

Briefs No talks on elections, will be held on time

KHAYAM ABBASI



Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Au rangzeb has categorically

said that next general elections will be held on time in October next year. She said this on Friday while answering PTI Chief Imran Khan's statement. Meanwhile, The government rejected the latest offer for talks by the PTI, saying that the two sides lacked common agenda to initiate dialogue as the latter wants snap polls while we would not budge from our stance of holding the elections on time. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, while talking to media, also clarified that neither overt nor covert negotiations were being held with the former ruling party and any speculations about such talks were mere speculations.

Assemblies will not be dissolved

NAZIR SIYAL

Pak envoy in Kabul attacked

The head of mission was targeted; Afghan foreign ministry says it will "seriously investigate" incident and identify, punish culprits

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



KABUL: Pakistan's Head of Mission to Kabul Ubaid-ur-Rehman Nizamani Friday escaped an assassination bid, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) confirmed. In a statement sharing details of the attack, the Foreign Office stat-

came under attack targeting the head of mission and informed about his safety. Head of Mission," the FO said.

The ministry further added that Pakistan's sination attempt and attack on the embassy tors of the heinous act". that

Shehbaz condemns attack; talks to diplomat

News Desk/DNA

ed that the embassy's compound in Kabul ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif condemned the attack deeming it dastardly and lauded the guard "By the grace of Allah Almighty, the Head of for saving the life of Pakistan's head Mission is safe. However, a Pakistani security of mission. "Salute to brave security guard Sepoy Israr Mohammad has been criti- guard, who took bullet to save his life," cally injured in the attack while protecting the he wrote in his tweet. The premier extended prayers for the guard's swift recovery demanding an "immediate ingovernment strongly condemns the assas- vestigation and action against perpetrademanding the Afghan government conduct The premier also shared on Twitter an immediate investigation into the incident. about his conversation with Ambassa-"The Interim Government of Afghanistan dor Nizamani. "Relieved to hear that must immediately hold thorough investiga- he is safe. I expressed solidarity of tions in this attack, apprehend the culprits, govt & people with him, while assurhold them to account, and take urgent meas- ing full support & assistance to him & ures to ensure the safety and security of mission on all counts," he tweeted conveying his prayers for swift recovery of

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in a meeting with delegation of China Construction Third Engineering Bureau. - DNA

PM invites Chinese companies to invest in energy

SHUJAAT HAMZA ISLAMABAD: Prime Min-

ister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday invited Chinese companies to invest heavily in renewable energy projects in Pakistan, particularly solar energy. He was talking to a delegation of China Construction; Third Engineering Bureau headed by Tan Guofu, Vice Chairman

of the company. The Prime Minister appreciated the company's Vice Chairman Tan Guofu's commitment to invest more in infrastructure and energy parliamentary party from his Lahore resprojects in Pakistan. Prime Minister Sharif said the relations between Pakistan and China were exemplary in all areas and mentioned his

recent meeting with the

company's president dur-

He also appreciated the

company for its donations

to the flood-affected peo-

ple of Pakistan. Special

Assistants Tariq Fatemi,

and other senior govern-

ment officials also at-

PM greets

UAE

President

SAIFULLAH

ISLAMABAD: Prime Min-

ister Muhammad Shehbaz

Sharif held a telephonic con-

versation with His Highness

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed

Al Nahyan, President of the

United Arab Emirates, to

convey warm greetings on

51st National Day of the

Reaffirming the fraternal

relations between Pakistan

and the UAE, the two lead-

ers reiterated their mutual

commitment to further ex-

pand and diversify special

bilateral relations.

United Arab Emirates.

tended the meeting.

Mehmood

Zafaruddin

ing his visit to China.

Imran Khan invites govt to hold talks over election date

"Give us a date for elections or we will dissolve the KP and Punjab assemblies"

Ali Hamza

LAHORE: PTI Chairman Imran Khan Friday invited the PDM-led government to talk over the possibility of early general elections and warned that if they dissolved the assemblies in two provinces, around 66% of Pakistan would have to vote for by-polls.

"Give us a date for elections or we will dissolve the KP and Punjab assemblies," Khan said in a video address to the PTI's Puniab

'It is up to PM Shehbaz to call for election'

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf



wa (KP) assemblies won't be dissolved as per former prime minister Imran Khan's wish. In a tweet, Vawda voiced his opinion and stressed that the "system" in the country would remain unchanged. Khan, although called off the long march, has announced dissolving the assemblies in both provinces if the PDM-led government does not issue a date for early elections. Without naming Khan, Vawda also urged the PTI chief to avoid be ing trapped in dead ends and sit at the table for dialogue. He added that the negative politics that the people around the ex-premier are practising would bring no good. It is these "snakes", he said without naming anyone, that have already sunk the party.

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

Continued on Page 06

the "brave security guard".

Gen Bajwa told us to support Imran: Moonis

Says former COAS went 'all out in support' of PTI

STAFF REPORT

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) leader and Punjab chief minister's son Moonis Elahi has claimed that his party had been advised by former army chief General (retd) Qamar Javed Bajwa to support Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) in the no-confidence motion that ultimately led to former premier Imran Khan's ouster.

Grueling political uncertainty had ended around midnight when the daylong session of the lower house of parliament convened on April 9 to vote on the no-confidence motion culminated with the dismissal of Imran Khan, the 22nd prime minister of Pakistan, who became the first chief executive to be removed from office after losing majority in the National Assembly.

Speaking on a private TV channel, Moonis Elahi revealed that "there has not been any contact with the new military leadership" however, he added that the former COAS



"had turned the tides in favour of PTI".

"This is my point of contention with PTI and anyone who calls him a traitor," he continued, "he was seen as perfectly fine when he was going in their support and now he is called a turncoat". "I have offered the PTI to come on TV and prove to me that he [Bajwa] is a traitor and I will show you just how much the man did for you." He went on to claim that there was "no doubt" about it that "the man had gone all out for you [PTI]"; but the minute he "removed himself then he became the bad guy". "If he was the bad guy, he would have never told me to support Imran Khan," Moonis said.

idence in Zaman Park. "We have the full backing of PML-Q. CM Punjab Chaudhry Pervez Elahi will disband the provincial assembly on my call." He said PTI's demand for early general elections was the part and parcel of the PTI's resolve to shore up the country's economy as the party was totally focused on bringing Pakistan back to its feet.

Continued on Page 06

(PTI) senior leader Fawad Chaudhry on Friday said that it is up to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to call for elections since his party also has the option of dissolving the assemblies of Punjab and KP. Speaking to the media in the provincial capital of Punjab while being flanked by PTI leader Farrukh Habib, Fawad said that all of the lawmakers, who were present at

Continued on Page 06

Asad appointed new **Foreign Secretary**

ANSAR BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Dr. Asad Majeed Khan, presently posted as Pakistan's Ambassador to Belgium, the European Union and Luxembourg has been appointed as the new Foreign Secretary. He was previously posted in USA and during his time the controversy of Cipher had cropped up. After that controversy, he was shifted to Belgium from Washington and it was believed that due to this controversy he may not be considered

for the post of the Foreign Secretary. Pakistan ambassador to Turkey Syrus Qazi was supposed to be the new Foreign Secretary subject to his elevation to the Grade 22. However so far he has not been elevated to the Grade 22 because the Board for the promotion to Grade 22 had not been held hitherto. Asad Majeed is already in Grade 22. Since the post was vacant for quite some time therefore it was necessary to fill it up in order to run the foreign affairs smoothly. Asad Majeed



being the senior most diplomat has finally be appointed as the foreign secretary. He carries immense experience in the diplomacy and has served as the Pakistan ambassador in various countries

Inside...

KP PPP panel accords feasibility for Yarik-Bannu Road - Page 02

Polish Independence Day event features JAZZ performances - Page 03

UNODC commemorates day of persons with disabilities – Page 04

Coop beyond security: SCO emphasizes need for materialism - Page 05

Imam, Abdullah lead Pakistan's fightback against England – Page 06

Europe is 'not strong enough' without US, says Finland PM – Page 07

Biden 'prepared to sit down if Putin' wants to end war - Page 08

Japan provides USD 4.196 million to Pakistan UNICEF to use fundsfor assisting children and families affected by floods and improving WASH infrastructure incommunities hosting refugees

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Japan has provided USD 4.196 million to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), for its humanitarian services in the flood affected areas and to improve water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in refugee settlements and host communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Balochistan provinces. An event was held here today to acknowledge and thank the Government and people of Japan for their usual and generous supportfor the children in Pakistan. The Chairman National Disaster Management Authority, Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik, Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan, H.E WADA Mitsuhiro, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan, Mr. Abdullah Fadil, and senior officials of the Government of Pakistan were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman NDMA, Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik said. "Government of Pakistan stands committed in maximizing support to its flood affected people with continued involvement of



international community." "Japan has always been a lead in such assistance role for Pakistan and it is gratefully acknowledged at people-to-People tiers. UNICEF Pakistan is also at the forefront of such initiatives and has enabled swift delivery of key relief aid articles to people in distress."

"National Disaster Management Authority, the national Coordinating authority for all emergencies mitigation and Control, engages all stakeholders and donor agencies, to help investment in capacity building and developing sound robust national preparedness regime. We endorse the high value of UNICEF donations and Thank Government of Japan for helping minimize the impact of the damage in flood affected areas of Pakistan," he added. Using Japanese funds and working in coordination with the National and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities and other relevant departments, UNICEF is working to ensure that host and refugee communities in the two provinces have access to improved WASH services.

Continued on Page 06

NATIONAL

KP PPP panel accords feasibility for Yarik-Bannu Road

Chief Minister said that the development of Malakand region is directly associated with Swat Motorway Phase 2, which will prove to be a game-changer

OUR CORRESPONDENT

02

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mahmood Khan has termed the construction of Yarik-Bannu Link Road of vital importance for the development of the southern dis-tricts of the province. "Yarik-Bannu Link Road will boost trade activities besides providing comfortable transportation facilities to people of Bannu, Karak, Waziristan and adjoining areas," he said. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Public Private Partnership Committee accorded approval to the commercial cum financial feasibility for Yarik - Bannu Link Road on Public Private Partnership mode, which met here on Friday with Chief Minister Mahmood Khan in the chair. While briefing the forum on various aspects of Yarik-Bannu Link Road, the official said that the 42 kilometer long Yarik-Bannu Link Road will be constructed from Indus Highway to Kallur connecting Hakla-Yarik Di Khan motorway.

It will incur an estimated cost of Rs 15.6 Billion including the land acquisition cost. Other features of the two-lane link road include construction of two flyovers, three RCC bridges, and two interchanges. Addressing the participants, the Chief Minister said that the incumbent provincial government of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf is improving the network of roads infrastructure across the province with the aim to make Khyber Pakhtunkhwa a transit hub and making it a center for trade activities. He directed the quarters concerned to expedite physical work on Swat Motorway Phase 2 and ensure achievement of targets as per stipulated timelines.

The Chief Minister said that the development of Malakand region is directly associated with Swat Motorway Phase 2, which will prove to be a game-changer in exploiting the tourism potential in the region. He added that the said project is equally important for the population on both sides of the Swat River, which on completion will usher in a new era of development in the area.

According to details, the 80 kilometers long Swat Motorway Phase 2 is being constructed from Chakdara Interchange to Fatehpur. Initially, Swat Motorway Phase 2 will consist of 4 lanes which will be extendable to six lanes. Other features of the project include construction of nine interchanges, eight bridges on the Swat River and link roads on need basis. The Chief Minister, while addressing the participants of the meeting, said that the Swat motorway project is one of the mega projects of the province and the provincial government will utilize all available resources for its timely completion.

Provincial Minister for Law Fazal Shakoor Khan, advisor to CM on Communications and works Riaz Khan, Chief Secretary Dr. Shehzad Bangash, Additional Chief Secretary Shahab Ali Shah, concerned administrative secretaries and other members of the PPP Committee attended the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Shazia Marri, Federal Minister and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme meeting with delegation of Social Action Fund of Tanzania in Islamabad. - DNA

OIC-15 senior officials Meeting concludes with agreement der the Regional Planning

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The first meeting of the senior officials representing seventeen more developed OIC member countries concluded on Friday with the adoption of the Terms of Reference and programme of the newly formed OIC-15 Dialogue Platform. The meeting was held from December 1-2 at the COMSTECH Secretariat in Islamabad. The OIC-15 is an initiative of the Government of Kazakhstan that aims to bring together the scientifically and technologically more advanced OIC member states to collectively pursue major technological initiatives.

The OIC-15 is being structured as a Ministerial level body that will be assisted by COMSTECH, and its Expert Groups specializing in different fields of science and technology. The OIC-15 platform will discuss, delib-



erate, and decide on the various major initiatives with regard to the strategy, resources, and collective actions required

for their implementation. COMSTECH Secretariat will function as the Secretariat of the OIC-15. The meeting also agreed to hold the first Ministerial level meeting of OIC-15 at

Astana, Kazakhstan in the

first half of 2023 to initiate

major science and technolo-

gy collaborative projects be-

tween OIC member states.

The said meeting was

attended physically by Ka-

zakhstan, Pakistan, Qatar,

Iran, Malaysia, Indonesia,

Morocco, and Nigeria, while

Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, Azer-

baijan, Cameroon, Jordan,

and Egypt participated on-

line. The meeting was also

Islamabad **POST**

Saturday, December 03 , 2022

attended by the Assistant Secretary General (Science and Technology) of the OIC and Kazakhstan's Permanent Representative to OIC

Ashrafi thanks Saudi leadership for extending term of \$3bn deposit

he said, expressing the hope that there would be good news from the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, **Turkey and Saudi Arabia**

explicit expression of love and trust with the leadership and people of Pakistan," he added.He said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's meetings with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman would yield further cooperation in the shape of Saudi investment in the

cooperation in this critical situation as it is an

Society must focus on attitude towards PWDs

ISLAMABAD: Life of the people with disabilities is a constant struggle as they have to not only cope with their shortcomings, but also endure hardship, economic, psychological and social barriers that are a major hindrance in empowering them. According to data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, cumulative data of Persons with Disabilities (PWD) till 2021. a total of 371,833 PWDs have been registered across Pakistan. "We all are equal human beings with equal human rights then why those disabled among us do not get equal treatment. it is the time for society to focus on the attitude towards persons with disabilities to play a constructive role for social inclusion of the these persons," said Director General Human Rights, Abdul Sattar. Talking to APP he said, according to the old surveys, the population of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) was around 10 percent in Pakistan but the UN statistics count it to be 15 percent now. The government, besides limited resources is working for the support and betterment of PWDs and the ratification of UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is reflective of the priorities of government but it is not only the responsibility of the government, the society following the footsteps of philanthropists, must also play their part and "If we cannot support them financially then we can at least support them morally. - APP

CCP penalises paint firm for marketing covid related deceptive claims

ISLAMABAD: The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) has passed an order and keeping in view the commitment and cooperative behaviour, penalised M/s. Nelson Paint Pakistan (Private) Limited with a token penalty in the sum of PKR one (1) million for violation of Section 10 of the Competition Act, 2010. M/s. Nelson Paint was using deceptive claims in their marketing material that their product provided protection against COVID-19. A two-member comprising the CCP Chairperson, Ms. Rahat Kaunain Hassan, and Member Mr. Mujtaba Ahmad Lodhi, passed the order. However, keeping in view the commitments made by M/s. Nelson Paint that it has discontinued deceptive marketing practices and shall not repeat any such activity in the future, the Bench took a lenient view and imposed only a fixed token penalty of PKR one (01) million, to deter companies from engaging in deceptive marketing practices, importantly, v it relates to health or safety claims. The Bench also directed M/s. Nelson Paint to withdraw any or all batches of the products that may have been sold or are still available in stock with their distributors and to inform its distributors or buyers regarding the inefficacy of the subject claims. M/s. Nelson Paint was strongly reprimanded to avoid deceptive marketing practices in the future. M/s Nippon Paints Pakistan (Private) Limited sent a formal complaint that Nelson Paint was distributing false and misleading information to consumers through social media about their products. The com-

plainant cited two major claims that were allegedly violative of Section 10, i.e. "Nelson Extra Stainless (COVID-19 Protection)" and "Nelson Extra Klick Special Matt Enamel (COVID-19 Protection)." M/s. Nelson Paint was alleged to have taken undue advantage of the prevalent health concerns at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic and attempted to increase its sales through false slogans. The alleged deceptive marketing practice by M/s. Nelson Paint attracted invocation of Section 10 (2) (a) & (b) of the Competition Act, 2010 which protects the business interests of other undertakings, as well as, consumers from misleading information. CCP initiated an enquiry to investigate the complaint.

During the enquiry, M/s. Nelson Paint contended that it manufactured the impugned anti-bacterial paint, which contains a substance called Benzalkonium Chloride (BKC) that provides protection against microbes and bacteria and the Products are duly checked by the Pak Council of Scientific & Industrial Research Laboratories Complex (PCSIR). It further claimed that the anti-bacterial efficiency of its product was 99.9% and it has performed all necessary tests after the development of the products. After analysing the findings of the enquiry and hearing the arguments of parties involved, the Bench held in its order that BKC substance is only against bacteria and microbes. but not against viruses, in particular COV-ID-19. Furthermore, the documents relied upon do not adequately mention the effective role of BKC in paint products, hence, it does not substantiate the alleged claim. – **DNA**

industrial hub, according to Dr Khurram Tariq, president Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI). He held a meeting with Hasnain Ijaz, program manager of the Industrial Development Urban Unit Punjab. Dr Khurram Tariq appreciated the presentation on Faisalabad Division Regional Plan and gave his input to further improve it according to the ground realities and future needs. He proposed an industrial corridor from Chiniot up to Khurrianwala and said that a dedicated industrial estate may also be established in close vicinity of Aminpur

Bangla Interchange along M4

to accommodate the cottage

and small industry currently

housed in Ghulam Muham-

He said that these proposals

could be included in the Re-

gional Plan for the Faisalabad

Division. He also expressed

concern over multiplicity of

departments undertaking the

same job which not only add

financial burden on govern-

ment exchequer but also cre-

ate anomalies in the system

in addition to creating prob-

lems for the industrialists.

"Such steps are counterpro-

ductive and against the spirit

of ease of doing business," he

said and stressed the need for

mad Abad and Faizabad.

Faisalabad

to be change into planned

industrial hub

FAISALABAD: Faisalabad

Division Regional Plan, un-

in Punjab, is a futuristic vi-

sion to transform Faisalabad

into a scientifically planned

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF HONORABLE MEHRUN NINSA

CIVIL JUDGE RAWALPINDI

AQEELA NASREEN TO ALL AND SUNDRY

AQEELA NASREEN WIFE OF MALIK LIAQAT ALI RESIDENT OF HOUSE NO E 626, ST NO 2, Alla Abad, Chor Chowk RAWALPINDI HAS APPLIED FOR SUCCESSION CERTIFICATE OF HER DECEASED HUSBAND MA LIK LIAQTI ALI IN THIS COURT. All and sundry are hereby INFORMED TO FILE ANY OBJEC-TION ETC ABOUT THIS SUCCES-SION ON 7-12-2022 AT 9 AM. OTHERWISE ONE SIDED PRO-CEEDING SHALL BE INITIATED.

COURT NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF HONROURA-BLE SIDRA BANO CHAUDHRY

CIVIL JUDGE/FAMILY COURT RAWALPINDI

MST SHAKILA BIBI, MUHAM-MAD AMIR ALI AND OTHERS

SUIT FOR SUBSISTENCE MON-EY ETC. MUHAMMAD AMIR Ali S/o Muhammad Per-VEZ RESIDENT OF HOUSE NO 435, Mohallah Westridge BAZAR RAWALPINDI CANTT IS HEREBY DIRECTED THROUGH THIS NOTICE TO APPEAR BEFORE THIS COURT ON 22-12-2022 at 9 am. In case OF NON APPEARANCE LEGAL ACTION SHALL BE INITIATED ACCORDINGLY.

long-term industrial strategy for comprehensive, organised and integrated industrial growth of this area. Programme Manager Hasnain Ijaz briefed the FCCI president about salient features of the proposed Faisalabad Division Regional Plan and said that he had already discussed the issue with Divisional Commissioner Shahid Niaz and Deputy Commissioner Faisalabad Imran Hamid Sheikh. - APP

in the near future

ISLAMABAD: Special Representative of the Prime Minister on Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Friday thanked the Saudi leadership for extending the term of deposit in the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) from the Saudi Fund for Development. Expressing gratitude to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz and his Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, he, in an exclusive talk with APP, said the relationship between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia was like two brothers. Ashrafi, who is also the chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council, said the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) had always fully cooperated with Pakistan. "We are grateful to the Saudi government and people for the

to come for the country. "Similarly, oth er Islamic countries are also increasing trade and economic cooperation with Pakistan," he said, expressing the hope that there would be good news from the United Arab Emirates. Qatar, Turkey and Saudi Arabia in the near future. He said the internal political stability was crucial for the economic development and social values improvement of the country. In this regard, all the political and religious parties should evolve a consensus for the Charter of Pakistan, he maintained. Ashrafi expressed his confidence that Saudi Arabia's cooperation with the government and people of Pakistan would remain so and said the Pakistani nation, government, Ulema and Mashavkh were literally grateful to the leadership and people of Saudi Arabia for their generous support to Pakistan at this testing time. - APP



ISLAMABAD: Minister of Federal Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain attended the closing Session on "International Summit on Higher Education and Workforce Development in 21st Century" organized by USAID and HEC on Friday, Honorable US Senator of Utah State Mr. Keith Grover also attended the event. - APP

CGPA, SMEDA organize dialogue on entrepreneurship, infrastructure

DNA

PESHAWAR: The Centre for Governance and Public Accountability (CGPA) in collaboration with the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority (SMEDA) organized a Public Private Dialogue on Entrepreneurship and Infrastructure here the other day, said a press release issued here on Friday. The event was part of the project "Mobilizing Economic Reformers to Keep Critical Civic Space Open in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province" initiated by CGPA. The session was aimed at discussing the need for improvement in the business of eco-system with respect to development of entrepreneurial culture and an improvised infrastructure that could contribute in ease of doing business and the economic growth of the Peshawar city. Besides identification of issues, the session centered to find out the best possible solution

via inclusive approach, having all the stakeholder on board from the private and government sector. This was the 11th Public Private Dialogue event of the series as planned by the CGPA. The valuable input gathered in these PPD sessions will conclude on formation of recommended policy formation for developing conducive economic environment in Peshawar. Entrepreneurs from various trade of business, members of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce, Women Chamber of Commerce, Peshawar academia, Small & Medium Enterprise Development Authority (SMEDA), Technical and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) participated in the dialogue session. In his opening remark, Mr. Rashid Aman (Provincial Chief - SMEDA), highlighted the importance of treating the business echo system of Peshawar city and adequate infrastructure that could coupe up with the needs of future trade in the region. This has been great endeavor by SMEDA &

CGPA which brought the concerned stake holders on the same table to identify and develop solution of the business issues. In order to develop an improvised business echo system, all the pertaining components need to consider in order to bring improvement in the overall system. Following the same lines, this PPD serious was conducted around the main thematic areas that included legal and taxation issues, access to finance, entrepreneurship, infrastructure, trade and exports. Both sectors of the business community and the representatives of public sector stakeholders participated in the dialogue enthusiastically and provided valuable inputs. Issues like the need of entrepreneurship education, development of entrepreneurial and business vision, existing and new industrial estates available in Peshawar, facilitation provided by industrial and business development institutions and role of academia remained under discussion.



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- Office Removals
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- Project Management
- Pet Relocation
- Warehousing
- Storage

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adi, kanachighmalin omperan com	F-mail: Laborg@heekramovers.com	E-mail: perihawar@heelbomcovers.com	E-mail: kabul@htelinemoxes.com

National Days and Armed Forces Days

03

December

Dec 01 / **Romania** National Day Dec 02 / **UAE**

National Day Nov 07 / **Russian**

Federation Socialist Revolution

Dec 02 / **Laos Republic** National Day

Dec 05 / **Thailand** National Day

Dec 06 / **Finland** Independence Day

Dec 07 / **India** Armed Forces Flag Day

Dec 09/ **Tanzania** National Day

Dec 11/ **Oman** Armed Forces Day Dec 12 / **Kenya** Independence Day Dec 12 / **Turkmenistan** Neutrality Day

Dec 16 / **Bahrain** National Day

Dec 16 / Kazakhstan Independence Day Dec 18 / Qatar National Day Dec 18 / Niger National Day Dec 23 / Philippines

Armed Forces Day Dec 23/ Japan National Day

Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines Turkish Airlines......8494949

Polish Independence Day event features JAZZ performances

Islamabad POST EXTROLINE

Ambassador of Poland Maciej Pisarkski says, Poland is grateful to Pakistan for facilitation of our evacuation efforts from Afghanistan last year

Staff Report

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Poland Maciej Pisarkski has said In November 1918, Poland regained its independence after 123 years of partition. It took several years of fighting to secure the borders of the reborn state. The Polish Armed forces withstood every challenge and delivered the final victory over the Bolshevik Russia in 1920. The ambassador expressed these views on the occasion of Poland's Independence Day and Polish Armed Forces Day. A simple but impressive ceremony was held at the Polish residence in this regard featuring exclusive JAZZ performance by renowned artists. Minister of State of Finance and Revenue, Dr Aisha Ghaust Pasha was the chief guest. The ambassador further said, even though 20 years later Poland lost its freedom again, there was not no question whether Poles deserved their independence after the second world war. However, it took another 45 years of struggle to achieve true sovereignty after the collapse of communism and the Soviet empire. While talking about Ukraine, Ambassador Pisarkski said, Poland's neighbor, Ukraine, has been fighting for its freedom and sovereignty against a brutal and unprovoked Russian aggression. 'We salute the brave Ukrainian people for their unwavering stance', he added.

He said Poland together with its allies has wholeheartedly supported this fight. Poles opened their homes to millions of Ukrainians who have sought shelter in our country. There are many reasons why this fight is important. Let me limit myself to just a couple. 'First, sovereign Ukraine is an indispensable part of united, peaceful and prosperous Europe. To put it bluntly, without exerting a full control over Ukraine, Russia cannot be

empire which projects authori-









Emergency

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



Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115 PIAFlightInfo.....114 PIACargo.....9280979 Railway Inquiry....117 Railway Exchange9270831-5 WASA Rawalpindi..5555489 CAA......9281092



Hospitals

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СМН	5611111
МН	561116
Cantt Hospital.	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa Internatio	onal.4603666



Departments

CDA9221334-43
CDA9208301-04
Met Office9250360-6
RDA55555864
TMA5770886
Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation......9209224 Potohar Town......9209224 RawalTown......5773343

Water Tank Islamabad......0321-5744480

tarian model of government at home and throughout its sphere of influence. Second, abattle of Ukraine is a fight for upholding the universality of fundamental rights and principles enshrined in the UN Charter. Freedom, sovereignty, territorial integrity, rejection of military aggression constitute a backbone of the international order which provides for peaceful co-existence of all nations - big and small'. He said, civilians have been victims of this conflict since the day one. Indiscriminate bombings, death, war crimes, rapes and all sorts of violations of human rights have been an ugly face of the this

aggression. Recent targeting of electricity, water supplies and other elements of civilian critical

ISLAMABAD: The \$500 mil-

lion loan to Pakistan will pro-

vide critical countercyclical

financing to strengthen social

protection, food security, and

support for businesses. This

was stated by the China-led

Asian Infrastructure Invest-

ment Bank (AIIB), a multilat-

eral lender, in a post, accord-

ing to Gwadar Pro. Pakistan's

government said on Tuesday

that it had received the funds

from AIIB. The funds were

provided under the Building

Resilience with Active Coun-

(BRACE) Program of the

Asian Development Bank

(ADB). AIIB is co-financ-

ing the program under its

COVID-19 Crisis Recovery

Facility. According to AIIB,

the program will finance ex-

penditures for strengthening

the social safety net and fis-

cal measures to support the

Pakistani government's re-

tercyclical

Expenditures

\$500 million loan

by China-led AIIB

to help Pakistan

AIIB is co-financing the

program under its Covid-19

crisis recovery facility

sponse to deal with the triple

crises of COVID-19 pandem-

ic, conflict and flood disaster.

The Program will specifically

support measures for so-

cial protection to increase

the number of beneficiaries

for cash transfer under the

national social protection

program from 8 million to 9

million households, and fuel

subsidies for the vulnerable,

it said. It will also support

food security measures to

provide grants for food secu-

rity including food transpor-

tation and subsidization for

the urban poor, subsidy for

fertilizers, subsidy on import-

ed urea; and agriculture relief

initiative (for seeds and trac-

tors). This component will

also support Kamyab Jawan

Program (a youth vocational

training, entrepreneurship,

and employment initiative)

as well as provide support for

exporters, AIIB said.-APP

infrastructure pushes the definition of barbarity into new lows. To shed some light on human sufferings the Embassy had prepared a special exhibition. It was titled "Mom, I don't want the war" and depicted drawings made by children: Polish children who lived through the traumas of the Second World war. And Ukrainian children who have been terrorized by the ongoing war. The Ambassador also talked about bilateral relations between Poland and Pakistan and said. this year Poland and Pakistan celebrate 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our countries. As Zbigniew Brzezinski put it.

"Anniversaries are like birthdays: occasions to celebrate and to think ahead, usually among friends with whom one shares not only the past but also the future." Throughout this time our relationship has matured and solidified. We are close friends and effective international partners. We are driven by the same values and principles. We have worked together to increase regional stability and international peace. We have put people in the center of our cooperation. For example, Poland is grateful to Pakistan for facilitation of our evacuation efforts from Afghanistan last year. This year, we worked together to allow Pakistani citizens, most-

ly students, who were affected by the Russian aggression to reunite with their loved ones at home. We also cooperated in delivering humanitarian Pakistani assistance to Ukraine. Our bilateral trade stands over eight hundred million euros. Mostly due to a preferential system of trade with the European Union, GSP plus, Poland has been one of the fastest growing markets for Pakistani products. 'Our ambition is not only to increase the volume of our trade. We would like to expand and enrich our trade and economic exchange to make it more a two way street, with more Polish business operate in Pakistan'. He said. Poland looked for-

ward to expand presence in areas involving new innovative technologies, addressing the needs of digital economy and green transition. Regarding the defence cooperation the Ambassador said, defense cooperation remains a potential area of grow. The jewel in the crown of our economic cooperation is contribution of Polish companies: Polish Oil and Gas Company - PGNIG and Exallo Drilling to the strengthening of Pakistan's energy security. PGNIG has invested more than three hundred million dollars in developing gas extraction projects in Sindh province. The company has brought in an innovative technology and unique know

how to deliver to the Pakistani consumers Pakistani gas. 'The catastrophic FLOODS brought a lot of human suffering and destruction to the Pakistani people. Poland has expressed heartfelt condolences. We have joined European effort to bring in much needed humanitarian aid. We supported international organizations in their actions in Pakistan. Polish non-governmental entities joined the relief effort'. A special JAZZ performance was also arranged on the occasion. Jazz music has occupied a special place in Polish culture. It has always been an expression of boundless creativity and freedom, the ambassador concluded.

Security beefed up for Pak-England cricket mup for Pak-England cricket mup for Pak-England cricket match RAWALPINDI :Rawalpindi District Police on the directives of Regional Police Officer, Rawalpindi Nasir Mehmood Satti on Friday beefed up security for the Pak-England cricket match. According to a police spokesman, the RPO and City Police Officer, Rawalpindi Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari on Friday visited the cricket stadium and checked all the security arrangements. The RPO had directed the police officers to ensure foolproof security arrangements for the match, he said. The RPO while reviewing the security ordered high-quality arrangements, he added. He said that shuttle buses were providing pick and drop facility and both the teams were being provided box security. "All-out arrangements used and the officer officer of the date of the other arrangements incide officer of the other arrangements incide of the other arrangements incide of and officer of the other arrangements incide of the other arrangement incide of the other arrangements incide of the other arrange

Officer, Rawalpindi Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari on Friday visited the cricket stadium and checked all the security arrangements. The RPO had directed the police officers to ensure foolproof security arrangements for the match, he said. The RPO while reviewing the security ordered high-quality arrangements, he added. He said that shuttle buses were providing pick and drop facility and both the teams were being provided box security. "All-out arrangements were made for peaceful holding of matches," he added. The CPO also directed to make the best arrangements inside and outside of the stadium. He directed to follow the traffic plan in letter and spirit and said that citizens should not face any difficulty in this regard. Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari during his visit checked point-to-point duties of cops and other arrangements. He directed the police officials to ensure foolproof security for the match. On the occasion, Senior Superintendent of Police, Operations Waseem Riaz Khan, SP Rawal, SP Saddar, SP Security and other senior officers were present. They also briefed the CPO about all the arrangements including the flow of traffic during the match. He informed that 7000 cops had been deployed to ensure foolproof security arrangements. The RPO had instructed the police officers to utilize all available resources for foolproof security at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, its surroundings, and cricket teams during Pak-England cricket match. The spokesman informed that 432 Traffic Wardens were performing duties in the circle to regulate traffic and facilitate the road users. Traffic Police on the directives of the RPO were making all-out efforts to regulate traffic in adjacent areas of the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium. The road from 9th Avenue Chowk to Double Road would remain closed for all kind of vehicular traffic during the match, he said adding, special parking areas have also been provided at two places, Civil Aviation Ground Shaheen Chowk Rawal Road and Government Degree College for Boys 5th Road to facilitate the citizens. He urged the road users to cooperate with the police performing duties during the cricket match. The citizens have been advised to use alternative routes to avoid inconvenience.-APP

Pak rice exports to China increase

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's rice export to China in the first 10 months of 2022 surpassed \$425.90 million with a volume of 1,121,592.571 tons, China Economic Net (CEN) reported it on Friday quoting the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China (GACC). Data showed that during the first 10 months of 2022, bilateral trade in agriculture products increased significantly and China imported more than one million tons of different types of rice, increasing

41% y-o-y. Last year in the same period it was more than 705,931.676 tons by volume and \$301.21 million by worth. This year has witnessed an increase of \$124.69 million. According to GACC, the import of Broken Rice (Commodity Code 10063020) from Pakistan increased by 3.65% by worth from \$192 57 million to \$199.62 million and 20.50% by volume from 408,194.590 tons last year to 491,878.156 tons. The Commercial Counsellor at Consulate General in Guangzhou, Muhammad Irfan told China Economic Net that Pakistan is striving to increase its exports to China, particularly in

the agriculture sector. Pakistani rice is getting popular in the Chinese market due to its good taste and quality. "China is the largest importer of the world and Pakistani products are getting a place in this market while Chinese hybrid seeds and technology helped Pakistani farmers increase their yield. Good prices here also helped rice exporters to export rice to China", Irfan added. Zaheer Ahmad, A Pakistani rice exporter to China told CEN that Pakistan needs to import Chinese technology to further enhance rice exports to China because much rice has been wasted while pol-

ishing and shifting. He further said that Pakistan has high-quality land that is suitable to cultivate diverse varieties of rice, ample young labor, and good environment for agriculture. But due to a lack of technologies previously, the low average vield and degraded seeds were the main reason for less export to China. "Due to the floods, more than 45% of crops have vanished, which would impact our export to the world. Pakistani farmers face frequent natural disasters but we can learn from China to solve these issues through the latest technologies and techniques ", he stated. es after some time.

Resurgence of terrorism is a threat to investment

DNA

ISLAMABAD" Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain on Friday said terrorism is resurfacing in the country, which has posed threat to local and foreign investment. The terrorism has restarted soon after China's plan to heavily invest in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia's decision to set up a multi-billion dollar refinery which is pointing towards a neighboring country, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that the government and the new army chief should make the elimination of terrorism their first priority so as to reduce the threats to the people and the country's economy. Talking to the business community, the veteran business leader said that all the peace agreements made with terrorists have failed. Now instead of talking, strict action should be taken and the country should be freed from this problem forever so that the people and the business community can breathe a sigh of relief. This time, a new strategy should be adopted to defeat the terrorists because in the past despite the heavy loss of lives and money this disease has not been cured and terrorism resurfac-

TWIN CITIES

Islamabad **POST** Saturday December 03, 2022

Briefs

ANF seizes over 44 kg drugs; arrests three

RAWALPINDI :Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan conducting three while counter-narcotics opera tions throughout the country seized over 44 kg drugs, 45 Ice drug-filled capsules and arrested three accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday. He informed in an operation at Islamabad International Airport, ANF recovered 45 Ice drug-filled capsules from the possession of a passenger resident of Khyber going to Qatar on flight no QR-0633. In another raid near Peshawar Motorway Toll Plaza, ANF while foiling a bid to smuggle drugs from Peshawar to Punjab seized 34.8 kg opium and 8.4 kg charras and rounded up a drug pusher resident of Mardan. In the third operation, ANF recovered 2.4 kg opium and netted an accused resident of Bahawalnagar. Cases have been registered at respective ANF Police Stations and further investigations are under process.-APP

Govt releases Rs 4.21b for IT project in 4 months

ISLAMABAD: The government has released funds amounting to over Rs 4.21 billion to execute Information Technology related projects during the first four months of the current fiscal year under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2022-23). According to official data available with APP, the government has authorized the utilization of development funds amounting to Rs 4,211.21 million out of a total allocation of 5.731.70 for various ongoing and new projects of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication. Out of the total authorized/ disbursed amount, the total amount spent on the development projects during the corresponding period (July-October) stood at 3,487.32 million. According to the disbursement mechanism of the Planning Division, the development funds allocated in the federal budget are released at the rate of 20 percent in the first quarter (July-September), followed by 30 per cent each in the second and third quarters, and the remaining 20 per cent in the last quarter (April-June) of a fiscal year.-APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Information Minister Marriyam Aurangzeb posing for a picture on the occasion of the National Day of UAE.-DNA

UNODC commemorates day of persons with disabilities

More than 100 delegates attended the event, including organizations working for Persons with Disabilities, civil society organizations, national partners, and academia

DNA

ISLAMABAD: the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Country Office Pakistan (COPAK), Goodwill Kanzi Foundation, and the National University of Sciences and Technology jointly commemorated the International Day of Persons with disabilities. The event was held at the School of Manufacturing and Material Engineering, NUST, Islamabad. The event was delivered both verbally and using sign language to facilitate Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) Dr. Jeremy Milsom, Representative UNO-DC Country Office Pakistan, in his welcome remarks stated that UNODC among all the other UN agencies has the mandate to bring disability inclusion to the forefront of all of the UN's work around the world, both inside and outside the organization. The disability must now be ingrained across all programmatic areas of work and core functions of the UN. He elaborated that only by working together - across governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector - we can effectively war from the Department of Biomedical implement the Convention on the Rights of Engineering and Sciences-NUST presented

Persons with Disabilities and deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for persons with disabilities. He ended with the remarks "I am happy to have an event inclusive of academia, civil society organizations, national partners, and Persons with disabilities to break barriers, shift mindsets, and open doors". Delivering the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UN-DIS) and UNODC Pakistan achievements, Mr. Umair Nazar (Disability Focal Point, UNODC Pakistan) expressed a strong commitment towards disability inclusion at all levels of UNODC Pakistan's future planning and implementation. The participants were also presented with a video message from Mr. António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations on disability inclusion. The children with disabilities from the Sedum School presented the welcome song and honored the event. The said children also displayed fine motor skills performance to the audience and acknowledged the contributions of the Goodwill Kinz Foundation on developing the skills and empowering children with disabilities. Dr. Nabeel Anhow technological innovation and the nexus of technology, research development, and teaching practices can bring improvements to the quality of life of PWDs. However, one of the biggest challenges the research community at large faces is a lack of resources and disability-representative data, especially in access to Justice for PD, he highlighted. He stressed that PD face both direct and indirect barriers and use of technology, staff training & information accessibility can improve this situation. In this context, the mutual role of influential organizations and institutes, like UNODC, NUST, working for the capacity building of people becomes vital. Dr Sana Saleem, Vice-chairperson of Goodwill Kaniz Foundation discussed the reality of difficulties and challenges faced by PWDs on the field which included perception of society, academic progress, lack of employment and inadequate accessibility which include poor vehicle design lack of accessible curbs, crosswalks, and sidewalks the absence of elevators and non-existent or inaccessible signage and wayfinding. She mentioned some of the achievements and initiatives for PWDs by the goodwill kaniz recommendations for the future. In the end, she thanked Dr Jeremy Milsom for their collaboration and for taking PWDs on board Dr Komal Nisa (country manager GWKF) shared her inspiring life story on how an accident that happened 7 years ago changed her life. As a PWD herself, she shared problems faced by her at the Institutional and societal levels. She also shared her achievements on how despite all hurdles she a successful and independent individual is. She shared her journey and how she became a part of GWKF-an NGO that is doing immense work on making the life of PWDs easier. She launched the GWKF project-"Glowering the oppressed" in which she mentioned all practical approaches to improve the life of PWDs as they are oppressed part of the community. She requested UNODC and NUST to come on board and help PWDs by solving policy-level issues and academia-level issues. She highly emphasized sensitizing the people regarding issues faced by PWDs. More than 100 delegates attended the event, including organizations working for Persons with Disabilities, civil society organizations, national

Int'l day of persons with disabilities to be marked today

ISLAMABAD :The International Day of Persons with Disabilities will be marked on Saturday across the globe including Pakistan to highlight that persons with disabilities needed utmost care and a welcoming attitude, beginning right from their homes and families to the schools and places of work. An official of the Directorate General of Special Education (DGSE) informed APP that DGSE's mega event that will be held at National Library where Federal Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada will be chief guest on Saturday. In the said event hearing impaired children would present the National Anthem of Pakistan in the sign language while visually impaired children of Al-Maktoom special Education Centre would recite verses from Holy Quran and Naat. Performance of special students of different National Special Education Centers working under DGSE would also be part of the event. Talking to APP, Chief Executive Officer of a non profit organization Saaya, Asim Zafar said that from the four categories of disabilities including visual, hearing, wheel-chair bound and mental, the persons with either of the first three impairments had the same intellectual capacity as normal people and needed the opportunity to study in the mainstream educational system. He urged the society for respecting equal rights of specially-abled persons and underlined the need of an inclusive culture that embraces persons with disabilities so that they can equally participate in the society. He stressed the need to change societal norms through intensive media awareness campaigns to remove the stigma attached to disable persons.-APP

Police arrest PO wanted in murder case

RAWALPINDI :Rawalpindi Police here on Friday arrested a proclaimed offender (PO) wanted in a murder case registered in Wah Cantt police station. According to a police spokesman, police managed to arrest a PO namely Inamullah, who allegedly killed a citizen namely Tahir over a petty dispute in 2020. Wah Cantt police on application of the victim's brother registered a case and started investigation. He informed that Police utilized technical and human intelligence sources to net the PO. He said that Rawalpindi district police were taking strict action in accordance with the law against the lawbreakers, adding the operations would continue and all the POs would be sent behind the bars. Superintendent of Police, Potohar directed the police officers to accelerate ongoing operations against POs and most wanted criminals.-APP

Olive oil output estimated at 70 tons

ISLAMABAD :Domestic olive oil production during the current season is estimated at 70 million tons as compared to the output of over 100 tons last season, whereas the availability of olive fruit for value-added products would be at over 100 tons. During the current season, the local output of olive oil is likely to reduce by 30 percent as it was badly influenced due to climate change, said Dr. Hassan Tariq, National Project Director Olive Cultivation Program. Talking to APP here on Friday, he said that due to rising temperatures during the flowering stage and torrential rains, the local output remained below than last year's production, which was recorded at over 104 tons. Meanwhile, he said that olive fruit production for other value-added products is estimated at 100 tons as compared to the output of 120 tons last year.

However, he said that the government in collaboration with the Italian government embarked upon a program to train olive farmers in the country to revive and develop local production of oil and reduce the reliance on the costly imported commodity. He said that the government was also working on the promotion of olive farming and prepared a program to convert wild olives into productive olive plants to increase the farm income of farmers of marginalized areas of the country. It may be recalled here that local output of cooking oil during the first three months of the current financial year grew by 8.1 percent as 121,113 metric tons of cooking oil were manufactured as compared to the production of 112,069 metric tons.–APP

foundation along with that she gives some partners, and academia

Govt must intervene to safe children from Tobacco There's a dire need to adopt a sustainable National Tobacco Control Policy which ensures that anti-child move is made now or in future

DNA

ISLAMABAD : Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child (SPARC) raised alarms on the reports of Tobacco Industry moving to regularize Heated Tobacco Devices, a move which health activists believe will

put health of Pakistani children in grave danger. Malik Imran Ahmed, Country Head, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK), stated that since Pakistan's independence 75 years ago, there hasn't been a single day where tobacco industry hasn't directly hurt our children. Tobacco Industry needs children as replacement smokers to

swap for the people who Dr. Ziauddin Islam, Country lose their lives due to to-Lead Tobacco Control, Vital bacco consumption. This Strategies, Former Techniindustry believes that life of cal Head of Tobacco Control Cell of Mo NHSRC, and Pakistani children is cheap and meaningless therefore Former Technical focal perthey try all possible means son of the Government of to earn money at the ex-Pakistan for WHOs FCTC; pense of children's health. said tobacco industry sees Whether it is deceptive Pakistan as a "key trial market" for nicotine-based and misleading campaigns to gain more costumers or products and children are its test subjects. Tobacco direct interfering in public policy, the industry tries to Industry is promoting and throw dirt in our eyes. An marketing novel products industry whose products without restrictions. He are responsible for loss of mentioned that claims of 170,000 lives every year, is these products being cessatrying to launch more deadtion items is one of the bigly products only because gest fallacies going around. it believes it can get away These products are nothing with this by paying a neglibut a new gimmick to early gible tax – which is no way more money. He demandyear the damage it causes. ed that there should be a

complete ban on nicotine products and the government should adopt necessary legislation at the earliest to save Pakistan's youth. Khalil Ahmed Dogar, Program Manager SPARC, said that tobacco industry has repeatedly proven by its wactions that it doesn't care for the healthand lives of Pakistani children. It is up to the government, civil society, academia and media to unite and put a barrier against this industry which is trying to derail our future by putting our children at risk. There's a dire need to adopt a sustainable National Tobacco Control Policy which ensures that anti-child move is made now or in future.

Railways receive 46 coaches to modernize train operations

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has received the first batch of around 46 of the total 230 high-speed modern coaches from China which would not only help to modernize the railway operations rather generate enhanced revenue for the department. "The new coaches will have the capacity to run at a speed of 160 kilometres per hour whereas the current maximum speed limit of trains is about 120 kilometres per hour. These coaches will significantly improve train service," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP on Friday. The official said that the modern coaches would offer an improved train travel experience in the country to 220 million people, many of whom rely on trains for long journeys. "The new coaches comprising economy, AC standard and AC parlour classes for passengers and luggage and brake vans reached via ship at the Karachi Port," he added. He said that Pakistan Railways would carry out a test run of the new coaches on the Main Line-I (ML-I) starting from Karachi to Peshawar via Rohri, Sukkar, Bahawalpur, Khanewal, Lahore and Rawalpindi before beginning the commercial travel. After receiving 46 completely built units (CBUs) manufactured in China, Pakistan Railways would soon begin manufacturing 184 similar coaches at its carriage factory in Islamabad with the assistance of Chinese engineers under the technology transfer agreement. To a question, the official said that Pakistan Railways had signed a contract with major Chinese high-speed train manufacturer CRRC Tangshan Co Ltd in August 2021 for 230 modern, high-speed passenger coaches. He said the passenger trains included 80 economy coaches and 80 air-conditioned standard trains, 30 lounge-type trains and others.-APP

Water experts of KOICA visit PCRWR

ISLAMABAD, Dec 02 (AP-P):The water experts of Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) visited Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR) and discussed feasibility of a project titled "Establishment of Groundwater Recharge/ Rainwater Harvesting Ponds for Flood prevention, Mitigation, and Preparedness in districts Multan and Muzaffargarh of Punjab province of Pakistan". Chairman PCRWR Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, welcomed the guests. Sec-retary, PCRWR Dr. Hifza Rasheed, briefly presented the mandate, functions and different Research and Demonstration projects of PCRWR in different areas of the country, said a statement issued here on Friday. She also highlighted the water-related issues in Pakistan. Korean experts took a keen interest in the different interventions introduced by PCRWR to tackle water issues in the country. They also emphasized on

initiation of collaborative projects for better water management throughout the country. They appreciated the tireless efforts of PCRWR in sensitizing water-related issues. Detailed deliberations were made on the modalities of the proposed project. – APP

ICCI for boosting exports to revive the economy

He said that if this trend of falling exports continues, the government would find it difficult to achieve the export target this fiscal year

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that Pakistan is facing an economic meltdown as exports and foreign reserves of the country are on the decline and stressed that the government should provide maximum support to the private sector in order to boost the exports for reviving the economy. He said that during the first five months (July to November) of the ongoing fiscal year, exports have reduced to US\$11.93 billion as compared to US\$12.36 billion in the corresponding period of last year, which is not a good omen for the country. He said that if this trend of falling exports continues. the government would find it difficult to achieve the export target this fiscal year. He

should look into the reasons that have caused decline in exports and take urgent measures to address them to improve exports. He said this while addressing a dinner reception hosted by Sheikh Muhammad Nasir Ali, Chairman, Pak-China Business Forum in collaboration with Traders Welfare Association. I-8 Markaz Islamabad in hon-

stressed that the government Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that China's annual imports are over US\$ 2 trillion, but Pakistan's exports to China are less than US\$ 3 billion, which are negligible as compared to the actual potential of the Chinese market. He said that the government should fully cooperate with the exporters in enhancing exports to China that would help in improving the health of the economy. He assured

that ICCI would like to work with PCBF to enhance bilateral trade between Pakistan and China that would be beneficial for both countries. Speaking at the occasion, Sheikh Muhammad Nasir Ali, Chairman, Pakistan China Business Forum (PCBF) said that their Forum is working to promote business linkages between Chinese and Pakistani companies to enhance trade, joint ventures

and investment between the two countries. He said that PCBF would bring more Chinese companies to Pakistan for JVs and investment in special economic zones of Pakistan being set up in CPEC. Ex-Senator Lt. Gen. (Retd) Abdul Qayyum Khan said that the government should make business and economic policies in consultation with chambers of commerce and business

community that would produce fruitful results for the economy. He said that the sitting President ICCI should be made a member of CDA Board to represent the voice of the business community in CDA affairs. Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar Vice President ICCI, Sheikh Ejaz Co-Chairman Pak-China Business Forum, Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Khalid Javed, Zafar Bakhtawari, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan, Muhammad Shakeel Munir, Ajmal Baloch, Fayyaz Gul President, Zahid Qureshi Secretary General, Traders Welfare Association I-8 Markaz, Asad Aziz President, Abdul Rehman Siddiqui Secretary General of Traders Welfare Association Jinnah Super Market, ICCI Executive Members and a large number of business community attended the dinner reception.



China-EU relations

n December 1, President of the European Council Charles Michel visited China, and it was the first official meeting between the leaders of China and the European Union (EU) institution after the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. Public opinion has generally noticed that Michel is the second important European leader to visit China over the past month after German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. Recently, the high-level interaction between China and the EU has accelerated significantly, and the EU's good intentions for relations with China have been increasing. This has released stability and positive energy not only for the development of China-EU relations, which have encountered some setbacks, but also for the current complex and turbulent international situation. Chinese President Xi Jinping pointed out in the talks with Michel on Thursday that the more turbulent the international situation becomes and the more prominent the global challenges become, the greater the global significance of China-EU relations will be. China hopes that the EU will become an important partner in China's pursuit of the Chinese path to modernization and share the opportunities offered by China's market, institutional opening-up and deepening international cooperation. Michel said that the EU is ready to become a reliable and predictable partner for China. The EU upholds the one-China policy and respects China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and will not interfere in China's internal affairs. After face-to-face in-depth communication, it can always be found that there are many common interests and consensus between the two sides, and the foundation of China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership has not changed. China always attaches great importance to developing relations with the EU, and we can also feel the EU's good will to develop relations with China. However, in the past few years, there have been some challenges in China-EU relations, the impact of which has continued till now. It requires the two sides to meet each other half way to resolve them. For ordinary Chinese, the most annoying thing is that some European politicians point fingers at China's internal affairs with a sense of moral superiority. They also dislike and are wary of some people in Europe acting as Washington's accomplice to contain and suppress China. They expect the EU to strengthen coordination with China in promoting multilateralism and building a fairer and more reasonable international political and economic order. It is hoped that the EU will pay adequate attention to these aspects. Statistics show that in the first 10 months of this year, the bilateral trade volume between China and the EU reached \$711.4 billion, a year-on-year increase of 6.3 percent. In the first eight months, the EU's foreign direct investment into China surged by 123.7 percent year-on-year. At a time when China-EU relations are facing some ups and downs, it is encouraging that such a large increase can still be achieved. It also reflects the huge potential of China-EU mutually beneficial cooperation in economy and trade. As the spokesperson of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce said, under the political guidance of the high-level leaders of both sides, China and the EU have formed a strong economic symbiotic relationship. Taking the opportunity of the interaction between the leaders of China and the EU, and adhering to the principles of mutual respect, mutual benefit and win-win, we should further tap the trade and investment potential of the two sides and carry out higher-level cooperation. This is beneficial to China, the EU and the world.

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Saturday December 03, 2022

KSA extends deposit term he State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) announced on Friday that Saudi Ara-

bia has extended its term for a \$3 billion deposit in the central bank through the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) in support of the country's economy. According to a press release, the decision was an implemen-tation of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud's royal directives. In November last year, the SBP had signed an agreement with the SFD to receive \$3bn, which would be placed in the central bank's account with an aim to improve its foreign exchange reserves. The SBP's statement today added that the extension in the term "contributed to meet external sector challenges and achieve sustainable economic growth for the country." "The extension of the term of the deposit is a continuation of the support provided by the Saudi Arabian government to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan," the statement concluded. "The deposit aimed to shore up the foreign currency reserves in the SBP and help Pakistan in facing the economic repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic." In September, the SFD had confirmed the rollover of a \$3bn deposit for one more year. The deposit was set to mature on December 5. In the last week of October 2021, Saudi Arabia had agreed to revive its financial support to Pakistan, including about \$3bn in safe deposits and \$1.2bn worth of oil supplies on deferred payments. The agreement was reached during the visit of former prime minister Imran Khan to the kingdom the same month. The rollover of the deposits has reduced the size of total foreign debt repayment and debt serving to \$23.3 billion over the next 12 months i.e. November 2022 to October 2023. The SBP had reported earlier this week that the country was scheduled to repay a total of \$26.3 billion on accounts of foreign debt and debt services over the next 12 months. Moreover, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar has written a letter to the central bank of China to roll over \$6.3 billion. Pakistan has made arrangements of \$32-34 billion to repay foreign debt and finance the current account deficit during the current fiscal year 2023 i.e. July 2022 to June 2023. SBP's foreign exchange reserves stand at \$7.5 billion at present. They stood at \$20 billion in August 2021. The depletion in the reserves has created a perception that the country may default on international payments. Finance Minister Ishaq Dar and SBP Governor Jameel Ahmad, however, have reiterated the country would not default and continue to make all payments on time.

Coop beyond security: SCO emphasizes need for mlateralism

Musaib Manzoor

Since its inception in 2001, the SCO has preserved the Shanghai Spirit and succeeded in charting a new course for the development of international organizations. At a time when geopolitical instability and non-traditional security concerns like extremism and terrorism are on the increase, the SCO plays a critical role in ensuring regional security and development. However, its function extends beyond security. In particular, in his address to the 22nd SCO summit, Chinese leader Xi Jinping warned against the West's "obsession with forming a small circle" emphasizing the need for effective multilateralism.

At a time when the world order is subject to change and the principles of multilateral cooperation between states are taking on a new character based on honest and reciprocal development of countries, mutual understanding and equality of rights, taking into account the views of each side, regional international platforms are becoming especially relevant. An example is the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). This is evidenced by the fact that the summit of SCO heads of state in the Uzbek city of Samarkand was attended by leaders of the new world centers of gravity, creating a "Great Asia".

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zation (SCO). The bill was approved by a majority of parliamentarians (203), with only three parliamentarians voting against it. The measure that was enacted permits the Islamic Republic of Iran's government to sign and recognize dozens of SCO agreements and instruments. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian praising the bill's adoption said, "Parliament's decisive vote in favour of the bill of the Islamic Republic of Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is indicative of our country's seriousness and determination to develop regional, international and economic cooperation and enhance the pivot to Asia." The Council of Heads Government (Prime Ministers) of of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO CHG) convened its 21st meeting via videoconference on November 1, 2022. The chiefs of delegations from SCO member countries exchanged perspectives on critical global and regional development concerns, as well as priority actions

partner in Asia. Nancy Pelosi, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives visited China's Taiwan region in August in disregard of China's strong opposition and serious representations, and the Chinese government expressed its firm opposition to and stern condemnation of the visit. Zhang Ming, Secretary-General of the SCO commented on Pelosi's visit to China's Taiwan region saying the one-China principle is the universal consensus of the international community and the basic norms governing international relations. He vehemently rejected interference in the internal affairs of SCO member states by any outside force, and extended support to all member states in preserving national unity and defending their own sovereignty and territorial integrity. The current global trends show that the formation of a just multipolar world order based on internationally recognized norms of international law, multilateralism, and equitable, shared, indivisible, inclusive, and sustainable security cannot be withdrawn. The ministers during he 19th meeting of the Council of Defence Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan agreed to undertake a combined military counter-terrorist command post exercise called Peaceful Mission 2023 in the Russian Federation to adapt to new methods employed by foreign terrorists. Russia advised that participants focus on fighting unmanned aerial vehicles, guaranteeing information security, and preventing terrorist attacks using chemical and biological weapons during this exercise. Security is the primary motivator for collaboration in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), and as cooperation has progressed, so has the SCO's security priority. The SCO emphasizes the 'three evil forces' - terrorism, separatism, and extremism - as the region's key security issues, but cooperation also includes organized crime and illegal drug trafficking. Despite the SCO's focus on non-state actors rather than interstate ri-

valry, the member states' leaders believe that, like conventional security alliances, the SCO will help to maintain the stability of existing governments. The SCO countries must re-evaluate their various policies and goals for the benefit of regional peace and prosperity and cooperate to deal with the Taliban using a single framework. Multilateral cooperation under the auspices of the SCO is the most successful approach to address the issues brought on by the situation in Afghanistan, particularly the resurgence of terrorist and extremist activities. The SCO has emerged as a platform for regional integration, which has reinforced its coherence. Using the SCO as a conduit for aid to Afghanistan is one strategy, which may also put pressure on the Taliban to live up to international expectations. In fact, it would be challenging to achieve peace in Afghanistan and the region if the SCO cannot come to a consensus on the Taliban issue and counterterrorism.Zhang Ming Secretary General of SCO has underscored that establishing an inclusive administration in Afghanistan with the participation of multiple tribes, faiths, and political groups is crucial, and the SCO's objective is to make Afghanistan a positive force for regional peace, security, and prosperity. To achieve integrated development, the SCO should stick to win-win collaboration to advance regional cooperation. Since its inception in 2001, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) has emerged as a multilateral association to ensure security and stability in the Eurasian region. Targeting the region's transnational security concerns and promoting economic cooperation among its members to contribute to regional stability are the two main areas of agreement. The SCO's agenda has proven to be significant enough to its member nations' leaders for it to become an integral aspect of Central Asia's regional security and political architecture.

to expand trade, economic, cultural, and humanitarian cooperation within the SCO. However, the necessity to speed the development of financial institutions geared to assure project operations, something that would allow the SCO's substantial investment potential to be fully used, was critical for reviving the old and developing new production and distribution chains.

The first Putin-Xi meeting since the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine war took place at the 22nd SCO summit in Samarkand. The strengthening of Russian-Chinese relations was fostered by Western policies and actions, particularly after the Ukrainian crisis in 2014. In addition, when Europe was diversifying its energy supplies away from Russia after western sanctions were imposed on the country, the Kremlin shifted its focus towards Asia in an effort to diversify its activities. Currently, China is Russia's most important

Afnan Wasif



Then, as a result, the eye of the beholder saw that the Mongols had built a tower of heads in Baghdad. One of the main reasons for this

horrific catastrophe and defeat was inattention and lack of change in the field of defense. In light of this important natural principle,

Pakistan today also needs full attention and change on its political, social, economic and especially on the defense front. The definition of security has changed over time.

It is the law of nature to keep the flow of change constant. This series of expansions and transitions in the universe will continue forever. This universe was created for man. Just as variation is inherent in the nature of the universe, so also the human being living in the universe was told to vary. Mola Ali (May Allah blesses him and grants him peace) said: "Do not raise your children as your parents raised you. They (children) are born for different times." If a person does not follow this rule in every sphere of his life, he will be left behind. History has shown that when Hulagu Khan invaded Baghdad, Iraq, Muslims were engrossed in luxuries and engaged in vain debates. But no one was focused on building a strong defense system. Then, as a result, the eye of the beholder saw that the Mongols had built a tower of heads in Baghdad. One of the main reasons for this horrific catastrophe and defeat was inattention and lack of change in the field of defense. In light of this important natural principle, Pakistan today also needs full attention and change on its political, social, economic and especially on the defense front. The definition of security has changed over time. Before the Cold War, the horizon of security studies was only confined to state security. Before the Cold War, security depended on the state. After the Cold War and 9/11 episode, the subject of security expanded. The Copenhagen School of Thought and Barry Buzan (British Scholar) made a significant alteration in the subject of security and expanded it and made it free from state confinement. He said that along with the security of the state, the security of the people is as important as the former. At present, my country needs attention and change in the environmental, social, economic, defense and

political spheres. The previous Gov-

ernment did a commendable job in the

domain of environmental security. In June2022, 1.8 billion trees have been planted in different parts of the country, which is noteworthy. All brickkilns in Punjab are working on "zigzag" technology. Customs duty on the import of electric vehicles was reduced from 25% to 10%. All such measures are contributing to the strengthening of environmental security.

Time to Ponder

Unfortunately, our society is at low ebb. Lack of quality education and relentless negative use of social media are the main reasons for this social degradation. Due to this standard educational crisis, high moral values are disappearing from our society. The misuse of social media has led to an increase in various social issues. John Kerry, a US (a country of human rights activists) politician and former Secretary of State said in 2008 during an announcement that 1.4 billion had been allocated to bring about ideological change in the minds of the Pakistani people. When such tactics are used, our social security is called into question. Niazi Regime's effort in this regard is commendable, such as the establishment of the Rehmat-ul-Alamin Authority for character building and the celebration of religious festivals at the official level with full zeal and zest. The PECA (Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act) Ordinance may also help to prevent electronic crimes after consensus with all stakeholders. The Western powers have usedvarious maneuvers to keep small and developing countries in perpetual economic torture. Institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank paralyze national security, independence and sovereignty. In return for loans, these institutions influence the internal and external decisions of the country. In this regard, the National Security Policy for 2022-2026, formulated by the tireless efforts of the Khan's Government and the Pakistan Army, is an important milestone. In this policy, there is a consensus among all stakeholders that economic stability is the only guarantee of national security. According to this policy, economic stability will be the focus of present and future attention. Steps will be taken to increase exports and reduce imports. A policy of minimizing dependence on Western financial institutions will be adopted. All of these measures strengtheneconomic security. In the field of defense, Pakistan is trying its best to gain autarky according to its capacity and capability. Pakistan is building world-class fighter jets like JF-17 in Kamra, Attock in collaboration with China. Complete self-reliance in this field is associated with economic stability. So, now economic stability is indispensable. Our neighbor is ruled by HindutvaIdeology. They are raising the slogan of "Akhand Bharat". And he is striving hard to make that dream come true. The acquisition of the Russian-made S-400 missile system is another important link in this chain. The acquisition of such a modern and deadly defense system upsets the balance of power in the region. Pakistan will have to innovate and change its conventional weapons along with nuclear deterrence. In fact, we can no longer cope with nuclear deterrence against our neighbor, who is constantly on the brink of war. Because the use of nuclear weapons means "Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)". This does not mean that we should abandon our nuclear program. Otherwise, our situation could be similar to that of Ukraine, Iraq, Palestine and Syria. Therefore, it is necessary to pay full attention to the field of conventional weapons and give them full importance. This is a discourse on the need for concrete steps to address external threats.

The dear homeland is facing external threats as well as internal rifts. These internal threats also challenge the state writ. These include insurgent movements such as the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), the Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) and the SindhuDesh, which in one way or another try to tarnish the country's image and the law and order situation. What are the factors and motives that have forced these people to take up arms against the state and state institutions? The state must deal with such stimuli and factors. If the problem is to adopt an unequal attitude towards the provision of basic necessities, then the matter should be settled by mutual understanding. So that such movements do not become bait for our external enemy and do not seem to be fulfilling their own goals. Dozens of brave young soldiers and officers have been martyred in Balochistan, on which every eye sheds tears. The nation can no longer bear the trauma. Whoever has the right should be given it in full so that other people who are talking peacefully for their rights do not challenge the state writ and do not follow in the footsteps of others. Their legitimate demands must be heard and immediate actions must be taken. Every citizen of Pakistan should have equal rights and full protection of every kind by the state. The same thing has been reiterated in the 1994 United Nations Human Development Report on Human Security drafted by Mahbubul-Haq. In this way, political stability will come into the country. When there is peace and tranquility in the country, then the state institutions will be able to deal effectively with external threats. By following all of the above mentioned steps, the changing definition of security in thiscontemporary world can be met and stability can be achieved in five areas of security coined by Barry Buzan.

-The author is a student of BS Strategic Studies at National Defence University, Islamabad.

WORLD / SPORTS

Briefs **Pak envoy** in Kabul attacked

FROM PAGE 01 Pakistani diplomatic personnel and citizens in Afghanistan," the statement added. While saving the head of mission during the attack, ac cording to media, the security guard sustained three bullets in his chest and was later shifted to a medical facility. Sources said that the attack took place while the Nizamani was on a walk. When the incident happened, there was no activity in the Pakistani Embassy due to weekly off. The head of mission and other officials are being called back to Pakistan temporarily,

the sources said. Earlier in the day, the Consulate General of Pakistan Kandahar's official account was hacked and immediately recovered, as per the consulate's tweet. "Official account of Consulate Gener al of Pakistan Kandahar was hacked a while ago which was immediately recovered.' the consulate tweeted. It added that unsolicited tweets have been deleted while the matter has been reported to Twitter. "The Consulate offers sincere apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused. The matter is being reported to Twitter,' the consulate added.

Meanwhile, the Afghan Chargé d'Affaires (a.i.) was called to convey Pakistan's deep concern and anguish over the attack in Kabul on Pakistan's Head of Mission, Mr. Ubaid-ur-Rehman Nizamani. Additional Secretary (Afghanistan & West Asia)conveyed Pakistan's grave concern over the serious incident in which, thankfully, the Head of Mission remained unhurt. However, the security detail, Sepoy Israr Muhammad, was seriously wounded while valiantly protecting the Head of Mission. The Chargé d'Affaires (a.i.) was conveyed that security and protection of Pakistan's diplomatic Missions and personnel was the responsibility of the Afghan Interim Government and that this incident was an extremely serious security lapse It was underscored that per-

petrators of this attack must

Imam, Abdullah lead Pakistan's fightback against England

Haq, who scored a century in each innings on the same pitch in a Test against Australia in March, pushed spinner Jack Leach for two to complete 1,000 runs in his 17th Test. Shafique, who also scored a hundred against Australia in the March test, cracked two boundaries to reach his fifth half-century in his eighth Test, highlighting his rapid progress

DNA

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan's openers got among the runs on a placid pitch Friday as they took the home team to 181 without loss in reply to England's mammoth 657 in the first Test in Rawalpindi. At close on day two, Imam-ul-Haq (90) and Abdullah Shafique (89) were approaching hundreds when umpires called stumps with 17 overs remaining. The home team still need 277 runs to avoid the follow-on. The pitch was again unresponsive to bowlers as the England attack, led by James Anderson, toiled in the same manner as the home side. Shafique was lucky to survive a confident caught behind appeal by Ollie Pope off a rising delivery. Although umpire Joel Wilson gave a soft signal for out, television official Marais Erasmus over-ruled it. Haq, who scored a century in each innings on the same pitch in a Test against Australia in March, pushed spinner Jack Leach for two



Test. Shafique, who also scored a hundred against Australia in the March test, cracked two boundain his eighth Test, highlighting his rapid progress. Haq followed suit soon after, taking a single off Joe

Earlier, resuming at 506-4, England added 151 runs in 125 minutes, with Harry Brook taking his

overnight score of 101 to 153 - one of four centurions in the innings. Skipper Ben Stokes (41), debutant Liam Livingstone (nine), and Brook were all dismissed by pacer Naseem Shah, who finished with 3-140. Leg-spinner Zahid Mahmood conceded 235 for his four wickets - the most by a bowler on a Test debut.

Previously, Sri Lankan off-spinner Suraj Randiv conceded 222 against India in Colombo in 2010. England's total is their highest against Pakistan in all Tests, improving on their 589-9 at Manchester in 2016. On Thursday England became the first team to score 500 runs on the opening day of a Test match, bettering Australia's 112-year-old record of 494-6 against South Africa in Sydney. Zak Crawley (122), Ollie Pope (108) and Ben Duckett (107) were the other centurions in the innings. The threematch Test series is England's first in Pakistan for 17 years, having declined to tour in the interim be-

Japan provides USD 4.196 million to Pakistan

Islamabad **POST**

Saturday, December 03, 2022

FROM PAGE 01

These services include provision of improved water quality and supply, regular cleaning of drains, improved solid waste management and emergency WASH services in health centres and schools. This has contributed to significant reduction in the incidence of diseases caused by unsafe water and poor hygiene.

At the ceremony, H.E. Mitsuhiro Wada, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan said, "Japan in partnership with UNICEF, has successfully supported Afghan refugees and their host communities in KP and Balochistan provinces in WASH and nutrition, ensuring the most vulnerable have access to safe water. hygiene facilities, and nutrition supplements. Now as an immediate response to the widespread flooding, Japan stands ready to provide emergency support to the affected by providing clean water and hygiene items."

Funds provided by Japan to UNICEF for its humanitarian services in the flood-affected areas are being used to provide safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, raising awareness about personal and communal hygiene, provision of hygiene kits, and scanning nutritional status of children and women in camps and communities. 'We are extremely grateful for the generous funding from the Government of Japan to children and families at this critical juncture," said Abdullah Fadil, UNICEF Representative in Pakistan. "It is the most vulnerable children and families who are bearing the brunt of the devastating floods and they need support to survive. Without action, more children will lose their lives in the weeks to come. Ensuring the availability of safe drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and medical and nutrition services is critical to avert further deaths.'

Imran Khan invites govt to hold talks over election date

German media and pundits react to early elimination

WEB DESK

BERLIN: If Germany thought the reaction to their elimination at the 2018 World Cup in Russia was bad, wait until they see the headlines back home this time. Despite their 4-2 win over Costa Rica on Thursday, Hansi Flick's side were eliminated in the group stages for the second successive World Cup as Japan topped the group following their 2-1 victory against second-placed Spain.

whose most recent triumph was in Brazil only eight years ago, it is a steep decline. The German press, former players and pundits have had their say on the nation's premature World Cup exit - and the future of manager Flick with Germany set to host Euro 2024. 'The end of a great football nation' German newspation's poor performance, labelling the people behind it as "stubborn". Flick and Schweinsteiger clash

The criticism of Germany from former players and pundits started minutes after the final whistle blew in Al Khor to confirm their exit. Former captain Bastian Schweinsteiger, who played 121 times for Germany, said the blame lies with the players. "Hansi [Flick] didn't do that much wrong," he told German broadcaster Ard. "I'm really disappointed and shocked at how it went. The appearance of the national team is not enough, that's not enough. "We invited the opponent. The fundamental problem is that we often invite the opponent." Flick,

"We did not have a lot of time to train, but it is not down to that. We fulfilled our duty today and went off the pitch with a victory, but the result could have been better." What about Flick's future?

Ex-Germany midfielder Sami Khedira was critical of Flick, telling Ard the manager "got bogged down a bit with the line-up" by playing Bayern Munich's Joshua Kimmich at right-back instead of central midfield. However, he did back Flick to stay on as Germany manager. "Kimmich wants to be in the middle and Leon Goretzka is not a connection player - Flick gambled a bit on that," he said.

"But he [Flick] has already proven [his credentials] at

Pakistan's pitches from 'dark ages': Ramiz Raja

RAWALPINDI: The pitches in Pakistan have been under scrutiny since Ramiz Raja took over as Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman. The pitch in Rawalpindi and Karachi earlier this year during the series against Australia received criticism and the former captain vowed to change them in the upcoming home matches.

However, the scenario is no different as Pindi pitch in the ongoing Test against England again had no assistance for the bowlers. England scored a mammoth 657 in the first innings in just 101 overs while Pakistan, in reply are also motoring well without the loss of any wicket. Ramiz talked to BBC Test Match Special and opined Pakistan is still years away from producing a healthy Test match pitch. "I have really not cracked the code regarding a Test match pitch, unfortunately. Absolutely (disappointed with this pitch). The reason why I am stressing on drop-in pitches in Pakistan is because you will go to Multan and Karachi, you will get a similar flavor. We don't get bounce, it's to do with clay, how we prepare a pitch," he said. "I don't what is happening, T20s and ODI, we are fine and pitches don't come under that kind of scrutiny. But we're still years away from preparing a great five-day pitch," he added. On the other hand, Ramiz also stressed Babar Azam and Co. to change the template of Test cricket.

"You have got to buy into a new template and that is what I am stressing on to the Pakistan cricket team and Babar Azam. Look, I'll take the hate if you lose a Test series, it doesn't matter to be me, but we need to try something

cause of security fears

For the four-time winners,

per Bild has not held back in their criticism of the German's performance. labelling the side a "soccer dwarf. They go on to say nobody in the Germany camp - from the players to the coaching staff - is world class and have marked 1 December as "the end of a once great and

proud soccer nation". Die Welt, meanwhile, says German football has hit "rock bottom" and "must stop lying to itself", citing the need for "fundamental change" to improve results. Suddeutsche Zeitung has led with the headline "the result that fits the big mess", while Faz says the return to the top of world football is "just an illusion for Germany". Elsewhere, Kicker. 57, vehemently disagreed

be apprehended and brought to justice urgently, an investigation be launched into the serious breach of security of the Embassy premises, and that all necessary steps be taken to ensure the security of the diplomatic premises, officers and staff working in Pakistan's Mission in Kabul and Consulates in Jalalabad, Kandahar, Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif.

Calling the attack "highly unfortunate", the Afghan Chargé d'Affaires (a.i.) said that the attack was perpetrated by the common enemies of Pakistan and Afghanistan. The attack has been condemned by the Afghan leadership in the strongest possible terms at the highest level. He also informed that the security of the Pakistani Diplomatic Missions had already been beefed up and assured that the Afghan authorities would leave no stone unturned in bringing the perpetrators of this dastardly act to justice.

Saqlain speaks on Rawalpindi pitch condition

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan head coach, Saqlain Mushtaq, believes that the pitch at Rawalpindi for the first Test between Pakistan and England should have been accommodating, more given that four England batters scored hundreds on the first day and posted a record score of 506. On a flat pitch, Zak Crawley (122) and Ben Duckett (107) set the tone with quick-fire centuries against a hapless Pakistan bowling attack before Ollie Pope (108) and Harry Brook (153) added to the misery of the home side.

England adopted Brendon McCullum's 'Bazball' style of play, a fearless and aggressive approach to the game. "I think it was a combination of all of them. England played extremely well, but we didn't bowl according to our plans. And also, the pitch wasn't helpful. There wasn't much swing or turn," said head coach Saqlain Mushtaq in a press conference following the end of the day's play. – \boldsymbol{APP}

de says "only a 9-2" result would have helped a Germany side who have "failed again", and Der Spiegel has started an inquest into the reasons behind the na-

Belgium 'can't blame

Lukaku' for exit

DOHA: Belgium should not blame Romelu Lukaku for their

World Cup exit despite the striker's misses in the goalless

draw against Croatia which sealed their fate on Thursday,

said Timothy Castagne. Lukaku, Belgium's record goalscor-

er, had only played a handful of minutes in the tournament

due to injury before coming on at half-time at the Ahmad

Bin Ali Stadium. The striker, on loan at Inter Milan from

Chelsea, missed three gilt-edged chances late on when a

"I wouldn't say he's the anti-hero because he's there for the

chances, he also creates them, he gives, he keeps the ball,"

defender Castagne told reporters. "Maybe if he's not there,

we don't have those chances. I don't think we can blame him,

he gave everything, he tried. If it doesn't go in, it doesn't go

in." Belgium finished third in Group F on four points after

Michy Batshuayi scored their only goal of the tourna-

ment against the Canadians but was not called upon on

Thursday. "Of course I'm disappointed, we're eliminated,

we're out of the competition," he said. "I'm a striker and

I would have liked to do my job and score, help the team.

"It's disappointing to go out like that ... Belgium had to

play better. I'm not going to say that we don't deserve to be out, but we should have played better. Everything

is disappointing." Belgium coach Roberto Martinez said

he was leaving his job on Thursday after his side were

eliminated from the World Cup in Qatar. The 49-year-old

had been in charge since 2016 and his contract was due

also beating Canada 1-0 and losing 2-0 to Morocco.

goal would have sent his side into the last 16.

with Schweinsteiger, calling his analysis "absolute nonsense". "There are so many reasons [for Germany's exit]), but I am not looking to find excuses," he added.

Hansi to stay."

Bayern. "He's very clear, different. Unless we become an exciting Test team, people has a great team and a will not rate us, especially playing at home. Our strength good game idea. He's is fast bowling, but I think we are still a little shy from strict, but at the same time getting there. I don't want to turn the wheel completely a people catcher. I'd like overnight so it will take time," he maintained. - DNA

ANKARA: Ambassador of Pakistan to Turkiye Dr Yousaf Junaid presented his credentials to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan at a dignified ceremony held at Presidential Palace. - DNA



DNA

DOHA: Morocco coach Walid Regragui said the Atlas Lions are ready to "aim for the sky" after reaching the World Cup knockout rounds for the first time in 36 years on Thursday. The North Africans sealed their passage into the last 16 with a 2-1 win over Canada which saw them finish ahead of Croatia on top of Group F. Regragui said his team's performance in the first phase was down to a determination to "change the mindset" of Morocco's national team, who had not advanced to the knockout rounds since the 1986 finals prior to arriving in Qatar.

Now France-born former Morocco international Regragui says the team is dreaming of going further than the last 16 - even winning the tournament. "We set ourselves an objective - we said we wanted to give everything we've got and get out of the group stages. We can tick that box now," Regragui said.

"So why not aim for the sky? We needed to change and we needed to change our mentality. We're not going to stop

here. We're going to respect every opponent. But we are going to be very difficult opponents. So why not dream about lifting that trophy? "We know that

objectives. We drew with Croatia. We beat Belgium. We beat Canada. We're realistic, but we know what we're

worth. We'll take it one game at a time ... But if we're 100 percent and fighting fit we're capable of great things.' Regragui, who only took over as Morocco

coach in August after the dismissal of predecessor Vahid Halilhodzic, said he had been determined to model Morocco's mental approach on European and South American teams at the World Cup.

"Right from the beginning I have been talking about changing our mindset," Regragui said. "We didn't come here just to play and say 'We almost qualified (for the last 16)'. "We want to play our own game, but we also need to get the results and do as all European or South American teams do. We need to emulate them. I don't see any teams here that have just come to play. They come with a plan. "So there is the mentality change. We didn't want to fall prey to this negativity. The idea is to stay strong. We need to duplicate the play of European teams, with our own values. That's what I tried to do today." Morocco will face the runner-up from Group E - one of Spain, Germany, Japan or Costa Rica -- in the last 16.

FROM PAGE 01 Khan said the whole world was saying "Pakistan is galloping towards default". "Remittances have started falling, tax collection is shrinking, default risks are growing higher and higher, while Ishaq Dar is sitting silent in a corner." He said economic stability was tied to political stability and there was no other way around it. "No elections, no political stability in the country." Khan declared, adding that the coalition government was not willing to consider snap polls because they know they would be wiped out.

Berating the government for botching the economy, Khan said they did not have a roadmap to turn the economic situation of the country around. "The only plan they have is to somehow have me declared disqualified by filing cases against me and other party leaders," the PTI chairman said. Meanwhile, PTI, on its official Twitter handle posted a message, quoting Imran Khan as saying that CM Pervez Elahi has invested him with the power to dissolve the Punjab assembly.

'It is up to PM Shehbaz to call for election'

FROM PAGE 01 parliamentary party meeting - led by PTI chairman Imran Khan -decided to dissolve the assemblies. In this regard, Imran will speak with the KP parliamentary party tomorrow, he added. Punjab Chief Minister Parvez Elahi, was mentioned by Fawad as having agreed to give the PTI chairman the authority to dissolve the Punjab Assembly. The former information clarified the issue of withdrawing from assemblies by saving that Imran will himself announce the date in this regard. He said that since Imran had today invited government to discuss election date, Shehbaz Sharif now had to take the initiative.

The PTI will win the elections whenever it is held, based on what the polls show, claimed PTI stalwart.

BUSINESS / WORLD

Briefs

Russia, Uzbekistan eye \$10B trade turnover

MOSCOW: Russia and Uzbekistan aim to reach \$10 billion bilateral trade volume, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said on Friday. Speaking at a Russian-Uzbek business forum in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, Mishustin expressed certainty that mutually beneficial projects will help achieve this ambitious goal. The prime minister regret ted that trade, industry, and logistics, undermined due to the coronavirus pandemic, were further damaged by actions of the Western countries, which put in doubt such key business notions as reputation, inviolability of property, binding contracts, and trust in world currencies. "In this situation, it is only possible to effectively confront existing and future challenges together. Our country remains open to cooperation with friendly states," he said, adding that Uzbekistan is one of the countries with which Russia is building relations based on principles of equality, mutual respect, and consideration of each other's interests. Mishustin noted that Russia last year became Uzbekistan's biggest trade partner, with an 18% share, and urged to maintain positive trends and launch new projects.-DNA

Europe is 'not strong enough' without US, says Finland PM

EU asks for \$60 price cap on **Russian oil**

BRUSSELS: The European Union Commission

proposed a \$60 price cap

Islamabad **POST**

Saturday December 03, 2022

Speaking in Sydney, Marin says Europe needs to build its own defence capabilities and says Finland is preparing for cyber-attacks from Russia state website, writing on Telegram that it

News Desk

SYDNEY: Finnish prime minister Sanna Marin has called for Europe to build its own defence capabilities in the wake of the war in Ukraine, saying that without US help it is not resilient enough. "We should make sure that we are stronger," Marin said in Sydney on Friday. "And I'll be brutally honest with you, Europe isn't strong enough. We would be in trouble without the United States." Her remarks came in response to a question about China's responsibility to "rein in Russia". Marin said that while China could play a role, "We shouldn't only rely on that." Marin insisted Ukraine must be given "whatever it takes" to win the war, adding that the United States had been pivotal in supplying Kyiv with the weapons, finance and humanitarian aid necessary to blunt Russia's advance. "We have to make sure that we are also building those capabilities when it comes to European defence, the European defence industry, and making sure that we could cope in different kinds of situations,' she said. Marin said that when Russia invaded Ukraine on 24 February, the priority of most Finns changed "overnight" to security. Until Russia invaded Ukraine, Finland's priorities were to have working bilateral relations with Russia and be close partners with members Nato, but not be a member, she said. "That was the best way to secure our nation." Finland and Sweden applied to join the alliance in May, but are waiting on Turkey and Hungary to ratify their requests, which have been approved by the other 28



nations in the group. In June, Putin warned that if Nato installed military infrastructure in Finland and Sweden, Moscow "would be obliged to respond symmetrically and raise the same threats for those territories where threats have arisen for us". Asked what the likeliest scenario was in terms of threats posed by Russia to Finland, with which it shares a 1,300km border, Marin said: "We have extensive military forces, so we're not expecting them to engage in that account and we're not seeing any military action near the Finnish border." "But of course

we are prepared for different kind of hybrid attacks that we might see." "We are preparing for different kinds of cyber-attacks . we're preparing for different kinds of hybrid attacks, for misinformation." Between February and late October, cyber-attacks on "critical targets" in Finlandincreased by a third, according to a recent article by Finnish broadcaster YLE citing Aapo Cederberg, the CEO of Cyberwatch Finland. In August, Russian hackers claimed responsibility for a denial-of-service attack on Finland's parliamentary website, as well as another Finnish had, "decided to make a 'friendly' visit to neighbouring Finland, whose authorities are so eager to join Nato", YLE reported. In September, Antti Pelttari, the director of Supo, the Finnish Security and Intelligence Service, warned that, "We consider it highly likely that Russia will turn to the cyber environment over the winter." October alone saw what would previously have been three months' worth of denial-of-service attacks. Trafficom, the Finnish transport and communications agency reported. Concerned by the prospect of other hybrid attacks including weaponised mass migration, Finland's main political parties have backed a proposal to build a fence along parts of the country's border with Russia. The country is also concerned about large-scale illegal crossings as Russian men flee the mobilisation drive. About 40,000 Russians have entered Finland since the start of the war, according to foreign minister, Pekka Haavisto. Finland recently suspended tourist visas for Russian citizens. On Friday, Marin said, "It became morally unacceptable to allow the Russian middle and upper classes to continue to enjoy their vacations in Europe while their army kills, tortures and terrorises Ukrainians." Finland, which has a population of 5.5 million, still has military conscription for men, and has a wartime troop strength of 280,000, with 870,000 trained as reservists. It spend 2% of GDP on defence, a higher proportion than most Nato members. The country fought two wars against Russia in the 1940s, in which 100,000 Finns died. "Our story after the wars, when we gained our independence, is a successful one," she said. "We have to make sure that Ukrainians have that hope, that they will have that future.

per barrel for oil transported from Russia by sea late on Thursday. Representatives from 27 EU member countries are still holding negotiations to determine the price cap that will take effect on Dec. 5, in conjunction with the EU's decision to cut off crude oil supplies from Russia by sea. However, countries such as Poland and some Baltic states, including Estonia and Lithuania, have pushed back on a \$60 cap, arguing instead for a lower price. The group is trying to come to a unanimous agreement before Monday. In addition to the price cap, the EU is working on a new price-limiting mechanism that will allow for a reassessment of the ceiling price every two months. The mechanism will ensure the new price cap is kept 5% below market prices. The G7 and EU countries have been negotiating to impose a ceiling price on Russian oil. Last week, the G7 proposed setting a price cap of \$65 to \$70 per barrel. While Poland, Lithuania and Estonia want a lower price cap, Greece, Malta and the Greek Cypriot Administration, which play an important role in Russian oil transportation and generate significant income, want the ceiling price to be set at higher levels. Meanwhile, Russian officials announced that they would refuse to sell oil to countries agreeing to the price cap.–**DNA**

EU seeks to curb use of personal data

BRUSSELS: European lawmakers are aiming to restrict targeted political advertising on social media by banning the use of some personal data to tailor content. Members of the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) on Thursday backed a text that would bar using sensitive data including a person's racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious beliefs, health con-

Security forces raid Ukrainian Orthodox Churches

MOSCOW: Security forces on Friday raided the buildings of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Rivne. Zhytomyr, and Zakarpattia regions, authorities in the country announced. In a statement on Telegram, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) said "counterintelligence activities" were taking place at nine religious

establishments. The country's police force and the nacause the Philippines really guard also took

Philippines eyes other options to explore energy resources in contested waters

ISTANBUL: Months after ending talks with Beijing Brunei, Indonesia, Malayover joint oil and gas explosia. and Vietnam. Taiwan. ration in the disputed South which Beijing says is a part China Sea, the Philippine president has suggested exploring "other ways" to ensure the immediate development of energy resources in the contested waters. "We'll have to find a way we really need it now.

of China, is also a claimant. The deal came two years after Manila won a case at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague that invalidated Beijing's expansive claims over the sea rich in maritime resources. We already need whatever In June, Philippines Foreign joint exploration talks with Secretary Teodoro Locsin resources we could find be-China. "China is claiming [WPS] as its property, but Jr. said Manila terminated talks with Beijing on energy exploration in the South China Sea. Locsin argued that the decision was taken on then President Rodrigo Duterte's orders, emphasizing that "everything is over" with respect to negotiations on energy exploration. Marcos won the presidential election in May, but took over the administration from Duterte in July. "I think there might be oth-

the Philippines. Others are er ways so it won't be G2G (government to government) ... It's a small thing for China. But for us, it's a big help. So, we have to pursue that and we will benefit if there is really oil there." Marcos said about exploring oil and gas in the West Philippines Sea (WPS). But he insisted on addressing the "roadblock" in the gas development between China and Philippines" as "the right way for the two to properly handle maritime differences for mutual benefit without compromising respective maritime positions." China's assertions are based on its "nine-dash line" - purple dashes on official Chinese maps that denote Beijing's historical claims over the South China Sea. Marcos' predecessor Duterte had Türkiye never to allow 'terror corridor' on border: Defense chief

ANKARA: Türkiye will never allow the formation of a "terror corridor" on its border, the country's national defense minister said on Friday, referring to terrorist groups such as Daesh/ISIS and the PKK/YPG. "We will never in any way allow the formation of a terror corridor or the activity of terrorists" on Türkiye's southern border, Hulusi Akar told reporters in the northwestern province of Canakkale. A total of 491 terrorists have been "neutralized" so far in Türkiye's ongoing cross-border campaign against the PKK/YPG terrorist group, he said, adding that only the terrorist organizations were targeted in the operation. "We have also done everything that needs to be done so far not to harm the coalition forces and civilians. We will continue to do so," he said. Calling on all our interlocutors to cut off their ties and not to support terrorists, he stressed Türkiye respects Iraq and Syria's territorial integrity and sovereign rights. Because the fight against Daesh/ISIS cannot be "done like this. The only army fighting hand-to-hand against Daesh/ISIS is Türkiye's army. And it is the Turk-

the raids, the SBU noted, adding that the search was organized "to find persons involved in illegal activities and items prohibited from circulation.' On Nov. 23 the European Solidarity party in Ukraine, led by former President Petro Poroshenko, announced a draft bill to ban the activities of the Russian Orthodox Church in the country. This came a day after the SBU raided the Kyiv Pechersk Lavra among other monasteries, such as the Korets Holy Trinity Monastery and the premises of the Sarn enskyi-Polska Eparchy. Security forces claimed to have uncovered pro-Russian literature, cash, and forged documents in the raids on the buildings of the church, which declared in May that it had cut ties with the Russian Orthodox Church in the wake of Russia's war on Ukraine.-DNA

> Hungary faces shortages in fuel

Budapest: A government-imposed price cap in Hungary is squeezing operators of independent fuel stations and leaving the state energy company struggling to keep up with demand, as drivers across the country are increasingly running into gas and diesel shortages at many filling stations. At hundreds of fuel stations across Hungary, a confusing mosaic of paper signs hang from the pumps to let customers know what gas type is available - or not - and at what price and quantity.

A sign at one station in Martonvasar, a town 20 miles (32 kilometers) southwest of Budapest, Hungary's capital, informs motorists they may only purchase 2 liters (a 1/2 gallon) of fuel at a reduced price set by the government more than a year ago. The quantity limit, the station's owner said, is the result of state energy company MOL failing to make any fuel deliveries to his business and many others like it for the past three weeks. "They reduced the supply to exactly zero, so fuel with a regulated price completely disappeared from the market for these stations," said Laszlo Gepesz, who owns the small station and is co-chair of Hungary's Association of Independent Filling Stations.–Agencies

need that now," a transcript of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s chat with journalists read. He was talking to reporters on the sidelines of an event in Quezon city, northeast of the capital Manila, on Thursday. In 2018, Manila and Beijing signed a deal to explore oil and gas reserves in the South China Sea, a hotspot of conflicting territorial claims by several countries besides China and

that is ours. For the Philippines' part, we have to follow the law. But the Chinese are saying that they own that and they want their own terms to be followed. That's the roadblock there," said Marcos, who is expected to pay a state visit to Beijing early next year. After Manila's decision to end talks with Beijing, China's Foreign Ministry had stressed on "joint oil and

DNA

signed the Distinguished

Visitors' Book. Welcoming

the guests, Commander of

the Azerbaijan Naval Forces,

Vice Admiral Subhan Bakirov

stressed that cooperation be-

tween the two countries in

claimed in 2019 that Chinese President Xi Jinping "offered the Philippines a controlling stake in a proposed joint energy venture in the WPS if it would set aside" the PCA ruling that went against Beijing. Locsin, however, had later refuted such claims, saying: "China did not attach such a condition to the proposed joint exploration deal."- Agencies

ish army that neutralized more than 4,000 terrorists," he said. Recently, Türkiye launched Operation Claw-Sword in northern Iraq and Syria, a cross-border aerial campaign against the PKK/YPG, which has hideouts across the Iraqi and Syrian borders where they plan and sometimes execute attacks on Turkish soil. Akar also urged Greece to abandon its actions and rhetoric that escalate tensions in the region, saying: "Let's solve the problems between the two nations through dialogue." Criticizing Greek armament efforts, he said Türkiye is not a threat and amassing arms is harming the welfare of the Turkish and Greek people. "Unfortunately, some politicians in Greece are stirring up trouble for their domestic political interests," he added.-Agencies

ditions or sexual orientation for political advertising.

Categories of data advertisers would be allowed to use include location and language and this would apply 60 days prior to an election. According to the text of the regulation they approved, these new measures are necessary because "the processing of personal data for such purposes (...) has been observed to have specific negative effects on citizens' rights including their freedoms of opinion and of information, to make political decisions and exercise their voting rights." "Such techniques may present particular threats to legitimate public interests, such as fairness, equal opportunities and transparency in the electoral process and the fundamental right to be informed in an objective. transparent and pluralistic way," it adds. –DNA

Heavy rains wreak havoc in southern Brazil

BUENOS AIRES: Brazil's southern state of Santa Catarina declared a state of emergency Thursday following heavy rains and two deaths. Governor Carlos Moisés, who announced the measure, underscored the need to protect lives and provide humanitarian assistance. "The moment is delicate and requires everyone's attention and care, especially on the roads and places where there is a risk of landslides and floods," he said in a press release.

He also advised people to avoid travelling amid the heavy rains. According to the press release, states of emergency are declared in instances of "flooding, fallen trees and landslides." In Santa Catarina, 882 people have been displaced due to the heavy rains, while two deaths were recorded in the area. Rescue teams in Santa Catarina have been using helicopters to assist stranded locals. Rains have also caused one death and forced over 2,000 people to leave their homes in the southeastern state of Espirito Santo, according to news portal G1. The state's governor, Renato Casagrande, said the situation "has worsened."-Agencies

Azerbaijan, Pakistan eye 2024 crucial time for politics bolstering military co-op

ANTARA

JAKARTA: President Joko Widodo reminded that 2024 is a crucial time for politics since during that time, Indonesia would host the largest democratic party simultaneously. The head of state made the remarks at the national consolidation meeting for preparations for the 2024 simultaneous elections, hosted by the General Election Commission at the Beach City Entertainment Center, Ancol, here on Friday. "2024 is a crucial political moment. We will host the biggest democratic party simultaneously in the same year. Elections for President and Vice President, House of Representatives, Regional Representative Council, Regional House of Representatives, and continued with Pilkada which will be held in the same year, namely 2024," he stated. Jokowi emphasized that the 2024 Election was a huge event that would determine the future of the nation and state and was a democratic party involving a lot of voters. According to the latest data, 189 million people were recorded as voters, who would participate in the 2024 simultaneous elections, with a voting time of around six hours. "Managing this is not easy, given the vast territory of Indonesia, with diverse geographical conditions, different from other countries. Imagine having to go to 17 thousand islands, some are by boat, ship, while some of the logistics distribution must be supported by the national defense force and police force, and the terrain is difficult," he stated. The head of state admitted that the national infrastructure was not truly perfect. There are good roads upon which toll roads have been built, but there are also roads that are still in poor condition. However, Jokowi expressed confidence that with experience in hosting elections, the commission and its stakeholders can prepare for the 2024 elections much better than before.

China-Arab summit to bring new opportunities BEIJING: The first China-Arab ID-19 vaccines cooperated with eration in crude oil and petrocountries have always enjoyed long with each other to a great extent,

Summit and China-Gulf States Summit scheduled to be held in Saudi Arabia this month will bring new opportunities for the regional development particularly to the Arab countries. This series of Summits at the end of 2022 are set to catch the eves of the whole world. Li Chen, Centre for China Studies and Co-Director of the Greater Bay Area Research Project said in an article issued here. He said, above all, Arab countries and China are fully capable of synergizing their development strategies. The "Belt and Road" Initiative and the development proposals of Arab countries are strongly associated

and concept by President Xi chemicals. At the same time, Jointly Share the Benefits of the China's development in new Development " is remarkably energy and renewable resourcrecognized and welcomed by es can offer more necessary Arab countries and its people. solutions to Arab countries to Therefore, the synergestic coexplore new development paths operation combined with "Belt and provide strong support and and Road" construction and assistance for Arab countries development planning of all to gradually realize economic Arab countries will effectively structural transformation. Chihighlight the advantages of the na and Arab countries will fur-Arab countries as the interther develop contracting coopsection of land and maritime eration in major infrastructure Silk Roads. Secondly, he said, projects to enhance trade facilithe resources markets of Arab tation while improving people's countries and China can be overall wellbeing. Third, in fully integrated. The two sides terms of epidemic prevention have deepened practical coopand control, the output of COV-

China in several Arab countries have not only fully met the vaccination needs of their own people, but also being exported to African countries as well, which opens up a new landscape for global epidemic control and medical industry. He said, as the first summit being held between China and Arab states, it is also the first faceto-face communication between Chinese and Arab leaders since the outbreak of COVID-19 and it is particularly the first major multilateral diplomatic event with China as one of the co-hosts after the successful hosting of the 20th CPC National Congress. China and Arab

standing close relations, in addition to frequent high-level visits, there have been strong partnership in strengthening regional security, stability, economic prosperity and development. The consensus reached by the heads of states during their meetings has also been enhanced and implemented in the previous successful China-Arab cooperation forums. In 2020 alone, trade between China and Arab countries reached US \$240 billion, making China the largest trading partner of Arab countries. This summit is about to unveil a magnificent prospect for the development of China and the Arab countries and bright future of China-Arab states relations, he concluded.-APP

BKAU: Commander of the Azerbaijan Naval Forces, Vice Admiral Subhan Bakirov has met with a delegation led by Chief of the Naval Staff of the Pakistan Navy, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi in Baku. First, an official welcoming ceremony was held in the Naval Forces. The Chief of the Naval Staff HƏRBİ DƏNİZ of the Pakistan Navy passed QÜVVƏLƏRİ along the guard of honor and the national anthems of both countries were performed. Admiral Muhammad Amiad Khan Niazi laid a wreath at a monument to national leader Heydar Aliyev erected in the territory of the military unit. Then the head the military, military-educaof the Pakistani delegation

the military sphere is based on friendly and fraternal relations. The delegation was given an extensive briefing on the history and activities of the Azerbaijan Naval Forces. Expressing gratitude for the hospitality, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi

emphasized the significance of the work carried out in the direction of further development of the Naval Forces of both countries. At the meeting, a detailed exchange of views on the expansion of cooperation between the Azerbaijan and Pakistan Naval Forces in

tional, and other spheres was held. Then the inspection of warships took place, and the delegation was informed about their tactical and technical characteristics, as well as the accommodation and nutrition of the ships' crew.





Biden 'prepared to sit down

if Putin' wants to end war

"I'm prepared to speak with Putin if in fact there is an interest in

him deciding he's looking for a way to end the war," Biden said



Briefs **PTI says** Azam Swati *'taken away'* by Quetta police

DNA

LAHORE: PTI chairman Imran Khan claimed on Friday that incarcerated party Senator Azam Swati – who was arrested earlier this week in a case pertaining to controversial tweets against the military - has been "taken away by the Quetta police' from Islamabad.

"Swati was moved to Pims (Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences) early morning [today] after suffering severe chest pains and breath-ing issues," the former premier said in a tweet.

"While test results were awaited, Quetta police got him discharged and took him away endangering his life," he claimed. Dawn.com reached out to the Quetta police but it has not confirmed the transfer yet. On November 27, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) arrested Swati - for the second time in less than two months - over a "highly obnoxious campaign of intimidating tweets [...] against state institutions".

Separate first information reports (FIRs) were registered against the PTI leader in Balochistan and Sindh as well for using "derogatory language" and "provok-ing the people against the army". Following the arrest, the Pakistan Electronic Media and Regulatory Authority (Pemra) prohibited media coverage of Swati on all satellite TV channels. On Thursday, an Islamabad court sent the senator on 14-day judicial remand.

Ukrainian Embassies receive animal eves: Official

Scholz tells Vladimir Putin to withdraw troops from Ukraine

BERLIN: German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Friday called on Russian President Vladimir Putin to withdraw his troops from Ukraine in order to reach a "diplomatic solution" to the war which began with Moscow's invasion on 24 February. During an hourlong telephone conversation between the two leaders, Scholz condemned Russian airstrikes against civilian infrastructure in Ukraine and stressed Germany's determination to support the Ukrainians in ensuring their defence capabilities against Russian aggression. "Germany is determined to continue supporting Ukraine against Russian aggression," said German government spokesman Steffen Hebestreit. Scholz urged Putin to withdraw Russian troops as soon as possible, but the Russian president used the call to denounce the West's "destructive line" on Ukraine, saying that strikes against Ukrainian energy infrastructure were "necessary and unavoidable". "It has been pointed out that the Russian armed forces have long avoided high-precision missile strikes on certain targets in Ukraine, but such measures have become necessary and inevitable in the face of provocative attacks from Kyiv," the Kremlin said in a statement after the first call between Scholz and Putin since mid-September. According to Putin, Kyiv is responsible for the explosions which partly destroyed the Russian-built bridge connecting illegally-annexed Crimea with the Russian mainland - and said therefore Moscow is within its rights to bomb Ukraine's energy infrastructure. - Agencies

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON: US president Joe Biden and his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron pledged to hold Russia accountable for "atrocities" and "war crimes" committed in Ukraine, according to a joint statement issued on Thursday. The two leaders addressed reporters following talks in the White House's Oval Office, where they renewed their commitment to fighting Russia's "brutal" invasion of Ukraine and supporting those affected by the conflict. Thursday's news conference is part of Macron's state visit to the US - the first of Biden's presidency - in which the leaders are

celebrating more than 200 years of US-French relations. While speaking to journalists at the event, Biden also said that he was open to dialogue with Russian President Vladimir Putin, provided he made concrete plans to end his aggression against Ukraine. "I'm prepared to speak with Putin if in fact there is an interest in him deciding he's looking for a way to end the war," Biden said. "If that's the case, in consultation with my French and my NATO friends, I'll be happy to sit down with Putin to see what he wants, has in mind. He hasn't done that yet." Among other issues raised by Macron and Biden were relations with China as well as the US's Inflation Reduction Act, which the French President had described as being "super aggressive" against Eu-

ropean companies. Biden struck a conciliatory tone and agreed to potential "tweaks" to avoid triggering a trade war and alienating his allies. "We are going to continue to create manufacturing jobs in Ameri-ca, but not at the expense of Europe," he said. The two Presidents presented a united front at Thurs-

day's press conference, despite a growing transatlantic rift over the Inflation Reduction Act's green subsidies which has loomed behind the scenes and strained the nations' partnership. The day will conclude with a lavish state dinner, for which 200 live lobsters have been flown in from the Northeastern state of Maine

Russia 'not ready' for talks on condition of withdrawal: Krimlin

MOSCOW: Russia is not ready for negotiations with the US on the condition of "withdrawal from Ukraine," but Russian President Vladimir Putin remains open to contacts, the Kremlin said on Friday. The remarks by spokesman Dmitry Peskov came a day after US President Joe Biden said he is prepared to speak with the Russian president if he shows an interest in ending the war that started in February. "The special military operation continues. But of course, the most preferable way to achieve our interests is through peaceful, diplomatic means," Peskov told a press briefing in Moscow. He reminded that before starting its "special military operation," Putin tried to ease concerns peacefully, through diplomatic efforts, but his initiative had not found understanding in the US, NATO and the Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe. Peskov added that the US "refusal to recognize new Russian territories" complicates the search for common ground, referring to Luhansk, Donetsk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine where referendums dubbed as "sham" by the West were held in September. Humanitarian groups have been helping out, for example providing heated tents where people can gather to stay warm as the coldest part of winter approaches and charge up their phones. And there's been assistance too from the international community, sending equipment to help Ukraine restore as much power as it can to civilian population. – Agencies

KSA extends term of \$3bin deposited with SBP

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) announced on Friday that Saudi Arabia has extended the term for the \$3 billion deposited with the central bank. "Implementing the directives of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud – may Allah protect him; the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) extended the term for the deposit provided by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the amount of 3 billion dollars to the State Bank of Pakistan," said the central bank in a statement. The SBP said that the extension of the term of the deposit was a "continuation of the support provided" by Rivadh to Pakistan to shore up Pakistan's foreign currency reserves and help Islamabad in "facing the economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic".

The deposit has also contributed to Pakistan's aim of meeting "external sector challenges and achieve sustainable economic growth". In September of this year, the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) had confirmed the rollover of the deposit for a year. It was expected to mature on December 5.

As many as 13,000 Ukrainian soldiers killed in war: Aide

WEB DESK

KYIV: As many as 13,000 Ukrainian soldiers have been killed in battle since Russia invaded the country nine months ago, according to an official in Kyiv.

from The comments Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, appeared to be the first upate on the number of figh ers killed since late August when the head of the armed forces said nearly 9,000 troops had died. "We have official figures from the general staff, we have official figures from the top command, and they amount to (between) 10,000 and 12,500 to 13,000 killed," Podolyak told Ukraine's Channel 24 on Thursday. "We are open in talking about the number of dead," he added, saying more soldiers had been wounded than had died. The number of military casualties has not been confirmed by Ukraine's armed forces. Podolyak added that Zelenskyy would make the official data public "when the right moment comes". Ukraine's military mounted a lightning counterattack in September that saw them win back swathes of territory in the northeast and south of the country, including the strategically-important city of Kherson which had been occupied by Russia shortly after its February 24 invasion.

SC adjourns contempt case hearing against Imran Khan

ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC) on Friday adjourned the hearing of a contempt of court case against former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan till next week. A five-member larger bench of the SC, headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial, conducted hearing of the case and listened to the arguments of Imran Khan's lawyer in response to the reply submitted by the government. Salman Akram Raja, lawyer for Imran Khan, argued before the court that the government



AGENCIES

KYIV: A Ukrainian official said that Ukrainian embassies and consulates in six European countries have recently received packages containing animals' eyes. Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Oleh Nikolenko wrote on Facebook that the "bloody parcels" were received by the Ukrainian embassies in Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Croatia and Italy, and by consulates in Naples, Italy; Krakow, Poland and the Czech city of Brno. He said that "we are studying the meaning of this message." Nikolenko said they arrived after a package containing an explosive device sent to the Ukrainian Embassy in Madrid on Wednesday that injured an employee.

Nikolenko quoted Ukrainian foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba as saying, "We have reason to believe that a wellplanned campaign of terror and intimidation of Ukrainian embassies and consulates is taking place."

UAE sends \$10 million medical supplies to Gaza

MONITORING DESK

DUBAI: The UAE has sent a convoy of six trucks, load ed with 85 tons of medical supplies worth \$10 million to support hospitals in Gaza, the Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported on Friday.

The medical aid will be delivered through Rafah Crossing Point with aims to support the healthcare sector in Gaza, the report added. "The UAE has always sought to provide all possible support to improve the humanitarian response to help the Palestinian brothers, and to provide the necessary needs for the people there, especially women and children," read the statement. Recently, the UAE pledged \$25 million aid for Makassed Hospital in East Ierusalem. The aid will equip the hospital with essential medical equipment expected to benefit about 130,000 patients.

had attached old video clips in its reply which he had already dismantled. Justice Mazahir Ali Akbar Naqvi questioned the government's lawyer how the court could believe those video clips were true. "Has a forensic of these video clips been carried out?" Lawyer Salman Butt said that the evidence had been produced before court, adding that the court then could do whatever it perceived good. - DNA

ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Ishaq Dar presides over a meeting of Economic Coordination Committee (ECC). - DNA

PM Shehbaz accepts Gen Faiz' request for early retirement

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has accepted the request of former ISI director general and Commander of Bahawalpur Corps Lt-General Faiz Hameed for early retirement. The prime minister gave approval to the Faiz Hameed's request for premature retirement which was due in April 2023. There were earlier reports that Faiz Hameed had decided to retire prematurely from the service. The development came after the appointment of General Syed Asim Munir as Chief of the Army Staff and General Sahir Shamshad Mirza as Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee. Lt-General Azhar Abbas, whose name was also included in the list of six senior Army officers forwarded to PM House for top appointments, had also reportedly decided to take premature retirement from service. Lt Gen Faiz Hameed,

who was currently serving as commander of the Bahawalpur Corps, was due to retire on April 30, 2023 while Lt-Gen Azhar Abbas was serving as the Chief of General Staff (CGS) at the moment and his retirement is due on April 27, 2023. - DNA

US designates AQIS, TTP militants as terrorists

The US Department of State designated the four AQIS and TTP leaders as SDGTs under Executive Order (E.O.) 13224, as amended, for their leadership roles in their respective groups WASHINGTON: The United States De-

partment of State on Thursday listed the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) number two, Qari Amjad, as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT), along with three leaders of Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS). Qari Amjad, also known as Mufti Muzahim, is a senior commander of the Pakistani Taliban and its 'defense minister' from Dir. According to US officials, he has overseen operations in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P).

The Al-Qaeda South Asian branch leaders include the AQIS' self-styled 'emir', Osa-

ma Mehmood, deputy leader Atif Yahya Ghouri and Muhammad Maruf - who is responsible for AQIS' recruiting branch. The US Department of State designated the four AQIS and TTP leaders as SDGTs under Executive Order (E.O.) 13224, as amended, for their leadership roles in their respective groups.

The designations are "part of our relentless efforts to ensure that terrorists do not use Afghanistan as a platform for international terrorism," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement. He added that the US will "continue to use all relevant tools to uphold our commitment to see to it that international terrorists are not able to operate with impunity in Afghanistan". By listing the four as global terrorists, the US State Department and Treasury Department made it a crime in the United States to engage in transactions with them, blocking any assets they have in the country. - DNA

CNN fires hundreds of employees amid uncertainty

WEB DESK

NEW YORK: International news network CNN bade farewell to hundreds of employees on Thursday amid what the outlet called "the deepest cuts to the organization in years." The fairly new CEO of the network, Chris Licht, who took over in May, said in an all-staff memo that the layoffs were a "gut punch" adding that it was hard to let go of the valuable staffers.

"To our departing colleagues, I want to express my gratitude for your dedicated and tireless service and for your many contributions to CNN," the memo shared by CNBC read.

The CEO has warned the employees last month about the looming crisis and consequent cut down. Licht said that paid contributors would be impacted the most, with the outlet depending on its own journalists. It has not vet been revealed exactly how many people have been fired by the number is estimated to be in hundreds out of the 4.400 employees.

Inside China's fight over the future of zero-Covid

A single Covid case can trigger lockdown of a building or residential compound, and entire cities have been sealed off with only hours of notice. Youth unemployment is at record highs and economic growth has plummeted this year, with factories hit and supply chains disrupted by lockdowns and other restrictions

AGENCIES

SHANGHAI: Samuel Ren is sick of zero-COVID. "Omicron is not a threat, it is just like a normal cold," said the IT worker in his mid-20s in Shanghai, describing China's ongoing lockdown measures as "ridiculous". His frustration about civil rights and economic damage won't sway Cai Shiyu, a 70-year-old resident of the megacity who has heart disease and high blood pressure. "This isn't like a cold that just goes away after a while," said Cai, who feels one case of COVID-19 is too many to tolerate. "Otherwise the epidemic will definitely rebound." Opinions about President Xi Jinping's signature "zero-COVID" policy vary wildly across China, a country often viewed from overseas as a surveillance state that enforces iron discipline. The fierce debate, which has ignited several anti-lockdown protests, illustrates the difficulties facing Xi and his government in relaxing the world's most rigid COVID rules while heading off national discontent. After nearly three years, a significant loosening of zero-COVID measures has been signalled by senior government officials and public health experts. Vice Premier Sun Chunlan said on Thursday that China's

health system had "withstood the test" of COVID, allowing further adjustments to state policies. This unnerves people such as Cai, who say a low death toll testifies to the merits of the hardline approach.

Officially, there have been about 5,200 COVID deaths in China, versus more than 1 million in the United States, 690,000 in Brazil and 212,000 in Britain. A U.S.-scale death rate would have seen over 4 million die in the country of 1.4 billion people. The potential risks of moving away from strict curbs, just as daily infections hit record levels, are heightened by comparatively low vaccination rates among the elderly and concerns about the resilience of the healthcare system. Syler Sun, an advertising industry worker in Shanghai, reflected the conflict felt by many people about zero-COVID rules in the face of the Omicron variant, which tends to cause less severe illness. "We need some changes. But as for what these changes will be, I'm don't know and I'm not smart enough," Sun said. "You can have zero-COVID, but you can't have a healthy economy, and you can have a healthy economy, but you can't have zero-COVID." China's National Health Commission didn't immediately respond to a request for comment about its plans for COVID containment. Beijing says its policies have always "put people first" and have been designed to protect the most lives at the lowest cost. It has also said that recent policy adjustments are a refinement and not an abandonment of zero-COVID.

The measures are indeed tough. A single COVID case can trigger the lockdown of a building or residential compound, and entire cities have been sealed off with only hours of notice. Youth unemployment is at record highs and economic growth has plummeted this year, with factories hit and supply chains disrupted by lockdowns and other restrictions. "If we continue to handle this virus with the same policies used at the start of the epidemic, it feels a little like using an anti-aircraft gun to kill mosquitoes," Wang Weizheng, a Wuhan-based doctor, said on Chinese social media site Weibo.

Recent decisions to cut quarantine times and scale back testing requirements have been widely interpreted on social media and by analysts as the first tentative shift away from zero-COVID. Many have welcomed the changes, but others remain wary.

Laura Yasaitis, a public health expert at the Eurasia Group think-tank who follows China's zero-COVID policies, said fear of the virus likely varied widely across the country, as well as within cities or provinces. "Even these recent hesitant moves to loosen restrictions have led to reactions that hint at unease among the general public," she said. She pointed to an incident last month in Hebei province's Shijiazhuang where authorities were forced to backtrack on a decision to shut down free COVID testing booths after local people complained of potential outbreak risks. Many of the Foxconn (2354. TW) workers who broke out of a "closed loop" factory in Zhengzhou last month said they did so because they were afraid of getting infected. A study by Brown University researchers published in August, drawing on social media data and interviews with Shanghai residents, found that zero-COVID policies had received strong support in China, with compliance driven by "gruesome scenes" from countries where COVID measures were looser. Indeed, higher death tolls in many other countries have bolstered public support for the government's policies among some sections of the population. "I used to live abroad and I feel as though China's control has been much better than abroad," said Wang Jian, a 32-year-old office manager in Shanghai. "There are different ways to handle the virus, China's is just determined by China's national conditions, and, looking at numbers, I think it's OK."

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