A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency** Soon From LAHORE & KARACHI www.islamabadpost.com.pk **ISLAMABAD EDITION** Monday, December 19, 2022 Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper Price Rs. 25 **Lionel Messi inspires Elon restores Rallies held** Argentina to their in solidarity accounts of **3rd World Cup Win** journalists with Bilawal **Detailed News On Page-08 Detailed News On Page-01 Detailed News On Page-08** Imran failed

Briefs No risk of default for **Pakistan**

DNA

Infor-



Aurangzeb Paki says stan does not face any default risk. In a statement she said Imran Khan should explain how he looted the money of the nation and sold precious gifts of Toshakhana. She claimed that Imran Khan has been asking

benefit him in any way. PPP ready to contest elections

the Election Commissioner

for an NRO, which will not

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and

Social

Protection Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday said that PPP was ready to contest elections in Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa if PTI dissolved assemblies in the two provinces "PPP's leadership, workers, and candidates are ready to contest elections in Punjab and KP as per the wish of PTI chairman", he said during a news conference held here. Faisal Kundi said he would ask all the members of his party and collation parties to fulfill Imran Khan's wish of conducting elections in the two provinces.

Four cops martyred in Lakki Marwat

Nobody has claimed responsibility for the attack however it is believed TTP may be behind these attacks

Elahi defends fmr COAS

No action against

Gen Bajwa if came

to power: Imran

PTI chief says holding polls would be

BUREAU REPORT / DNA

LAKKI MARWAT: At least four police personnel were martyred and as many others wounded in an overnight terrorist attack on the Bargai police station of Lakki Marwat. Terrorists launched an armed assault on the police station from two sides. A fierce exchange of fire took place between the police and the outlaws that left four policemen dead and as many injured. The attackers escaped after the assault. Police have launched a search operation in the area for the saboteurs. Constables Ibrahim, Imran, Khairur Rahman and Sabz Ali are among the deceased.

Condemning the attack, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Mehmood Khan sought report on the matter and ordered best medical aid for the injured cops. "The incident is extremely unfortunate. The sacrifices of the martyred will not go in vain," he vowed. The law and order situation in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has gone south over the last few weeks as an increase has been noticed in threats and attacks on security forces as well as high-profile political personalities. Provincial spokesperson of the Awami National Party (ANP) Samar Bilour has also shared that their provincial president Aimal Wali Khan had received a call about a plan of attack on his life. Samar said that their leadership's protection is the state's

Continued on Page 06

President, PM condemn attack

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday strongly condemned a terrorist attack on Baragai police station in district Lakki Marwat, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The president expressed the resolve of continuing efforts to completely eliminate the remnants of terrorism, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. The prime minister said the entire nation saluted the huge sacrifices of police officers and jawans in their fight against terrorism. Paying tribute to the supreme sacrifices of the police personnel, the prime minister said that terrorists were the open enemies of Pakistan and the nation. "Those who have been shielding the nation against terrorists are our heroes," PM Office Media Wing, in a press release, quoted the prime minister as saving. The prime minister further said that elimination of terrorists, their supporters and facilitators had been the national priority.

Continued on Page 06

to create controversy, says Kh Asif

Says PTI Chairman Imran Khan. during his around fouryear tenure in government, destroyed the national economy

SIALKOT: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif has said that former prime minister Imran Khan attempted to make the national institutions controversial, but failure was his destiny.

Addressing a Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) workers' convention here on Sunday, he said that Imran Khan's biggest regret is that he could not get an opportunity to select the army chief of his choice, adding that he wanted to appoint an army chief who would allow him to extend his rule for another 10 years.

Kh Asif said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan, during his around four-year tenure in government, destroyed the national economy. He said people were suffering as a consequence of Imran Khan government's failure and wrong policies.

He said Imran Khan used to say that he would commit suicide but not take loans. However, in the history of the country, no government took as much

France dethroned Messi does it for Argentina

Argentina wins the prestigious World Cup after 36 long years



PML-N to escape with ECP

DNA



President Fawad Chaudhry hoped on Sunday that the PML-N would not use

its "subsidiary" ECP to run away from elections. The PTI leader took to Twitter to say that they are afraid that the PML-N might try to escape the people's court with the help of its "partner" ECP. He added that they would follow the PML-N. The former Information said that in a democratic country, it is the people who have the ultimate authority to make decisions, and the PDM govt should acknowle edge the people's rights.



ALI HAMZA

LAHORE: Former prime minister and Paki-

Continued on Page 06



DNA

LAHORE: Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) senior leader Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has been tasked with preventing the Punjab Assembly from stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran being dissolved at the hands of Imran Khan on Sunday said that he has a "person- Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf al" dispute with former army chief General (PTI), well-placed sources revealed. (retd) Qamar Javed Bajwa but he will not The development came during multitake any action against him if he comes ple meetings between Prime Minister into power again. He made these remarks Shahbaz Sharif, Pakistan Peoples Parduring a meeting with a delegation of Coun- ty (PPP) Co-chairperson Asif Ali Zardcil of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE) ari and Shujaat Hussain. PM Shehbaz at his Zaman Park residence in Lahore. and Asif Zardari decided not to contact

Continued on Page 06

loan as the previous government of Imran Khan did. The federal defence minister said that the coalition government in Centre was trying day and night for the last eight months to improve and revive the country's economy. - APP

PTI MNAs to appear before NA speaker

on

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DNA

LAHORE: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) lawmakers have decided to appear before National Assembly Speaker Raja Parvez Ashraf for the verification of their resignations, Geo News reported Sunday citing sources. As per the sources, the members of the National Assembly (MNAs) will either appear before the speaker on Wednesday or Thursday. The date will be finalised by party Chairman Imran Khan during the consul-

tative meeting today, said the sources. The sources further stated that the speaker of the National Assembly has not yet given time to confirm the resignations of the lawmakers.

SPORTS DESK

LUSAIL: Argentina beat France in the penalty shootout of the FIFA World Cup 2022 final on Sunday at Qatar's Lusail Stadium to become the final went

winners. The to a penalty shootout Sunday after it finished 3-3 extra-time. The match end-2-2 after 90 minbut Lionel Messi a goal to put Argentina the 108th 3-2 ahead in minute before Ky-

lian Mbappe completed his hat-trick two minutes

before the end of extra-time. The closing ceremony for the World Cup was earlier celebrated ahead of the final. Fans thronged the stadium before the match's start. Messi is seeking to win the honour that has so far eluded one of football's greatest-ever players. In his way stands the prolific Mbappe and a France team aiming to win back-to-back

World Cups for FIFA WORLD CUP the first time since Pele's e d Qatar2022 Brazil in 1958 and utes 1962. Messi, 35, utes utes 1962. Messi, 35, poked in has collected seven Ballon d'Or awards for the best player in the world, but the last time he reached the World Cup final it ended in the bitter disappointment of defeat to Germany in 2014.

Pakistan to import gas from Azerbaijan

Russian Petroleum Minister will visit Pakistan next month

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In order to cater to the rising energy demand during winter, the government has decided to import additional gas from Azerbaijan in next couple of months. Talking to a private TV channel, Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik said that Pakistan will import 20,0000 tons of additional gas from Azerbaijan during the

next two months to meet its demand in the country. He said Russian Petroleum Minister will visit Pakistan next month for holding negotiations on an agreement for the import of crude oil from Russia. Musadik Malik was confident that Russia would export crude oil to Pakistan at a discounted rate. He said the government is working on TAPI gas pipeline project to import 1300 billion MF Gas yearly from Azerbaijan to meet the gas shortage in the country. He said our gas reservoirs are decreasing every year which causes additional pressure to import maximum gas to meet the demand.

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Inside.

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veiled resistance from the chief ministers of the Punjab and KPK provinces the PTI Chairman Imran Khan has

finally decided to call it a day. During a televised address on Saturday, he announced to dissolve both these assemblies on December 23 saying he had decided to 'sacrifice' his governments in the larger interest of the country. While a mixed reaction continues to pour in about this decision, Imran Khan seems to have failed those who believed he might take a big U-turn again by avoiding dissolution of the assemblies. Interestingly, the government officials have been pressing him to leave assemblies and try his luck in the elections and when he has done it, the entire official machinery is now seen taking U-turn



PTI Chairman was flanked by the chief ministers of Punjab and KPK, which prima facie means his decision, has a clear backing of both the heads of the provincial government. Nevertheless, the decision to dissolve assemblies on December 23 and not immediately has cast some doubts albeit Imran Khan is quite sure things will go as per his choosing come what may. While the PTI seems to link this delayed decision to the acceptance of resignations in the National, those well-connected to power corridors are of the view it was Punjab Chief Minister Peraiz Elahi who had wished to continue for at least a week if not more in order to settle his ongoing projects. The Punjab government has launched huge projects incurring a cost of billions of rupees. The Punjab CM and his cohorts perhaps were dead sure they will bring Imran round for a delayed dissolution, at least till February next year. In this case

Imran Khan pulls the trigger: what next? they would have enough time to execute their projects and thus make their fortunes. The KPK CM however did not lay any preconditions for the dissolution despite, or he had no guts to do so, despite the fact an early dissolution may deprive him and his team of making fortunes. Ostensibly, running a government happens to be a profitable business for those at the helm of affairs hence nobody would like to leave power. The PDM has four days if it really wants

to stymie this dissolution. They have legal options including tabling a no-trust move against the chief ministers, though legal experts believe they cannot do it when the assembly is in session. Another option turns out to be the imposition of the Governor's Rule. The government indeed can do it but the move may backfire since there are not solid grounds available for the government to take this extreme step. The third option, which appears to be more relevant, is -re-engagement with the PTI leadership to evolve a consensus on an acceptable date for the general elections. That may be perhaps another reason that Imran Khan postponed the decision till Friday with a view

to giving the dialogue another chance. The PML N and its allied parties are not ready for early elections simply because with the baggage of nearly eight months of governance or bad governance, they cannot face the electorates. All their tall claims made before ousting the Imran government regarding turning around the fate of this country have evaporated in the air. Going to elections under these circumstances may turn out be suicidal for the PDM.

But then that is the only way forward. Now it is up to the sitting government to rise to the occasion by sensing the gravity of the situation. By-elections in two provincial assemblies and on 123 National Assembly seats would mean about 70 percent of Pakistanis would be taking part in the electoral drill. In this scenario it would be difficult for the federal and Sindh governments to continue. As Imran Khan claimed in his speech that the former army chief Gen. ® Bajwa was solely responsible for the removal of his government and bringing in these 'thieves'. The incoming Establishment has made it clear it would not meddle in political affairs, so when it would be PTI

Vs rest of the political parties then of course PTI would have an upper hand and that is exactly where the shoe pinches. In the prevailing political situation it would be next to impossible for the PDM to defeat the PTI without any 'alien' support, as was the case with the PTI in the 2018 elections.

There is also a strong likelihood that the Federal govt would like to prolong a caretaker set up in case it is not able to stop the dissolution of both assemblies. The PTI chairman however warned about this during his speech saying there was no constitutional provision to linger on the by-elections beyond a period of 90 days. We still believe holding early general elections is the only way out. Any other adventure or misadventure would only multiply the economic woes and take political instability to new heights. Without political stability the economic stability would remain a distant dream. All said and done, we know how quickly intentions, fortunes and alliances change in Pakistan's politics. Therefore the PTI leadership needs to keep its fingers crossed till the time the dissolution finally takes place!!

NATIONAL

Islamabad **POST** Monday, December 19, 2022

Swiss funding to boost for Refugees in Pakistan

02

ISLAMABAD :UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, has welcomed a contribution of US \$5.6 million from the Government of Switzerland as this contribution will be directly aimed at addressing the education and livelihoods needs of refugees and host communities in Pakistan, over a four-year period. In a unique undertaking, the Swiss Development Cooperation with the South and Swiss Humanitarian Aid joined forces in coordination with the Swiss State Secretariat for Migration to pilot the multi-year funding and combine development and humanitarian sources of funding - with UNHCR Pakistan being the first recipient of such mixed funding, said a press release. The Swiss contribution concentrates on refugee and Pakistani children and youth, to ensure their right to quality education, participation, protection and to enhance their prospects for life and work. This includes improving school infrastructure, removing financial barriers to school-attendance, and supporting children at risk of school drop-out, including girls and children with special needs to access quality education.-APP

FESCO issues shutdown program

FAISALABAD :Faisalabad Electric Supply Company (FESCO) issued shutdown program for Monday due to necessary repair, maintenance and expansion of electricity lines. According to the program issued by the company here on Sunday, power supply from Hindoana feeder linked with 132-KV Chiniot grid station will remain suspended from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. while Marzi Pura, Raza Abad, Subhan Abad, Kashmir Road, GM Abad, Aminpur, Langrana, Qadir Abad, Madina Abad, Ahmad Abad, Faiz Abad, Siddupura, Sindhu, Rehman Abad, Shehbaz Pur, Khurdpur, Lvallpur Oil Refinery, Prokianwala, Elyas, Siddique Abad, Masha and Tauseef Enterpr feeder attached with 132-KV Narwala Road grid station will observe shutdown from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Monday (December 19). Similarly, electricity supply from Katchery Bazaar and Fareed feeders connected with 132-KV Sammundri grid station, D-Ground and National Colony feeders originating from 220-KV Jaranwala Road grid station, new Dijkot feeder linked with 220-KV Sammundri Road grid station, Saeed Abad and Rasheed Abad feeders attached with 132-KV University grid station, Chiniot Road feeder connected with 132-KV Aminpur grid station, Islampura, ABC Road and Afghan Abad feeders originating from 132-KV Jhang Road grid station, GIC feeder linked with 132-KV Sammundri Road grid station, Momin Abad feeder attached with 132-KV Factory Area grid station. Faisalabad Road feeder connected with 132-KV Chiniot grid station, Lahore Road, Theraj Shaheed and Canal Road feeders originating from 132-KV Jaranwala grid station.-APP

PTA hosts Workshop on Gender Inclusion Strategy

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), in collaboration with UNESCO Pakistan, hosted a consultative workshop in Lahore for the development of digital gender inclusion strategy. The workshop, held at PTA's Lahore Zonal Office, was the second of a series of five consultative workshops being organized to collect multi-stakeholder experts' input for a strategy to reduce digital gender divide in Pakistan. The workshop was conducted by Ms. Sadaf Khan, UNESCO consultant. Experts from



various stakeholder groups including Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA), telecom operators, academia, and

digital gender rights groups participated in the workshop. The objective is to ensure that the gender inclusion strategy is responsive

to the needs of the people and can be effectively integrated into the systems that are already in place. This strategy will help PTA to

coordinate a holistic effort, with other public and private sector stakeholders, to tackle various barriers to women's use of mobile and ICTs.

Last month, the workshop was conducted in Peshawar and the next workshops are planned to be held in Karachi, Quetta and Islamabad.

World should help migrants workers: ILO

ISLAMABAD :The International community must do better to ensure the world's 169 million migrant workers are able to realize their basic human and labour rights, says ILO Director-General, Gilbert F. Houngbo, in a message released for International Migrants Day on Sunday.Too many of the 169 million migrant workers in the world today are unable to exercise their basic rights. This leaves them invisible,

vulnerable and undervalued larly vulnerable to abuses.

for their contributions to The International Labour society. The vulnerability of migrant workers to various forms of discrimination is exacerbated when it intersects with other grounds such as race, ethnicity and gender. Migrants do not only go missing on high-risk and desperate journeys. Many migrant domestic, agricultural and other workers are isolated and out of reach of those who could protect them. Undocumented migrants are particu-

Organization supports governments, employers and workers to make fair labour migration a reality. Like all workers, migrant workers are entitled to the protection of international human rights and labour standards, including freedom of association and collective bargaining, non-discrimination and safe and healthy working environments. Migrant workers should also be able to realize their rights to social protection, development and

recognition. To make these rights a reality, we need to acknowledge the key importance of fair recruitment including the need to eliminate recruitment fees and costs charged to migrant workers which can help eradicate human trafficking and forced labour. Access to decent work is a key strategy to realize migrants' development potential and contribution to society. We must recognize that injustices suffered by migrant workers are injustices to us all.-APP

Arid Agriculture University to hold two-day workshop

RAWALPINDI :Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agricultural University is going to hold a two-day workshop on "Capacity Building and Risk Assessment of Punjab Probation/Payroll Officers" in the light of a research project approved by Higher Education Commission to reclaim criminals. convicts and inmates of Punjab prisons as useful citizens of the society. The workshop will be held from December 20-21, here at the University alongwith international and national partners of the project who will shed light on modern standards and methods to make prisoners, convicts and accused persons useful citizens of the society. Professor Mazhar Hussain Bhutta, Principal Investigator Officer and Chairman of the Department of Criminology and Sociology, Pir Meher Ali Shah Arid Agricultural University told APP that the workshop is being organised under the HEC-approved research project "Revamping Probation Services: Assessing risks, needs and strengths of offenders on probation in Punjab, Pakistan." He said that the international academic partner of this project is Dr. Shelley Brown who is Professor of forensic psychology, and Director, Gender and Crime Lab at Carleton University Canada. However, the other partners included the Department of Law, Policy and Procedure of Fatima Jinnah Women University, Probation and Payroll Services Department Punjab, National Police Bureau and research departments of related institutions are included. Prof. Dr. Mazhar Hussain Bhutta further informed about the two-day workshop that Prof. Dr. Shelley Brown will address online in this workshop while 15 probation officers nominated by Punjab Probation and Payroll Services Department, Additional IG of Punjab Prisons, Ministry of Director General of National Academy for Prisoner Administration, Deputy Director of National Police Bureau of Pakistan and Director of Training and Research NAB Headquarters and Head of Department of Law and Policy of Fatima Jinnah Women University will also share their thoughts on various topics.-APP

CDA to formulate comprehensive plan on waste management

Woman along with two kids abducted

WAH CANTT :A woman along with her two kids were abducted by unknown persons in the limits of Taxila Police station on Sunday. Muhammad Rafeeq has reported to Police that his wife along with his two sons including Aabid aged 7 years and Ghulam Mustfa aged 11 was going to seminary when they were abducted by unknown persons.

Taxila Police registered a case and launched further investigation.-APP

Gas companies laying 10,707km pipelines

ISLAMABAD, Dec 18 (AP-P):The two state-owned companies, SNGPL and SSGC, are in process of laying almost 10,707-kilometer pipelines to reinforce gas transmission networks in their operational areas across the country during the current fiscal year. The Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) would place 9,605 kilometers and Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) 1,102 transmission and distribution pipelines in their respective areas during 2022-23 aimed at improving the efficiency of the commodity supply to domestic, industrial, and commercial consumers.

The companies would collectively spend funds amounting to Rs 113.899 billion on the upgradation of the gas transmission and distribution system. "The SNGP and SSGC have planned to invest Rs 27,669 million on transmission projects, Rs 77,484 million on distribution projects, and Rs 8,746 million on other projects bringing the total investment of Rs 113,899 million during the fiscal year 2022-23," according to an official document available with APP. –APP

Decorated Christmas tree brings festive sparkle ISLAMABAD, Dec 18 (AP-



RAWALPINDI: A large number of people standing in queue for purchasing flour on subsidy rates by provincial government. - APP

Indonesian housing project for flood victims

DNA

SUIAWAL: The Muslim philanthropic organization of Indonesia, Dompet Dhuafa has completed the construction of 10 climate resilient model houses for Pakistani flood victims in District Sujawal, Sindh Province. The Ambassador of Indonesia Mr. Adam M. Tugio chaired the hybrid session of project completion ceremony and symbolically handed over the keys to Mr. Muhammad Hasan Rind, representing the flood affectees. "As

brotherly nations, Indo-Dompet Dhuafa also built two model houses in the nesia shares sorrows of Pakistani people caused nearby area. Indonesia and by recent floods and the Pakistan have strong bonds reconstruction of these of brotherhood and this houses are manifestation humanitarian aid reflects of our solidarity", added the strong partnership and the envoy. The housing promutual cooperation to supgram for flood victims in port each other in difficult Pakistan by Dompet Dhuafa times. "We hope that assisprovided 10 brick houses, 4 tance from the government public toilets and one waand people of Indonesia will ter well. Each house has a reduce the sufferings of flood size of 15x20 feet with two affected communities and bed rooms and one living support the rehabilitation room. This model housing and reconstruction process", project worth around USD Ambassador Tugio said in 35.000 has been complethis concluding remarks. ed in 27 days. In October, Earlier, in September 2022,

the Indonesian government dispatched the first batch of flood relief aid weighing around 90 tons followed by sending the team of 29 Indonesian health professionals to Sindh Province. The fourth batch of Indonesian additional logistic assistance is expected to arrive in Pakistan next week. President Joko Widodo also pledged to provide humanitarian grant of USD 1 million which will be sent directly to NDMA of Pakistan. The disbursement process is expected to be finalised before the end of the year.

ISLAMABAD : The Capital Development Authority (CDA) would formulate a comprehensive plan for the disposal of waste by using the latest technology to ensure cleanliness and protection of the environment. Talking to APP, an official of the CDA said the wastes were being temporarily and regularly disposed off in deep ravines and ditches. CDA had already acquired Sector I-12 in the area earmarked by Planning Wing, he added. "The civic agency has initiated the process for survey and study on existing waste management system and it is in the process of implementation." He further said that steps were being taken to formulate a mechanism for the disposal of such wastes as per international standards of sanitation to provide a healthy environment to the residents. "Solid Waste Management Operations in Islamabad are conducted by following the SOPs for waste management", he added.-APP

P):With only a few days left in the grand festival of Christmas, the Christian community in the federal capital like other parts of the country has started decorating Christmas trees for their homes, offices and street corners with the help of embellishments, following the old tradition. The offices, shops, malls and hotels in the federal capital have also placed the ornamented Christmas tree to share the happiness of the festival with the members of the Christian community and attract visitors.-APP



VC UAJK calls for effective strategies to train workforce

DNA

ABBOTTABAD: The University Vice-Chancellor of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK) Prof Dr. Muhammad Kaleem Abbasi has said that the demand for skilled human resources in the medical field is increasing with each passing day across the globe and we need to adopt effective strategies to train the clinical and non-clinical healthcare workforce to take advantage of it. He was addressing a reception given in honor of the Commandant Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Muzaffarabad Brigadier Zahid Hussain by UAJK Health and Medical Sciences Department the other day. Dr. Kaleem Abbasi remarked that all those institutions involved in human resource development in the highly demanding medical field deserved to be appreciated and supported by both civil society and the government. Acknowledging the quality healthcare services of the CMH Muzaffarabad along with its training program for the students of UAJK, the VC termed it the pioneer institution which first started medical services in the area for the masses with the assistance of the Army Medical Corps (AMC). Dr. Abbasi expressed his pleasure over

the availability of quality teach-



ing hospitals like CMH, AIMS, and RIC for the UAJK students of various medical specialties where they are receiving quality medical technology training. The Vice-Chancellor thanked Brig. Zahid Hussain of the Army Medical Corps, and the Health Department of the AJK government for their consistent support in providing training opportunities to the students of the varthat equipping the hospital with sity. Addressing the reception adequate human resources and as a chief guest, Commandant the latest diagnostic equipment Brig. Zahid Hussain expressed is at the top of his priorities. "In pleasure to interact with the three to four months times, a management, faculty, and state-of-the-art MRI machine students of the UAJK in one provided by Pak Army is being sitting and said that he was installed in the hospital" the extremely satisfied with the commandant informed. Brig. collective efforts of CMH and Zahid further said that apart from this, new electro-medical UAJK that was not only bene-

fiting humanity but also a great equipment is being installed service to the nation and counin the Radiology Department, try. Brig. Zahid Hussain stated and new Ultrasound Machines that the health sector has now and Laboratory kits are also in the process of installation become an industry in the world to provide modern diagnostic and there is a great demand for medically trained manpower in facilities to the common man at the private sector as well. He their doorsteps. urged the students to explore "Students of the Department and get benefit from the opporof Health Sciences UAJK tunities available in the health would greatly benefit from sector worldwide. He added these facilities during their

training period", he added. He assured the administration and faculty of UAJK that along with serving the suffering humanity, his institution will continue to provide the best training opportunities to the students. Speaking on the occasion, Associate Dean of Health and Medical Sciences Dr. Bashir ur Rahman

the cooperation between the university, he was warmly of Center and Dr. Qaratul Ain Shafiq, Deputy Medical Superintendent also

accompanied him.

Kanth said that ninety percent of the graduates who completed their studies in various programs from UAJK Health and Medical Department have currently doing jobs in various government and private health institutions. The Dean of Medical Sciences particularly mentioned the reformist agenda of Commandant Brigadier Zahid Hussain through which, the people have access to the best treatment facilities in the capital city. "He has taken great measures for the best utilization of human resources and provision of facilities to the public which is indeed a commendable job", Dr. Kanth commented. After the ceremony, a detailed meeting between the Commandant CMH Muzaffarabad and the Vice-Chancellor UAJK was held in which various suggestions were taken into consideration to strengthen university and CMH Muzaffarabad. Earlier, when Commandant CMH Brigadier Zahid Hussain arrived at the welcomed by the students and faculty of the Department of Health Sciences. Lt. Col. Saeed in charge the Rehabilitation

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National Days and Armed **Forces Days**

December

Dec 01 / Romania National Day Dec 02 / UAE

National Day 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 / Kenva 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

Transgenders' inclusion in BISP to ensure equal rights

"Transgender community had never been included in any of the social protection program at the government level in the past," Nayyab said adding, but, this initiative will help us meet our financial needs to some extent

SHUMAILA NOREEN

ISLAMABAD: After decades' long struggle for their rights, the transgender community in the country finally sees a ray of hope for welfare with their inclusion in the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) beneficiaries list. Although many steps were

taken during last few years for ensuring social inclusion and gender equality for the vulnerable transgender community, yet the recent initiative of making them a part of the biggest social protection program is another milestone towards providing them economic relief.

The decision of including transgenders in the BISP would not only make them eligible to register for Benazir Kafalat initiative providing quarterly assistance of Rs. 7,000 but enable them to get benefit from the othschemes also. Nayyab Ali, Human Rights Defender and Transgender Rights Ac-

tivist, termed the inclusion of transgenders in Benazir Kafalat program as an excellent step towards ensuring financial independence of this marginalized community.



"Transgender community had never been included in any of the social protection program at the government level in the past," Nayyab said adding, but, this initiative will help us meet our financial needs to some extent. She pointed out that there were number of challenges associated with this initiative including transparent registration process, to be addressed on priority basis to benefit the genuine community. "Engaging transgender community member in the

monitoring of registration process can pave way for smooth and transparent implementation of this program," Nayyab Ali stated. "On behalf of the whole community, I must appreciate the incumbent government for taking this much-needed relief measure at the time when the Transgender Act is under-threat", she said. Nayyab Ali also described this policy initiative, a step towards ensuring gender equality and equal citizen's rights. "The time has come when the transgender

community will not be considered as a marginalized section". Most often the transgenders are seen begging at busy roads and earning living by dancing at functions. Sometimes they are also molested due to their economic compulsions and fall victims to exploitation and with commonly facing charges of adultery. "We are happy with this initiative. At least, we may

have some amount of money to survive," said another Transgender Activist, Nadeem Kashish. "Our

inclusion in the BISP network is a positive step. It will provide transgender community social safety and economic relief." She also emphasized to ensure transparency in adopting the procedure for selection of the beneficiaries. "The authorities must ensure that the benefits of this program should reach to the deserving and genuine transgenders". As the society used to see them with an eye of scorn, their inclusion in the government programs and job opportunities

'Political tensions affecting Pakistanis living abroad'

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Sunday said decreased remittances from Pakistanis living abroad is disturbing and it can have disastrous effects on the country's economy. A strategy should be made to deal with this problem as the country is already facing falling exports and declining investment, he said. Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as Chairman PVMA said

that the exchequer is already empty and it cannot make up

Imran damaging country's image: Abbasi

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan was pursuing a negative and reprehensible agenda to defame the country's image and thus isolated it at the international level, said PML-N General Secretary Islamabad M. Sajid Abbasi on Sunday.

had been a far cry. But, this

recent decision has been

seen as positive not only by

the community but also the

human rights activists in

the country. "Transgenders

being a marginalized com-

munity are not integrated in

the society and face lack of

opportunities in getting ed-

ucation and learn skills for

earning their livelihoods,"

said prominent human

rights activist, Farzana Bari.

"Decision to include them

in the social safety program

She said their inclusion in

Benazir Kafalat program

would ensure their finan-

cial uplift as this decision

also reflects the present

government's vision of pro-

viding equal opportunities

to all the citizens. Since

the transgender community

faces a lot of hurdles in se-

curing jobs and other earn-

ing opportunities at homes,

offices and other settle-

ments, therefore there is

dire need to provide them

opportunities for dignified

earnings. "I would desire

the government to move

another step forward and

provide them skill-based

education to enhance their

employability and ensure

social integration," Farza-

na Bari emphasized.

is appreciable."

In a statement issued here, he said that Imran Khan had destroyed the country's institutions, economy, governance, and image internationally during his regime.

He said the former prime minister had always adopted a non-serious attitude and his politics was based on mere allegations and blame game adding that he was also involved in misguiding the youth to achieve their objectionable motives.

He (Imran Khan) always liked such a system which make him a prime minister of the country rather than delivering for the welfare and uplift of the country and its people, Abbasi added. Lauding the concrete steps taken by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar over the reduction in prices of petroleum products, he said the coalition government under this dynamic leadership was providing maximum relief to the people through prudent policies. – APP

Pak Railways to resume Pak Express service

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Railways is all set to resume the service of Pakistan Express on December 23. According to a Pakistan Railways, Rawalpindi Division spokesman, Pakistan Railways on the demand of the public have decided to resume the Pakistan Express service. He informed that the step is being taken on the direction of Railways Minister Khawaia Saad



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
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WASA Rawalpindi	i5555489
САА	9281092



Hospitals

СМН	5611111
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital.	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
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Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa Internatio	nal.4603666



Departments

CDA9221334-43	
CDA9208301-04	
Met Office9250360-6	
RDA5555864	
TMA5770886	
Cantonment Board 9270151-3	

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank Islamabad.....0321-5744480

same time, it has become difficult to differentiate between authentic information and hoaxes or disinformation. Such a flow of disinformation, known as fake news, is accelerating and affecting the way individuals interpret the developments taking place daily. Many information systems, even citizen journalism have been polarized in this era and there has been a precipitous decline in public trust in the traditional mode of journalism "I don't know what to believe, whom

ISLAMABAD: Journalism is in a state

of considerable flux as new digital

platforms including social media have

unleashed innovative ideas to dissem-

to trust and from where to find authentic information," said Zara Hassan, a student at a university, who wanted to seek some clarification on a religious matter. "Every person on social media shares information without verification, or checking the source," she said. Due to the fast-paced information flow, there is a proliferation of fake news which has eroded trust in

3,092 FIRs registered

over violations of

anti-dengue SOPs

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Administration had registered as

many as 3,092 FIRs on violations of anti-dengue SOPs from Janu-

ary 1 to date in various areas of the Rawalpindi district, said District Coordinator Epidemics Prevention and Control Dr. Sajjad

Mehmood here Sunday. Giving details of the punitive actions,

the health officer said that the district administration, in collabo-

ration with allied departments, had sealed 703 premises, issued

Challans to 7,964, notices to 17,025, and a fine of Rs 12,435,643

imposed on violations of dengue SOPs in 2022. Dr. Sajjad in-

formed that around 4,767 confirmed cases had been reported in

the district this year, while the number was 6,298 in 2019, 17 in

2020, and 2,508 in 2021. The health officer further stated that

presently, only three patients having positive symptoms were

admitted to the two city's allied hospitals, including two to the

BBH, and one to the District Headquarters Hospital.- APP

masses on different issues. But at the platforms to achieve their nefarious outlets and other stakeholders work designs or let down their opponents by launching propaganda campaigns.

Fake news – a common

challenge for society

credible news sources as it seems peo-

It is unfortunate that some anti-social

inate information and educate the curiosity and misuse the new media it is important that government, media

elements take advantage of public

ple prefer the news with some flash.

Fake news and sophisticated disinformation campaigns have become problematic and it is essential to address these issues without undermining the benefits of social and traditional media. A glaring example was the recent EU Disinfo labs report on how India was releasing news through hundreds of fake media houses against Pakistan and China. Earlier in a meeting with a delegation Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (Dastoor) delegation, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marrivum Aurangzeb urged the media organizations and journalists to play a proactive role in curbing fake news and propaganda. "The balance between media freedom and a sense of responsibility can prevent the growing division of the society."

Marriyum said exhibiting collective re-

together and promote news literacy and strong professional journalism in their respective domains.

sponsibility was the need of the hour

to moderate public opinion by differen-

tiating between hatred and difference

of opinion. Media experts also believe

In the given circumstances, it has become essential for individuals to be cautious and exhibit maturity by verifying the received news or any information before sharing it with others. This can be achieved through multiple sources, examining evidence to support claims, and being aware of potential biases or agendas in the news. Social media and journalism platforms should invest in tools that identify fake news, reduce financial incentives for those who get monetary benefits from disinformation and improve online accountability. Media literacy skills, coupled with knowledge to differentiate between good and bad values, are vital for children growing up in the digital age, and parents and teachers should play an important role in teaching those skills. - APP

Legislative

performance of

NA improves

ISLAMABAD: The 15th National Assembly witnessed sig-

nificant improvement in considering the legislative propos-

als during the last eight months and its role also increased

in considering the interventions meant to highlight the is-

sues of public and national importance. The Lower House

passed a total of 43 bills, including 28 government bills

which were mainly related to law and justice, economic af-

fairs, education, governance, election and human rights.

It is to mention that National Assembly has passed a total

of 169 bills so far and more than 25 percent bills have

Another key feature of the legislative performance of

been passed during the last eight months.

for the shortfall in remittances. He said that the country is facing the risk of default while at such a critical juncture, remittances are continuously declining. Remittances from overseas Pakistanis during November 2022 declined by 14.3 percent, year-on-year, while the month-on-month decline stood at 4.8 percent. Whereas, with the cumulative inflow of \$12 billion during Jul-Nov 2022, the remittances decreased by 9.77 percent in first five months of FY23 as compared to a similar period of last year. The reasons behind this are said to be the recession in the West and the re-emergence of illegal channels of hundi that attract outward flows of remittances. During the period from 2016 to 2019, remittances hovered around \$ 20 billion. In the year 2020, remittances soared to \$ 23 billion. The years 2021 and 2022 saw a jump to \$ 29.5 billion and \$ 31.3 billion, respectively. In the five months (July to November 2022) it dipped to \$12 billion. The remittances are also falling due to deepening political uncertainty and a weak fiscal situation leading to worries of a default. The sentiment of overseas Pakistanis appears to have turned bearish, which found its best reflection in the reduction in remittances during this period. - DNA

the Assembly is that it passed around 45 percent of the total private members' bills. The lawmakers were also keen on moving the private members' bills as 37 such bills were introduced in the Lower House during the last eight months. In addition, the lawmakers moved resolutions highlighting various local, national, and international issues during the last eight months. According to the website of National Assembly, the House adopted 25 resolutions making recommendations to the government on the issues concerning foreign affairs, law and order, employment and human rights.

Parliamentarians have a duty to shape policy, guide the government in the national interest, and raise the issues of public concerns in the House. The tools for the oversight of the executive and the representation of public issues were effectively used by the lawmakers during the last eight months of the incumbent Assembly. After the change of the Leader of the House, the performance of the lawmakers had remained quite objective despite the absence of PTI lawmakers from the House. The 15th Assembly has also been unique in terms of the elections to the offices of the

Speaker and the Deputy Speaker. - APP

Rafique. The express would run between Rawalpindi and Karachi. Advance booking for Pakistan Express had been started, he added.

Keeping in view the convenience of the public, with the economy class coaches, one AC business and two AC standard additional coaches would also be attached with Pakistan Express which was discontinued due to devastation caused by monsoon rains and flash floods in recent months. - APP

ANF seizes over 467 kg drugs; arrests eight

RAWALPINDI: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan seized over 467 kg of drugs, and arrested eight accused including a woman besides impounding three vehicles while conducting six counter-narcotics operations throughout the country, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Sunday. He informed ANF in two operations near Islamabad Toll Plaza managed to recover two kg of Ice drug and 2.4 kg charras from the possession of two accused including a woman. In two other operations in Lasbela, ANF seized 220 kg charras and arrested five accused besides impounding three vehicles. - APP

PFC urges need for adopting measures for skilled workforce

He said keeping up with

recent technology trends

has become the need of the

ISLAMABAD: Chief Execto change and adapt new utive Officer Pakistan Furbusiness models. He said niture Council (PFC) Mian as a result, it created a skills Kashif Ashfaq Sunday urged gap, where the skills offered the need to adopt result orido not match required by the ented prudent measures and employers to meet future provide workforce with the global challenges in local and opportunities for skill develinternational markets. Quotopment. He said that the ining the World Economic dustrial sector was confront-Forum, he said more than a ed with severe shortage of billion people including Pakiskilled manpower across the stan will need to be re-skilled country, which was affecting by 2030 on modern lines to the delivery schedule of exmeet ever growing demands port shipments. of skilled manpower.

Speaking at a workshop on "The role of skill development in economy" he said modern technology is growing exponentially, with new advancements coming up every day and disrupting the usual work practices.

percent of the population He said continuous process must be fully offered opimprovement followed by portunities under one uminnovations has compelled brella to gain knowledge of

modern technical skills and tools to contribute towards national economic development which will also help a lot to narrow down skill gap besides providing ample job opportunities.

He said current literacy rate of Pakistan is around 62.3 percent that means 60 million are unable to read or write. He said illiterate people can be trained in furnitures industry and sectors including construction through imparting necessary training instead of wasting huge segment of the society.

hour for employability for He said genuinely highly any workforce throughout qualified IT skilled peothe world. Mian Kashif said women who constitute 48 ple are in great demand in developed countries which he added will have great direct impact on national economy. – APP

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04

TWIN CITIES

Islamabad **POST** Monday, December 19, 2022

Briefs

China to support Punjab for rapid industrialization

STAFF REPORT

Islamabad: China will support Punjab for rapid industrialization, a senior Chinese diplomat said, according to Gwadar Pro. Zhao Shiren, Chinese Consul General in Lahore during his visit to Punjab Board of Investment and Trade (PBIT) held discussions on different areas for increasing mutual cooperation between the two sides. During the interaction, the two sides resolved to enhance the collaboration for rapid industrialization in the province, especially for encouraging B2B level engagement of Chinese investors and businesses with their local counterparts from Punjab. The Consul General deeply appreciated the efforts of the former and current Secretary Industries for promoting the relocation of labour intensive industries from China to Punjab by leveraging a strong network of Special Economic Zones across the province both in the public and private sectors. Jalal Hassan Chief Executive Officer (CEO) PBIT, who is also the Secretary of Punjab Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Authority, apprised the participants about effective facilitation by PBIT for promoting private sector led growth model which entails the recent grant of three new SEZs licenses to private sector developers in Punjab, two of which are a result of direct investment and cooperation by Chinese business enterprises. Secretary Industries Punjab Sohail Ashraf emphasized that Punjab must develop its capacity to train a strong pool of skilled labor force as per modern industrial demands for local as well as international markets. A strong consensus was also developed between the two sides to further strengthen the technical education and vocational training canvas of Punjab by benefiting from the Chinese experience, especially to uplift the on-going partnership between Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) Punjab and miin consortium of tech nical universities for Punjab Tianjin University of Tech nology (PTUT) in Lahore. The Chinese Consul General assured of complete support for reinvigorating the PTUT project and other steps to encourage Chinese investors to relocate to Punjab and form Joint Ventures (JV) based partnership with local investors. Other areas of mutual collaboration including visa facilitation for Pakistan businesspersons, also came under discussion. The Consul General was received by Secretary Industries Punjab, Sohail Ashraf, Chairman PBIT Fazeel Asif Jah, Chairman SEZs Authority Punjab, S M Naveed and CEO PBIT, Jalal Hassan. Cleft lip and palate patients go get free treatment



ISLAMABAD: The Students of University of Gwadar visited the Chinese embassy and got first hand information about the CPEC projects.-DNA

Experts demand creation of Climate Change Authority

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's own environmental governance structure needs to be comprehensively operationalized to seek assistance through international climate financing, especially the 'loss and damage' fund ahead of COP27. The long awaited Climate Change Authority should be created without any further delay as mitigating climate change disasters and seeking climate financing and compensation from the international community needs comprehensive policy, legislative and governance mechanisms at all the levels of the state. This was demanded during a dialogue, titled 'Post COP27 Strategy for Pakistan: Climate Financing and De-carbonization', organized by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) to deliberate on necessary mitigation and adaptation measures to tackle the crises arising from climate change following the 27th UN climate change conference held in November in Egypt. The session, chaired by Mirza Hamid Hassan, chairperson, IPS Steering Committee on Energy, Water and Climate Change, and former federal secretary, Ministry of Water and Power, was addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman IPS, Dr. Muhammad Irfan Khan, dean, Environmental Sciences, International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI), Syeda Hadika Jamshaid, climate policy specialist, Minis-

try of Climate Change, Syed Aqeel Hussain Jafri, director, Policy and International Cooperation, Alternative Energy Development Board, Dr. Shafqat Munir Ahmed, director, Resilient Development Program, SDPI, Dr. Kanwar Muhammad Javed Iqbal, general secretary, Pakistan Panel for Climate Change (PPCC) and Lubna Riaz, researcher, IPS. The experts deplored that despite the passage of the Climate Change Act 2017 the formation of Climate Change Authority and Climate Change Council still seems an uphill task.

They were of the view that the Council of Common Interests (CCI) and other concerned bodies should prioritize this critical national issue. While sharing insights on climate financing, the speakers acknowledged Pakistan's advocacy and role at COP27 in making the international community, particularly the developed world, realize the disastrous consequences of climate change and the need for loss and damage financing for vulnerable countries. This realization marks active progress toward the cause; however, Pakistan must take conclusive actions at the national level as well because whatever the climate compensation may be, it would not ensure future security against climate-induced afflictions, argued the speakers. With an increasing poverty rate and poor human development, this has become particularly significant as Pakistan la in tha

part of the future-oriented solutions to the crises triggered by climate change, it is important to adopt green measures within society as well as corporate sectors, along with formulating indigenous mechanisms and legislation, they advised. Moreover, as observed by the experts, the recovery from the floods including reconstruction and social development is estimated to require \$16 billion while the secondary recovery costs, including medical care and food supply, would surpass this figure. Therefore, things can't get better just with climate financing. While highlighting the de-carbonization strategy, the speakers maintained that Pakistan has already presented itself as a responsible nation by committing to decarbonizing the power sector through renewable energy transition and aiming to achieve the goal of 60 per cent share of non-fossil fuel-based power generation by the end of this decade. Though such adaptation measures to the climate change impacts are the elementary necessity of time; in order to prepare for the future, mitigation measures are equally crucial. The speakers further stressed the need to reform the policy, legal, and institutional frameworks for better environmental governance, which is also a prerequisite to the efficient dispersal of climate finances in the country. As

in would remain vulnerab

ture, the stakeholders must continue to negotiate, lobby, and advocate for the cause in every capacity possible at the international level. In this regard, a climate authority must be established to ensure the proper management of the funds through the right strategies, stressed the experts. These strategies may be quantified into short, medium, and long-term initiatives for proper disaster recovery. Furthermore, the dissection of the losses from the climate disaster for the dispersal of funds should be based on correct data on life causalities, monetary loss, food scarcity, and medication requirements in the disaster-hit areas.

Concluding the session, Khalid Rahman maintained that every stakeholder needs to build on the efforts for mitigating climate-induced vulnerability and disasters with increased momentum. Moreover, in order to advance the successful outcomes of efforts against damages due to climate, there is a dire need to strengthen climate change governance and resilience against climatic threats. He further highlighted that the international development paradigm is marked with a dilemma, in which states want to resolve climate change and its consequences while also aiming for growth-led production, which is inherently the cause of climate change. This dilemma of the international development paradigm should be challenged and be made a point of agenda in discourses and efforts against climate change

UoG students visit Chinese **Embassy**

DNA ISLAMABAD: A group of 12

students from the University of Gwadar visited the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad where they were apprised of the many benefits of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative for Balochistan. According to Gwadar Pro, the visit was part of the youth engagement programme initiated by the Pakistan-China Institute in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy. The initiative aims to inform the Baloch vouth about the benefits of CPEC and to counteract the negative stereotypes about China and the mega project. Bao Zhong, Counsellor of the Political and Media Section at the Chinese Embassy, stressed the need for continued engagement with the youth to deepen understanding and increase people-to-people ties. She said that the visit will initiate a constructive dialogue aimed at benefitting from the opportunities created by CPEC. She also highlighted that CPEC was not only aimed at bilateral cooperation but also had significant importance in regional connectivity and development. Mustafa Hyder Sayed, Executive Director, Pakistan-China Institute emphasised that Baloch youth must be involved in the decision-making process related to CPEC and also be equipped with the necessary skills and expertise to benefit from the project. The students were provided with detailed reports published by the China-Pakistan Institute on how CPEC had positively impacted Balochistan's economy. On the occasion, two documentaries titled 'Dividends of CPEC for Balochistan' and 'How Shenzhen emerged as global industrial hub' were screened. The first documentary showed how CPEC was benefiting the people of Balochistan. The second documentary showed how Shenzhen went from a small fishing village to one of the most influential economic hubs in the world. The documentary highlighted key aspects of Shenzhen's development such as its strong connection to the global economy, introduction of special economic zones, and its eager-



ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Cleft Lip and Palate Association (ICLAPA) continued providing free medical treatment to the children with cleft lip and palate. An ICLAPA's team of surgeons are also available to operate affected children. According to the Association's senior member Mrs. Farhat Akhtar Rehman, the surgery takes place at the Fuji Foundation Hospital and Heart International. "We welcome the affected patients to get the treatment on urgent basis free of charge," she added. The parents of the affected children have been asked to contact Mrs. Farhat on her cell numbers 03335157676 and 0300-5192490 to get them registered for the normal treatment or surgery. Mrs Farhat Akhtar Rehman said his organization had been providing free medical facilities to the poor families since 2004 with the support of families, friends and philanthropists. The ICLAPA was a group of volunteers, which relied on donors to bring hope and happiness in the lives of people, for whom it was financially difficult to give treatment to their children.-APP

RCCI inks MoU with White Ribbon Pakistan

RAWALPINDI: The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the White Ribbon Pakistan. The main purpose of the MOU was to eliminate domestic violence particularly violence against women and patriarchal mindset prevailing in the society. President RCCI Saqib Rafiq and Omer Aftab, Founder/ President White Ribbon Pakistan signed and exchanged the MOU documents at a ceremony held at Chamber house. Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh and members were also present on the occasion. Saqib

Rafiq, said that there is a need

to work on gender equality



at the workplace and create a productive environment in business communities. RCCI platform is available for policy advocacy and to bring more awareness about var-

ious laws and amendments to counter gender-based discrimination, violence against women, and economic and social empowerment of women.He suggested nationwide

campaign shall be initiated asking men from all occupations to pledge their allegiance to eradicate violence against women in every possible form.-DNA

UN Women playing vital role to protect migrant women

ISLAMABAD: As part of the 'Making Migration Safe for Women' programme, the UN Women has been working with local organizations to develop a set of handouts for women to inform them of their rights and ensure they understand the risks and realities of migration. However, while all migrants may experience negative stereotypes and prejudice, women, girls, gender-diverse people and those living with disabilities too often face the brunt of discriminatory migration laws and policies, according to statement issued here on Sunday by UN Women on the occasion of International Migrants Day. There are estimated 281 million migrants worldwide, moving for many different reasons: some to escape poverty, unemployment, political instability or violence, while others leave to pursue opportunities: to study, develop their careers and to be with their families. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development Migration can potentially bring significant benefits to women; a demonstration of their agency and a means of empowerment whose benefits, such as remittances, radiate to their families. It is therefore vital that we take steps to address the risks of irregular migration, and respect, protect and fulfill the rights of all migrant women and girls, at all stages and in all types of migration. "We encourage all those working on migration issues to consult with migrant women and girls whose lived experiences can best inform the policies affecting them.-APP

cal innovation. Railways retrieved 961 acres land

ness to embrace technologi-

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Railways has retrieved as many as 961 acres of its land worth Rs19, 603 million during various anti-encroachment operations across the country from the land grabbers. "Around 474 acres retrieved in Punjab, 135 acres in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 329 acres in Sindh and only 23 acres in Balochistan acres land had been retrieved by the Pakistan Railways," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said that about 3,287 acres in Puniab, 832 acres in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 5,180 acres in Sindh, and 687 acres of land in Balochistan were being encroached. The official said that in the light of orders of the Supreme Court, the anti-encroachment operations for retrieval of encroached railway land all over the Railway network were initiated .- APP



DNA

ISLAMABAD: As 2022 draws close, the agriculture sector has gained manifold tractions under China-Pakistan agriculture cooperation promising the phenomenal agri growth in the length and breadth of Pakistan, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday. Given the comprehensive spectrum of cooperation under "CPEC Green Corridor" throughout the year in 2022, the agriculture sector has recorded a remarkable growth of 4.4% and surpassed the target of 3.5% as well as last year's growth of 3.48%during FY2022. According to Economic Survey, the growth in the agriculture sector recorded 4.4% and surpassed the target of 3.5%. This remarkable growth is mainly underpinned by China-led assistance to Pakistan of many facets relating transfer of hands-on experience in the fields of intercropping, high-yield seeds, pest control, hybrid cultivation, corporate farming, innovate irrigation technique, agri machinery training, agri research & development, protocol for Pak agri exports to China, digital farming and agri labor skills. Since Sino-Pak agriculture has continued to deepen in 2022, Pakistan's agricultural products exported to China from January to August 2022 reached \$730 million with a year-on-year increase of 28.59%. Pakistan's agricultural exports to China are expected to exceed a record high of \$1 billion next year. On the back of 2022 agri sector's milestone achievement, the focus of next year under CPEC Green Corridor will be continuing on improving land cultivation area, water management, better access to markets for inputs (seeds, fertilizers, farm mechani-

infrastructure including storage and cooling facilities, reduction in post-harvest losses, greater investment in research, development and extension, improved quality and fulfillment of quarantine requirements for international markets and competitiveness, greater diversification, especially minor but high-value crops, farm input and effectiveness of markets. The announcement of three new corridors under CPEC including China-Pakistan Green Corridor (CPGC), which focuses on agricultural environment and food security speaks volumes about the significance of agricultural cooperation in CPEC. The inauguration of the Intercropping Research Center jointly established by Sichuan Agricultural University (SAU) and the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB) in 2021 showed fantastic results in the 2022 season. According to a news report a few weeks ago, China's maize-soybean strip intercropping technology completed harvest at 65 demonstration sites in Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recently, and the production of maize and sovbeans reached 8,490 kg and 889 kg per hectare respectively in the intercropped fields. Compared with the production of solely cropped maize and soybeans at these 65 sites which are 8.995 kg and 1,531 kg per hectare respectively, the intercropping technology definitely creates much more economic benefits. Good news is that the researchers are also developing the strip intercropping systems of maize-peanut, maize-pea, sugarcane-soybean, sugarcane-mustard, wheat-mustard, wheat-sovbean, wheat-chickpea, potato-maize and canola-pea. Another healthy development in the agriculture sector happened in June,

2022 when a newly developed centre at Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi (AAUR), the CPEC-Agriculture Cooperation Centre (ACC), announced to perform policy research, assist Chinese businesses in working in the agriculture sector, and foster institutional cooperation. Pakistan is also looking forward to enhance banana production with Chinese cooperation. According to Nosherwan Haider, CEO of the Sprouts Biotech Laboratories, Pakistan contributes less than 0.5% to the global banana market whereas China contributes about 4.5%. Cotton germplasm is another significant component in Pak-China agricultural cooperation. For many years, China and Pakistan have cooperated in the field of gathering and identifying cotton germplasm resources. In order to determine which cotton germplasms are resistant to heat, drought, diseases, and insect pests in various locations and environments, Institute of Cotton Research (ICR) of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS). collaborated with Cotton Research Institute (CRI), Multan, University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), and some other universities and scientific research institutions. Dur-



ing July, 2022, Tianjin Modern Vocational Technology College (TMVTC), China and MNS-University of Agriculture, Multan (MN-SUAM), Pakistan signed an online agreement for an agricultural machinery training program of Luban Workshop in Pakistan. The two institutions will jointly promote the sci-tech exchanges and cooperation on agricultural machinery, germplasm resources and agricultural environment. Earlier this year, Zhang Jishu from Sichuan Litong Food Co., Ltd. announced that his company would implement a 1,000-acre pepper cultivation demonstration garden in Multan during the 2022-2023 growing season. In partnership with local agribusinesses and farmers in Pakistan, it intends to take over 15,000 acres of pepper orders in South Punjab, with a planned harvest of 30,000 tonnes of dried pepper. Additionally, the company intends to construct two pepper processing plants in Lahore and Multan and is in the process of locating suitable sites. Pakistan is also working to grow the sorghum crops as, along with the three main basic foods of the globe, sorghum is a crop that has increasingly gained acceptance around the world. During the Symposium on Sorghum Industry Development of China and Pakistan organized during 2022, there was a consensus that, sorghum is a versatile crop that can be useful in supplying food and fodder. Hybrid farming is growing in Pakistan in a variety of sectors, as the Executive Member of the Asia and Pacific Seed Association and General Manager of Wuhan Qingfa Hesheng Seed Company, Zhu Xiaobo said that the hybrid canola variety developed by her company has been planted in Pakistan on about 10,000 hectares of land,

covering around 6000 households

In the next three to five years, they expect it to expand to over 40,000 hectares and provide more and healthier edible oil to Pakistanis. Similarly Sino-Pak cooperation in cauliflower farming through hybrid seeds is also expanding. As Pakistan faced one of the worst flood calamities in 2022, consequently loosing drastic crop yield, Wuhan-based hybrid seed developer and supplier China also announced to donate hybrid rice seeds to mitigate flood impact on agriculture and food security. According to the Chairman of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, to raise the average productivity and output of Pakistan's crops and to mitigate the harm caused by the floods, experts from Pakistan and China are developing hybrid wheat types. To facilitate the swift development of agri-sector in the country, the Punjab cabinet approved the leasing out of state land for corporate farming as part of the CPEC initiative in the first week of March 2022. During recent times, food crisis was prevented in the country's southern regions thanks to China's thorough and prompt assistance in fighting locust swarms. To increase crop yield, climate resilience, water management, and aid in the fight against natural disasters like locust infestation, collaborations in precision agriculture and early warning systems should be further expanded. Pakistan may be more interested in receiving assistance in climate-smart agriculture as China's digital agro-economy is set to increase to over \$100 billion. Incorporating cutting-edge information technology could therefore contribute to a third green revolution.

Democracy is in jeopardy

sraeli elections can be dramatic, and its five elections within four years have been full of political surprises and firsts, including the first time an independent Israeli Arab party joined a governing coalition. This series of new governments and the sometimes tumultuous process of forming them are part of Israel's proud tradition as a boisterous and pluralistic democracy. Yet the far-right government that will soon take power, led by Benjamin Netanyahu, marks a qualitative and alarming break with all the other governments in Israel's 75-year history. While Mr. Netanyahu clearly has the support of the Israeli electorate, his coalition's victory was narrow and cannot be seen as a broad mandate to make concessions to ultrareligious and ultranationalist parties that are putting the ideal of a democratic Jewish state in jeopardy. Mr. Netanyahu's government, however, is a significant threat to the future of Israel – its direction, its security and even the idea of a Jewish homeland. For one, the government's posture could make it militarily and politically impossible for a two-state solution to ever emerge. Rather than accept this outcome, the Biden administration should do everything it can to express its support for a society governed by equal rights and the rule of law in Israel, as it does in countries all over the world. That would be an act of friendship, consistent with the deep bond between the two nations. Ministers in the new government are set to include figures such as Itamar Ben-Gvir, who was convicted in Israel in 2007 for incitement to racism and supporting a Jewish terrorist organization. He will probably be minister of national security. Bezalel Smotrich, who has long supported outright annexation of the West Bank, is expected to be named the next finance minister, with additional authority over the administration of the West Bank. For the deputy in the prime minister's office in charge of Jewish identity, Mr. Netanyahu is expected to name Avi Maoz, who once described himself as a "proud homophobe." Israel has been moving steadily rightward in recent years. That is, in part, due to genuine concerns about crime and security, especially after violence between Israeli Arabs and Jews last year. Whatever the contours of the new Israeli government, the United States will continue to be engaged with it on many issues of shared concern. Negotiations on a new nuclear deal with Iran are all but dead, a situation that poses a threat to security across the region. The Abraham Accords, while not a substitute for peace with the Palestinians, normalized relations between Israel and several Arab nations. That is welcome progress, and the United States could play an important role in helping to expand them to include other countries, such as Saudi Arabia. America's support for Israel reflects our two countries' respect for democratic ideals. President Biden and Mr. Netanyahu should do everything they can to reaffirm that commitment.

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Japan's new security strategy disconcerting

n the three security and defense documents Japan adopted on Friday, China was described as "an unprecedented strategic challenge", which marks a milestone shift from nine years ago when China was depicted as a strategic partner in the first national security strategy Japan released in 2013. What does the shift mean and what is behind it? China has done nothing to warrant such a reaction from Japan. China's leaders have reiterated time and again that it only seeks a peaceful rise, as verified by what it has been doing: the Belt and Road Initiative and various kinds of partnerships it has sought for economic cooperation with other countries. It has been Japan's largest export market and its largest trading partner for years. It is natural for the two countries to have differences on a wide range of issues. It is also natural for China, the world's second-largest economy with the world's largest population, to have a defense capability that is compatible with its status as a major country and fit for the times. It was Japan which invaded many countries during World War II, and it was invading Japanese forces that committed horrible atrocities in China and other countries. If there is any potential threat to peace in East Asia, it should be the revival of the militarist mentality in the minds of Japanese politicians. Describing China as "an unprecedented threat" is only a pretext Japan's Cabinet is using to expand its military. That explains why Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida early this month set a new target for military spending over the next five years of 43 trillion yen (\$318 billion), an almost 60 percent increase over the figure of 27 trillion yen between 2019-23. It is not so much China posing a threat to Japan as some Japanese politicians in power having the ambition to develop Japan into a strong military power. By fast expanding its military capability, Japan is embarking on a road that is contrary to its so-called pacifist Constitution, which Japan's right wing politicians have tried to revise. The expansion of its military might is the de facto revision of the Constitution, which warrants vigilance of its neighbors in East Asia against the rise of Japanese militarism. When it comes to China-Japan ties, labeling China as "an unprecedented challenge" is against the spirit of the four political documents signed between the two countries, and undermines political trust between the two nations as well. Given its history of invasion of a number of countries in East Asia, Japan's expansion of its military capability undoubtedly poses a potential threat to peace in the region, and its neighbors have enough reason to be suspicious of the motivation behind its expansionist new security strategy.

Was Palestine the biggest winner at the World Cup?

Anan Tello

Israeli journalist Raz Shechnik, who was in Doha covering FIFA World Cup news, took to Twitter to express his frustration. He shared on Nov. 26 instances in which Arab fans walked away from him when they found out he represented Israel

views, on full display, that have become a significant talking point. While special direct flights brought fans from Tel Aviv to Doha for the tournament, many fans chose to give Israeli reporters the cold shoulder, as a number of journalists experienced and showcased live on television. Almost two years ago, four Arab League member states signed the US-brokered Abraham Accords, through which Israel aims to forge formal ties with countries of the region. Qatar was not one of them. Videos of fans, mostly Arabs, shunning Israeli media went viral on social platforms. A video was shared on Nov. 18 of a citizen from Qatar in Doha's Souq Waqif refusing an interview after learning that the reporter worked for an Israeli TV channel. Two days later, another video showed a group of Lebanese fans walking away from a journalist when he revealed he was from Israel. One of them said to the Channel 12 reporter: "There is no such thing as Israel. It is Palestine. Israel does not exist," in an apparent rejection of normalization. Israeli journalist Raz Shechnik, who was in Doha covering FIFA World Cup news, took to Twitter to express his frustration. He shared on Nov. 26 instances in which Arab fans walked away from him when they found out he represented Israel. His video showed three women and a man carrying the Palestinian flag and telling the journalist: "There is nothing called Israel.

It is just Palestine." In the same video, Moroccan fans, who first posed, but, upon learning that Shechnik was from Israel, walked away with one of them said: "Israel, no. Palestine, yes. The reporter shouted: "But we have peace," and "you signed the peace agreements," about Morocco's Abraham Accords in Dec. 2020. The Twitter thread by Yedioth Ahronoth's reporter also showed fans interrupting a live broadcast to chant and wave the Palestinian flag and more Qataris refusing to speak with him, shocked when they heard the channel was Israeli. Israeli journalist Moav Vardi tweeted on Nov. 27 about being challenged the day before by a Saudi football fan, who told the Kan 11 TV correspondent he was "not welcome here (in Qatar)" and that "there is only Palestine; there is no Israel." Using the tournament's global stage, the Palestinian flag - alongside pro-Palestinian sentiments - was omnipresent throughout the Qatar World Cup, attracting considerable attention. The

Palestinian flag took center stage seven times. The Morocco national football team raised it after their World Cup victories, including their Dec. 6 win over Spain, when they made it to the quarterfinals despite the North African country's government normalizing ties with Israel. Moroccan fans in the stadium also held a "Free Palestine" banner during their team's victory over Belgium in Group E on Nov. 27. Similarly, Tunisian fans hoisted a banner reading "Free Palestine" during the Australia-Tunisia game on Nov. 26, while Qatar fans waved Palestine flags of different sizes at the Qatar-Netherlands match on Nov. 29. This has come despite Israel's PR campaigns in the region following the 2020 signing of the US-brokered peace agreements with the UAE and Bahrain, and later with Sudan and Morocco. After the deals were signed, senior Israeli Foreign Ministry official Eliav Benjamin voiced, in a briefing, hopes to normalize ties with "all countries in the region, in the Middle East and North Africa. Daoud Kuttab, a former journalism professor at Princeton University and founder and former director of the Institute of Modern Media at Al-Quds University, told Arab News: "There is no doubt that what we saw transpire at the World Cup shows beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Arab public - and indeed most of the people of the world - are genuine supporters of the rights of Palestinians to be free." Kuttab added: "The countries that signed the Abraham Accords claimed at the time that they are hoping to be able to influence Israeli policy towards Palestinians, but, on the ground, a record number of Palestinians have been killed by Israeli soldiers, and a well-known Palestinian-American TV reporter was shot dead without the Israeli army even agreeing to investigate this case." One Saudi journalist who is following the events in Doha closely said: "It is interesting the typical Qatari mannerism which the World Cup has been dealt with. While in Arabic, Qatari commentators were championing the Palestinian cause, and refusing to recognize Israel; in English and Hebrew they were welcoming Israeli fans and reporters and gifting them souvenirs in front of cameras. "Typically, political statements would be banned or at least frowned upon at sporting events, especially in a non-democratic country such as Qatar. However, I would say the pro-Palestinian rhetoric was hyped so that Arab sentiment would be distracted from the fact that actually.

Doha which has no diplomatic ties with Tel Aviv has actually allowed Israeli fans and reporters in," he added. "I am not saying there is no sincere Arab solidarity with Palestinians.

I am saying if Israel doesn't correct path – and it is unlikely to do so under an ultra right wing government spearheaded by Netanyahu - we will see much more anti-Israel PR stunts such as what we have seen in Doha," concluded the Saudi journalist. #Israel_obeys_Qatars_orders. The hashtag topped the trending lists in Qatar and other Arab countries after FIFA announced that Doha and Tel Aviv had reached an agreement allowing the arrival of football fans from Israel, provided that they are not transported by Israeli aircraft. Tweeters celebrated Qatar's success in imposing its conditions, thus allowing more Palestinian fans to enjoy the football matches. Prior to the commencement of the World Cup, Qatari network Al Jazeera Arabic posted stories and social media posts suggesting Doha ordered Israel to allow Palestinians to be able to fly over and watch the game; an apparent spin on the actual story which is that Israeli airlines and citizens were allowed to fly direct to Doha. Around the same time, AFP's Fact Check - the fake news watch service of the renowned international French news agency - published a report detailing how pro-Palestinian propaganda was pushed ahead of the world cup to soften the blow. Archive images of Qatari buildings dressed in Palestinian flags were presented as recent, and fake stories of people converting to Islam were being circulated as a cover up. Of course, with an ultra right-wing government expected to be formed under Prime Minister Designate Benjamin Netenvahu, Israel's already difficult crusade to win over the Arab world is only likely to become more difficult. Kuttab stressed that the "Israeli government from the center or the right will not win over the hearts and minds so long as the Palestinian people are living under occupation and colonial settlement enterprise. "Nothing happening in Israel short of ending their illegal and immoral occupation will change the minds of free people everywhere, and certainly will not change Arab and Muslim opinions," he added.

his year's FIFA World Cup welcomed fans from across the world, and the quadrennial event is ground zero for reporters. Many football fans snubbed Israeli reporters, though, in a sign of Palestinian solidarity. For weeks, fans flocked to Doha to be part of the spectacle. The 2022 World Cup held in Qatar was one for the ages. Its message is one of unity for the love of the game, and for the first time, people in fan zones, stadiums, and even players expressed support for Palestine, flying the Palestinian flag and wheeling out pro-Palestinian slogans, chants and songs. Although this year's World Cup has been tremendous fun, with Saudi Arabia beating the great Argentina in the group stage and Morocco beating the Spanish and Portuguese before their emotionally draining loss a few days ago, it is the political

-Courtesy: Arab News

Warm talk and hot weather

Muhammad Sayed Anwar



Commercialization of the Amazon Rainforest and deforestation is rampant in a pattern that 35 percent of the forest is either goner or highly degraded, discharging cataclysmic upshot to 'nature and biodiversity'.Climatologists anticipate that temperature may have surged by as much as 40°C by midway through the following century which could tragically reduce human'scapacity to grow food, severely damage wildlife and wilderness

orld leaders have been discussingthe way of tack-lingthe climatecrisissince the 1080-1 tionof those pledges rescued from the conferences is insufficient and improper.Despite effort to amalgamatenumerous international level agreements, treaties, and mega-projects, the outcome is very frustrating. The greenhouse gas emissionin the atmosphere is caused mostlybyindustrially enrichedeconomies (80%), predominantly the G-20 nations. Arguably, these countries need to cooperate and take the lead in climate action. Ironically, given the current global geopolitics, it looks very unapproachable. Again comparatively the third-world poor countries suffer much from the avalanche of climate calamities. Some of the strongest pleas for action came so far from the leaders of poor nations that caused little of carbon emission but often get a larger share of the weather-related damage. The whole world is running under a few billionaires who are mostly responsible for the current dire climate crisis around the world, especially in the global south. One recent research shows that in a matter of just minutes, billionaires are emitting more CO2 than most people emit in a year. More than 100 countries are demanding developed countries pay for climate-related losses. The climate crisis is encompassing all regions of the world, from Alaska to Indonesia, Cape Town to Norway, Siberia to Chile, the Caribbean to the Pacific, the Himalayas to the Alps, and from Balochistan

toNew York. The World Bank anticipates: The climate crisis could create nearly216 million people internally displaced by 2050, and by 2030, 'hot spots' of internal migration would emerge.A recent summer flood in Balochistan, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Kashmir, and southern parts of Punjab of Pakistan due to climate change and heavy monsoon rains caused at least \$40 billion in damage, displaced 2.1 million people, killed 1717 people, and destroyed a huge portion of critical infrastructures like hospitals, schools, bridges, and human settlements.Bangladesh, along with India,DRC, and Nigeria, also was affected by the floods in its Sylhet and Sunamganj area while severedrought throughout various parts ofEarth's surface and repeated cyclones in India, Pakistan, the Caribbean, and parts of North Americain recent times. In 2021 alone, 24 million people were displaced due to climate disasters, in consonance with research at Uppsala University. Again, intense drought, severe storms, heat waves, wildfire, water scarcity, environmental pollution, rising sea levels, melting glaciers, warming oceans, insect outbreaks, intense heat, and heavier prolonged precipitation, all are exacerbated by human-induced global warming, wreaking wrath on human livelihoods and wildlife, as well as the whole eco-system. The unusual heat and cold waves are spawningdeaths of approximately five millions of human livesevery year. Air pollution induced by carbon emission takes away around two millions of people annually. Food crisis is another great concern for the world to intercept caused by the intervention of climate change.Around 1.9 billion hectares of land, more than double of the size of the USA, and roughly 1.5 billion people globally are affected by desertification and overforty percent of the world's land is already degraded, estimated by the UN. Commercialization of the Amazon Rainforest and deforestation is rampant in a pattern that 35 percent of the forest is either goner or highly degraded, discharging cataclysmic upshot to 'nature and biodiversity'.Climatologists anticipate that temperature may have surged by as much as 40°C by midway through the following century which could tragically reduce human'scapacity to grow food, severely damage wildlife and wilderness, raise ocean water level, and thereby flood coastal areas and farmland. The target of keeping warming within a safer cap of 1.5 degrees Celsius since the pre-industrial era appears increasingly in jeopardy, with green house gasesemissions from fossil fuels and other human-induced inceptive roots. The iceberg of Antarctica is melting in a swift manner, owing to the rising temperature reached a higher level in course of foregoing 1800 years."Around 3.6 billion people across the globe lack adequate access to clean water for at least one month each year, a number that's expected to surpass five billion by 2050 without urgent action from policymakers", described by the WMO. A report by environmental engineering consultancy GHD found, "By 2050, weather disturbances, including drought as well as heavy winds and rains, could cost the global economy some \$5.6 trillion".Due to the geophysical position in addition to the demographic and socioeconomic backwardness. South Asia is the worst-affected region on the planet.A largenumber of people are suffering from the atrocities of climate change in this region. The very important producing sectors such as agriculture, fishing, and forestry are being jeopardized by climate catastrophe. The macroeconomic fragility and poverty are growing in the region. Different flood-borne diseases such as typhoid, cholera, leptospirosis, hepatitis A, malaria, dengue fever, skin rash, gastrointestinal

illness, tetanus, and West Nile Fever are spreading all across the impacted areas. Effects of climate vulnerability have also repeatedly drawn attention to its effect regarding achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Military sonars, radioactive ingredients, and chemical weapons in warfare cause a regretful nature and biodiversity loss. It is claimed that tens of thousands of dead dolphins have washed up on the Black sea occurred by the military sonar of Russian warships, used in the Russia-Ukraine war. WHO says, "Climate crisis threatens to undo the last 50 years of progress in development, global health, and poverty reduction, and further to widen existing health inequalities between and within populations". Moreover, climate change bedevils human health and well-being in multiple ways affecting all aspects of our daily lives, including cascading effects on economies. This is, in a true sense, the era of "loss and damage". The cardinal culprits for those perilous impacts are the rich and industrialized global north countries who owe the poorer global south countries a kind of "climate debt". The north has a historic responsibility to assist the south makingits own transition to a post-fossil-fuel future, with limited extraction and burning of fossil fuels. The exploitation and looting of pre and post colonial era established an unequal power balance between south and north.

South continues to supply north with natural resources, to support a 'clean energy' transition, increasingly being locked into various sorts of debt servitude to the financial institutions of the north.On one side, the south suffers from climate catastrophes while exploitationon another. The southern hemisphere'speripheral countries have been historically bled out! The World community has been meeting, in the UN annual climate summit namely the Conference of the Parties(COP), to reach a crescendo in its demand for urgent climate action travelingfrom Bali to Marrakesh, Kyoto to Cancun, Berlin to Buenos Aires, and Glasgow to Egypt over the years since1995, except 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This was not the first attempt to talk concerning climate change. The Montreal Protocol of 1987proceeded tosecure the stratospheric ozone layer by phasing out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances(ODS), furtherly eliminating 99 percent of those ODSs. Successively, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change(UNFCCC) of 1992 was signed by 154 countries worldwideto abate atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases with the direction of halting hazardous anthropogenic inference with Earth's climate pattern. The Kyoto Protocol, adopted in 1997 and came into force in 2005, was the maiden legally binding climate agreement. It conducted developed countries to reduce emissions by an average of five percent below 1990 levels. But the treaty didn't compel developing countries, including major carbon emitters India and China, to implications. The USA signed the treaty but never ratified and later withdrew from its signature. Paris Agreement of 2015, the most significant global climate treaty to date required each country to set emissions reduction pledges, with the goals of preventing the global average temperature from rising 2°C and keeping it below 1.5°C and attempting to reach global 'net-zero emissions' meant to make a balance between the amount GHGs produced and removed from the atmosphere. Through the Kvoto Protocol and the Paris Climate Accord, countries agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but the amount of carbon diox-

ide in the atmosphere keeps rising, heating the Earth at an alarming rate. The World's average temperature will still rise by 2.1°C average by 2100 even if countries fully implement their pledges for 2030 and beyond. When climate experts are asked whether the climate-attested pledges are sufficient to mitigate the climate problem, the answer turns 'No'. Two centuries ago, in the early days of modern state capitalism, an astute British analyst said that the merchants and manufacturers of England are the 'masters of mankind' who are the 'principal architects' of government policy and make sure that their interests 'are most peculiarly attended to' no matter how grievous the impact on others, including the people of England. The World is still a machine of oligarchs whose interests are prioritized by the decision-makers. The industrial and rich economies are not concerned about climate-affected nations, giving priority to the 'masters of mankind'.Again, thedeveloped world has not kept its 2009 pledge to raise \$100 billion annually in climate aid. This denotes whether further agreed pledges be properlymaterialized. The recently concluded UN climate summit COP27, placed in sharm elsheikh, Egypt, had one major accomplishment thatcreated a Loss and Damage Fund (LDF) to provide financial support to countries adversely affected by climate change. Since the LDF is launched, it would be difficult to determine which country should get how much and why, and what portion of encumbrance is burdenedto which country. Records tell us a different scenario of whether developed countries would be responsible and vigilant enough to operationalize. There is no agreement vet on how the financing will be provided, who will quarterback the fund, how the money will be dispersed. Setting up all these laborious tasks will be a challenge for the current COPpresidency (Egypt) and the incoming (United Arab Emirates). It is also undetermined what sorts of assets should be identified as 'loss and damage'. The major carbon emitters China and India, distinguished as developing countries, will not be initially contributor to this fund.Conversely and optimistically, the well-planned LDF may pressurize governments to cut emissions. To be able to do this, further action should be as expected, overcoming geopolitical hindrances.But achieving climate sustainability is an insurmountable job. While COP27 managed to reach a landmark agreement on new "loss and damage" fund for climate-vulnerable countries, all optimism is pointed at COP28 on how to execute the new funding arrangement. All the creatures are under the threat of demolition due to climate change. So, as the best of all creatures, human beingsshould not be indifferent to the situation. We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator. Time is running short, but a livable planet for people and nature is still within our grasp if leaders and policymakers take bolder action in this decisive decade.In my opinion, the existing commitments and pledges announced from Copenhagen and Cancun through Paris and all the way to Glasgow require to follow up in order to provide clarity as to where we are and what more needs to be done. Progress on the delivery of the yearly hundred billion dollar will build trust between developing and developed countries, showing that actual commitments are being fulfilled. But right now, we have a huge responsibility ahead to ensure that developed countries contribute to the funds and other promises, in line with justiceand equity.

06

WORLD / SPORTS



Briefs Four cops

martyred in Lakki Marwat

FROM PAGE 01

responsibility, adding that they will be left with no other option but to take the protection of their leaders into their own hands if the state does not act. "Apart from Aimal Wali Khan, Sardar Hussain Babak and others have received threats as well while the house of MPA Faisal Zeb was attacked twice in the last few weeks," Samar Haroon Bilour had said last week.Apart from the attack on the house of ANP MPA Faisal Zeb in Shangla, a grenade was hurled at the house of party Senator Hidayatullah in Peshawar in recent months. Nobody has claimed responsibility for the attack however it is believed the TTP may be behind these attacks. After TTP has ended an agreement with Pakistani government, a marked increase in the terror acts has been witnessed especially in the KPK and Balochistan provinces.

At least 26 policemen, 12 personnel of other law enforcement agencies and 17 civilians were killed in terror incidents across the KP. Moreover, 18 policemen, 10 civilians, and 37 law enforcement agencies personnel suffered injuries in these attacks. A dozen districts, including Peshawar, Mardan, Bajaur, Mohmand, Dera Ismail Khan, Tank, Kohat, Bannu, and Nowshera came under attack in November. Meanwhile, KP Police claims that they have accelerated operations against the terrorists saying at least 539 alleged terrorists and proclaimed offenders were arrested in the province during the first 10 months of 2022. They added 141 were also killed including 42 of those who carried head money.

President, **PM** Shehbaz condemn attack

FROM PAGE 01 He also urged the KP pro-

Shoaib and Sarah win **Benazir Tennis C'ship**

The first set started at a high pace, both Muzammil and Shoaib managed to break each other's serve countless times. It was a see-saw battle, both displayed top quality tennis which was witnessed after a long time as Shoaib won first set 7-5-4

AFZAL JAVED

ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Shoaib stunned Muzammil Murtaza in the close encounter to become champion in the Men's singles category of 8th Shaheed Benazir Bhutto National Tennis Championship, as he won 2-1 in the final played here at Islamabad Tennis Complex on Sunday. The house full final were witnessed at main tennis court of Islamabad Tennis Complex which played more than three hour, it was all left between the country's two elite youngsters, Muhammad Shoaib and Muzammil Murtaza. Muhammad Shoaib who had beaten Pakistan's number one Ageel Khan in the semi-final had shown their wonderful skills in final against Muzammil as he also enjoyed overwhelming crowd support. The first set started at a high pace, both Muzammil and Shoaib managed to break each other's serve countless times. It was a see-saw battle, both displayed top quality tennis which was witnessed after a long time as Shoaib



won the first set 7-5-4. In the second set Muzammil took a lead from the start and never allowed shoaib to come back as he won the second set 6-1. In the decisive set Shoaib managed the championship title by winning the final set 6-4 and the title of the men's single category. In the ladies singles final, Sarah

Mehmoob thrashed Esha Jawad by 2-0 in, Sarah won the first set 6-0, while Sarah simply demolished in the second set by 6-1. Senator Taj Haider, Senator Farhatullah Babar, Senator Krishna Kumari , President Pakistan Tennis Federation Salim Saifullah Khan, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan grandson Ahmed Masood, ITC

Chairman and former Pakistan Davis Cup coach Fazle Subhan and other dignities were also present during the prize distribution ceremony. **Results:**

Men's singles final results: M. Shoaib bt Muzamil Murtaza 7-5. 1-6. 6-4

Ladies' singles final results:

Sarah Mehboob bt Esha Javad 6-0, 6-1

U12 single final results: Hassan Usmani bt Shayan Afridi

2-4, 5-3, 4-2U10 single final results: Shayan Afridi bt Hajra 4-1, 4-2 Senior 45 Doubles final: Azeem Khan/Mehmood Khan bt Israr Gul/Rashid Malik 5-7, 6-1, 10-7

No action against Gen Bajwa if came...

FROM PAGE 01 Imran said that Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir himself has said that he will remain neutral. However, he added that holding elections within three months after the dissolution of assemblies will the biggest test of his neutrality. He said that when Lt-Gen (retd) Faiz Hameed was removed as DG ISI, it became obvious that a plan has been hatched to topple the PTI government. "I told Gen Bajwa that if the plan to topple the government succeeds, no one will be able to manage the country's economy," he added.

The former prime minister said that he explained to the former army chief how Shehbaz could be considered for the prime minister's post as he was named in Rs16 billion worth of corruption cases. However, he added, he later came to know that corruption was not an issue for General (retd) Bajwa.

"Gen Bajwa used to say that Aleem Khan should be made the [Punjab] chief minister. I found out about his illegal possession so I said how he can be made chief minister," he said.

Imran said that Pakistan's economy would have performed even better if there wasn't a coronavirus pandemic and China was not locked down for two years. Economy of the country is on a decline and income of people is low then how can loans be returned in this situation, he questioned. "A country cannot prosper if there is no rule of law," he added. "I told Gen Bajwa that if we catch 10 to 12 top corrupt people, everything will get back on right track." Imran said that National Accountability Bureau (NAB) was formed in 1999 but it should be questioned whether corruption increased or

decreased since then. 'We had a decent relation with Gen Bajwa but I don't know what happened later." Talking about the Toshakhana case, the PTI chief said that if there was corruption during his tenure, then the opponents would have raised it rather than highlighting the Toshakhana issue only. "Toshakhana is not a museum. If I had not bought the watch it would have been bought by someone else during an auction. he said, adding that Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari too bought expensive cars from Toshakhana. Earlier, Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Parvez Elahi said that he and his party will be the first ones to defend General (retd) Qamar Javed Bajwa if anything further is said against the former army chief. The statement came during Parvez's unofficial conversation with journalists when he referred to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan's criticism of former army chief Gen (retd) Bajwa in Saturday's address to party workers. "I felt very bad when Khan was speaking against Gen (retd) Bajwa," Parvez said adding that the former army chief was a "benefactor' and nothing should be said against benefactors. "Gen (retd) Bajwa gave many favours to him [Khan] therefore the favours shouldn't be forgotten," the Punjab CM reminded the PTI chief. He said that they are allies of PTI instead of opponents but they can't forget the favours of their "benefactors". The Punjab chief minister said that Khan did not allow former federal minister Moonis Elahi to sit with him but Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) backed Imran Khan. "We agreed immediately when Imran Khan asked to dissolve [Punjab] Assembly," he added. On Saturday, Khan in his address to PTI workers criticised the former army chief (retd) Gen Bajwa saying that he "foresaw the removal of his government" and was aware that some elements wanted to impose Shehbaz Sharif as the prime minister. The former premier was flanked by Parvez and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa CM Mahmood Khan. "General (retd) Qamar Javed Bajwa told me that he did not want this (Shehbaz becoming PM to happen). So who is responsible? Will anyone tell me this? Gen (retd) Bajwa would tell me that the [incumbent rulers] are corrupt." But not conceding defeat. Imran said that the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) move to remove him "was in my favour" as I have received "unprecedented respect".

Australia enter history books with Test win over South Africa



Africa to win World Cup in '15-20 years': Walid Regragui

DOHA: Morocco coach Walid Regragui said he believes an African team will win the World Cup in the next "15 to 20 vears" after his team finished fourth in Qatar. The Atlas Lions, who became the first African World Cup semi-finalists in history, lost Saturday's third place play-off 2-1 against 2018 runners-up Croatia but captured the imagination in Qatar. The next World Cup in 2026, held across the USA, Canada and Mexico, will be expanded to 48 teams and Africa will have at least nine slots – up from five at present. "With nine participants, we're going to learn. In 15, 20 years, I'm sure an African team will win the World Cup because we'll have learned," said Regragui. "We have a stage to get past. We need to build on that, with hard work and desire. This DNA is not just being built for Morocco, but for the continent." Morocco finished top of a group including Croatia and Belgium, who came third at the 2018 World Cup, before knocking out Spain and Portugal to reach the last four. Their run was ended in the semi-finals by defending champions France, but Regragui has urged his players to back up their historic display by winning next year's Africa Cup of Nations. "I said to the players in the changing room, if you want to go down in history then you're going to have to win the Africa Cup of Nations," said Regragui. "We need to dominate our continent." Morocco have been crowned African champions just once, in 1976, but their performances at the World Cup demonstrated they are a team on the rise under Regragui, who was only appointed in August. "Tomorrow morning we'll take stock and all realise we've pulled off a fantastic achievement here. We've earned a great deal of experience in a short space of time," said Regragui. "We've gone further than expected but it's not enough. It needs to set an example for the future. I hope that everybody (in Africa) will learn from the experience. "We've got a great future ahead of us and we'll keep moving forward. "Of course we have the objective of winning the World Cup one day. There's going to be more pressure on us going forward and hopefully there will be more African teams following our example. - Agencies Modric sets sights on Nations League title Zlatko Dalic admits that time is ticking on other senior players. "It's the end of a cycle. It's the last World Cup for some older players," said the coach with one eye on the qualifying tournament for Euro 2024 which kicks off in March. "But we have very good young see how to proceed. I definitely want players who give hope, (Josip) Stanito stay for the Nations League.' sic, (Mislav) Orsic, many players who Croatia were defeated by a Lionel are on the bench. We have a very good Messi-inspired Argentina in the team for the future. World Cup semi-finals but Modric in-"Croatia have nothing to fear with sisted that his team have cemented this generation. What awaits us is a place amongst the heavyweights of the League of Nations, and the qualthe sport. "We achieved something ifications of the Euro." Meanwhile, major for the Croatian football. We fireworks lit the sky above the Croawanted the gold, we were close," he tian capital of Zagreb and many othtold broadcaster HRT. "In the end, we er towns in the country that joyfully return to Croatia as winners. Croatia celebrated the win in the third-place is not a miracle that appears every 20 play-off. "Croatia is on fire! Tears, years. We proved that we are constant, songs, pride and joy throughout our that we cannot be seen as dark horses homeland!" read the Vecernji List daibut as a football power." ly paper online edition. "A long, happy Even though Modric intends to keep playing at international level, coach night is ahead Croatia." - DNA

vincial government to provide Shuhada package to the families of martyred police personnel. The president and prime minister expressed their condolences with the bereaved families and prayed for the high ranks of the departed souls and the early recovery of the injured. According to APP district correspondent in Lakki Marwat, at least four policemen were martyred and different others got injured after terrorists attacked the Baragai police station late Saturday night. The terrorists attacked the Baragi police station with hand grenades and rocket launchers at midnight. The martyred policemen included head constable Ibrahim, constable Imran. Elite Force constable Khair ur Rehman and constable Sabz Ali while the injured policemen included PASI Gul Sahib, constable Balqiyaz, constable Ameer Nawaz, and constable Farman Ullah.

Ch. Shujaat tasked with blocking...

FROM PAGE 01 Parvez Elahi until a green signal is received from Shujaat Hussain, the sources added. Following the huddle, Zardari also called on Hussain and discussed various strategies to counter the PTI's plan. Talking to journalists, PML-N's Attaul lah Tarar said that Punjab's situation was discussed during the meeting between the prime minister and the PPP's co-chairman.

Pakistan to import...

FROM PAGE 01

Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar has said that the government provided major relief on petroleum products during the last two and a half months to the masses. While sharing his views in a tweet, he said the petrol price had been reduced by Rs 22.63 per litre since September 30, as it went down from Rs 247.43 to Rs 214.80 per litre. The minister said the prices of diesel and light diesel oil were also reduced by Rs 19.63 and Rs 28.28 per litre respectively during this period.

DNA

BRISBANE: Australia have maintained their unbeaten Test status at home this summer and closed in on booking a spot at next year's World Test Championship final with a decisive six-wicket victory over a disappointing South Africa in Brisbane on Sunday.

The win sees Australia move further ahead at the top of the World Test Championship standings, while South Africa are overtaken by India and drop

to third as a result of the loss Australia now hold a 76.92 win percentage, with India (55.77) now ahead of South Africa (54.55) following their 188-run triumph over Bangladesh in Chattogram earlier in the day.

The Test match was over in less than two days as Australia's strong bowling attack - with some assistance from a bowler-friendly surface at The Gabba - made light work of South Africa's batters with an impressive team performance. Skipper Pat Cummins (5/42) and the consistent

Scott Boland (2/14) did the majority of the damage on Sunday, while Mitchell Starc (2/26) picked up his 300th Test wicket early in the day as South Africa were skittled for just 99

in their second innings. South Africa caused some concern in the Australia camp when they claimed four wickets. The hosts chased down the 34 required for victory, with Marnus Labuschagne (5^*) and Cameron Green (0^*) guiding the side home as the Aussies clinched the opening match of the three-game series.

Beckham defends ambassadorial role DOHA: David Beckham has made his first public state-

ment on his controversial multi-million-dollar ambassador's role with FIFA World Cup 2022 hosts Qatar, telling the New York Times he believed "sport has the power to be a force for good in the world". In an article on Friday entitled "The World Cup's Missing Mouthpiece", the US newspaper alleged Qatar had been disappointed with its return on its investment because the former Manchester United and Real Madrid player had appeared very little in public during the World Cup. The paper claimed Beckham had placed strict conditions on his appearances and that he appeared to be shielded from questions on issues such as Qatar's laws on homosexuality. In response to the article, his publicist issued a statement saying: "David has been involved in a number of World Cups and other major international tournaments both as a player and an ambassador and he has always believed that sport has the power to be a force for good in the world. - APP

Brook ton powers England to narrow lead over Pak Pakistan have dismissed England for 354 runs in the first innings of the ongoing third Test in Karachi on Sunday. The visitors, who bowled out Pakistan in the first innings for 304, have taken a lead of 50 runs

DOHA: Luka Modric led Croatia to

the bronze medal at the FIFA World

Cup 2022 on Saturday and revealed

he will extend his international ca-

reer into 2023 in an attempt to win

the Nations League. The 37-year-old

won his 162nd cap in the 2-1 win over

Morocco, four years after helping his

country to the World Cup runners-up

spot behind France. Croatia will now

attempt to win the Nations League

title next June in the four-team finals

also featuring Netherlands, Italy and

Spain. "That's the plan," said Modric

when asked if he intends to keep play-

"It would be a nonsense not to play

in the Nations League, and then we'll

ing international football.

DNA

KARACHI: Harry Brook scored his third century in as many matches while Ben Foakes hit a half-century as England eked out a lead of 29 over Pakistan at the end of day two of the final Test of the series at Karachi's National Stadium on Sunday. Brook made 111 to continue his excellent start to Test cricket. with the 23-year-old proving to be the glue in England's innings, putting on partnerships with Ollie Pope and captain Ben Stokes before a stand of 117 with Foakes.

Pakistan have dismissed England for 354 runs in the first innings of the ongoing third Test in Karachi on Sunday. The visitors, who bowled out Pakistan in the first innings for 304, have taken a lead of 50 runs. Spinners Abrar Ahmed and Nauman Ali claimed four wickets each for Pakistan. In reply, Pakistan's opening duo of Abdullah Shafique (14) and Shan Masood (3) reached stumps unscathed with the score at 21-0. At one stage it seemed as if Pakistan might be able to get a narrow lead in the first innings but Harry Brook led England's

fightback with an impressive century. The right-hander scored 111 runs in 150 balls with the help of eight fours and three sixes and helped England recover after being reduced to 145-5. Brook and wicketkeeper Ben Foakes, who scored 64 runs, added 117

valuable runs for the sixth wicket. Earlier, the visitors scored 114 runs in the second session on day two and lost only one wicket. The only wicket in the second session for Pakistan came courtesy a horrible mix-up between Ben Stokes, 26 off 33, and



Brook, which led to the former going back to the hut. In the morning session, Nauman Ali claimed two wickets, Ben Duckett and Joe Root, in two balls to reduce England to 58-3. However, Ollie Pope scored an impressive fifty to ensure that the scoreboard kept moving. Although, he was dismissed by a lovely delivery by Abrar Ahmed after scoring 51 runs. England, on their first Test tour to Pakistan since 2005, lead the series 2-0 after winning the first match by 74 runs in Rawalpindi and the second by 26 in Multan. The tourists made two changes from the last Test, bringing in wicketkeeper Ben Foakes and Rehan Ahmed in place of James Anderson and Will Jacks. Rehan, at 18 years and 126 days, becomes the youngest player to debut for England, beating Brian Close's record of 18 years and 149 days set in 1949. Senior Pakistan batter Azhar Ali, who on Friday announced the Karachi Test would be his last, is one of four changes in the home side. Shan Masood, Mohammad Wasim Junior and Nauman Ali also come in, while Imamul-Haq (injured), Mohammad Nawaz, Zahid Mahmood and Mohammad Ali were left out. Wasim, 21, is playing his first Test.

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BUSINESS / WORLD

Briefs

Death toll in Peru protests climbs to 23

BOGOTA :The death tol in nationwide protests in Peru sparked by the ousting of former President Pedro Castillo has risen to 23, authorities said on Saturday. Peru has declared a 30-day nationwide state of emergency as clashes between police and protesters rage on in several areas over Castillo's Dec. 7 impeachment and arrest. At least 569 people, including 216 security personnel, have been injured in the capital Lima and other regions, including Apurimac, Ancash, Ayacucho, Cajamarca, Cusco, Moquegua, and Puno, according to the Peru Ombudsman's Office.

Protests have been most violent in Ayacucho and Apurimac, which together account for 13 of all reported fatalities. Peru's National Coordinator for Human Rights, a coalition of civil society groups, called for an immediate stop to the use of force against protesters, urging authorities to conduct thorough investigations and punish those responsible. The coalition blamed Peru's "highest political authorities" for the bloodshed and demanded an end to the military's intervention as thousands of soldiers swarmed the country after the state of emergency was announced. Protesters are demanding the resignation of Peru's new President Dina Boluarte, the dissolution of parliament, and a schedule for new elections. They are also pressing for Castillo's immediate release, with calls only growing louder after the Supreme Court ruled on Thursday that he will remain in detention for 18 months as he faces charges of rebellion and conspiracy.-Agencies

Palestinian brothers killed

RAMALLAH: Two Palestinian brothers died Saturday in the occupied West Bank after being deliberately hit by a Jewish settler's car. Mohammed Mutir and

N. Korea fires two ballistic missiles: Seoul's military

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected two ballistic missiles that had been fired from the Tongchang-ri area in North Pyongan province

SEOUL: North Korea fired two ballistic missiles Sunday, Seoul's military said "Our military has strengthened surveillance and vigilance while closely cooperating with the United States and maintaining a full readiness posture," the JCS added in a statement. Sunday's launch came days after North Korea tested a "highthrust solid-fuel motor", with state media describing it as an important test "for the development of another new-type strategic

weapon system". Despite heavy international sanctions over its weapons programmes, Pyongyang has built up an arsenal of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs).

All its known ICBMs are liquid-fuelled, however, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has placed strategic priority on developing solid-fuel engines for more advanced missiles. Kim said this year that he wants North Korea to have the world's most powerful

nuclear force, and declared his country an "irreversible" nuclear state. The wishlist he revealed last vear included solid-fuel ICBMs that could be launched from land or submarines. The latest motor test was a step towards that goal, but it is not clear how far North Korea has come in the development of such a missile, analysts said. After overseeing the launch of the Hwasong-17 "monster" missile last month, Kim declared he wanted North Korea to have

the world's most powerful nuclear force. The isolated country's policy direction for next year will be laid out at a key party meeting later this month, and the official Korean Central News Agency earlier reported Kim saying that 2023 would be a "historic year".In past years, Kim had delivered a speech every January 1, but has recently dropped the tradition in favour of making announcements at the year-end plenary meeting. In his most recent address, which

was released last New Year's Day, Kim focused on domestic affairs. Experts say while Kim refrained from directly addressing the United States last year, he could change his tone this time around. The United States and South Korea have warned for months this could come in North Korea conducting its seventh nuclear test. North Korea is under multiple UN Security Council sanctions over its nuclear and missile activity since 2006.–APP

Putin's

invasion

opened

Greek protesters demand higher wages

IslamabadPOST

Monday, December 19, 2022

ATHENS: Workers, civil servants and students staged protests Saturday in Athens to draw attention to the soaring cost of living. Demonstrators gathered in front of the parliament building, responding to the call of The All-Workers Militant Front (PAME), a trade union affiliated with the Communist Party of Greece (KKE), to protest. They demanded an increase in wages in the demonstration which was held during the 2023 budget negotiations in a parliament plenary. The budget is expected to be submitted to parliament later Saturday for approval. Europe has seen similar protests as a growing cost of living crisis and rising energy prices since the Russian-Ukraine war has led to strikes in France, the UK and Spain.-Agencies

Leading Iranian actress arrested

TEHRAN: Authorities in Iran have arrested one of the country's most prominent actresses for allegedly spreading falsehoods about the nationwide protests that continue to grip the country. That's according to Iran state media, which said that Taraneh Alidoosti, who starred in the Oscar-winning movie 'The Salesman' was detained after she voiced her support on social media for the first man to be executed for crimes allegedly committed during the demonstrations. According to the report published on the state media's official Telegram channel, Alidoosti was arrested because she did not provide "any documents in line with her claims." IRNA also said several other Iranian celebrities had been summoned by the judiciary body over publishing provocative content. It did not say how many or provide further details. Alidoosti has made at least three posts on her Instagram account expressing solidarity with protesters since the demonstrations broke out in September. - APP

> Italian socialists



Mohanad Mutair?????? were killed when they were struck by the car at the Zatera crossing south of the West Bank city of Nablus, according to a statement from the Jerusalem Governor's Office. Zakaria Feyale. head of the Qalandiya Office of the Governorship of Jerusalem, said the brothers were attacked while waiting by the roadside to fix a tire of the vehicle they were riding in, according to the Palestinian official news agency. The brothers were returning home to Qalandiva from Nablus with other family members.

Mohammed died at the scene, while Muhenned was seriously hurt and died at a hospital, said Feyale, who noted that the Jewish settler who reportedly intentionally struck the Palestinian brothers fled the scene. Fayala said Mohammed's body was transferred to a hospital in Nablus, while Mohanad was taken to the Hadassah Hospital before his death was announced.-APP

EU reaches deal on major carbon market reform

BRUSSELS :EU member states and parliamentarians on Sunday announced an agreement for a major reform to the bloc's carbon market, the central plank of its ambitions to reduce emissions and invest in climate-friendly technologies.

The deal aims to accelerate emissions cuts, phase out free allowances to industries and targets fuel emissions from the build ing and road transport sectors, according to a European Parliament statement. The EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) allows electricity producers and industries with high energy demands such as steel and cement to purchase "free allowances" to cover their carbon emissions under a "polluter pays" principle. The quotas are designed to decrease over time to encourage them to emit less and invest in greener technologies as part of the European Union's ultimate aim of achieving carbon neu trality.-APP

GWADAR: Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany Alfred Grannas posing for a picture during his recent visit to Gwadar. In this Twitter handle the Germany ambassador seemed all praise for the potential of the Gwadar Port.-DNA

"There is inflation ... there's an energy crisis, there's suffering, there's shortages of drugs, everything evil has been unleashed and until there is withdrawal and ceasefire we can't make progress on reconciliation," he added.-Agencies

suspend MEP Cozzolino

ROME: Italian MEP Andrea Cozzolino has been suspended by his own party, the centre-left Partito Democratico (PD), until the investigation into the corruption scandal engulfing the European Parliament comes to an end. The party's national guarantee commission announced the decision on Friday, saying it was a "precaution" and would be "immediately enforceable." The suspension is also meant to "protect" the image of Partito Democratico and allow Cozzolino to defend his own position in the ongoing case, the statement said. Cozzolino has not been charged as part of the Belgian prosecutor's probe into the scandal. 'I have not been questioned. I have not been searched, nor has my office been sealed," the MEP told Italian media. "I'm ready to protect my integrity and my reputation in every venue." However, his former parliamentary assistant, Francesco Giorgi.--APP

UN sets 10-year plan to save endangered languages

UNITED NATIONS :The United Nations on Friday launched the International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL 2022-2032) aimed at helping peoples around the world to keep their mother tongues alive. Preserving their languages is "not only important for them, but for all humanity," UN General Assembly President Csaba Korosi said while marking the occasion. "With each indigenous language that goes extinct, so too goes the thought: the culture, tradition and knowledge it bears. That matters because we are in dire need of a radical transformation in the way we relate to our environment," he said.

According to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, indigenous people speak more than 4,000 of the world's roughly 6,700 languages. However, conservative estimates indicate that more than half of all languages will become extinct by the end of this century. Korosi recently returned from the UN Biodiversity Conference in Montreal and left convinced that "if we are to successfully protect nature, we must listen to indigenous peoples, and we must do so in their own languages." Indigenous peoples are guardians to almost 80 percent of the world's remaining biodiversity, he said, citing

data from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. 'Yet every two weeks, an indigenous language dies," he remarked. "This should ring our alarms. The General Assembly President urged countries to work with indigenous communities to safeguard their rights, such as access to education and resources in their native languages, and to ensure that they and their knowledge are not exploited. "And perhaps most importantly, meaningfully consult indigenous peoples, engaging with them in every stage of decision-making processes," he advised. During the launch, indigenous persons and UN Ambassadors - sometimes one

and the same - made the case for protection and preservation. Language is more than just words, said Mexican Ambassador Juan Ramon de la Fuente, speaking on behalf of the 22-member Group of Friends of Indigenous Peoples. "It is at the essence of the identity of its speakers and the collective soul of its peoples. Languages embody the history, culture and traditions of people, and they are dying at an alarming rate," he warned. Leonor Zalabata Torres, an Arhuaco woman and Colombia's UN Ambassador, drew applause for her address, delivered partly in Ika, one of 65 indigenous languages spoken in her homeland.-APP

Tunisia opp calls for Saied to quit

TUNIS : Tunisia plunged into political uncertainty Sunday as its main opposition alliance called on President Kais Saied to "leave immediately", a day after voters overwhelming snubbed elections for a neutered parliament That comes with Saied's government negotiating a nearly \$2-billion package to bail out the North African country's crippled public finances. Ahmed Nejib Chebbi, president of the National Salvation Front alliance, said Saied had "lost all legal legitimacy". The electoral board said 8.8 percent of the nine-million-strong electorate had turned out for Saturday's polls, the culmination of a power grab by Saied in the only democracy to have emerged from the Arab Spring. An abstention rate of more than 91 percent "shows that very, very few Tunisians support Kais Saied's approach", Chebbi told AFP by telephone. He said the result showed "great popular disavowal" of the process that began when Saied, elected in 2019, seized executive powers last year. The president in July 2021 sacked the government, froze parliament and surrounded it with military vehicles, following months of political deadlock and economic crisis exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic. Saied, a former law professor, followed up by seizing control of the judiciary and pushing through a constitution that consolidated his near-absolute power in a widely boycotted referendum in July.-APP

Iraqi conservators strive to preserve ancient manuscripts

BAGHDAD :In an annex of Iraq's national museum, a conservator pores over a 17th-century manuscript, carrying out delicate restoration work as part of efforts to preserve and digitise 47,000 precious texts. "Some manuscripts date back almost 1,000 years," said Ahmed al-Alyawi, who heads the House of Manuscripts body. "There are writings in Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Hebrew and Kurdish," he added, noting the texts' "immense cultural diversity". In a country that bears the scars of decades of conflict and has seen antiquities and cultural heritage regularly plundered, the House of Manuscripts' collection has managed to survive. It was safely stashed away in the Baghdad suburbs, while the national museum was ransacked in the turmoil following the 2003 US-led invasion. Employees and residents prevented subsequent looting attempts at the "underground shelter" where it was stored, Alyawi said.

The collection, now ensconced in the national museum in the capital Baghdad, includes books, parchments and calligraphy boards, some of them damaged by humidity, pests and centuries of use. Some manuscripts date from the early Abbasid era, while some seventh-century calligraphy boards in Kufic script were written on parchment "even before the manufacture of paper", Alyawi said. The House of Manuscripts archive "is a leading collection in Iraq and the region", said Zakaria Haffar, Iraq project manager at the National Library of France (BNF). In October, the House of Manuscripts signed a partnership with the BNF, following financial support from the Aliph Foundation, which works to protect cultural heritage in conflict zones.-APP

RCCI holds seminar on Islam and Trade

STAFF REPORT

RAWALPINDI: A seminar on Islam and trade was organized in Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Taj Afsar, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Usuluddin, International Islamic University, Islamabad said in his address at the seminar. Trade in Islam is a natural requirement and the basic principle of the religion of Islam is human respect. In which transparency and respect for hard work is emphasized, adulteration, cheating, usury and illegal profiteering are strictly prohibited in Islam. Chamber President Saqib Rafiq said in his opening speech that it is our duty and responsibility to implement the five principles of trade that Islam has set. stay busy, A question and answer session was also held on the occasion of the seminar, in which the participants asked questions regarding

DU

transactions, advances, rent and partnership, sale and purchase of land, business of property files, profit on rental, Dr. Taj Afsar. In response to the questions, he

said that in any aspect of trade, the basic principle of Islam should always be kept in front, in which it is forbidden to make profit by taking advantage of co-

ercion, and the interests of the community should be cherished under free trade and transparency. Senior Vice President Muhammad Hamza Sarosh, Vice President Faisal Shehzad, Chairman Kashif Rahim, Executive Members and a large number of Chamber members were present on this occasion.







Briefs Accident in Afghan Salang Tunnel kills at least 12

Qatar says EU corruption probe threat to relations

WEB DESK

KABUL: An accident in the landmark Salang alpine tunnel that connects Afghanistan's capital to its north killed at least 12 people and injured dozens, authorities said on Sunday. Thirty-seven people were injured in the accident in Salang Tunnel, located about 90 km (56 miles) north of Kabul, according to Qari Yusuf Ahmadi, deputy spokesperson for the Talib an-run administration.

"The Islamic Emirate expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the victims and ... it also calls on all relevant agencies to make more and serious efforts to prevent the recurrence of such terrible incidents," Ahmadi said.

Local broadcaster Tolo, citing the Ministry of Public Works, said a fuel truck had overturned and caught fire in the tunnel on Saturday night. The blaze had been extinguished on Sunday but the tunnel was closed to traffic and casualties could rise, according to the Ministry spokesperson.

Voting for S.Africa's ruling party leader to get underway

JOHANNESBURG: Voting to elect a new leader of South Africa's ruling party was to get underway on Sunday, with President Cyril Ramaphosa squaring off against his former health minister Zweli Mkhize. Ramaphosa, 70, is expected to be confirmed in the role that opens the way to being head of state, despite a damaging cash-heist scandal and vociferous internal on position. But observers said the race looked closer than expected, with local media reporting party delegates from several provinces had shifted support to Mkhize. "We're seeing Ramaphosa moving from enjoying a comfortable lead, to having Mkhize right behind him. It's up in the air right now," independent political analyst Pearl Mncube told media. - APP

"Our nations cooperated during the Covid-19 pandemic and Qatar is an important supplier of LNG to Belgium," it emphasized. The scandal has caused shockwaves in the EU parliament amid calls for a general clampdown on dealings with third-country lobbyists

News Desk

DOHA: Qatar on Sunday, December 18, condemned a corruption investigation by Belgium and the suspension of its access to the EU parliament, saying it could "negatively" impact relations and natural gas supplies. The decision to impose "such a discriminatory restriction" before the investigation has ended, "will negatively affect regional and global security cooperation, as well as ongoing discussions around global energy poverty and security," a Qatar diplomat said in a statement.

On December 9, after revelations by Belgian newspaper Le Soir and the magazine Knack, the Belgian federal prosecutor's office confirmed that police were investigating "allegation of participation in a criminal organization, corruption and

money laundering" since mid-July. Without and global security cooperation, as well as naming Qatar, it suspects "a Gulf country to be influencing the economic and political decisions of the European Parliament, by paying large sums of money or offering large gifts to third parties with a significant political and/or strategic position in the European Parliament." Eva Kaili, a Greek MEP, is one of four people charged after raids that uncovered at least 1.5 million euros (\$1.6 million) in cash. The scandal has erupted as many European countries look to Qatar for liquefied natural gas supplies. It has also been a link in contacts with Afghanistan and brought thousands of European nationals out of the country when the Taliban took power.

"The decision to impose such a discriminatory restriction that limits dialogue and cooperation on Qatar before the legal process has ended, will negatively affect regional ongoing discussions around global energy poverty and security," said the Qatari diplomat on Sunday. "We firmly reject the allegations associating our government with misconduct," the statement added.

"Qatar was not the only party named in the investigation, yet our country has been exclusively criticized and attacked." "We have observed this week's selective condemnation of our country with great alarm," the statement said. According to media reports, Moroccan interests also face scrutiny in the investigation. Belgian prosecutors said they had been investigating EU parliament corruption for more than a year before the raids and arrests of the past 10 days.

"It is deeply disappointing that the Belgian government made no effort to engage with our government to establish the facts once they became aware of the allegations," said the diplomat. The statement highlighted the "close" relationship with Belgium. "Our nations cooperated during the Covid-19 pandemic and Qatar is an important supplier of LNG to Belgium," it emphasized. The scandal has caused shockwaves in the EU parliament amid calls for a general clampdown on dealings with third-country lobbyists. Qatar has already had one diplomatic showdown with Germany in recent months. Doha summoned the German ambassador after the interior minister cast doubt on whether Qatar should host the World Cup because of its treatment of foreign workers. "Qatar has strong and longstanding ties with many countries in the European Union, and we extend our gratitude to those who have demonstrated their commitment to these relationships during this current wave of attacks against our country," said the diplomat.

Rallies held across country in solidarity

LARKANA: Rallies were held across the country to support Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari who exposed the real face of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi by calling him "butcher of Gujrat" while delivering a speech at the United Nations (UN). Pakistan People's Party (PPP) held a rally in Umer Kot which was joined by a large number of people from different walks of life. The public raised slogans against India and praised Bilawal for his outstanding speech at the UN. Similarly, a rally was also held in Larkana during which the public raised slogans against the anti-Muslim policies of India. The rally was also joined by the Pakistani Hindu community which was led by PPP city president Muhammad Sheikh and Ejaz Laghari. – DNA

France slams Israel's expulsion of lawyer

Israel's interior ministry earlier announced deportation following Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked's decision to withdraw his residency status

ROISSY CHARLES DE GAULLE AIRPORT: French-Palestinian human rights lawyer Salah Hamouri, held without charge in Israeli prisons since March accused of security offences, arrived in Paris on Sunday following his expulsion from Israel condemned by Paris. Hamouri, 37, had been held in Israel under a controversial practice known as administrative detention, which allows suspects to be detained for renewable periods of up to six months. He arrived at the French capital's Charles de Gaulle airport on Sunday morning, an AFP correspondent saw, the culmination of a lengthy judicial saga after his deportation. "I have changed location but the fight continues," an emotional Hamouri said at the airport, where he was welcomed by his wife Elsa, politicians, NGO representatives and supporters of the Palestinian cause. "I have an enormous responsibility to my cause and people. We can't abandon Palestine. Resistance is our right.'

Israel's interior ministry earlier on Sunday announced the deportation following Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked's decision to withdraw his residency status. "We condemn today the Israeli authorities' decision, against the law, to expel Salah Hamouri to France," the French foreign ministry said in a statement. An Israeli military court sentenced Hamouri, who holds French citizenship, to administrative detention in March, accusing him of being a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), and said he "endangers security in the region". - APP



'Saudi govt facilitating pilgrims to fullest extent'

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Mu hammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi said the Saudi government was facilitating the Hajj and Umrah pilgrims to the fullest extent possible. In his remarks at a Hajj Conference organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony and the Hajj Organizers Association of Pakistan (HOAP) the other day, he said the Saudi government, particularly Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman, were making all-out efforts to create more facilities for pilgrims and religious tourists. - APP

Ulema to visit Afghanistan to end cross-border hostility

DNA

five days - that the Afghan border forces

opened unprovoked and indiscriminate

fire, using heavy weapons, at the civilian

Levies officials reported that multiple artil-

lery rounds were fired upon the civilian pop-

ulation around the Boghra Road and Custom

House areas from the Afghan side, to which

area in Balochistan's Chaman city.

tingly. The Chaman district administration said that the Ulema's delegation will meet PESHAWAR: A four-member delegation of the Afghan ministry of defence officials and others in Kandahar and Kabul and hold dis-Pakistani Ulema will visit Afghanistan for reconciliation and end the cross-border cussions with key Taliban leaders. They said hostility in Chaman since the attack by that the flag meeting of Pak-Afghan border Afghan forces that killed one civilian and security forces was postponed upon the deinjured 15 others, district administration parture of Ulema delegation. said Sunday. It was the second time in Meanwhile, the routine affairs were re-

stored in the civillian areas on both sides of Chaman border. The medical superintendent said that at least nine civillians were killed and over 45 civillians were injured in the firing of artilery shells by Afghan forces from December 11 to 15. He said that the injured in the cross-border attack are undergoing medical treatment.

the Pakistani authorities responded befit-

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Elon Musk restores Twitter accounts of journalists

CALIFORNIA: Elon Musk reinstated the Twitter accounts of several journalists that were suspended for a day over a controversy on publishing public data about the billionaire's plane. The reinstatements came after the unprecedented suspensions evoked stinging criticism from government officials, advocacy groups and journalism organizations from several parts of the globe on Friday, with some saying the microblogging platform was jeopardizing press freedom. A Twitter poll that Musk conducted later also showed that a majority of the respondents wanted the accounts restored immediately. "The people have spoken. Accounts who doxxed my location will have their suspension lifted now," Musk said in a tweet on Saturday. Twitter did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. A Reuters check showed the suspended accounts, which included journalists from the New York Times, CNN and the Washington Post, have been reinstated. The U.N. human rights chief welcomed the reinstatements, but said he continued to have concerns. "Twitter has a responsibility to respect human rights: @elonmusk should commit to making decision based on publicly-available policies that respect rights, including free speech. Nothing less," Volker Turk, the UN high commissioner for human rights, wrote. - Agencies

Streets deserted in China's cities as new Covid surge looms

WEB DESK

BEIJING: Streets in major Chinese cities were eerily quiet on Sunday as people stayed home to protect themselves from a surge in COVID-19 cases that has hit urban centres from north to south. China is in the first of an expected three waves of COVID cases this winter, according to the country's chief epidemiologist, Wu Zunyou. Further waves will come as people follow the tradition of returning en masse to their home areas for the Lunar New Year holiday next month, he said. China has not reported any COVID deaths since Dec. 7, when it abruptly ended most restrictions key to a zero-COV-ID tolerance policy following unprecedented public protests. The strategy had been championed by President Xi Jinping. As part of the easing of the zero-COVID curbs, mass testing for the virus has ended, casting doubt on whether official case numbers can capture the full scale of the outbreak. China reported some 2,097 new symptomatic COVID infections on Dec. 17. In Beijing, the spread of the highly transmissible Omicron variant has already hit services from catering to parcel deliveries. Funeral homes and crematoriums across the city of 22 million are also struggling to keep up with demand amid staff shortages as workers and drivers call in sick. At Beijing's largest funeral parlour in Babaoshan, also known for handling the bodies of top Chinese officials and leaders, several hearses a minute could be seen entering on Sunday, while the parking area for private cars was also full. "Right now it is difficult to book a hearse so many relatives transport the body with their own vehicles," said an employee on condition of anonymity.

Smoke billowed out of crematoriums, where groups of people were gathered to collect the ashes of the deceased. It was not immediately clear to what extent a rise in COVID-related deaths was responsible. Social media posts also showed empty subways in the city of Xian in China's northwest, while in Shanghai, the country's commercial hub, there was none of the usual bustle in the run up to the New Year. "Festive vibes are missing," said a resident who gave her name as Alice. In Chengdu, streets were deserted but food delivery times were improving, said a resident surnamed Zhang, after services began to adapt to the recent surge in cases. Getting hold of antigen test kits was still difficult however, she said, explaining that she had been told the kits she ordered recently had been diverted to hospitals. In Shanghai, authorities said schools should move most classes online from Monday, and in nearby Hangzhou most school grades were encouraged to finish the winter semester early. In Guangzhou, those already doing online class as well as pre-schoolers should not prepare for a return to school, said the education bureau.



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