the no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Imran Khan. In a statement, he also welcomed the restoration of the National Assembly and the order of the Supreme Court to hold voting on the no-trust motion on coming Saturday. He added that it was a historic decision and a victory for the rule of law and de-

mocracy. He congratulated the entire nation on the unanimous landmark decision of the five judges of the Supreme Court. He said "After this decision it has become clear that all the assemblies should complete their term. It is the fundamental right of the people's representatives to elect their leader of the House.

"Bulldozing the democratic system will not benefit anyone, he commented. Chaudhry Shafaat Hussain said that people should not be put to the test just because of personal ego and stubbornness. He concluded, "A government that benefits the common man and is accessible to all, will always be considered successful."

'Nation trusts PM Imran'

DNA

PESHAWAR: KP Minister for Zakat, Usher, Social Welfare and Women Empowerment, Anwar Zeb Khan has said that the whole nation was standing behind Prime Minister Imran Khan. He expressed these views while addressing a solidarity rally in favour of Prime Minister Imran Khan in his home district Bajaur on Friday. He said in the second phase of the Local Government Elections, people have also given their verdict in favour of PTL. He said that the nation has full confidence in the leadership of Prime Minister Imran Khan and his popularity was growing with each passing day.

COURT NOTICE

In The court of Khuda Yar civil Judge Gujrat

Title Muhammad Afzal versus: Province of Punjab etc.

Amended Suit for Declaration with consequential relief

Notice to: Province of Punjab through Collector Gujrat, Sub Registrar Kharian, Nasreen Kousar Widow, Umar Hayat, Muhammad Shahzad Sons, Faiza Bi Bi, Nooshen Bi Bi, Parveen Bi Bi D/o, Zulfiqar Ahmad cast rajpootbehrot tehsil kharian District gujrat. Muhammad Khurshed Late, Gulzar Ahmad Late, Dildar Ahmad, Rasheed Ahmad, Gulraiz Ahmad Sons, Asima bi Bi, Gulshan Bi Bi, D/o, Muhammad Khurshed Late, Muhammad Razaq, Liaqat Ali sons Sardar Khan, Balqees Begum Late, Tariq Mehmood, Adil Mehmood, Muhammad Ali Sons, Rehana Kousar D/o, Balqees Begum D/o, Sardar Khan, Naseem Begum Late, Asima Gulnar, Parveen Akhtar Dautgters, Muhammad Javed, Gulraiz Ahmad, Muhammad Parvez, Sher Ali S/o, Naseem Begum D/o, Sardar Khan Cast rajpoot Village Behrot Tehil Kharian District Gujrat. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendant is not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 26-04-2022. Otherwise case will be decided ex party.

COURT NOTICE

In The court of Umar Rizwan Civil Judge Gujrat

Title Muzamil Javed versus: Qamar Abbas

Suit for performance specification relief through Haqshuffa

Notice to: 2-Zaheer Abbas S/o, Ghulam Abbas Cast Jutt Warraich R/o, Chak Jaspal Tehsil & District Gujrat Presently Residing Post office box No 3625 Sheikh Khalifa Bin Saeed Street Abu Dhabi UAE. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendant is not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 12-04-2022. Otherwise case will be decided ex party.

Given under my hand seal of the court this 7th April, 2022.

Qaisar Mehmood Warraich, Court Reporter Gujrat, Kharian 0333-8409964 Daily Islam Abad Post

SBP urged to cut markup, export financing rates

DNA

KARACHI: President of Employer's Federation of Pakistan (EFP), Ismail Suttar, was completely perplexed by the Central Bank's actions towards the recent inflation rates, and affirmed that the State Bank's action to run riot in increasing the level of already augmented interest rates proves that there is an absolute uncertainty about the correlation between inflation and interest rates in our noble political structure. In a statement, Ismail Suttar said that as per the Central Bank's decision the interest rates were increased, yet again, by 250 basis points to 12.25%. The State bank claimed that this increase in interest rate was due to heightened domestic political uncertainty along with increasing oil prices. The

abrupt and unstable decision to increase the interest rate in the country has led Pakistan to become one of the most inflated countries in the region, since the start of 2022. "The point to be highlighted is that, the interest rates in corresponding countries such as India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan are still in a range of 4% to 7.16%. Yet a country such as Pakistan, that is experiencing socio-economic instability to a large extent has been driven to sudden rash decisions in the name of stability", he opined. Moreover, the Central Bank's decision has also spiked up the interest rates for the export financing under Export Finance Scheme (EFS) by 2.5% in line with the increase in policy rate announced in the MPC meeting held recently. If such actions subvert the business community of Pakistan is bound

to see another setback in terms of exports, the so called solution to the problem is actually adding fuel to the fire by spiking up prices of cost of goods sold for the business community of Pakistan and hence contributing to an increase in prices for the average everyday individual, eventually pushing the local businessman out of foreign markets. Analyzing the economic structure at hand, Employer's Federation of Pakistan adheres to the belief that the economic structure of Pakistan, is in actual reality, a cost push inflationary structure, where an increase in interest rates will cause a boisterous rise in prices as opposed to a decrease. The historic trends of the past few decades are enough to prove that an increase in interest rates have adversely affected the economy of Pakistan time and again.

MD USC reviews Ramadan relief package

ISLAMABAD: Managing Director Utility Stores Corporation Taha Aziz Maghribi is monitoring the Ramadan relief package vigilantly. Accompanied by General Manager Operations, Managing Director USC has visited various stores in Peshawar, Abbottabad and has reviewed the supply and sale of basic items provided under the package and has expressed satisfaction over it. He has also issued orders to USC staff to take positive

steps to facilitate the customers. Till date more than 2.5 million families have availed the Ramadan relief package, and the process is ongoing successfully. The management of Utility Stores Corporation is working hard day and night to ensure ample supply to customers across Pakistan. A spokesman of Utility Stores Corporation termed the reports of shortage of sugar, ghee and flour in the media as untrue and said that we

are ensuring the uninterrupted supply of subsidized items to USC consumers across the country. Basic items like sugar, ghee and flour are supplied daily but are sold out fast due to inundation of keen customers. At present Utility Stores Corporation has a substantial stock of subsidized ghee and sugar to cater the demands of public for next 10 days. Continued procurement is in process to ensure availability across 9 zones. - DNA



HYDERABAD: PPP Supporters distributing sweets as they celebrate the supreme court order outside Hyderabad press club. - DNA Photo by Jan Ali Laghari

Askari Institute of Higher Education

The university also provides mentoring sessions catered for the aspiring students to hone their technical and soft skills aiding them to adopt in the corporate world

HUMA ARSHAD

KHARIAN: Askari Institute of Higher Education is styled on the modern educational system of international standards, specially designed to meet the requirement of the students to meet the challenges by involving the three E's approach EXPOSURE - EXPANSION - EXPLORATION. The main aim of Askari Institute of Higher Education is to transform the lives of youth through world class education which is located in the heart of Kharian on main G. T Road; It is an institute where you can get quality education on an affordable price. Main aim of AIHE is to prepare individuals for future by providing best teaching and learning facilities in their own area. Askari Institute of Higher Education (AIHE) aims to provide highest quality research-led teaching and learning to challenge the boundaries of knowledge,

research and discipline. The university also provides mentoring sessions catered for the aspiring students to hone their technical and soft skills aiding them to adopt in the corporate world. In addition to core curriculum we provide soft skills training in the areas

of grooming, personality development, change management, technical knowledge areas. In addition to core curriculum, TMUC provides soft-skills training, in the areas of grooming, personality development, report writing, change management, presentation

skills and other technical knowledge areas. We also assist in providing volunteering. The quality of education depends upon the university facilities as well as it is the part of students' learning. The quality of university environment and its facilities has a strong impact on students' life. The Institute has all kinds of facilities which make it to compete with international standards our, University library, laboratories and huge auditorium makes it distinguish from others. The auditorium has the capacity to accommodate more than 1200 people at a time. AIHE aims to be a university committed to meeting the needs and ambitions of a diverse range of students by providing affiliated programmes with the universities abroad as well. Do not miss the opportunity to visit this amazing campus with a covered area of 12.5 acre, only in your own city Kharian.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Belarus Andrei Metelitsa calls on Hamed Yaqoob Sheikh, Federal Secretary Finance of the Government of Pakistan. - DNA

Roadside 'Iftars' bring back spirit of Ramzan

ISLAMABAD: Removal of all the Coronavirus related restrictions has boosted the number of traditional roadside 'Iftars' in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Roadside or joint 'Iftars' are main feature of the holy month of Ramzan observed by the Muslims across the globe with religious fervor and great enthusiasm.

The spirit of generosity and sharing was also witnessed at the roads and streets of the twin cities where traditional roadside 'Iftars' were being arranged by a group of philanthropists or volunteers and charitable trusts for the passers-by, daily wage earners, motorists and others. In Islamabad, green belts along the different roads was used for the roadside 'Iftars' while in Rawalpindi, such 'dastarkhans' were being set up at major markets and highways like Commercial, Sixth Road, Saddar, Murree road and others. "Long sheets laden with platters having fruits, snacks, dates and fritters were spread just an hour before the 'Azan' of 'Maghrib' so that maximum people could benefit from the facility," a philanthropist, who did not want to be named, told APP on Friday at Committee Chowk Rawalpindi. He said he did not arrange the roadside 'iftar' during the last two Ramzan due to the Coronavirus related restrictions imposed by the local administration. - APP

Commissioner Faisalabad visits Ramadan Bazars



ISHFAQ MUGHAL

Faisalabad: 08 April 2022: Divisional Commissioner Zahid Hussain has said that provision of maximum economic relief to the masses and elaborated arrangements have been made for providing essential commodities on especially reduced prices during the holy month of Ramzan. He was inspecting Ramzan Bazars established at different areas of the city and appreciated district govt. For overall arrangements. The Commissioner visited Ramzan Bazar Riaz Shahid Chowk, Susan road Faizan e

Madina and other located in the city. He took a detailed round in these Bazars and checked the quality and prices of fruit, vegetables and other grocery items. He also inspected the counters of cheap sugar and flour and observed the sale process. He directed that the transparent sale of subsidized items should be ensured on proper record of sale be kept in order. The Commissioner also checked the stalls of meat & poultry. He interacted with the consumers and asked from them about the benefits and arrangements of the Ramzan Bazars.

He said that consumer's confidence was a success of these bazars. He expressed his satisfaction over the arrangements of Ramzan Bazars and directed that best arrangements should be maintained throughout month. It was informed to the Commissioner that 19 Ramzan Bazars had been set up in the district and comprehensive mechanism was being followed for the supply of essential commodities, while fair price shops was also part of these bazars and considerable subsidy was being provided on different items on these stalls.

Shopkeepers fined over profiteering

DNA

FAISALABAD: Price control magistrates have imposed Rs 269,000 fine on 89 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 583 shops in different markets and bazars 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 mend their ways, he added.

Sudden rise in interest rates is worrisome

KARACHI: President of Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) Salman Aslam has expressed concern over the sudden increase in interest rate by SBP by 2.5% and setting the policy rate at 12.25%. He said that the unexpected meeting and decision of the Monetary Policy Committee would cause irreparable damage to the economy. Salman Aslam said that already due to increase in production cost, stabilization in electricity, gas and petrol prices, it is very difficult to compete with other countries in the region including India, China and Bangladesh. Salman Aslam said that increase in interest rates, export orders are also likely to be affected due to which the wheel of the industry is becoming extremely difficult to move. The country's economy is already under pressure due to the political crisis. In such a scenario, the abrupt rise in interest rates by the SBP is beyond comprehension. He said that in view of such measures, there were concerns over the undue autonomy of the SBP in the business community. - DNA

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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

CG COMSTECH, Uzbek envoy discuss co-op

The dignitaries had a comprehensive discussion on exploring possible avenues of co-op between COMSTECH and Uzbekistan in 2022, and 2023, respectively

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Coordinator General COMSTECH, H. E. Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Choudhary visited the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan in Islamabad and had a meeting with the Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan, H.E. Mr. Oybek Arif Usmanov in Pakistan on Thursday.

The dignitaries had a comprehensive discussion on exploring possible avenues of cooperation between COMSTECH and Uzbekistan in 2022, and 2023, respectively. The Ambassador appreciated the role of COMSTECH and the passion of Prof. Choudhary for the development of science and technology in OIC region.

Prof. Choudhary briefed the Uzbek Ambassador about COMSTECH programs' contribution to Uzbekistan and joint initiatives conducted in the past, and in-



formed him on current programs and future planned initiatives of cooperation between COMSTECH and Uzbekistan.

The dignitaries discussed the organization of 2nd OIC robotics competition and Olympiad in mathematics in Uzbekistan. They also discussed conducting global celebrations of Mirza Muhammad Ulugh Beg – renowned astronomer and mathematician – by organizing series of events including a large international conference, jointly by COMSTECH, OIC General Secretariat and the Government of Uzbekistan in 2024.

They exchanged ideas on the establishment of a center on information technology and artificial intelligence for OIC, and the training of managers of science and technology parks in Uzbekistan.

Both the dignitaries agreed to enhance cooperation and work together to implement the above mentioned programs.

Fawad grieved over demise of journalist's mother

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Chaudhry Fawad Husain on Friday extended condolences on the death of the mother of senior journalist Ali Sher.

In a statement the minister said he shared the grief of the bereaved family. He prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude. Rupee rebounds, recovers Rs 3.49 against dollar

ANF seizes 910 gram heroin from an office

ISLAMABAD: Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) on Friday on an intelligence-led recovered 910 grams of heroin from a parcel being sent to the US from the office of a private courier company located in New Airport Town, Islamabad.

According to a spokesman of ANF, the seized heroin was skillfully hidden in the bed sheets. The seized parcel was being sent by a resident of Chakwal named Mubashar Hassan to a person in the United States. A case has been registered under the Anti-Narcotics Act. Further investigation was underway.

Massive decrease in gold prices in Pakistan

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The gold prices in the country on Friday saw a massive decrease on the backdrop of decrease in US dollar price against the Pakistani rupee. According to the details, the gold price for one tola gold was decreased by Rs2000. This decrease took the per tola price of 24-carat gold to Rs132,300. Similarly, the price of 10-gram of 24-carat gold increased by Rs1715 and was being traded for Rs113,426. In the international market, the price of per ounce gold increased by \$6 to reach \$1933. On Thursday, the gold price had reached all time high as one tola gold was being traded at Rs134,300.

Taj Haider slams SBP for hike in interest rate

PTI govt got passed the SBP (Amendment) Act 2022 on the admitted dictates of the IMF

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Member Core Committee of the Pakistan People's Party, Senator Taj Haider in a press statement issued today has severely criticized the decision of the State Bank of Pakistan to raise the policy rate by a devastating 250 bps. Governor State Bank should realise that the present inflation is not due to demand factors. It is specifically because of the tax ridden escalating cost of inputs in the production cycle on the supply side and high interest rates.

At a time when the country needs higher and higher production any increase in policy rate is a self-defeating exercise. Central banks all over the world are decreasing policy rates in order to give a much needed boost to

production. Our central bank has done just the reverse which will only result in increasing imports and making our exports uncompetitive in international markets.

Unfortunately, PTI government got passed the State Bank of Pakistan (Amendment) Act 2022 on the admitted dictates of the IMF. The Act was passed through the casting vote of the Chairman Senate. This act has surrendered our financial sovereignty and has virtually transformed our central bank into a local branch of IMF managed by one of their own ex-employee.

Now while IMF has four days back offered fresh negotiations with the next government on the current EFF agreement, Governor State Bank taking the advantage of the political situation has chosen to hit hard our national economy.

Senator Taj Haider has demanded that not only the recent increase in policy rate should be withdrawn a substantial decrease in these rates should be brought about in order to give a boost to our production and exports.

PMC to improve healthcare education standards

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) was striving to improve healthcare education through the advancement of quality medical and dental education in the country.

According to PMC, the commission being a healthcare regulator is setting benchmarks in line with best global practices to ensure quality healthcare for every citizen of the nation.

It added, that the PMC changed the old, obsolete, and orthodox mode of the system which usually hampered the due processes, causing difficulties for students, doctors, and other stakeholders, and implemented a digital system that brought ease to all following and meeting the need of the hour.

It added, that the commission is determined to facilitate all stakeholders in the larger interest of the nation. In order to issue licenses to interested foreign graduates, PMC conducted National Licensing Examination twice so far. – APP

Chinese provider signs MOU with Pakistan Integra Solar

General Manager of C&D Clean Energy, Michael K. Lee, offered online congratulations at the MOU signing ceremony, adding: "It is an honor to partner with Integra and play a part in this low-carbon and green cooperation. Integra has developed an extensive cooperation with C&D Clean Energy on inverters and

Pakistan (NEPRA), it is estimated that by 2030, Pakistan's photovoltaic installed capacity will reach 12.8GW, and by 2047 this figure will reach 26.9GW, providing a broad market space for the development of the solar PV industry. "The development of solar and wind power generation will enhance Pakistan's se-



solar modules over the past year and we will continue to support the company with integrated and valued-added supply chain services in the future, extending our cooperation in Pakistan and other parts of the world to make joint contributions to global green and low-carbon development." According to the Power Generation Capacity Expansion Plan issued by the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority,

curity of electricity supply and put Pakistan at the forefront of the global energy transition," emphasized Najib Benhassine, the Country Director for Pakistan for the South Asia region in World Bank. Pakistan has launched a new round of bidding for photovoltaic and wind power projects this month, aiming to further increase the share of clean electricity in the country's current energy mix to 61%.



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
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- DHQ.....5556311-4
- RGH.....9290301-7
- Holy Family.....9290322-7
- PIMS.....9261170-79
- Polyclinic.....9218300-09
- Shifa International.....4603666



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- Met Office.....9250360-6
- RDA.....5555864
- TMA.....5770886
- Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

- Islamabad.....0321-5744480



RAWALPINDI: A view of people offering first Namaz-e-Jumma on a road in Saddar during Holy Fasting Month of Ramzan ul Mubarak. – APP

IHC directs President to meet Baloch students

USMAN CHAUDHRY

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday directed President Arif Alvi to meet Baloch students in light of the petition against their harassment at Quaid-e-Azam University. Chief Justice Athar Minallah heard the petition and ordered the home secretary to meet with and ensure the safety of Baloch students. The Baloch student's advocate, Zainab Janjua, informed the high court that students are apprehensive to go back to Balochistan due to fear of abduction. Highlighting the disappearance of QAU student Hafeez Baloch, the IHC chief justice questioned the deputy attorney general on why students go missing, "why is a child missing for even one day?" The IHC ordered the country's institutions to eliminate the fear of harassment and abduction of Baloch students in their province, adding that there is no justification for the experiences of the students.

"Whatever the current situation may be, it does not matter, Baloch students are the favourite students of this court," Chief Justice Athar Minallah stated. The chief justice urged that relevant authorities must do more to eliminate the reservations of Baloch students and added that not enough initiative was being taken.

RCB starts repair work of roads

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpindi Cantonment Board (RCB) has started reconstruction and repair work of roads in different cantt areas.

According to RCB spokesman, the projects had been started on the special instructions of Executive Officer, RCB Imran Gulzar and the roads of Dhoke Mustakeem, Atta ul Haq Road, Convoy Road, Range Road and other roads would be reconstructed and repaired. The CEO had issued strict instructions that no compromise should be made on quality of material and construction work.

The CEO also directed the authorities concerned that earnest efforts should also be made to address complaints of the residents. The spokesman informed, the street lights installation work at a cost of over Rs 30 million had also been started in different Cantt areas. – APP

ICCI hosts iftar dinner for Sweet Homes children

Patron in Chief of Pakistan Sweet Homes Zamrud Khan thanked the Office Bearers of ICCI for hosting a wonderful Iftar dinner in honor of the angels and fairies of Sweet Homes

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shakeel Munir President, Jamshed Akhtar Sheikh Senior Vice President and Muhammad Faheem Khan Vice President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) hosted an Iftar dinner in honor of the angels and fairies of Pakistan Sweet Homes, which was attended by former Presidents ICCI Khalid Javed & Baser Daud, former Senior Vice Presidents Khalid Chaudhry, Muhammad Naveed Malik & Ms. Fatma Azim, former Vice President Ashfaq Husain Chatha, ICCI Executive Members and a large number of business community from the twin cities.

Speaking on the occasion, Patron in Chief of Pakistan Sweet Homes Zamrud Khan thanked the Office Bearers of ICCI for hosting a wonderful Iftar dinner in honor of the angels and fairies of Sweet Homes. He said that with the blessings of Allah the Almighty

and the cooperation of philanthropists, Pakistan Sweet Homes has been making good progress day by day and at present branches of Pakistan Sweet Homes in 8 major cities of the country are operating to take care of the orphans while its network will



be further expanded. He said that with the help of philanthropists, the first cadet college in the history of the world has been set up on an area of 80 kanals for orphans on GT Road in Sohawa in which 141 students are currently studying. He said that his aim was to make the children of Pakistan Sweet Homes proud citizens of Pakistan so that they could not only play an active role in the development of Pakistan but also make the country proud of them. He said that due to Covid-19 pandemic, after almost two years, a wonderful event has been organized in Pakistan Sweet Homes for which the credit goes to ICCI. He said that the Chamber has always cooperated with Pakistan Sweet Homes and hoped that this tradition would be maintained in future as well.

Addressing the function, President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Muhammad Shakeel Munir paid tributes to the services of Zamrud Khan, Patron in Chief of Pakistan Sweet Homes, who has dedicated his life for the welfare of orphans. He said that Zamrud Khan was grooming and educating orphans like a father which was commendable. He urged the business community to fully cooperate with Pakistan Sweet Homes so that the institution could further grow and provide better care to the orphans.

ECP decides to start delimitation exercise

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday decided to immediately start the delimitation exercise of all National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies constituencies on the basis of the 2017 census and population statistics. Keeping in view the current scenario of the country, the ECP has decided not to wait for the digital census which is yet to be decided and proceed with the delimitation exercise. – APP

Briefs

Shan shares
distributes
food and
empathy

ISLAMABAD: Shan Shares, the CSR identity of Shan Foods, in partnership with the Robin Hood Army, conducted a ration distribution drive for the month of Ramadan. The Robin Hood Army is a volunteer-based, zero-funds organization that works to feed less fortunate people in its commitment to beat global hunger. The organization is expanded across international borders, actively operating in 12 countries including Pakistan, India, Bahrain, Nigeria, and Uganda.

Channeling the spirit of sharing and kindness through this drive, Shan Shares, along with the Robin Hood Army, distributed ration packs among underprivileged people in Karachi's Korangi area to help them meet their nutritional needs as they fast during the month of Ramadan. Shan Foods employees also volunteered during the drive, displaying their commitment to their company's values.

Maria Rashdi, Head of Corporate Communications and PR at Shan Foods, while appreciating the employees and the success of the distribution drive, said, "Shan Shares is one family that is committed to creating a positive impact and making a difference in the society by uplifting and enabling the people in need. We believe this is our duty towards our fellow citizens to shape an equitable and prosperous society for everyone." Shan Shares has been diligently working for restoring a sustainable world for the welfare of the people and the society. The organization hopes to take forward Shan Foods' mission of battling hunger among other goals and is taking impactful steps to achieve it. - APP

MEP and KPK
sign MoU for
education
promotion

ISLAMABAD: The Millennium Education Pakistan (MEP) and Knowledge Platform Pakistan (KPK) have joined hands by signing a landmark educational agreement, The Digital Learning Solution Agreement with the aim to promote blended learning and digital education across the Roots Millennium and Future World Schools.

The MoU signing took place between Chaudhry Faisal Mushtaq Tamghae Intiaz Founder and Chief Executive Officer of The Millennium Education, Pakistan and Mahboob Mahmood Founder and CEO of Knowledge Platform along with Directors and senior leadership of The Millennium Education here at their Head office, said a press release issued here Friday.

The Knowledge Platform will offer its education technology platform for schools and over 20,000 students of Roots Millennium Schools and Future World Schools in Pakistan as part of the agreement.

Mahboob Mahmood, the founder, and CEO of Knowledge Platform, said, we are excited and honored to work with The Millennium Education Group through this groundbreaking contract. He highlighted the importance of game-based and self-study learning among students these days. He further praised the dedication and commitment of the CEO of The Millennium Education Dr. Faisal Mushtaq to take initiative and adapt to the new change. Speaking on the occasion, Mahboob Mahmood said The Millennium Education has 34 years of experience in teaching and learning and have made an impact in Pakistan and played an important role in the development of education in Pakistan.

The Millennium Education comprising of Roots Millennium Schools, futuristic schools-Future World Schools, and transnational universities The Millennium Universal College is one of Pakistan's leading educational organizations in Pakistan that is beyond education and just schooling today, it is emphasizing on prompt social change through its curriculum and community re-engineering as referred by the visionary Chief Executive Officer Sir Dr. Faisal Mushtaq (TI). - APP



ISLAMABAD: A large number of people offering first Namaz-e-Jumma at Faisal Masjid during Holy Fasting Month of Ramzanul Mubarak. - APP

NHA employees protest
in front of FBR office

ISLAMABAD: Leaders of the NHA Employees Joint Action Committee have demanded that the FBR and CTO immediately reinstate the NHA accounts. The work has come to a standstill, which is severely hampering the national development of the organization and has ruined the economic and social security of thousands of employees. Addressing a protest rally outside 9 a.m., NHA employees hung placards with protest slogans. The protesters added that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) A All accounts have been frozen, as a result of which the payment of dues to the contractors has stopped and projects

of national importance for construction and repair of roads are being delayed and additional burden on the department is increasing and the country's economy. In addition, NHA employees will be paid for their March pay, medical and transport and housing taxes. The non-payment in the month of Ramadan is a matter of concern. During the protest, the employees demanded immediate restoration of NHA accounts so that the economic murder of the employees could be stopped. Demonstrators said that within 48 hours if not restored, protests will be held in front of the CTO office on Monday April 11 at 10:30 am.

ICT admin imposes sec
144 for not displaying rate list

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration Friday imposed section 144, bounding shopkeepers to display rate list of essential items to counter profiteering in the federal capital. According to a notification issued by Deputy Commissioner: "It has been brought to the administration's notice that essential commodities are being sold on high prices than the rates specified by the administration. Moreover, sellers/shopkeepers are not displaying the price list in their shops."

The DC ordered the sellers to display the price list as specified in the prevention of hoarding and profiteering (price control) Act. Officers of the food department, agriculture department, market committees, police and area magistrates are authorised to inspect shops and forward the violations to the concerned assistant commissioners for action, the order said. The order will come into force with immediate effect and will remain in force for two months. "The display of the price list

of essential commodities is mandatory otherwise stern legal action will be taken under section 188 against the violator," assistant commissioner (Secretariat) Aneel Saeed told APP. He said the decision was taken keeping in view the practice of selling essential commodities, especially fruits and vegetables at higher rates. Aneel appealed the masses to avoid panic buying and do not stock commodities as sufficient stock of edible items was available in the markets. "If you purchase food

items in bulk quantity than prices increased due to disruption in demand and supply cycle," he noted. The administration was making all-out efforts to provide maximum relief to the public, he said while hinting towards expected decline in the prices in coming days. Meanwhile, Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration has imposed fine of Rs 672000 on shopkeepers for overcharging during its on-going crackdown against profiteers. On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, over 700 shops

were randomly inspected in the city and arrested 22 vendors for being involved in profiteering. ICT admin spokesman told APP that the senior officers including assistant commissioners and special price magistrates were regularly carrying out inspections in their assigned areas/markets all over the city and took stern action against the profiteers. Moreover, the rates and quality of all essential items including meat, chicken, dairy products, pulses, rice, flour etc were enforced and regulated, he added. - APP

**Rs1,387.86
mln released
for 17
aviation sect
or projects**

ISLAMABAD: The government has so far released funds amounting to Rs1,387.86 million, under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP) 2021-22) against total allocation of Rs3,558.20 million to advance 17 different projects and schemes to ensure improved services in the aviation sector. Out of the total disbursement of Rs 1,387.86 million, around Rs677.70 million have been spent on the aviation sector projects during an eight-month period (July-February) of the current fiscal year, according to official data available with APP. As per the PSDP document, an amount of Rs11.077 million had been allocated for construction of double storey Ladies Hostel/Barrack with provision of third storey along with Mess, Recreation Hall and allied facilities at Allama Iqbal International Airport, Rs37.581 million for construction 2X double storey Barrack with provision of third storey for Corporal to Inspectors and Assistant Director along with separate Mess and allied facilities, Recreation Hall at Quetta Airport, Rs20 million for construction of Airport Security Force (ASF) Camp at Islamabad International Airport. - APP

Dr Shera
gets
honorary
Doctorate

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan-origin UK Councillor and former mayor of Rugby, Dr. James Shera has received an honorary Doctorate from Coventry University in recognition of his outstanding contribution to inter-faith harmony and multi-cultural education.

"I am extremely grateful to Coventry University, not just for acknowledging my commitment to education by awarding me an Honorary Doctorate, but for giving me the opportunity to serve for six years on the Board of Governors and a further four years on the Equality and Diversity Board. It has been a huge honour and an immense privilege to do so," he said in a statement received here.

Recalling his childhood memories, Dr Shera said at the age of five, in Pakistan, his father had taken him to a village school and when he was eight he went to a nearby city and enrolled himself in a middle school. "From that day onward, I decided that a good education was the only way to get out of poverty. I went to college and university, in Europe, all on my own, at my initiative, without my parents knowing what I was doing. When I left home for Europe, I couldn't get an airline ticket. I decided to hitchhike and walk to Europe at the age of 22," he said while sharing his struggle time.

Having been brought up in a small rural community in Pakistan, Dr James Shera MBE, Labour councillor for Benn Ward, became the first Pakistani Mayor of Rugby in 1988.

Determined to pursue a scholarship at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium, Dr Shera hitchhiked from Pakistan to Europe in the late 1960s, eventually moving to the United Kingdom to complete his postgraduate degree.

Passionate about the power of education to change lives, he became a teacher at Newbold Middle School, later holding several governing roles at universities and schools in the region before joining the county council education department until his retirement. James has been involved with community relations and is currently Chair of the Equality and Inclusion Partnership. - APP

261,654
applicants
seek residence
in capital

ISLAMABAD: Around 261,654 applicants have given top priority to get residential unit in Islamabad under Prime Minister's Naya Pakistan Housing Programme (PM-NPHP) low-cost housing schemes initiated across the country.

Talking to APP on Friday, an official in the Ministry of Housing and Works said Lahore city got the second priority as 227,802 applicants wanted to reside in capital of the Punjab province, while 125,182 have chosen Faisalabad, 83,041 Karachi 79,150 Multan, 70,932 Quetta, 53,520 Swat and 49,424 Peshawar.

The official said as many as 2,003,940 citizens applied for registration in Prime Minister's Naya Pakistan Housing Programme (NPHP) that was carried out in two phases. - APP

President asks insurance
company to pay to the widow

President stated that since the payable amount of Rs 1.2 million of the unit price of the policy had been totally ignored by FIO before disposing of the matter, therefore, the representation of the widow is accepted and the company is directed to pay Rs 1.2 million to the complainant within 30 days

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has asked Jubilee Life Insurance Co. Ltd to pay Rs 1.2 million to the widow of a deceased policyholder. The company had ignored the payment of Rs 1.2 million as the unit price of the policy and simply returned an amount of Rs. 4.5 million, deposited by her late husband as premium, to the widow.

Mst. Iffat Naheed (the complainant) had filed a representation with the President against the order of the Federal Insurance Ombudsman (FIO) which had ordered the case to be closed as the insurance company had refunded Rs 4.5 million in an alleged amicable settlement to the widow. While accepting the widow's plea, the President held that the company after having invested the money of the policyholder in business must have earned considerable profits and it would be unjust to deprive the complainant of his contribution to the earned profits as per the principle of economic and distributive justice enshrined in the preamble of Pakistan's Constitution, 1973. As per details, Mr Muham-

mad Shafique had obtained a life insurance policy from Jubilee Life Insurance Co Ltd in 2016 and deposited Rs 4.5 million with the company. Mr Shafique died on 08.12.2018 and his widow filed the death insurance claim after which the company refunded her the Rs 4.5 million, paid by her late husband, as ex-gratia payment. Feeling aggrieved, the complainant approached FIO to seek justice which passed the impugned order. Subsequently, Mst Iffat Naheed filed a representation with the President for the redressal of her complaint. After investigating the matter, President Dr Arif Alvi accepted the representation of the complainant and ordered the company to pay an amount of Rs 1,235,339 to the complainant within 30 days. He observed that FIO had failed to notice that the amount of Rs 4.5 million refunded to the complainant under the garb of ex-gratia amount was the actual amount that was deposited by the deceased policyholder. The President termed the alleged amicable

settlement of Rs 4.5 million as against all norms of justice and fairness and stated that the complainant on account of acute financial hardships had accepted whatever was being paid by the company and it was not an act of free will and volition. Referring to Article 3 of the Constitution of Pakistan which provides that the State shall ensure the elimination of all forms of exploitation, the President underlined that Insurance Ordinance, 2000 had been promulgated to regulate the business of the insurance industry and to ensure the protection of the interests of the insurance policyholders. He emphasised that it was incumbent upon the State to ensure that people are not exploited because of their wants, needs and economic compulsions. The President stated that since the payable amount of Rs 1.2 million of the unit price of the policy had been totally ignored by FIO before disposing of the matter, therefore, the representation of the widow is accepted and the company is directed to pay Rs 1.2 million to the complainant within 30 days. - APP

PNCA arranges
calligraphy classes

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the arts (PNCA) Friday arranged Calligraphy classes under the supervision of instructor Shabbir Ahmad Zia. A large number of students had been registered to present their abilities in calligraphic art or other writing instruments and contemporary ideas related to the theme. A calligraphic student Faiza Hassan sharing her remarks about calligraphy said modern calligraphy ranged

from functional inscriptions and designs to fine-art pieces. Classical calligraphy differed from type design and non-classical hand-lettering, though a calligrapher might practice both. She said calligraphy continues to flourish in the forms of wedding invitations and event invitations, font design and typography, original hand-lettered logo design, religious art, announcements, graphic design and commissioned calligraphic art. -



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Bahrain to Pakistan, Muhammad Ibrahim Mohammed receives Khadija Aïmakhzoumi ambassador of Somalia, on the occasion of the end of her tenure in Pakistan. - DNA

Covid-19 at ease

AS the number of fatalities vanish from the Pakistani coronavirus pandemic for the fifth consecutive day, the rate of infections along with other Covid-19 indicators was also going down gradually. Pakistan has reported the fifth continuous coronavirus death-free day with the number of single-day infections plunging to 141 during the last 24 hours (Thursday), showed the figures released by the National Institute of Health Pakistan on Friday morning.

As per the latest NIH data, the death toll from the coronavirus remained unchanged for the fifth continuous day at 30,361, whereas the number of total infections now stood at 1,526,234 after adding the fresh 141 cases. During the last 24 hours, 27,003 tests were conducted throughout Pakistan whereas the positivity ratio stood at 0.52 percent. The number of patients in critical care was 280.

During the last 24 hours, as many as 116 patients have recovered from the virus whereas the total recoveries stood at 1,486,650. As of Friday, the total count of active cases in the country was recorded at 9,223.

As many as 576,110 coronavirus cases have so far been confirmed in Sindh, 505,307 in Punjab, 219,223 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 135,112 in Islamabad, 35,479 in Balochistan, 43,286 in Azad Kashmir and 11,717 in Gilgit-Baltistan.

As many as 13,558 individuals have lost their lives to the pandemic in Punjab so far, 8,097 in Sindh, 6,322 in KP, 1,023 in Islamabad, 792 in Azad Kashmir, 378 in Balochistan and 191 in Gilgit Baltistan.

Even when the Covid-19 seems to be lessening its deadly impacts, the people must not take this relative peace for granted. Common SOPs need to be followed in order to keep another covid wave at bay.

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily

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

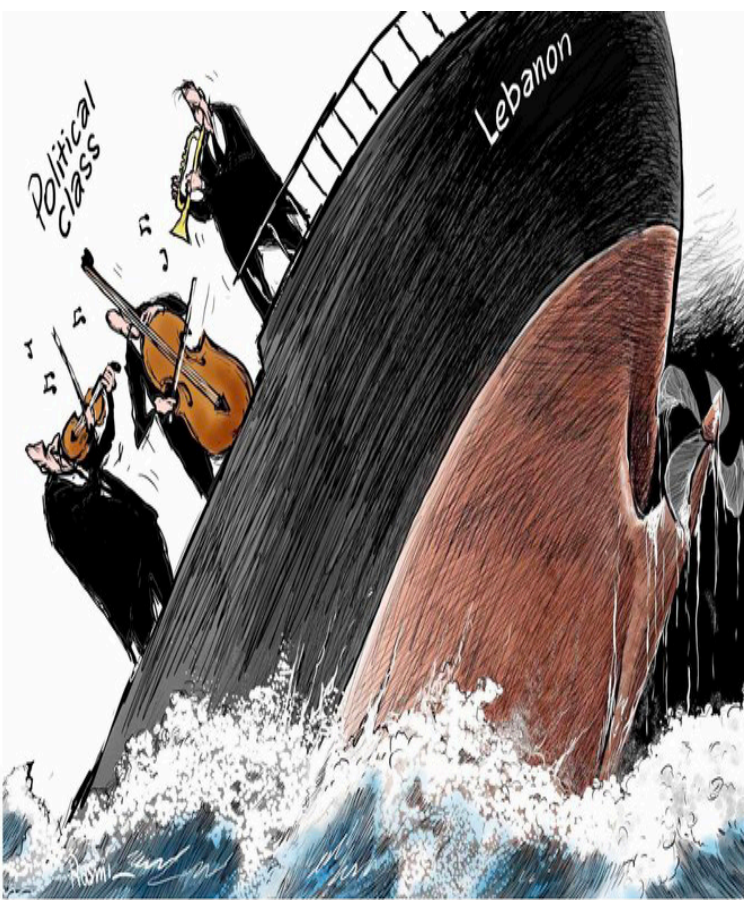
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Yemen's new leadership council

YEMEN'S President AbdRabbo Mansour Hadi practically stepped down on Thursday, delegating all his powers to a new presidential council in a move that will hopefully pave the way for peace in the 7-year-old war. The 8-member council, whose members come equally from the north and south of Yemen and represent the main political entities, is tasked mainly with negotiating with the Iran-backed Al Houthi militia to end the war, based on the United Nations-endorsed road map drawn by the Gulf Cooperation's Council (GCC). The move came as the UN-backed 2-month truce in Yemen has already taken effect at the start of Ramadan.

Hadi said he made this decision as per the results of the intra-Yemeni consultations that took place in Riyadh in recent weeks and out of his "historic responsibility" to pave the way for a peaceful settlement to the conflict. His decision to relinquish the presidential powers to the leadership council is expected to unite politically, militarily and financially influential Yemeni parties with the aim to form a united block in the face of the Al Houthis' growing threat. A strong united front is needed at this stage to negotiate with the Iran-backed militia, which still controls large parts of the North, including the capital Sana'a.

All Gulf states have welcomed Hadi's decision because supporting this important move at this critical stage of the war will help create the right conditions for the UN and GCC efforts to revive the peace talks. In addition, it will encourage the anti-Al Houthi forces to unite and focus on the national goal of saving Yemen, restoring stability and preserving its territorial unity. But the main task is to unite all national forces to stop Al Houthi aggression and pressure the militia into ending its war on the Yemeni people.

Financial disparities in Civil Service of AJK

Chaudhry Muhammad Latif

The first and foremost problem of AJK civil servants posted in the far-flung and unattractive areas is their deprivation of Karnah Allowance.

During winter Leepa valley is completely blocked by snow fall and the only way out is the Army Helicopter facility extended by the local army authorities on compassionate grounds.

In Iran, our near and dear brother country, their medical staff opt for posting in rural area due to substantial amount of rural area allowance. Before 1947, at the time of liberation of AJK civil servants posted in Karnah area were granted a special allowance of Rs. 50 called Karnah allowance

MOST of the financial policies of the country including AJK and GB are originated, formulated and enforced by the Federal Finance Department, Islamabad. These financial policies are invariably adopted by the provinces, AJK and GB. As the Federal Finance department has no offices in the rural areas therefore they do not get feedback of their policies in rural areas. So they are not abreast of the difficulties and disorders generated by their policies in the rural and far flung areas of the country where the 80% of population lives. As such the unrealistic financial policies cause constant problems in rural areas and apparently it looks like penny wise pound foolish.

As AJK government follows federal fiscal policies, therefore, AJK Civil Servants are also affected by some faulty policies regarding rural and hard areas having tough terrain. In Azad Kashmir pay and other privileges of civil servants are determined on the basis of principle of parity with Punjab.

The first and foremost problem of AJK civil servants posted in the far-flung and unattractive areas is their deprivation of Karnah Allowance. During winter Leepa valley is completely blocked by snow fall and the only way out is the Army Helicopter facility extended by the local army authorities on compassionate grounds. In Iran, our near and dear brother country, their medical staff opt for posting in rural area due to substantial amount of rural area allowance. Before 1947, at the time of liberation of AJK civil servants posted in Karnah area were granted a special allowance of Rs. 50 called Karnah allowance. Karnah allowance at a rate of Rs. 50/- continued up to the year 1990, then it was revised to Rs. 100/- per month and now it is Rs. 200 to every civil

servants posted from outside. Hill allowance was also freezed in 1996 should be restored. The Karnah allowance has to be increased commensurate with present salary structure and obtaining hardships faced by the civil servants posted there.

Second and strange financial disparity is that in urban areas house rent is 45 % of pay whereas in rural areas it is only 30 %.

Logic and justice demands that if not more as an incentive atleast house rent must be equalized for the civil servants posted in rural areas. Further there is also big city allowance. The situation seems unreasonable and unfair for which financial policy makers need to attend to the genuine demand of the civil servants posted in rural areas and also for the benefit and development of rural population.

As a consequence, there is absenteeism in rural areas in schools and medical units. There is severe problem of on duty system whereby civil servants are attached in urban areas drawing their salary against their rural area post. In schools the teachers engage unqualified local teachers in rural areas and pay them petty compensation and thereby impair the quality of education. It also results in litigation in case of transfer from urban areas to rural areas as the transfer results in reduction of amount of emoluments. Buildings and offices built in rural areas for the health staff and education employees have gone waste. There are ghost schools also. Instead of extending incentives the staff posted in rural areas they are penalized and consequently the rural population suffers from the non-availability of essential facilities.

So it is imperative for the Finance Secretary of AJK, to take up the matter with the Federal

Finance Department. The Inspector General of Police, a lent officer however enjoys admirable reputation in AJK as there is the lowest crime rate and the area is an island of peace highly conducive for tourism. The intelligence agencies of the base camp have all along been vigilant and efficient. So tourism could flourish hence if government staff in rural areas is adequately paid to their satisfaction. At present, how the civil servants posted in hard areas are subjected to physical and mental torture would be evident from one concrete example of one adhoc lady lecturer Mrs. Sumaria Kashif posted in Girls Degree College Leepa. She is resident of Muzaffarabad city and was appointed adhoc lecturer on June 1st, 2010, and posted in Authmaqam for seven years, transferred to Kohi Ratta for 3 years and further posted to Girls Degree College Leepa for 2 years up to date). She is B.S in computer science with Silver Medal, M.Ed First division with advance diploma in computer science.

Her result for 12 year has been 100 percent. She qualified Public Service Commission written test in 2019 and placed 3rd in top three. As per their practice the PSC called up only top two for interviews and she could not be called for interview. Despite 12 years meritorious adhoc service, Silver Medal, and cent per cent annual results. She is worried for her service career. This example shows the failure of supervision of education department at the secretariat level.

Inequitable representation of different departments like education, forest and public works at secretariat level exhibits some administrative difficulties along with financial disparities.

— The writer is Retired Additional Chief Secretary of AJK and advocate Supreme Court of AJK.

Unemployment as a determinant of crime

Sadia Saleem

The crime rate from 2010-20 increased from 642,762 to 876,430 - which is a 36 percent increase in crime as accompanied by a 33 percent increase in population. According to the official statistics, the crime rate of Pakistan in 2001 includes a total of 8,906 murders, which reached its all-time high in 2013 with 13,937 murders.

It reduced to 8,490 in 2020. Kidnapping cases registered in 2001 were 7,126 as opposed to 19,658 in 2020. Robbery cases have seen an alarming increase, due to the lack of government interest, from 7,513 to 19,904. There were 6,618 reported cases of cattle theft in 2001, and it escalated to 8,649 in 2020

THERE is no country in the world, developed or developing, without the plague called crime. Since it tainted civilization, this characteristic has been passed on from generation to generation as a treasured family legacy. The question of how much it exists, on the other hand, has long been a cause of considerable disagreements. Understanding the amount of crime at any one moment is critical for enforcement agencies, lawmakers, and other political officials. The ability to quantify crime enables the establishment to analyze crime statistics. Those well versed with crime statistics can calibrate their contrivance with such trends and compare their statistics on a local level. Crime may range from robbery, burglary, kidnapping and murder to rape and sexual assault. One thing that remains common in all these is the fear that makes its way into the hearts of the citizens of a country.

As reported by the FBI, the number of hate crime offenses in 2000 (pre 9/11) was 28, which increased drastically to 481 in 2001. In 2001, approximately 17.7 percent of single-bias hate crimes were of religious prejudice. 26.2 percent of them were targeted due to intolerance against the Islamic religion.

The development of a country has a direct relation to its crime rate. Although it is not the only determinant, it does dominate the regress. In the Human development Index 2020 Norway, Ireland and Switzerland are the top three countries that are given the title of highly developed countries with 31, 38 and 42 cases of intentional homicides in 2019. Chad, Central African Republic and Niger are at the bottom of this list with 1430, 1009 and 1244 cases of intentional homicides in a year. Pakistan at the 154th position has unusually high intentional homicides that reach up to 13000. Germany is ranked 6th in the development index yet there were 769 intentional homicides registered to its name in 2019.

There has been an alarming increase in crimi-

nal activities in the past few years throughout the world. Pakistan is teeming with narcotics trafficking, political instability, domestic terrorism, mafias, income inequality, and extremist groups. Some dominant factors that influence the increase in crime rate are unemployment, inflation, and lack of education, poverty and Urbanization. It is indirectly affected by a number of factors all of which are common in Pakistan which includes Nepotism, lack of recreational activities and drug abuse.

The crime rate from 2010-20 increased from 642,762 to 876,430 - which is a 36 percent increase in crime as accompanied by a 33 percent increase in population. According to the official statistics, the crime rate of Pakistan in 2001 includes a total of 8,906 murders, which reached its all-time high in 2013 with 13,937 murders. It reduced to 8,490 in 2020. Kidnapping cases registered in 2001 were 7,126 as opposed to 19,658 in 2020. Robbery cases have seen an alarming increase, due to the lack of government interest, from 7,513 to 19,904. There were 6,618 reported cases of cattle theft in 2001, and it escalated to 8,649 in 2020. Data collected by Gender Crime Cell (GCC) of National Police Bureau (NPB) records 25,935 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) reported in the country in the year 2020 as compared to 28,095 reported cases in 2019. The trend analysis shows that there is a slight decline in crime cases of GBV in 2020 (48%) compared to 2019 (52%)

Punjab and KPK experience the highest number of crimes with values in 6 digits. From 2006-2019 numbers of reported crimes in Punjab increased from 342,149 to 490,313 which show a 43 percent increase. As opposed to Sindh, KPK, Balochistan and Islamabad that show a 56 percent, -20 percent, 23 percent and 129 percent change respectively. The unemployment rate of Pakistan in 2006 was 0.58 which increased almost six times to 3.542 in 2019. It is an increase of 510 percent and it is not even the highest unem-

ployment rate reached by Pakistan. Pakistan's highest unemployment rate was reached in 2018 which was 4.08.

Both crime rate and unemployment show a direct relationship. There has been a gradual increase in unemployment just as there has been in crime rate. The only difference is that unemployment is not the only factor that affects the crime rate so it tends to fluctuate against that direct relationship. Moreover the data plotted is of every type of crime reported while studies show that it is more likely when a person becomes unemployed that they will cease to be a contributing member of the economy. If someone is unable to find a job they will shift towards criminal activities. The primary motive in a crime would be financial gain which usually includes property crime, theft and black-mailing. An unemployed person doesn't necessarily shift towards violent crimes. Although income inequality is one of the major issues that Pakistan faces, GDP per capita gives us a basic view of the Standard of living (SOL) of its inhabitants. It not only has a negative relation with Crime rate but also with the Unemployment rate.

To reduce the rate of criminal offences, the government and policy makers should take steps to address the issues that fuel the rate of crime. Politicians, for example, should focus on economic development rather than crime-fighting methods such as conviction and jail time. However, it is a temporary solution to a constant problem. The state has a crucial influence in lowering the rate of unemployment. Qualified individuals should be actively involved in income-generating ventures that will keep them busy while also providing for them. Employees' salary should be enticing so that they are not forced to engage in criminal activities such as the sale of harmful substances or taking bribes. To address unemployment, the government should prioritize economic growth. When the economy expands at a rapid pace, it immediately corresponds to an increase in work opportunities.

Briefs

Will not accept 'imported' govt, says PM Imran

FROM PAGE 01

the premier said that he strongly believes that the judiciary is the guardian of justice in the country. The premier said that while he respected the country's judiciary, he complained that the Supreme Court should have at least initiated the probe on the "foreign conspiracy" matter.

"I respect the Supreme Court and the judiciary, but the apex court should have looked at the threat letter before issuing the verdict," he said. PM Imran Khan further complained that the apex court did not take the matter of the "threat letter" as seriously as it should have been taken.

PM Imran Khan further said that the decision on Article 63 (A), regarding horse-trading, also added to his disappointment. "The youth of Pakistan is our future and if they see leaders selling their conscience, what precedent are we setting for them?" he asked, adding that even MNAs who came on reserved seats have become sellouts. He said that nations must stand against wrong, otherwise, nobody can protect them if they don't raise their voices against the corruption and other evils prevalent in the country.

Speaking about the "threat letter", he explained what a cipher is - a coded message sent by embassies to their country - adding that this message cannot be shared with the media and public because if these codes are unveiled, all secret information of Pakistan will be unveiled.

On Thursday, the Supreme Court of Pakistan restored the National Assembly after it declared the government's decision to dissolve the assembly and NA Deputy Speaker Qasim Suri's ruling against the Constitution. The top court has ordered National Assembly Speaker Asad Qasir to summon the session on Saturday (April 9) and not later than 10:30am to allow the vote on the no-confidence motion against the premier.

Earlier in the day, PM Imran Khan chaired a cabinet meeting, following which Minister for Information and Law Fawad Chaudhry said a commission will be formed that would probe the "threat letter". The commission would present its report within 90 days after it investigates how many dissident MPs were in contact with foreign powers. "We have evidence of eight dissident MPs being in contact with foreign dignitaries," Fawad said, adding: "The commission will look at a connection between local handlers and regime change." He said that the parliamentarians would be briefed regarding the details of the threat letter before the voting on the no-confidence motion.

No-trust vote against PM Imran today

FROM PAGE 01

than 10:30am to allow the vote on the no-confidence motion against the premier. The Supreme Court also "declared that the assembly was in existence at all times, and continues to remain and be so". The apex court also stated that the speaker cannot prorogue the assembly and bring the session to an end if the no-trust motion fails or after a new prime minister is elected if a no-confidence motion is passed.

Atlético charged by UEFA

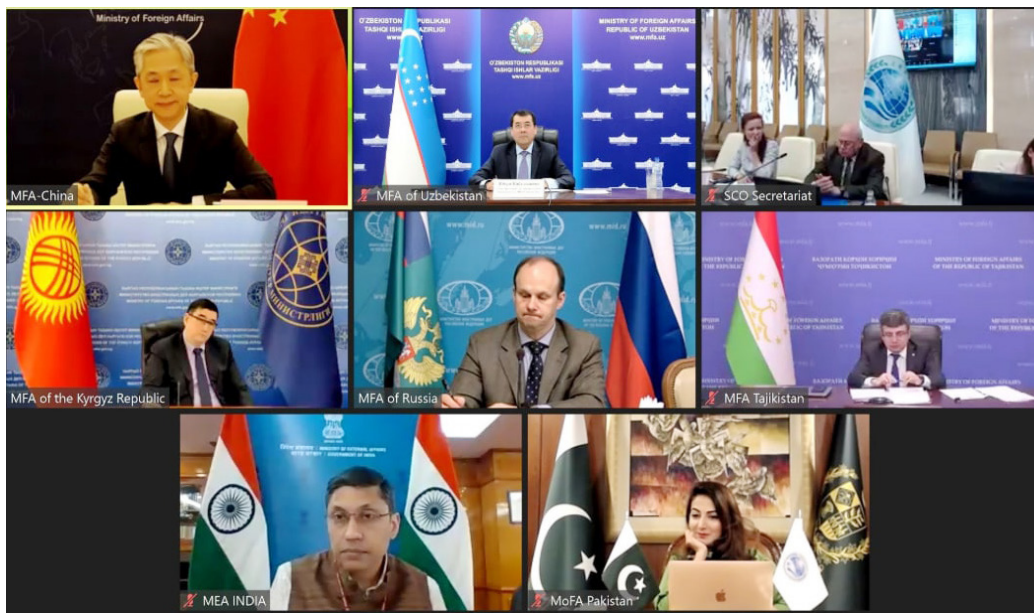
NYON: Atlético Madrid was charged by UEFA on Friday after a fan was filmed apparently making Nazi salutes at a Champions League game. The club was charged with "discriminatory behavior" and for fans throwing objects during Atlético's 1-0 loss at Manchester City on Tuesday. UEFA disciplinary rules hold clubs responsible for fan misconduct inside stadiums. No timetable was given for a verdict. Atlético hosts the second leg of the quarterfinals on Wednesday. - APP

SCO delegations discussed issues of media support

The parties exchanged views on opportunities for deepening cooperation in the information sphere, including through the organization of mutual press tours, internships, joint roundtable discussions and conferences

DNA

TASHKENT: Uzbekistan chaired a regular round of consultations "On the interaction of the information services of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Member States in the process of information support for the activities of the SCO" via videoconference. According to Uzbekistan MFA, at the meeting, representatives of the SCO member states considered the issues of media support for events held within the framework of Uzbekistan's chairmanship. The participants focused on the website www.sco-summit2022.uz dedicated to the chairmanship of Uzbekistan in the SCO. The importance of extensive media coverage of the upcoming meetings of the Council of Foreign Min-



isters, the Council of Heads of Government and the Council of Heads of State of the SCO was emphasized. The procedure for accreditation of media representatives participating in the SCO events was discussed. The parties exchanged views on opportunities for deepening cooperation in the information sphere, including through the organization of mutual press tours, internships, joint roundtable discussions and conferences. The delegations welcomed the active efforts made by the Uzbek side within the framework of the chairmanship of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The member states expressed their readiness to work together to implement Uzbekistan's priorities and initiatives to further strengthen multilateral cooperation, and enhance the international role and authority of the SCO.

EU froze \$32B in Russian, Belarusian assets amid war

BRUSSELS: The European Union has so far frozen nearly 30 billion euros in assets from blacklisted Russian and Belarusian individuals and companies under sanctions imposed over Moscow's offensive in Ukraine.

A total of \$32 billion (29.5 billion euros) "including assets such as boats, helicopters, real estate and artwork" have been seized, the European Commission said in a statement on Friday. Another over \$212 billion (196 billion euros) of transactions have reportedly been blocked as well.

The EU's figures were partial, based on data from around half of the EU's 27 member states given to the

bloc's "Freeze and Seize" task force operating in coordination with G7 partners, including the United States. The EU and US have said they will aggressively hunt down and seize assets of those on their blacklists, deemed to benefit from the Kremlin and contribute to its offensive.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his two adult daughters are on them, along with oligarchs, influential business people and politicians including Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and their relatives. The blacklists of individuals and companies are part of waves of swingeing sanctions imposed by the EU, US and G7 countries

since Russia's February 24 offensive in Ukraine, conducted in part from Belarusian territory. They have been repeatedly expanded, including on Friday in the EU's agreed 5th package of sanctions, which also includes a ban on Russian coal imports and expanded financial sanctions and trade restrictions. Oligarchs' superyachts and luxurious properties have been prominent assets targeted, with several seized in the EU while others have been sailed out of the jurisdictional reach of the G7 sanctions.

In many cases, ascertaining ownership is a tricky task for authorities, given fiscal smokescreens used

by the ultra-wealthy, such as shell companies, trusts and proxies. It's for that reason the EU and US have set up specific task forces to collate information and coordinate. The commission said a joint meeting of the EU and US task forces would take place later on Friday, with Ukrainian officials participating.

The next meeting of the EU's task force will be in two weeks. The bloc's commissioner for financial services Mairead McGuinness said the sanctions were "crucial for imposing economic pain on Putin's regime and those complicit in the war" and implementation of them was "essential". - Agencies

Fatima Sana receives emerging cricketer of the year trophy

LAHORE: Pakistan women cricket team prodigy Fatima Sana has secured the International Cricket Council (ICC) trophy for Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year award for 2021. Fatima shared her thoughts on Twitter and said: "Alhamdulillah [...] It's an absolute honor to receive the trophy of @ICC Women's Emerging Cricketer Of The Year." "Onwards and upwards InshaAllah. Pakistan Zindabad," Fatima further added as she expressed her intent to perform well in the future. The pacer has made the nation proud by not only bagging the ICC award but also by becoming the first female cricketer from the country to win an ICC accolade. Fatima Sana has delivered some memorable performances as she has captured international attention on the international stage; she has now become the first female cricketer to hail from Pakistan to win an ICC trophy. The ICC in a statement said that the 20-year-old "impressed one and all with her all-around efforts in 2021". - DNA



Ukraine: 50 killed in train station strike

FROM PAGE 01

Reuters was unable to verify what happened in Kramatorsk. The use of cluster munitions is banned under a 2008 convention. Russia has not signed the convention but has previously denied using such munitions in Ukraine.

The Russian defence ministry was quoted by RIA news agency as saying the missiles said to have struck the station were used only by Ukraine's military and that Russia's armed forces had no targets assigned in Kramatorsk on Friday. Zelenskiy said no Ukrainian troops were at the station. "Russian forces (fired) on an ordinary train station, on ordinary people, there were no soldiers there," he told Finland's parliament in a video address.

Kramatorsk Mayor Oleksander Honcharenko estimated that about 4,000 people were at the station at the time of the attack.

Commission formed to probe "foreign conspiracy"

FROM PAGE 01

approached by a foreign embassy which got commitments from them. He said intelligence agencies have records of their meeting. He also announced that the contents of the letter will also be presented in the National Assembly tomorrow ahead of no-confidence vote so that the nation can see who is siding with whom.

Earlier, Prime Minister Imran Khan said that he had a letter that carried evidence of a foreign conspiracy to topple his government. According to the letter, problems for Pakistan will increase, if the no-confidence motion against PM Imran Khan fails. "We are not happy, everything will be fine, only when the no-trust motion passes."

The premier in his briefing said that the letter also showed concerns over his recent visit to Russia. PM Imran Khan said that the letter highlighted the future ties by connecting it with the foreign policy that threatened regime change in Pakistan. The opposition parties got accused of supporting the conspirators. It resulted in the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly ruling out their no-confidence motion against the prime minister. However, the premier did not tell the journalists from where it was written to him.

Wasim Khan shortlisted for ICC GM role

DNA

LAHORE: Former Chief Executive of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) - Wasim Khan - is in line to become the General Manager at the International Cricket Council (ICC). Wasim Khan has been shortlisted for the role and will be interviewed in Dubai next week, according to George Dobell.

Currently, the GM position at the ICC remains vacant as Geoff Allardice was promoted to the role of ICC's CEO. Geoff had occupied the position for the previous eight years before his step up. According to sources, Wasim Khan is set to fight former West Indies batter Adrian Griffith for the role. It is worth pointing out that Khan was also in contention to replace Tom Harrison as the ECB chief executive. However, if he is appointed as the GM at the ICC then he will be ruled out of the race for the position.

Abid Ali makes an epic comeback

KARACHI: Pakistan opening batsman Abid Ali has made his way back to the training nets after successfully recovering from his heart surgery last year. The 34-year-old was diagnosed with acute coronary syndrome in December 2021 and since has been under rehabilitation. Abid was hospitalized after feeling discomfort in the chest during the last round fixture of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy between Central Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. - APP

Mesmerizing cricket ground in Upper Chitral

DNA

KARACHI: Former England cricketer and current fast bowling technician Ian Pont has shared a picture of a mesmerizing cricket ground situated in the District Upper Chitral of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The ground is located amid the serene and lush green Shepheshun Meadows in Upper Chitral's headquarter, Booni.

"Pakistan has some seriously awesome backdrops for cricket," Pont wrote. The location remains a tourist attraction from the end of March till the end of May. Locals, as well as people from different



parts of Pakistan, visit Shepheshun Meadows. Every day, a massive number of locals go to this scenic

setting surrounded by snow-capped mountains to play cricket, football, and polo. Annually, Jashn-e-Shepheshun is held at this location, where players compete in sports like cricket, polo, and some local sports.

UK lifts defense export ban on Turkey

ANKARA: Amid war in Ukraine, the United Kingdom has lifted the defense industry export ban imposed on Turkey, Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu said Thursday. The minister hinted that Canada is also aiming to loosen the ban. Çavuşoğlu was speaking at a press conference in Brussels, where he attended the NATO foreign ministers' meeting "We spoke with British Foreign Secretary

Liz Truss. We followed up the issues that came to the fore in the meeting between U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in this hall about 15 days ago," the minister said, emphasizing that one of the issues concerns engine procurement of the TFX National Combat Aircraft, Turkey's one of the most awaited defense projects. "The U.K. has lifted export restrictions. We are

pleased with that," Çavuşoğlu said. However, he added that they want to improve cooperation with the U.K. in important defense projects, including warplanes, warships and aircraft carriers. Russia invaded its neighbor, Ukraine, on Feb. 24, though Moscow calls it a "special military operation." NATO ally Turkey shares a maritime border with Ukraine and Russia in the Black Sea and maintains good relations with both.

While it has criticized Russia's offensive, Ankara is trying to balance its close ties and has positioned itself as a neutral party trying to mediate. Turkey, meanwhile, has also sold Ukraine its world-renowned combat drones, which were proven effective in Syria, Libya and Nagorno Karabakh - either operated by the Turkish army or the purchasing countries. - Agencies

Sales management in the textile sector of Pakistan

AHMER NAQVI

THE textile industry in Pakistan, especially in the product, is a fiercely competitive business in which sales teams compete for orders from large retail chains in Europe and the United States. As a result, sales management teams must showcase their firms' ability to imitate 'storyboards' (provided by the consumers' originators) at significant expenditures. A sales executive in the textile sector's success depends on their ability to turn a storyboard into a compelling instrument. A person's grasp of the components of a plan and the item's appearance and feel determines the cost of the product. For instance, the textile sector sales teams approach value-based pricing for textile dealing. Cost is a big differentiation in material since there isn't anything else that a competitor can not copy. So sales managers also apply the approach of cost leadership for textile sales. As a

result, a few options at varied costs (and effects) are also presented to sellers in several parts of Pakistan. For instance, in Peshawar, Lahore and Karachi fabric markets. Indeed, even after the request has arrived, the sales team continues to devote resources to preparing for customer endorsements, which are expected to pre-orders from the (Project Plan Service) PPS inspection stage to mass production. This essentially means that there will be several consumers with whom separate entries are being made concerning both pre-order testing (for the upcoming season) and PPS tests at the same time (of the momentum season). Each goes through cycles, with a few tense messages and remarks from the authors thrown in. At both the inspection and mass-assembly processes, endorsements must be searched for sources of unpolished components. Sales management dilemma in Pakistan's textile sector Existing consumers are closely monitored by the sales manage-

ment teams, especially when new consumers are difficult to come by. The geographical criteria are first: the consumer isn't the same position as the maker. Furthermore, these consumers (massive retailers) are few, and those that are a good fit for a certain organization's manufacturing capability are even fewer. However, the most difficult test for the sales team will be getting the major meeting with another customer. Sales executives need to put in some effort, patience, and consistency to get in. For instance, the sales management team, "Alkaram's" sales team, is aware of the next consumer's opening business in their current store network. It can demonstrate relevant capabilities to fill the identified gaps. Similarly, the sales team of Alkaram also support the preliminary tests to decipher the consumer's preferences (item quality/ assortment/ cost/ innovations). They also obtain the underlying request, execute it, identify gaps in internal

creation abilities, and construct the business expansion plan (and consumer certainty) with limited improvements. The core problems faced by sales management teams in Textile According to most businesses, consumers want to have all of their request-related talks with a single salesperson in the company, such as a "solitary window" of correspondence. It is also stated that a single individual must be assigned to secure the request edge, especially in 'Akhtar Group,' 'Gul Ahmed,' and 'ADM'. This is used to keep the edge from eroding while the request passes through the regular emphases and revisions at various stages. To protect margins in the piece of the clothing manufacturing sector, 'Akhtar Group' also smooths out all customer interaction through the sales management teams. An alternate strategy When no orders are recognized into the framework without ensuring that the organization benefits

from the trade, the reaction of the sales team edges disintegrate in any way. Similarly, the group in charge of the various duties sales team juggles many balls at different levels - from pre-request through PPS to mass assembly. Occasionally, among the chaos, a ball is dropped. For example, among the many talks the business faculty is having about several things in various stages of development, a consumer email mentioning an extra pocket in a piece of clothing plan in the PPS test stage may be ignored. As a result, when the enraged customer finally brings it up, the organization loses credibility, but it also needs to change following the consumer's instructions. This causes the request to be postponed, resulting in the need for airfreight or the imposition of penalties. Such order edge disintegration reinforces the belief that it is critical to hold the outreach group accountable. - The writer is a student at SZABIST

Briefs

Slovakia sends S-300 to Ukraine

ANKARA: Slovakia's prime minister on Friday confirmed that his country has provided an S-300 air defense system to Ukraine against Russia's aggression.

"I would like to confirm that #Slovakia has provided #Ukraine with an air-defense system S-300. #Ukrainian nation is #bravely defending its sovereign country," Eduard Heger said on Twitter.

He added that it is his duty not to remain silent on the loss of lives.

The Russia-Ukraine war, which started on Feb. 24, has drawn international outrage, with the EU, US, and the UK, among others, implementing tough financial sanctions on Moscow.

At least 1,626 civilians have been killed and 2,267 injured in Ukraine, according to UN estimates, with the true figure feared to be far higher.

More than 4.3 million Ukrainians have fled to other countries, with millions more internally displaced, according to the UN refugee agency. — APP

Finland to apply for NATO membership

STOCKHOLM: Finland plans to apply for NATO membership in the first week of May, according to local news report on Friday.

Finnish news outlet Ilta-lehti said Helsinki will start preparations to join the military alliance on April 14 and membership application will be submitted in the first week of May.

Meanwhile, Alexander Stubb, former prime minister of the Nordic country, said Finland "will apply within weeks" and latest by May.

"In the beginning of the war I said that Putin's aggression will drive Finland and Sweden to apply for @NATO membership. I said it was not a matter of days or weeks, but months. Time to revise: Finland will apply within weeks, latest May. Sweden to follow, or at the same time," he tweeted.

In an interview with Anadolu Agency during last month's Antalya Diplomacy Forum, Finnish Foreign Minister Pekka Haavisto said "we keep the NATO option" and according to opinion polls "majority of the Finnish citizens are in favor of NATO partnership."

A mid-March poll by Finnish public broadcaster YLE found for the first time a majority of Finns saying yes to joining NATO, with 62%. Before Russia's war on Ukraine, which began on Feb. 24, polls in Finland showed most opposing membership in the alliance.

Another recent survey by YLE said 112 of the deputies in the Finnish parliament support NATO membership, while 71 oppose and 17 of them are undecided. — APP

Uzbek, Kyrgyz leaders discuss ties

NEWS DESK

TASHKENT: President Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a telephone conversation with the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sadyr Zhaparov, reports "Dunya" IA correspondent.

According to the press service of the President of Uzbekistan, the Heads of state exchanged warm congratulations on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, sincerely wishing peace, prosperity and wellbeing to the fraternal peoples of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. The progress of the implementation of the agreements reached on further strengthening friendship, good-neighborliness and strategic partnership, deepening practical cooperation between the two countries were thoroughly discussed.

The main attention was paid to the promotion of priority projects of mutually beneficial cooperation, including the launching of the Uzbekistan - Kyrgyzstan Development Fund, acceleration of the implementation of infrastructure projects for the construction of the Kambarata HPP-1 and China - Kyrgyzstan - Uzbekistan railway, expansion of industrial cooperation. Fruitful exchanges and ongoing joint programs in the cultural-humanitarian sphere were noted with deep satisfaction.



MINSK: Pakistan ambassador to Belarus Sajjad Haider Khan meets Alexander Lukashenko, President of Belarus. Ambassador holds constructive discussions on bilateral relations & exchanged views on Ukraine situation. — DNA

Pakistan sees nearly 23% rise in export to China

DNA

BEIJING: Pakistan's export to China crossed \$ 67.072 million in the first two months of 2022, which recorded a nearly 23% increase y-o-y, shows the official data from the China's General Administration of Customs, according to a report carried by China Eco-

nomics Net (CEN) on Friday. The report says, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, bilateral trade has increased significantly. Pakistan's exports stood at \$67 million in the first two months of 2022, up 22.77 percent from \$54 million in the same period of the previous year.

Last month Adviser to Prime Minister on Com-

merce and Investment, Abdul Razak Dawood announced via Twitter that China is opening the Khunjab Border which would help further increase Pakistan's export to China.

"We are pleased to share that China is opening the Khunjab Border on 1 April 2022. It will not only help in the utilization of the second phase of Paki-

stan-China FTA but also support local commerce on both sides of the border especially the fruit and vegetable exporters from northern Pakistan. I urge the exporters to take advantage of this opportunity and increase their exports to China", said Abdul Razak via Twitter.

According to GACC, overall, from January to

February 2022, China's imports and exports from Pakistan counted \$4.365 billion irrespective of COVID-19 which impacted FY2022 as well.

In the first two months of this year, China's export to Pakistan also increased by 15.32 percent amounting to \$3.69 billion as compared to the previous year, which was \$ 3.20 billion.

Among the growth of trade in major products between the two countries, textiles, seafood, and agricultural products have increased year on year, which has promoted Pakistan's economic recovery and increased its exports to China, especially cotton yarn, rice, sesame seeds, pine nuts that got a boom in the Chinese market.

Turkiye lauds progress on Azeri-Armenian talks

ANKARA: Turkiye on Friday welcomed the progress made toward an Azerbaijan-Armenia peace treaty during a meeting of the leaders of the two countries and the head of the European Council this week.

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and European Council President Charles Michel held discussions in Brussels on Wednesday.

Ankara welcomes the decision of Azerbaijan and Armenia "to instruct their respective ministers of foreign affairs to begin preparations for a peace treaty as well as their agreement on the establishment of a joint border commission by the end of April between the two countries," read a Turkish Foreign Ministry statement.

"Turkiye supports and actively contributes to the efforts for establishing peace and stability in the region," the ministry said. After the April 6 meeting, Michel announced that Aliyev and Pashinyan agreed to launch a "concrete process" for peace talks and made "a lot of progress."

The leaders also agreed to set up a joint committee and to maintain a "channel of communication," Michel told reporters after the five-hour meeting.

The two also agreed to convene a Joint Border Commission by the end of April "to delimit the bilateral border between Armenia and Azerbaijan and ensure a stable security situation along, and in the vicinity of, the borderline," according to a statement released after the meeting.

Michel has been leading the EU's efforts to forge peace between Azerbaijan and Armenia. He first met Aliyev and Pashinyan separately in December 2021, a little over a year after the end of their 44-day war over the Nagorno-Karabakh region, before hosting them for a working dinner in Brussels.

Relations between the former Soviet republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan have been tense since 1991, when the Armenian military occupied Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as Upper Karabakh, a territory internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan, and seven adjacent regions.

After new clashes erupted in September 2020, Azerbaijan liberated several cities and over 300 settlements and villages that were occupied by Armenia for almost 30 years. The fighting ended in November 2020 with a deal brokered by Russia. — Agencies



Getting civilians out of 'places of hell' top priority

FOREIGN DESK

GENEVA: The UN's top priority remains civilians' safe evacuation from "encircled places of hell" in Ukraine, such as Mariupol, where they are trapped, a senior UN official said on Friday.

In an ongoing visit to Ukraine, UN Humanitarian Affairs chief Martin Griffiths was in the capital Kyiv on Thursday, where he met Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal and other officials, said Jens Laerke, Geneva spokesman for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

"Griffiths witnessed firsthand the scenes of death and destruction in the nearby towns of Bucha and Irpin in the Kyiv district, following the withdrawal of Russian forces from the area," Laerke said at a UN press conference.

He said that last night, Griffiths said his first humanitarian concern was the need for the safe passage and evacuation of civilians from encircled "places of hell," Mariupol being the worst.

For weeks, the International Red Cross has tried to the rescue of many thousands of people trapped in the southern port city.

Russia has bombarded Mariupol from the air and ground since it invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24. It is now encircled, and while tens of thousands have fled, many still remain.

An International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) team had led a convoy of buses and private cars carrying more than 1,000 people to the city of Zaporizhzhia after the civilians fled besieged Mariupol on their own, the ICRC said on Wednesday.

Due to the actions of Russian forces, the ICRC has been unable to reach Mariupol and

rescue civilians subjected to constant bombardment.

Laerke said Griffiths had also warned that Luhansk and Donetsk, separatist areas that Russia says are independent, "are going to be a very high humanitarian concern."

He said Griffiths had urged Russia and Ukraine to "ensure safe passage" for civilians out of those areas, where Russian-backed forces have waged war since 2014.

"Within six weeks, UN agencies and humanitarian NGOs have dramatically scaled up operations, and some 160 partners are now present in all Ukraine's 24 oblasts," said Laerke. That compares with six weeks ago when operations were limited to Ukraine's two eastern oblasts of Donetsk and Luhansk.

"The war in Ukraine has triggered one of the fastest-growing displacement and humanitarian crises ever," UNHCR

spokesperson Matthew Saltmarsh said at the UN press conference.

"Within six weeks, more than 4.3 million refugees have fled the country, while a further 7.1 million are displaced internally." He said that delivering aid remains challenging in the parts of the country where there is active fighting.

"We continue striving to reach hard-hit areas such as Mariupol and Kherson with life-saving assistance," said Saltmarsh.

On Wednesday, he said one aid convoy had managed to reach Sievierodonetsk in Luhansk, eastern Ukraine.

"For weeks, people there have endured relentless shelling and shortages of basics like water, gas, and electricity. Our team was able to deliver solar lamps, blankets, hygiene kits, baby formula, and tarpaulin sheets to 3,000 people," said Saltmarsh.

Ukraine's President accuses Russia of seeking mercenaries

KIEV: Ukraine on Friday accused Moscow of trying to recruit mercenaries, militants, and terrorists to wage Russia's war against its western neighbor.

"They're looking for mercenaries from all over the world. They are sending the militants from all the terrorist groups and private armies that were established by some of the Russian officials," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told Finland's parliament in a video address, continuing his addresses to foreign lawmakers, seeking a harder line against Moscow.

Zelenskyy hailed Finland for imposing sanctions on Russia, also stressing that "the war of Russia against Ukraine is decisive" not only for the future of Ukraine and its people but also for all those bordering Russia.

Russia and Finland share a 1,340-kilometer (833-mile) border, and in the early days of World War II Russian

troops invaded Finland.

Zelenskyy further urged the cutting of all economic ties with Russia, pressing for a full European embargo on Russian oil. "We need to isolate all the Russian banks from the international banking system. It cannot be limited just by a partial response to the Russian threat in Europe and threat to the democratic world because freedom will not survive if we leave channels that will be fed

by these sources of income," he added. Countries should search for new sources of energy besides Russia, said the Ukrainian president, asking: "How much longer can Europe ignore the introduction of an embargo against oil supplies from Russia?"

Zelenskyy further noted that at least 928 educational facilities have been destroyed or damaged by Russian forces since the beginning of the war. — Agencies

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Businessmen say faith on constitution strengthened

NEWS DESK

LAHORE: FPCCI Businessmen Panel, Chairman (Capital) and Federation Chambers former Vice President, Riaz Khattak lauded the historic judgment of the Supreme Court of Pakistan on the ruling of the deputy speaker of the National Assembly and were unanimous in their view that the top court had upheld the rule of law and supremacy of the Constitution.

He said this decision would give confidence to the investors and econom-

ic wheel of this country would revive accordingly.

Commenting on policy rate, the BMP official rejected the State Bank of Pakistan's policy rate hike by 250 basis points to 12.25 per cent, stressing the cost of doing business, which is already up due to the volatile exchange rate, will further come under pressure. Riaz Khattak further viewed SBP should have waited till the final verdict of the Supreme Court which might have settled down the political dust and revived economic activities gradually," I fail to understand how the

policy rate will curb food inflation as the high-interest rate and rupee depreciation will increase the cost of doing business," President, Pakistan Businessmen Forum (PBF) Mian Usman Zulfiqar said in the past we have seen that in such decisions the doctrine of necessity prevailed but it has happened for the first time that the judges completely stood by the Constitution and gave a historic judgment."

Talking about the future, he said the judgment had made it clear that in future any government functionary would be cautious

while taking any unconstitutional step and decision. He said the verdict had set a precedent that the Constitution is supreme and no one is above the law.

However PBF President disappointedly says Governor SBP has assumed role of silent spectator on steep fall of rupee against dollar

Now it's proved that free float exchange rate idea is not working. The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) should play its role and devise effective strategy to stop further devaluation of rupee which is having a lethal impact on

the economy and the inflation reading.

The value of dollar in interbank market has touched Rs188. Is SBP a partner in crime and deliberately closing its eyes to massive manipulation going on right now? Does SBP want rupee to touch Rs190 to a dollar before weekend? SBP must clarify its position.

Now importers are buying dollars and exporters are holding. Everyone is trying to buy. "There is no government, there is no confidence. The country is felt like being orphan". "It has to be understood

that the share of exports in GDP stands at around 10% while the rest 90% is local trade and imports," he said. "Therefore, the devaluation is hurting and it has reached an unbearable level now."

If the economy does not return to the radars of those who are at the helm of affairs then a full-fledged crisis will strike around July-August period of next fiscal year.

He also urged the Chinese Government to bail out Pakistan and provide soft loans so that we may get out of it from the rupee pressure.

Putin, Lavrov should face ICC trial

BERLIN: Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov should be tried by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for their military aggression in Ukraine, Germany's president said on Friday.

"Everyone who is responsible for these crimes will have to justify themselves. This includes soldiers. This includes military commanders. And, of course, also those who bear political responsibility," Frank-Walter Steinmeier told Der Spiegel news magazine.

Last month, the ICC chief prosecutor opened an investigation into the Ukraine war, saying there was "reasonable basis to believe that both alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity have been committed."

Steinmeier said the images coming from the Ukrainian city of Bucha are terrible and he "can hardly bear them."

"They summarize once again what Russia's criminal attack on Ukraine means, what suffering and death it brings, including expulsion. It makes you incredibly angry and sad," he said.

The German president admitted he was shocked by Putin's decision to declare war on Ukraine. — APP

Macron targets Le Pen as polls lead narrows

PARIS: French President Emmanuel Macron on Friday hit out at his main election rival, far-right leader Marine Le Pen, as his narrowing lead in polls intensified concerns among supporters that winning a second term is far from assured.

Macron accused Le Pen of "lying" to voters on social policy, having a "racist" programme aimed at dividing society and showing "complacency" in her ties with Russian leader Vladimir Putin. The president is projected to come out on top in Sunday's first round of voting, but far short of the majority needed to avoid a run-off between the top two candidates on April 24 — and with Le Pen close behind.

Adding to the intrigue, far-left candidate Jean-Luc Melancon is snapping at their heels in third place and still fancies his chances of causing an upset by reaching the second round.

While Macron easily beat Le Pen in the 2017 run-off, polls have shown a much tighter scenario this time, with the far-right leader reducing her gap with the incumbent each week. — APP

Debt to GDP ratio falls to 72 per cent

ISLAMABAD: Public debt, as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), decreased to 72 percent during the fiscal year 2021, from 76.6 percent in FY 2020, finance ministry said here Friday while rebutting an article published in a section of press.

According to the latest published data, public debt to GDP is estimated to have declined further to 67% of GDP as of December 2021, said a press statement issued by the finance ministry.

In real terms, the increase in public debt during the 2018-2022 period is around 3.3% of GDP, which is less than the debt accumulated during 2013 to 2018 period of 8.2% of GDP, it said.

The article on 'Public debt soars by Rs18 trillion' published by Express Tribune in its edition on April 6, 2022 is misleading and the author's comparison of the 2008 to 2022 period fails to take into account the significant changes in the size of the economy," the statement added.

It said, the economy's capacity to take loans today was higher than compared to previous years due to the significant increase in the size of the GDP. A better analysis would have focused on the public debt as a percentage of GDP, the standard indicator used by all international publications.

According to the statement, Pakistan was one of the few countries that managed to reduce its debt despite the significant impact of COVID on public finances.

Secondly, it added, the author needs to understand that the increase in outstanding public debt does not necessarily mean new borrowing by the government. — APP

Briefs

Pakistan reports no Covid-19 death for fifth straight day

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has reported zero COVID-19 deaths in the past 24 hours, the fifth straight day in a row, according to the National Institute of Health (NIH). According to NIH database, as many as 141 new cases of the viral disease emerged when 27,000 samples were tested in the last 24 hours. The nationwide tally of confirmed cases stands at 1,526,234 while the death toll is 30,361. The country's positivity rate was recorded at 0.52 per cent, the NIH said, adding the number of patients in critical care in various hospitals across the country has fallen to 280. It is pertinent to mention here that Pakistan last month announced the withdrawal of all Covid-19 related restrictions. Federal Minister for Planning and Development Asad Umar made the announcement, a key step for the country to move to normalization. Earlier, Prime Minister Imran Khan congratulated National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) team for professional and nationally coordinated response in fight against COVID-19 pandemic. - DNA

Pakistani Rupee bounces back after SC ruling

KARACHI: The Pakistani rupee bounced back on Friday to gain Rs3.18 against the US dollar in intra-day trading after Supreme Court declared the NA deputy speaker ruling unconstitutional and restored National Assembly. According to foreign currency dealers, the US dollar is trading at Rs185 after depreciating Rs3.18 against the local currency in early trade. In the open market, the dollar is trading at over Rs186. The rupee had closed at Rs188.18 against the dollar in the interbank market on Thursday. On the other hand, the benchmark KSE-100 index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Friday reversed its bearish trend soon after its opening and surpassed 44,000 mark, a day after the Supreme Court of Pakistan nullified the deputy speaker's ruling against no-confidence motion. The benchmark KSE-100 index gained 411 points as trading continued at 44,198 in the PSX. The stock market is being under pressure from Monday when it fell like a house of cards and lost over 900 points amid country's current political crisis that erupted with National Assembly deputy speaker deeming the no-confidence resolution against Prime Minister Imran Khan "unconstitutional". - DNA

Warsaw summons French envoy

WARSAW: Poland said Friday it had summoned the French ambassador after French President Emmanuel Macron called the Polish premier "a far-right anti-Semite who bans LGBT people". "As a result of assertions by the French president in an interview with Le Parisien, Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau decided to summon the French ambassador," foreign ministry spokesman Lukasz Jasina said on Twitter. Macron made the comments against Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki in an interview published Thursday in the Le Parisien newspaper. Morawiecki had earlier criticised Macron for his repeated talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. "How many times have you negotiated with Putin and what have you achieved?" he told reporters on Monday, addressing Macron. - APP

CEO Serena Hotels Aziz Boolani hosts grand iftar dinner at ISH

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The CEO of Serena Hotels Mr. Aziz Boolani and his spouse, Wiqar Boolani hosted the Annual Corporate Iftar Dinner at Islamabad Serena Hotel. Held at the grand Sheesh Mahal banquet hall, the intricate setup was reminiscent of magnificence and luxury. The traditional architecture of the Hotel was glimmering with lights, bringing a new life to the regal interior. The dinner was attended by government officials, ambassadors, bureaucrats, members of the armed forces, heads of international agencies, and corporate executives. A variety of different cuisines was served, including but not limited to Pakistani, Middle Eastern, East Asian and Continental. An opulent canopy embedded with flowers covered the Aangan area of the Hotel, featuring live stations serving shawarma, sushi and live barbecue, right off the grill. The centre of the ballroom was dedicated to dessert, with a grand display of choices ranging from profiteroles, to tarts, and more. For a healthy diet, there was a display of fresh salads and nutritious options as well. The visitors enjoyed the iftar dinner in a tranquil setting with live folk music, while the evening highlighted memories of Serena's history of impeccable service and excellent standards.



ECP to complete delimitation process within four months

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to complete the delimitation of all constituencies of the national and the provincial assemblies within four months on the basis of the 2017 census. The decision was taken at a meeting of the ECP, with Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan

Raja in the chair, after a series of recent events in the politics of Pakistan. The ECP has asked the provincial governments to immediately provide maps and other data so that the process of delimitation could be completed in a timely manner. Meanwhile, ECP secretary and special secretary were directed to

present a complete action plan for the general election on Wednesday. The meeting also decided to expedite and complete the process to review and update the voters' lists for the general election at the earliest. Moreover, the ECP also decided to seek assistance from the federal secretary of finance and

the Punjab chief secretary, and then conclude on how to ensure timely local government elections in Punjab. The ECP is performing its constitutional role for the continuation of democratic process, transparency and rule of law and it will continue to do so in future as well, a statement issued by the Commission read. - APP

Crisis-hit Sri Lanka hikes rates

COLOMB: Cash-strapped Sri Lanka's central bank hiked interest rates by a record 700 basis points Friday as police fired tear gas at hundreds of students protesting about the economic crisis. Severe shortages of food, fuel and electricity have led to widespread anti-government demonstrations with calls for President Gotabaya Rajapaksa to resign. The latest protests saw students try to march to the national parliament on Friday. Elsewhere demonstrators nationwide carried placards demanding Rajapaksa step down over the country's worst economic crisis since independence in 1948. Buddhists monks, who had largely led Rajapaksa's election bid in November 2019, were also seen joining demonstrations in the capital Colombo. The Central Bank of Sri Lanka said its benchmark lending rate had been raised to 14.5 percent to "stabilise the exchange rate" after the rupee tumbled over 35 percent in a month. The rate for deposits was also increased by seven percentage points

to 13.5 percent as reports said Sri Lanka's rupee was the worst performing currency in the world, edging out the Russian ruble. The bank said the shock-treatment rate hike was due to its belief that the embattled island's inflation, which is already at record levels, could get worse. The Colombo Consumer Price Index rose 18.7 percent in March while food inflation stood at more than 25 percent, but private analysts placed inflation at over 50 percent in the month. International rating agencies have downgraded Sri Lanka as fears grow that it could default on its \$51 billion external debt after foreign reserves fell below \$2 billion at the end of March. This week Rajapaksa appointed a panel of experts to organise a restructuring of foreign debt. His government is preparing for bailout negotiations with the International Monetary Fund, and finance ministry officials told AFP the panel will prepare a programme for sovereign bond holders and other creditors to take a haircut. - APP

Sino-Pakistan review progress on CPEC, SEZs

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan and China on Friday reviewed the progress of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and also discussed the future plan for the completion of these projects. Both sides evaluated the development of CPEC, SEZs, particularly Rashakai, Allama Iqbal, Dhabeji and Bostan SEZs and expressed satisfaction over the achievements so far, said a press release issued by Board of Investment (BOI) here. The 6th Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting was co-chaired by Secretary Board of Investment (BOI) Fareena Mazhar and Director General, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), China, Mr. Ying Xiong. Representatives of Pakistan Embassy Beijing and Chinese Embassy Islamabad were also present in the meeting along with other JWG members. Contrary to the previous JWG meetings, the 6th JWG witnessed active participation and presentations by the provincial NDRCs in China to strengthen business to business collaborations at the provincial levels between the two countries. - DNA

Opposition submits no-confidence motion against KP CM

PESHAWAR, Apr 08 (AP- P): The joint opposition in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly Friday submitted a no-confidence motion against Chief Minister Mahmood Khan with the KP Assembly Secretariat. The motion bears signatures of some 46 members of the KP Assembly. Speaking on the occasion, Awami National Party (ANP) leader Sardar Babak said after consultation of the Leader of the Opposition in KP Assembly and leaders of all opposition parties, they had submitted the no-confidence motion. He accused the provincial government of violating assembly rules. - APP

CM for early work on varsity

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan while stressing the need of rapid progress on establishment of University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Swat directed the concerned authorities to complete all the pre-requisites for ground breaking of the project as soon as possible. He said that this project is of vital importance owing to growing needs of veterinary education in Malakand Division adding that project on

completion would promote education and research on modern lines in this field. He issued the directive while chairing a meeting regarding establishment of University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Swat here the other day. Provincial Minister for Livestock Mohib Ullah Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah, Secretary Livestock Muhammad Israr Khan and other concerned officials attended the meeting. While briefing the meeting about various aspects of the university, it was told that the university would be established in

Chota Kalam spanning over 263 Kanals of land with an estimated cost of Rs 8 billion. The university will provide education and research facilities to students in 20 different departments of three faculties. Briefing about the proposed departments in university, it was informed that under the faculty of Bio Sciences, Anatomy, Physiology, Pharmacology, Fisheries, Wildlife, Biochemistry and Biotechnology departments would be established while Under the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Nine different departments including Pathology, Microbiology,

Medicine, Surgery and Pet Sciences would be established. Similarly, under the Faculty of Animal Production and Technology, five departments would be established including Animal Nutrition, Livestock Management, Poultry Sciences, Breeding and Genetics and Department of Meat and Dairy Technology. It was further told that the relevant institutions of the Livestock and Dairy Development Department would also be linked to the proposed university as outreach centers. Touching upon the

Ukraine: Six weeks of devastation, defiance

MONITORING DESK

KYIV: Predictions at the start of the invasion of a quick Russian victory have been upended by the Ukrainians' willingness to fight, but the war is settling into a long struggle that could still endanger the wider world too. Remember how it was in Kyiv after the Russians invaded: thousands cramming bitterly cold railway platforms, pushing and shoving to get any train heading away from the Russians. At the height of it, in the week that straddled the end of February and the beginning of March, 50,000 people

were moving west from Kyiv station every single day. Rusty carriages that looked as if they had spent years pensioned off in some siding were hauled back into service so the railway company could lay on dozens of extra services. Most of the passengers were women and children. Men stayed. The law stated they could not leave the country as Ukraine needed them to fight. I did not see any press gangs. Mostly, it was a nation of willing volunteers. Kyiv's population of around four million halved. Some of the women who didn't leave put on uniforms to fight. Outside a volunteer centre I met a

woman called Katrine hugging Nikita, her 18-month-old son. It was a brief reunion as her unit rotated through Kyiv. Katrine was a sniper, who said she was ready to kill to give her son a future. As I drove into Kyiv from the south a few days into the invasion, a Russian convoy 40 miles long was heading towards the city from the north and northwest, from Belarus, Russia's ally. Belarus is the sort of neighbour Russia's President Vladimir Putin wants. Its leader, Alexander Lukashenko, is happy to have Putin's patronage and to accept a role as Russia's client state. Even so

Lukashenko did not send his troops into Ukraine, which many outsiders had assumed was part of the Kremlin's battle plan. Perhaps even Putin accepted that loyalty has its limits. Everyone in Kyiv feared the worst. The city centre was mostly empty, except for armed and anxious men at checkpoints who were ready to believe that anyone behaving in a way they didn't like was a Russian saboteur. The rumble of explosions rolled in from the edge of the city. Everyone feared the all-powerful Russians were about to encircle Kyiv and attack. On my first night I decided not to sleep in the ho-

tel shelter, at the second basement level. It was overcrowded and airless, and the city centre had not been hit. It felt like a gamble. But as I write this, six weeks later, in the same hotel room on the fourth floor, Kyiv's beautiful and historic centre has still not been attacked, even though it is well within range of Russia's missiles and air force. In six weeks, so much has changed. The long convoy got bogged down and destroyed. The Russians retreated. The war is far from over, but the Ukrainians won the battle of Kyiv. The first battle. There could be another.

Ukrainian willingness to fight and die upended every prediction of a swift Russian victory. At a military funeral of a soldier killed stopping the Russian advance, his mother and sister sobbed, clutching his portrait. Volleys were fired over his coffin, and hundreds of his comrades lined up to sing their national anthem and roar patriotic slogans. They looked like who they were, volunteers with ages that ran from late teens to late middle age, wearing a range of uniforms and carrying a variety of weapons. Ukraine also has much more professional-looking, highly trained soldiers.