

Pakistan'

between the Shehbaz Sharif-led government and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to

the legislative's confidence once again, the bar was removed as the case was with-

federal, provincial and local levels, wherever applicable, periodically in accordance with the Constitution of the respective political party. "Provided that a period, not exceeding five years, shall intervene between any two elections," a proviso to section 208(1) of the act reads.

Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan wherein the latter agreed to roll over the existing loan of

the following is attributable to Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, Spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: "We attach high importance to proper etiquette and behavior towards all visa and consular applicants. All our diplomatic staff is under strict instructions to conduct themselves professionally. While we are looking into this case, we are surprised at its timing and the manner in which it has been raised. There are robust mechanisms in place for redressal of all public grievances. There is zero tolerance for misbehaviour and mistreatment of individuals visiting our Missions".

in sections of

Indian media,

Fawad seeks action against Rana, Tarar Pakistan

Tehreek-e-In-

saf (PTI) Sen-

ior Vice Pres-

ident Fawad

Chaudhry

ISLAMABAD:

sought action against Rana Sanaullah and Attaullah Tarar for confessing proudly that they were using geo-fencing to track of PTI's MPAs' locations in sheer violation of the constitution that gave citizens the rights of protection of dignity of privacy.



Private sector invited to invest in ITZs to boost tourism - Page 02

Census in 2023 is going to be digital for the first time – Page 03

China-Pak agree to take ocean science forward – Page 04

Contradictions of US foreign policy

– Page 05 Aussies snub Afghan series over

crackdown on women – Page 06

> Africa should not serve as a venue for global contests - Page 07

> MQM factions reunite ahead of LB elections - Page 08

that the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly would also be dissolved in line with the party's "promise" to the people of leaving the legislative. "The KP Assembly will also be dissolved on a similar format a day after tomorrow and we have fulfilled our promise of going back to the people [for seeking support]," he said. Fawad said the PTI and its allies have proven that despite all the pressure, they were not "afraid" of

drawn. The PTI leader also announced

going back to the people for seeking votes as they had proven it by stepping down from government in both provinces.

perature in the country. Alivi, a close aide of PTI Chairman Imran Khan, in an interview with BBC Urdu on Thursday, said that it is now inevitable to cool down the simmering tension and advised the political leadership to hold talks. "It is my offer to them [political parties] to sit

lower the rising political tem-

together and then senior leadership can hold talks," said Dr Alvi. The president, who had held multiple rounds of talks with federal ministers in the past, alleged that the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government is

using delaying tactics with regards to PTI, adding that "there's no communication between the two parties in the past one month". Dr Alvi added that the government has indicated its

tional loan. In the meeting took place in Abu Dhabi during prime minister's two-day visit, both sides agreed to deepen the investment cooperation, stimulate partnerships and enable investment integration opportunities between the two countries. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed welcomed Prime Minister Sharif to Abu Dhabi and wished progress and prosperity for Pakistan. He praised the historical relations between the two nations and the valuable contributions made by the Pakistani community in the UAE. The prime minister thanked the UAE president for inviting him to the brotherly country.

US\$ 2 billion and provide US\$ 1 billion addi-

Continued on Page 06

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said Saudi Arabia has always supported Pakistan in difficult times. 'Pakistan is grateful for the announcement of \$1 billion made by Saudi Arabia's Prime Minister and Crown Prince of Mohammed bin Salman for the rehabilitation of Pakistan's flood victims," the prime minister said. Shehbaz Sharif expressed these views in a meeting with

Continued on Page 06 WINTER ESCAPE SERENA ALTIT FORT SERENA SHIGAR FORT **GILGIT SERENA HOTEL** DOMESTIC DOMESTIC DOMESTIC PKR 18.000 PER NIGHT PKR 19,000 PER NIGHT PKR 15,000 PER NIGHT INTERNATIONAL \$ 100 PER NIGHT \$ 110 PER NIGHT \$ 80 PER NIGHT

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ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong paid farewell call on the Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. The DHM of the Embassy Ms. Pang is also present on the occasion. - DNA

What next after the dissolution advice?

The KP government has not been dissolved. The PTI perhaps wants to make sure that first the Punjab dissolution should take place

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Chief Minister Punjab Ch. Parvez Elahi finally signed the advice seeking dissolution of the Provincial Assembly. He has forwarded the advice to the Governor. The Governor is bound to accept the advice. In case he does not do so, the Punjab Assembly then shall be dissolved automatically in next 48 hours. After the dissolution, the incumbent chief minister shall write a letter to the leader of the opposition Hamza Shehbaz for choosing the caretaker set up and if they fail to agree on a set up then the matter will go to the parliamentary committee nominated by the Speaker of the Punjab Assembly.

If the parliamentary committee does not reach a consensus in two days then the Speaker will forward the case to the election commission, which will decide the caretaker government. Experts say the election commission shall choose the caretaker chief minister from the names presented by the government and the opposition parties.

The caretaker government then shall be responsible to ensure free and fair elections in 90 days. This is the ideal scenario if

everything goes well. The government will try its best to prolong the caretaker government on the pretext of an ongoing census. The matter will certainly go to the courts once again. There is also a possibility of enforcement of economic emergencies in the country. Legal experts are of the view under this pretext the government may delay the elections for six months. But in order to impose economic emergency the government will have to come up with some solid reasons. The KP government has not been dissolved. The PTI perhaps wants to make sure that first the Punjab dissolution should take place then it will go for the KP assembly dissolution. The PTI probably still has some doubts that is why it wants to wait for the next 48 when the Punjab assembly dissolution shall come into effect. Perhaps, that is why PTI Chairman Imran Khan delayed his address to the nation. Meanwhile, the PML N supremo Nawaz Sharif has come down heavily on the PML N leadership for what he thinks is a failure to contain PTI in the Punjab. He is unhappy with the way the leadership had handled the Punjab situation. Some senior leaders have advised him to go for elections instead of continuing at the federal level. However the Shehbaz Sharif camp is strongly opposed to this preposition.





02

NATIONAL

Islamabad **POST** Friday, January 13 , 2023

Private sector invited to invest in ITZs to boost tourism

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Experts have invited the private sector to invest in integrated tourism zones (ITZs) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to boost up tourism and strengthen the provincial economy. Immense investment prospects are available in the integrated Tourism Zones (ITZs) that have been approved by the provincial government, says a senior official of KP Tourism and Culture Authority (KPT&CA) during speaking at an awareness seminar held in a hall of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) on Thursday.

The sensitization seminar, which was organized by SCCI in joint collaboration with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism Authority (KPCTA) and Planning and Development Department (P&D), Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Shahid Hussain, senior vice president of the Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry who chaired the session said in his opening remarks that the role of the tourism sector in economic development is vital across the world. Senior office bearers said incalculable investment opportunities

in the tourism sector, generally in the country and particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa available, which needed to be tapped efficiently to boost up the provincial economy. Mr Hussain emphasized the need for pragmatic steps for infrastructure improvement at tourists' attraction sites, besides provision of better facilities to tourists and arrangements to attract more investors and tourists toward the tourism sector. He assured the officials that SCCI will play its due role to attract private investment in ITZs. Apart from participation of Director General KPT&CA Bakhtiyar Khan, General Manager Umer Khan Khattak, Public Private Partnership Analyst, P&D Deptt Shehryar Khan, the SCCI vice president Ejaz Khan Afridi, former president Faiz Muhammad, former vice presidents Abidullah Yousafzai, Faiz Rasool, executive members Haji Ghulam Hussain, Laal Badshah, Ms Qurtul Ain, Naeem Qasmi, Zahoor Khan, Fazl e Wahid, Malik Tariq Awan, a large number of traders, investors and representatives of relevant department were present in the seminar. DG KPC&TA Bakhtiyar Khan during the session enlightened the participants about initiatives tak-

en by his department for uplift of the tourism sector, especially Integrated Tourism Zones and urged the SCCI members and private investors to make investment in the ITZs. He also invited the business community to ensure their participation in the upcoming roadshow organized by KPCTA in Islamabad, which is scheduled to be held on Jan19. On the occasion, Umer Khattak, a senior official briefed the participants about ITZs in detail through his multimedia presentation and stated that initiatives have been taken for promotion of eco-tourism in KP where vast opportunities were available to promote digital tourism in the country.

Tourism sector contributes 3 percent to Pakistan's GDP, which is growing gradually, the senior official said, adding that the sector has generated 3.6million jobs. Essentially, he said the KP government has prioritized the tourism sector and made an increase by 600 per cent in the budget for uplift of the sector. He said the country's future highly dependent on public private partnerships (PPP), saying that KP portfolio in PPP is the second number with a ratio of 100 per cent after Sindh portfolio at first with 102 per cent followed by Punjab with 86 per cent.



PDF announces cabinets for five KP districts PESHAWAR: On the directives of the provincial Pres ident, PPP Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Najmuddin Khan, the provincial President of People's Doctor Forum (PDF), Dr Nisar Khan has announced cabinets for five districts here Thursday.

KSA, UAE allweather friends of Pakistan: Ashrafi



ISLAMABAD: Asiya Azeem, MNA/Convener Pakistan-Belgium Friendship Group meets Charles Delogne, ambassador of Belgium in Pakistan at Parliament House. -DNA

VC UoS calls on Chinese ambassador

SARGODHA :Vice Chancellor of the University of Sargodha Prof Dr Qaisar Abbas called on Chinese Ambassador Nong Rong here on Thursday. He briefed the ambassador about the University of Sargodha (UoS) since its inception in 2002 and activities of the Pakistan Institute of China Studies and the Confucius Institute in the university. Vice Chancellor Dr Qaisar Abbas shared his future plans for introducing skills-based education in the university through collaborating with Chinese organizations like Tang International Chinese Education. Ambassador Nong Rong appreciated the China Stud-

ies Programme of the university and assured of full support in future endeavors of the UoS. Dr Fazalur Rahman, Director of Pakistan Institute of China Studies, Dr Gu, Agriculture Commissioner at the Chinese Embassy, and Ms Wang Yiqui also attended the meeting.-APP

PESCO notifies power suspension on Peshawar, Rampura grids

PPP Attock felicitates Bilawal over successful Geneva moot

QAZI SHOAIB KHAN

ATTOCK: The District office bearers of Pakistan Peoples Party Attock have expressed their profound felicitation to the Foreign Minister Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for portraying the real picture of Pakistan in Geneva Conference Paris to succeed financial assistance of more than 10 billion dollars which will minimize the prevailing economic crunch of the country arisen due to mismanagement of previous regime of PTI.

While replying various questions of the media persons here in Attock, the district leaders of PPP former Naib Nazim Zila Council Attock Malik Sameen Khan, Malik Mohammad Umer Khan, Haji Malik Akhter, Malik Faisal Munir and PPP Attock City President Malik Adnan Sadiq, Advocate said the young Foreign Minister Pakistan Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has the potential to present the issues of the country at the international forums more effectively during his recent official tours of different coun-

tries within his short span of time.

They said the Mr. Bilawal Bhutto has also convinced the foreign delegates due to his political wisdom to rehabilitate the more than 3.5 million people confronted with the miseriesduring the disastrous flood hit situation of his country, they added.

Attock police arrest 6 anti-state elements Attock police arrested six anti state elements along with recovery of huge quantity of narcotics from their possession during a crack down launched against the recent wave of street crimes within the territorial jurisdiction of inter provincial bordering district here on Thursday. Police said, a drug peddlers identified as Sakhi Badshah resident of Chhab was taken in to custody by Jand police on charge of possessing heroin powder of 1200 grams, Dilawar Khan, mohala Ziarat with hashish of 1500 grams and drugs pusher Sumair Khan with hashish of 550 grams. Meanwhile, one Zubair Ahmed was arrested by

hary, Chairperson Baluch-

Hassanabdal police on the charge of having 600 grams hashish and Amiad Khan with hashish of 625 grams while Shahzad Ahmed was booked by Injra Police for holding illegal pistol 30 bore with bullets. Later on, cases were registered against the culprits and further investigations are under way, police added.

Police traced unknown killer

Attock Police traced the unknown killer involved in in the murder of a teenaged girl over marriage dispute at the outskirts inDhokeJahmraof police station Hazrohere on Thursday. According to police spokesman, the alleged killer Murtaza Iqbal went to his uncle Haq Nawaz houseatDhokeJahmra on January 06,2023 and riddled his teenaged cousin with bulletssoon as she refused to contract his marriage proposal. The girl died of bullets injuries while shifting to the local hospital whereas the killer managed to escape from the scene. The police traced the nominated accused through mobile phone data and sent him behind the bars.

According to a press release issued here on Thursday, Dr Hussain has been nominated as President for district Kohat while Nigar, Dr Farid, Dr Murtaza Ali, Dr Muhsib Afridi and Dr Ijad Ali as Senior Vice President, Vice President, General Secretary, Information and Finance Secretary respectively. For Bannu district, Dr Safdar Zaman, Dr Ahmad Faraz, Dr Naveed Pervez, Dr Mohammad Zubair, Dr Zeeshan, Dr Fawad Khattak and Dr Azmat Wazir as President, Senior Vice President, Vice president, General Secretary, Press & Information Secretary, Coordination Secretary and Joint Secretary, respectively. Similarly, Dr Bar and Dr Safdar have been nominated as President and General Secretary for district Karak while Zuhaibullah, Dr Mashkatullah and Dr Faisal Masroor have been nominated as Vice President, Deputy General Secretary and Press and Information Secretary for the district. For tribal District Khyber, Dr Fahimullah and Dr Rehman Shah have been nominated as President and General Secretary while Dr Noor Faraz, Dr Naveed Afridi, Dr Mirwais, Dr Imran Afridi and Awais Wali as Vice President, Deputy General, Finance and Coordination Secretaries, re spectively.-Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister's Special Representative (PMSR) for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi on Thursday termed Saudi Arabia (SA) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) all-weather friends of Pakistan. Expressing gratitude to UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Hafiz Ashrafi told media that the UAE had helped Pakistan in the trying time by not only rolling over the existing loan of \$2 billion, but providing additional \$1 billion. Ashrafi, who is also the Chairman of Pakistan Ulema Council, said the generous support would further cement the bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries. He said the recent visit of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to the UAE would open new avenues of

cooperation in the fields of trade, investment and energy. He also lauded Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman for coming to Pakistan's help in the critical economic situation. Citing the statement of Saudi Crown Prince for increasing the Kingdom's assistance and investment in Pakistan, he said it was explicit evidence of exclusive diplomatic and religious affinity between Pakistan and the KSA. The special assistant said as per reports the Saudi Fund for Development would conduct a study on increasing the deposit amount with State Bank of Pakistan to \$5 billion from \$3 billion and it would also assess the options to enhance its investments in Pakistan to \$10 billion. He also thanked the international donors, including the KSA and the UAE, for committing over \$9 billion to help Pakistan

Speakers pay homage for veteran

journalists Masood Malik

ISLAMABAD: The speakers at a condolence reference held on the third death anniversary

of veteran journalist Masood Ahmed Malik here Thursday, demanded that the journalist

fraternity needed to celebrate the achievements and sacrifices of senior journalists to make

the younger generation acquainted with the legacy of professional media men. The con-

dolence reference was organized by the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ)-Das-

toor and Rawalpindi Islamabad Union of Journalist (RIUJ)-Dastoor under the patronage of

recover from the ravages of massive floods and exceeding its external financing goals at a Geneva meeting co-hosted by the United Nations and the Government of Pakistan. This generous aid for rehabilitation and reconstruction and other climate change-related damages would help flood-affected populations recover and rebuild infrastructure, he maintained. Ashrafi also appreciated the efforts of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for drawing the world's attention towards the massive loss of life and property caused by the recent floods in Pakistan. On the recent visit of Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, he said it was a good omen that the new army chief paid his first visit to the holy land where he was accorded a warm welcome. - DNA

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar Electric Supply Company (PESCO) on Thursday notified that due to maintenance work power supply would remain suspended from 132 KV Jamrud Grid Station on 14th, 21st, 24th, 28th and 31st January from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. resultantly consumers of 11 Hayatabad 1,2,3,4,5, KV Hayatabad, Health New Care Hospital , Health Excellence North West Hospital, Kidney Center, RMI, Gulabad, PITC, Mohmand Steel, Northern Bottling, Hayatabad Surgical Hospital, Peshawar General Health Net Hospital, Shakas 1 feeders will face inconvenience. It said that the power supply would remain suspended from 132 KV Peshawar University Grid Station on 13th, 17th, 20th, 24th, 27th and 31st January from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. resultantly consumers of 11 KV Commercial Building Abdul Razak, Ring Road, University Campus, Canal Town, Malakandher, Engineering, Regi, Gulabad, Taj Abad, Agriculture, Mera Achini, HMC, Ring Road, Danish

Abad, Rahat Abad 1, CMB, Abdara Road, AchiniMera 1,2, Rahat Abad 2, SufaidDheri, Old Bara Road, JAF, Academy Town, Circular Road, DHA, HBK, ASkri 6, AchiniMera feeders will face inconvenience.-APP

DECEMBER 2022

Pakistan's Premier News &

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United Business Group Chairperson Sindh, Ms. (UBG) held on Thursday Naheed Masood, EC Memthrough video link which ber FPCCI, Ms. Shabnam Zafar, EC Member was chaired by Samina Fazil, Chairperson and at-FPCCI, Ms. Farzana Birni, Ms Rukhsana Natended by a large number of members women wing, dir, EC Member FPCCI, across Pakistan, including Ms Naima Ansari, Past Ms. Saeeda Bano, Vice Vice President - FPCCI Ms. Rizwana Asif Presi-Chairperson Women wing, Ms. Robina Amjad, Chairdent IWCCI, Ms. Qiratperson Punjab, Ms. Amul-Aine GB member breen Hoti, Chairperson FPCCI. In her welcome address Samina Fazil KPK, Ms. Maryan Chaud-

KARACHI: First meet-

ing of the Women wing of

Women wing of UBG

stands united: Samina

paid rich tributes to Late S M Muneer patron in-chief of UBG and reiterated that the members of women wing would follow his path. She said istan, Ms. Rizwana Shahid, that women wing stands united under the leadership of UBG and determined to leave no stone unturned in uplifting the image of women entrepreneurs. She said that women entrepreneurs was considered as a leading building block of economy as it played an important role in job creation, self-development and paid back as economic progress of country. -DNA

Snowfall, rain in AJK and KP disrupt normalcy of life

Rawalakot for traffic due to

the snowfall. Police, rescue

teams and other depart-

DNA

MUZAFFARABAD: Rain and snowfall continued in the upper regions of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), causing the normalcy of life to be affected badly. In Poonch division, intermittent rain and snowfall continued in all four districts. People faced difficulties in the upper areas of Rawalakot district. Several roads were blocked in

ments concerned were put on high alert to deal with any emergency situation. The tourists were advised to avoid unnecessary travel. In Haveli (Kahutta), intermittent rain and snowfall continued, causing the intensity of cold to increase. Several roads and highways in the district were closed due to the snowfall. The people were asked to avoid unnecessary travel in the

snowfall. In Shangla, rain and snowfall continued in the upper areas, causing the normalcy of life to be affected badly. The power supply system was disrupted in several areas of the district due to the heavy snowfall. The locals were confined to their houses due to the severe cold. The traffic flow was also affected due to the heavy snowfall. The link roads in various areas of Shangla were closed. - DNA

President PFUJ Dastoor Haji Muhammad Nawaz Raza to pay homage and respects to the late veteran journalist and former Managing Director Associated Press of Pakistan Corporation Masood Ahmed Malik. Addressing the reference, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior leader, Siddique Ul Farooq shared that he had a very close association with the deceased. He said, "I and Masood worked together for some time in PPI. I found him a thorough gentleman and professional who loved his profession like his passion."-APP

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Gwadar receives bulk cargos ISLAMABAD: The Gwadar port has started receiving government imports of bulk cargos as three consecutive vessels carrying 90,000 MT urea have already been arrived at the port and clocked the fast-

est discharge rate. This represents the efforts of Ministry of Maritime Affairs, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Authority, Gwadar Port Authority (GPA), Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) and Pakistan Customs, according to a press release issued here on Thursday. These bulk cargos were discharged and after bagging at the port are transported from Gwament cargoes offers subdar to other destinations stantial benefits to locals in Pakistan. Next month Gwadar Port will start handling of 450,000 MT of TCP wheat. Trading Corporation of

Pakistan (TCP) on behalf of government decided to handle import of urea and wheat through Gwadar Port. This movement will ease the huge congestion at other ports of Pakistan due to high traffic of vessels carrying bulk cargoes, which results in delaying the operation and transportation of shipments; thus, disturbing the entire supply chain mechanism. Import of these govern-

and will generate various

economic activities and employment opportunities for locals in terms of 100% shipping agencies services by locals, top priority for local transporters etc. Gwadar Port being industrial nerve center of Gwadar Free Zone offers substantial economic benefits to importers in terms of highly efficient operations, advance cargo handling, vast storage areas for all types of cargo, extensive ancillary facilities, and faster turnaround time & delivery. Gwadar Port due to its unique geographical position makes it a fast-eco-

nomical link between land locked central Asian states and to the rest of the country. Gwadar port and Freezone is all set to become the hub of international trade which will help the country in earning much needed foreign exchange in near future which also is in line with the vision of Prime Minster of Pakistan to promote regional economic integration. Sizable share to import of wheat and urea at Gwadar Port will play a vital role in the operationalization and also generating business opportunities both in Gwadar and along CPEC highways which is very essential for the uplift of Balochistan. -DNA



National Days and Armed **Forces Days**

03

JANUARY

Jan 01 / CUBA **Revolution** Day

Jan 01 / Palestine Palestine Revolution Day

Jan 01 / Sudan National Day

Jan 04 / Myanmar Independence Day

Jan 06 / Iraq Armed Forces Dav

Jan 12 / Tanzania Armed Forces Day

Jan 14 / Uzbekistan Armed Forces Day Jan 15 / Nigeria

Armed Forces Day

Jan 20 / Mali Armed Forces Day

Jan 20 / Laos Armed Forces Day

Jan 25 / Thailand Armed Forces Day

Jan 26 / Australia National Day

Jan 26 / India Republic Day



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Census in 2023 is going to be digital for the first time

Islamabad POST

ETROLINE

Friday, January 13, 2023

Chief Statistician also added that a National Census Coordination Committee (N3C) has been developed at the national level in House of PBS. N3C can be imagined as NCOC that was set up during pandemic

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Census in 2023 is going to be digital for the first time ever in the country's history. All the preparations are rolled out and the team is now ready for a gigantic task. The effort is entirely indigenous; all the systems devised and the tools created are by our own experts, enunciated Naeem uz Zafar, Chief Statistician, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), proudly. He was addressing a hybrid seminar. themed "Census 2023: All You Want to Know About", at the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) Islamabad. He shared that census is an important national activity that is linked with resource

allocation to provinces, out in order to have ownerrepresentation in National/ ship of the process. Provincial assemblies and Earlier in his opening the delimitation process. remarks Dr. Nadeem ul Therefore, the credibili-Haque, Vice Chancellor PIDE said that the Censuses ty of census is of utmost importance. This is what remain controversial in Pa-

called for comprehensive kistan, at times delayed for introspection leading to a over a decade. Now that we are moving towards the new solution acceptable to all -Census, it is time to raise all the concerns and questions we have. To addressing the Seminar on forthcoming Census 2023, Dr. Naeem uz Zafar said that following

digital census. He apprised

the audience that after the

results of the latest Census

2017 were approved in 45th

CCI meeting held on 12th

April, 2021, the Council of

Common Interests (CCI)

gave directions for the next

census to start as early

as possible and should be

according to international

best practices by using the

The Government of Pakistan

then constituted a commit-

tee of renowned demogra-

phers and experts with com-

prehensive TORS, to bring

transparency, credibility and

wider acceptability of census

processes and results. For

this a board-based stakehold-

ers' engagement was carried

latest technology.

in country at time of census should be done, irrespective of its status/whether one is holder of CNIC or not. The exercise is of counting not of verification. Individual

enumeration to carried out - information on each enumerated person to collected.



UN Guidelines and detailed deliberations of the Committee, it was decided that there ought to be clarity regarding the primary objectives of census - policy and planning. Ensuring universality, implying that counting of whole population residing

It was also agreed upon that census must be conducted simultaneously and in shortest possible time, he said. The Chief Statistician also added that a National Census Coordination Committee (N3C) has been developed at the national level in the

imagined as National Command and Operation Center (NCOC) that was set up during the pandemic. N3C would have centralized decision making, having a control room with dashboards showing real-time progress, trends and analysis.

For the first time, self-enumeration method will also be used. It's a two step process. First, you will have to sign in on a portal and fill the form. Towards the end, it will provide you with a QR code. Save it with yourself. Later, when the enumerator knocks on your door, just show him the QR code. He would scan it and data will be saved into system. Moreover, geo-tagging of each structure, tablet-based and self-enumeration system will build the trust of stakeholders. 126,000 tablets will be used in the exercise. All checks and security measures are in place for breach or manipulation of the data. He also said that PBS has conducted

House of PBS. N3C can be training of the digital census in three tiers i.e. Training of Master Trainers, Training of Trainers (ToT) and Training of Enumerators. As of now, the pilot census has also been completed. All of this would be backed up by strict monitoring oversight with cross-checks and in-built checks within the systems.

Regarding the question-naire, the Chief Statistician said that there are around 40 questions on 08 broad themes. These include household, basic amenities, demography, education health, employment, disability and migration. Digital census would be a great success, as merits of digital census include: time reduction, GIS-based monitoring, real-time progress analysis, instant data availability, online task allocation, data quality assurance, transparency, a dashboard for stakeholders, complaint resolution through a hotline, real-time trend analysis, decision support dashboard and so on.

CTP hand over mobile phone to owner

RAWALPINDI: The City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi set another example of honesty and handed over the recovered costly mobile phone to its owner here on Thursday. Accord-ing to details, In-charge Traffic Civil Line Inspector Abdul Majeed found a mobile phone from Katchery Chowk while on duty.

After a long time, a citizen called the mobile number and said the mobile phone belonged to his wife which had fallen during the journey. Following this, the phone was handed over to him. The citizen thanked the traffic police for tracing the mobile phone and expressed good wishes.

Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Taimur Khan appreciated the honesty of the official and said that traffic police were not only maintaining the flow of traffic but also performing their duty to protect the life and property of the citizens. - APP

SECP registers 2,374 new companies in Dec 2022

ISLAMABAD: The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 2,374 new companies in December 2022. The total number of registered companies now stands at 183,744. The total capitalization (paid-up-capital) of these companies for the current month stands at Rs4.1 billion, said a press

release issued here. Foreign investment has been reported in 85 new companies. These companies have foreign investors from Afghanistan, Austria, Australia, Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Romania, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK, USA and Vietnam. The major chunk of investment was received from China with 48 companies, Germany with 5, Afghanistan, the UK and US with four each, Iran and South Africa with two each and 16 companies with other countries. In the final month of the calendar year 2022, nearly 56 percent companies were registered as private limited companies, while 41 percent were registered as single member companies. The remaining three percent were registered as public unlisted companies, not-for-profit associations, foreign companies and limited liability partnership (LLP). Nearly 99.8 percent of companies were registered online. - APP

NIH asks health staff to remain vigilant on Diphtheria cases

DNA

confirmed cases reported ISLAMABAD: National Infrom all across the country. stitutes of Health (NIH) on It said that the Diphtheria is Thursday alerted the health a potentially life-threatening professionals to remain bacterial disease caused by vigilant for picking up susinfection with toxin producpected Corynebacterium ing strains of Corynebac-Diphtheria cases and to terium Diphtheriae. It is undertake prevention and transmitted usually from control measures during person-to-person through respiratory droplets from the winter season of 2022. According to the advisory coughing or sneezing. issued by the NIH's Center While informing about the for Disease Control for probable cases, the advi-Prevention and treatment sory said that any person of Corvnebacterium Diphwho meets the clinical theria, sporadic cases of case definition for res-Diphtheria continue to be piratory diphtheria like reported in Pakistan and upper respiratory tract illness characterized by usually presented during November to February laryngitis or pharyngitis

PTC notch up huge

recognition with

eight GDEIB awards

DNA

ISLAMABAD: In recogni-

tion of fostering diversity

and inclusion, Pakistan

Tobacco Company Limited

(PTC) won eight awards at

the Global Diversity & In-

clusion Benchmarks Awards

2023. HR Metrics conducts

GDEIB awards on an annual

basis through a merit-based

process in which organiza-

tions are given the opportuni-

ty to disclose their diversity,

equity, and inclusion accom-

plishments with reference

to Global DEI Benchmarks

standards and a focus on so-

cial and economic impact on

relevant stakeholders. Various

leading organizations from all

sectors across Pakistan take

The core objective of these

awards is to encourage pro-

gressive organizations that

part in these awards.

align diversity and inclusion

with organizational policies

and processes for sustaina-

ble financial and social per-

formance. Pakistan Tobacco

Company was awarded in

the categories for 1) Vision.

Strategy, and Business Im-

pact, 2) Leadership and Ac-

countability, 3) Recruitment,

4) Advancement and Reten-

tion, 5) Work-life Integration,

Flexibility & Benefits, 6)

Assessment, Measurement,

and Research, 7) DEI Learn-

ing and Development and 8)

Relations & Philanthropy.

The jury for the awards com-

prised leading global DE&I

White - President Mcleod

White and Former Board

Chair of The Centre for Glob-

al Inclusion USA, and Karen

Francis - VP and Chief DE&I

Officer, American Institutes

for Research USA.

Government

including Lynda

Community,

experts

while in the year of 2022, or tonsillitis and a visible adherent membrane there were 26 laboratory on the tonsils, pharynx or nose and without epidemiological linkage and laboratory confirmation. It added, any confirmed case is a probable case that has been laboratory confirmed or linked epidemiologically to a laboratory confirmed case. Persons with positive Corynebacterium Diphtheriae culture, but

may come in contact or touching open sores (skin lesions) and material obiects (tovs or clothes) used

by the person who already is sick with diphtheria. The incubation period is usually 2-5 days, occasionally longer while the bacteriological culture and PCR can be used to detect toxigenic strains of C. diphtheria which is a standard test for confirmation specimen collection. It said that persons

Flood ravaged Pakistanis welcome international support

ISLAMABAD: The flood ravaged people of Pakistan welcomed world support for early settlement and rehabilitation of 85 districts affected in heavy rains and flash of floods in 2022. The Government of Pakistan and the United Nations had co-hosted an International Conference on Climate Resilient Pakistan in Geneva, on January 9th in the backdrop of the devastating floods in 2022. The world community on the call, generously pledged to donate more than \$9 billion for Pakistan's flood recovery programme.

Responding to Pakistan's call for support, Islamic Development Bank donated 4.2 billion dollars, World Bank donated 2 billion dollars, European Union pledged to donate 500 million Euros, USAID pledged to donate 100 million dollars, France pledged 345 million dollars, UK pledged 9 million pounds, Germany pledged 88 million Euros, Japan pledged 77 million dollars, China pledged 100 million dollars, Kingdom of Saudia Arabia pledged 1 billion dollars, Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank pledged 1 billion dollars and Asian Development Bank pledged 1.5 billion dollars. The People of Pakistan welcomed the world response to Pakistan's call for helping flood stricken effectees of three provinces of the country. - DNA



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 Ambulance115
PIAFlightInfo114
PIACargo9280979
Railway Inquiry117
Railway Exchange9270831-5
WASA Rawalpindi5555489
CAA9281092
老师 打 1



Hospitals

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



Departments

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

Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank Islamabad.....0321-5744480

asymptomatic, should not be reported as suspected or confirmed cases.

The advisory said that Diphtheria transmitted from person to person, skin lesions usually through respiratory droplets (coughing or sneezing). The infection

Easypaisa,

Faysal Funds

collaborate

DNA

Pakistan's leading digital pay-

ments platform has partnered

with Faysal Funds (Faysal As-

set Management Limited),

one of the fastest-growing As-

set Management Companies

in the industry, with an aim

to boost the collective vision

of financially empowering all

Pakistanis, especially when

it comes to investments and

saving for their future. This

collaboration will open new

avenues into the untapped

market of more than 14 mil-

said a press release issued

here on Thursday. To facil-

itate investors across Paki-

stan, Faysal Funds has em-

braced digital transformation

of the Asset Management

Industry and has introduced

fund management through a

mini app integrated directly

in the easypaisa app.

easypaisa customers,

lion

Easypaisa,

ISLAMABAD:

should immediately start the treatment if diphtheria is suspected without waiting for laboratory confirmation. It added Diphtheria patients are usually kept in isolation until they are no longer able to infect others.

IIUI acting president listens to issues of students

ISLAMABAD: Professor. Dr. N. B. Jumani, Acting President of International Islamic University (IIU) chaired a session on Thursday at the hostel 5 and 6 of the university where he listened to the problems of the students in presence of all the relevant officers as well as he along with all the Directors personally visited various places at the hostels of male campus and inspected overall situation. The session was attended by all the Directors and their relevant officials of the departments, while Dr. Abrar Anver, Provost male hostels was also present on the occasion.

Listening to the problems of the students and addressing the issues, the Acting President directed that there must be no negligence in addressing the immediate solvable issues. He desired that all the concerned departments according to the identified problems at the hostels must chalk out plans and submit the reports along with solutions in his office at earliest as he would be personally supervising all matters discussed in hostels during this visit. The Worthy Acting President said that there will be zero tolerance for those who will show negligence in duty. He directed that improvement in security, cleanliness, hygiene, electrical, gardening, civil and overall life quality in the hostels is the top priority. He said as per vision Worthy President IIUI Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi, facilitation of the students and provision of the best living environment to the students is a top priority of the university management. He said no stone shall be left unturned to make hostels neat, clean, hygienic and as per international standard. He also visited the turnstile gates and advised that strict vigilance and monitoring must be ensured to identify illegal boarders or any other irrelevant person. He also visited the rooms of the students and ensured that their problems shall be solved at earliest. He said that these visits and meet ups shall continue and the administration teams in his supervision shall keep paying surprise visits as well. He also checked maintenance registers, availability of staff and mess facilities at the hostels. On the occasion, Dr. Abrar Anver thanked the Acting President and his team for visiting the hostels. He said the students' community has felt really happy and blessed as the administration itself visits them, listens to their problems and issues orders on the spot for swift solutions. - DNA

'Gandhara Festival' to be held on Jan 29

RAWALPINDI: The 'Gandhara Festival' would be held on January 29, to highlight the culture of the oldest civilization of Taxila.

Director, Punjab Arts Councils (PAC) Rawalpindi, Wagar Ahmed told APP that a two-day "Gandhara Festival" would be inaugurated by the Provincial Minister for sports and Culture Malik Taymor Masood.

He added that Gandhara art exhibition, Gandhara book fair, folk dances, documentary on Gandhara culture and traditional food stalls would be the part of the Meanwhile, Wagar event. informed that famous Lok artists Saine Zahoor and Hamid Ali Khan would perform

in the Sufi musical night. He further added that PAC,

Rawalpindi, would also organize an event from January 31 to February 4,in connection with the Gandhara festival. - APP

NOTICE

It is announced that Ms. Perveen Begum wife of **Ghafoor Ahmed** has following sons are as under: Fayyaz Ahmed Waqas Ahmed Awais Ahmed

CDA asked to construct Parking Plaza in G-9 Markaz Ahsan Zafar Bakhtari said that G-9 Markaz is one of the largest commercial centers of federal capital, but due to lack of parking facilities the traders are facing problems

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) leading a delegation visited Karachi Company and congratulated Raja Javed Iqbal on being elected as President and Haji Zafar as Secretary General of the Traders Welfare Association of G-9 Markaz, Islamabad. The other Office Bearers included Fida Hussain Abbasi Chairman, Farooq Mughal Patron-in-Chief, Sardar Saeed Senior Vice Patron-in-Chief, Ch. Abdul Ghaffar Senior Vice President, Raja Pervez Senior Vice Chairman, Sheikh Muhammad Riaz Vice Chairman, Ch Anam Saeed, Sherzada Kakakhail, Javed Khan and Sheik Alamgir Vice Presidents. Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan

kaz is one of the largest commercial centers of the federal capital, but due to lack of parking facilities the traders are facing problems. He said that CDA has already allocated a space for a parking plaza in G-9 Markaz and stressed that it should construct this facility as soon as possible to address this major issue of the traders. He said that CDA should focus on the development works in G-9 Markaz including repair of footpaths, carpeting of roads, restoration of street lights etc. He said that the issue of encroachments in the market should be addressed in



Zafar Bakhtari said that G-9 Mar-Zafar

consultation with the Traders Welfare Association of G-9 Markaz. He assured that ICCI would cooperate with TWA, G-9 Markaz in resolving the issues of the traders. Speaking at the occasion, Raja Javed Iqbal, President and Haji Zafar Secretary General, Traders Welfare Association, G-9 Markaz, Islamabad shared the major issues of their market including need of parking plaza, development works in markets and hoped that ICCI would cooperate in resolving them. They thanked the ICCI delegation for visiting their market to congratulate them and assured that they would work with ICCI for the welfare of the trading community of Islamabad. Zafar Bakhtawari, Muhammad Ejaz Abbasi, Khalid Chaudhry, Ashfaq Chatha, Abbas Hashmi, Nisar Mirza and Malik Mohsin were in the ICCI delegation.

04

TWIN CITIES

Islamabad **POST** Friday, January 13, 2023

Briefs

President summons NA session on Monday

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has summoned the session of the National Assembly on January 16 (Monday) at 5 pm, the President-House said on Thursday. The president has convened the session of the lower house of the parliament under Article 54(1) of the Constitution. -DNA

PML-N given two months' time to hold intra-party elections

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday granted reprieve for two months to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) for holding intra-party elections.

A five-member Commission, headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, resumed the hearing of the case regarding the intra-party elections of the political parties and directed the PML-N leadership to hold intra party elections by March 14 after hearing arguments from the lawyer of the political party. The ECP then adjourned the hearing of the case until March 14. The PML-N counsel said the intra-party polls were delayed due to some unavoidable circumstances as elections could not be held as the PML-N President and Secretary General had gone abroad. PML-N Secretary General Ahsan Iqbal would return to Pakistan from Geneva by Jan 14, adding that the Party was planning to hold elections on January 31. ECP Punjab Member Babar Bharwana remarked the electoral symbol of the Party would be withdrawn if elections were not held by Jan 31. The CEC remarked that the electoral body could grant more time. if valid reasons were submitted. He also remarked that PML-N should hold intra-party polls. The ECP on January 5, had given the PML-N a week to hold intra-party elections with the warning that the election symbol allotted to the Party would be withdrawn. As per the record, the intra-party election in the PML-N was due by March 22 last year. The Section 209 of the Elections Act, 2017 says, "Certification by the political party; (1) A political party shall, within seven days from completion of the intra-party elections, submit a certificate signed by an office-bearer authorized by the Party head, to the commission to the effect that the elections were held in accordance with the constitution of the political party and this act to elect the office-bearers at the federal, provincial and local levels, wherever applicable." Whereas, Sections 215 (4) of the Act state, "Where a political party or combination of political parties, severally or collectively, fails to comply with the provision of Section 209 or Section 210, the commission shall issue to such political party or parties a notice to show cause as to why it or they may not be declared ineligible to obtain an election symbol."-DNA



ISLAMABAD: Faisal Karim Kundi, SAPM/MoS for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety PA&SS addressing a Seminar to Scale up Family Planning organized by Population Council is Islamabad .-- DNA

China-Pak agree to take ocean science forward

DNA

BEIJING: China's National Ocean Technology Center (NOTC) and Lasbela University of Agriculture, Water and Marine Sciences (LU-AWMS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to cooperate on ocean space planning. According to China Economic Net (CEN) on Thursday, this new relationship was formalized in a virtual signing ceremony. Chen Wujun, Secretary General of NOTC, said that the MoU would be the key to opening cooperation between the Center and Lasbela University in the marine field. "We hope that in the future, both sides will take ocean space planning cooperation as the starting point, carry out extensive mutual visits and exchanges, and jointly hold training courses," said Chen. "We will also work together to



kistan." Dr. Dost Muhammad Baloch, Vice Chancellor of LU-AWMS, expressed his hope that the signing of the MoU will play an important role in the sustain-

op regional cooperation among Maritime Silk Road countries and establish a future communication and cooperation mechanism between China and Pakistan in the

and an exclusive economic zone and continental shelf of 290,000 square kilometers."The study of Marine Sciences has increased more than ever due to increase

in the future, we need scientific research to improve our capacity to manage new issues in the oceans," Dr. Dost said. Dr. Dost described the MoU as a natural alliance between the two universities that have mutual interests. Located in Baluchistan, which has the longest coastline in the country, LUAWMS is the only maritime university in Pakistan. The university is located about 500 km east of Gwadar port, the gateway to China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. In 2018, China Oceanic Development Foundation and LUAWMS signed an MoU on cooperation in marine space planning. In the past five years, China and Pakistan have continuously enhanced exchanges and interactions, deepened friendship and mutual trust, and reached a series of cooperation consensus. Under the new MoU, the two sides will carry out practical cooperation in more areas to enhance the capacity of Pakistan's integrated marine and coastal zone manage-

PAJCCI recommends joint efforts for goods clearance

DNA

ISLAMABAD: PAJCCI recommends joint effort to process transit trade documents by Pakistan & Afghanistan customs for smooth clearance of goods and onward movement.

Custom authority of both sides must rationalize document requirements and valuation of transit goods destined for Afghanistan from CAR and vice versa using Pakistani seaports to ensure that flow of trade continues especially during current times of recession in world trade. Pakistani seaports are hub for Afghan transit trade and is source of revenue for both countries. In line with international standards, Pakistan Customs require documents for goods clearance with appropriate values and for the purpose of valuation, these documents become base for Afghan Customs to carry out valuation however traders from both sides are facing very high valuation and taxation.-DNA

Gwadar Port Authority brings internship programme

ISLAMABAD: To equip the youth of Balochistan with the skills required in the modern workplace, the Gwadar Port Authority (GPA) has announced an internship programme for fresh graduates in the province. Gwadar Pro, quoting an official notification, stated on Thursday stated the programme will be run under the National Development Internship Programme. "The internships are a unique experience for the students as well as fresh graduates or diploma holders for their preparation of better jobs and relevant businesses," it reads. In pursuance of the Planning Commission's letter shared with the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, GPA will accommodate young engineers in two projects they are the 1.2 MGD ROD (reverse osmosis desalination) Plant at Gwadar and Sewerage Treatment Plant, at GPA Housing Complex.-DNA

DC Rawalpindi holds 'Khuli Kutchery'

RAWALPINDI : Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawal pindi Shoaib Ali held a 'Khuli Katchery' here at his office under Punjab Government's open door policy to resolve the problems of the people on priority. The 'Khuli Kutchery' was attended by a large number of citizens. People lodged their complaints regarding different problems including the issuance of domicile, fard, registry, land transfer cases and other revenue matters. The DC also listened to the complaints of the citizens and issued on the spot orders to the officers concerned. He said the purpose for holding such meetings under the open door policy of the government was to resolve the grievances of the people at the earliest and ensure speedy justice. He said, negligence on part of the officials concerned would not be tolerated. 'Khuli Kutcheries' were being held regularly aimed at resolving peoples' problems at their doorsteps, the DC added.-DNA

develop relevant information systems and observatory, and promote the construction of a joint research center on marine space planning between China and Pa-

Higher

Commission

including

Director

Around 6.4 MMCFD

gas to be saved

ISLAMABAD The Oil and Gas Authority (OGRA) has made

gas-run geysers including existing and new ones by Decem-

ber 2023 aimed at saving the precious and scarce commodity.

"Total approximate savings in gas will be 6.4 MMCFD (Metric

Million Cubic Feet per Day) with the help of this initiative. The

deadline of December 2023 has been set for installation of con-

ical baffles," OGRA spokesman Imran Ghaznavi said in a state-

ment. The decision to conical baffles' installation had been

taken to conserve energy and eliminate the gas shortages in

the country, he said, adding it would result in a reduction of

20-25% in gas bills charged on account of gevser usage. "This

initiative will also greatly help in minimising the ongoing nat-

ural gas crisis in the country." Currently, the spokesman said,

the total number of gas consumers in the country was 10.65

million, out of which 3.088 million were using geysers. Earlier,

he advised consumers to ensure careful use of gas appliances

including heaters, gevsers and stoves to avoid any untoward

incidents. "Gas heaters and stoves pose serious health risks

and are the main cause of many fatal incidents, so due care is

needed in the use of gas appliances," he said. Imran Ghaznavi

said carbon monoxide was colourless and odourless, adding

"high levels of carbon monoxide in the air are very dangerous

and may cause people to pass out or even die." In the winter

season, he said people should consider "safe alternative" ways

of keeping themselves warm and remain extra careful, espe-

cially while using indoor gas appliances.-APP

the installation of conical baffles mandatory in all kinds of

(HEC), Pakistan held a

three-day International

Workshop as part of the

TEIN Asi@Connect pro-

AI-driven Intent-based

Networking Platform for

Service Deployment with

The representatives of

the University of Malaya,

Malaysia; ITC Cambodia;

Pakistan Education & Re-

search Network (PERN),

National University of

Sciences & Technolo-

gy (NUST), COMSATS,

Sarhad University, FAST

University, UET Taxila,

UET Peshawar, and Air

University, took part in

HEC Dr. Shaista Sohail

chaired the concluding

session and awarded cer-

tificates to the partici-

pants. The HEC, under

the umbrella of Pakistan

Education & Research

Network (PERN), has

interlinked universities

and provided services to

the researchers to get ac-

the workshop.

Executive

QoS Assurance".

institutions,

"IBN@TEIN: An

ISLAMABAD:

Education

ject,

able use of marine resources and improve the lives of the people of Pakistan, especially in Baluchistan. "The MOU will help devel-

cess to a fully integrated

communication system.

PERN is a member of

the Trans Eurasia Infor-

mation Network (TEIN)

and is participating in

the latest phase of the

TEIN, i.e., the Asi@Con-

nect Project. The TEIN

network through a dedi-

cated link helps PERN to

connect with the NREN

consortiums across the

globe including, GÉANT

Asia-Pacific. It intercon-

nects universities and

research centers in 21

countries/economies

across the region includ-

ing PERN. Each year,

Asi@Connect call for pro-

posals is launched and en-

gages the researchers of

field of marine space planning,' said Dr. Dost. According to the Pakistani side, Pakistan has a coast of about 1.050 kilometers long

of exclusive economic zone of Pakistan from 200 to 350 nautical miles. In the face of the challenges and opportunities that may arise

ment, improve the well-being of coastal people, support the construction of China-Pakistan Blue Partnership, and promote the high-quality construction of the Belt and Road Initiative.

WEF issues 'markets

of tomorrow report

2023,

ISLAMABAD: The World Economic Forum has issued the "Markets of Tomorrow Report 2023". The Markets of Tomorrow

Report 2023 identifies the technologies of strategic importance

across countries and explores the opportunities and obstacles

to creating new markets. The Report discusses the key findings

on the top technologies, the most important enabling sectors,

DRAP fixes prices of various lifesaving drugs

ISLAMABAD: The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has fixed prices of 20 different life-saving drugs. The drugs which prices are fixed are used for treating cancer drugs, AIDS and blood pressure (different mgs). The DRAP has released a formal notification regarding fixation of medicine prices after getting approval from the federal cabinet. According to the notification, the price of drug treating lungs cancer was fixed at Rs172,320. The price of breast cancer medicine was set at Rs199,741. Moreover, Xlatan tablet 50mcg eye drops price was fixed at Rs1,519. Meanwhile Zofran 8mg tablet price was set at Rs3,907. Lastly, the price of Aclasta 100ml solution fixed at 27,514. -DNA

Huge cache of drugs smuggling bid foiled

ATTOCK: The Attock Police on Thursday foiled a bid to smuggle huge cache of drugs worth millions of rupees from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Punjab through a passenger van and arrested two drugs smugglers- stated to be members of inter-provincial racket of drugs smugglers. The drugs include charas, ice powder, and heroin. Police sources said that on specific information the police squad headed by Sub Divisional Police officer Fatehjang circle DSP Fateh Jang Raja Fayyaz ul Haq Naeem along with station house officer Mazhar Shah intercepted a Rawalpindi bound passenger van coming from Kohat on Khour road. During search, police recovered heroin 16 kilograms, charas 6 kilograms and ice 970 grams from the hidden parts of the vehicle having price of millions of rupees in the international drugs market. -DNA

Platforms, World Economic Forum. Amir Jahangir, Chief Ex-(Europe), APAN (Asia-Pa-Platform for Service Deecutive Officer, Mishal Pakistan, said, "the data on Pakistan cific), EUMEDCONNECT ployment with QoS Asments in developed counshows that the technologies with strategic priority and poten-Mediterranesurance" project funding tries can only be learned (Eastern was approved by TEIN. tial to create new markets and opportunities in the country an), RedCLARA (Latin through such training are in the agriculture technologies areas, E-commerce and America), CAREN (Cen-The project was led by workshops. She said that digital trade, EdTech, Robotics, Digital platforms and apps tral Asia), AfricaCon-Korean University, where-HEC believes in creating as HEC and universities developments". The data identifies nanotechnology, electric nect2(Africa), ASREN knowledge and passing and autonomous vehicles development, augmented and vir-(Middle East), Internet2 from Pakistan, Malaysia, it on and one of the best tuality as the least potential technologies for Pakistan as the and Cambodia were part of ways is conducting such (US) and others. future market player in the global sphere. On the top 10 key Asi@Connect provides workshops in which the the project. Prof. Dr. sectors that can generate new markets in Pakistan have been dedicated high-capaci-Wang-Cheol Song, project latest technological develidentified as 1) Information Technology Services, 2) Media ty internet connectivity PI, expressed this training opments are shared which and Publishing, 3) Medical and Healthcare Services, 4) Profor research and educaworkshop as a commendare not part of the textduction of Consumer Goods, 5) Employment, Education and tion communities across

able event. He said, "the experience was a great opportunity for me as well as it was more than his expectations. It was a great opportunity, and I expect further collaborations to share the dynamics of technology in the 21st cen-

and applications.

HEC 3-day workshop ends the Asia Pacific Region in emony, Executive Director a competitive manner to award grants to proposals on different technologies The HEC PERN team, as well as researchers from Pakistani universities also participated and competed she concluded. -DNA

Dr. Shaista Sohail admired all the trainers and attendees of the workshop. She said that technology is part and parcel of economic development. HEC and the Government of Pakistan in collaboration with the World Trade Organitor to make it the leading sector of Pakistan. The latest technological developare very important as they are the hubs for technology and our students are al-IT services worldwide,'

and the key bottlenecks to market creation. The Report also proin the call for proposals. vides a wider overview of the markets of tomorrow data, with zation have a number of Under the Asi@Connect, profiles covering the top ten technologies, sectors. The Reagreements in the IT sec-4th call for proposals, search for the Report was conducted by Mishal Pakistan, the IBN@TEIN: An AI-driven Country Partner Institute of the New Economy and Societies Intent-based Networking books. "We hope that we Training Services, 6) NGOs, professional bodies, and unions, will be able to utilize gains 7) International bilateral and multilateral organizations, 8) from the IT & for that pur-Education 9) Agriculture, forestry, and fishing, and 10) finanpose University platforms cial services and capital markets. Among the least potential sectors, Engineering and construction, mining and minerals, social work, electronics, automotive and aerospace, energy tech and utilities, Rental, reservation and leasing services, Chemical ready providing excellent and advanced materials, Advanced manufacturing, Retail, and wholesale of consumer goods.-DNA tury." Speaking at the cer-

Public can make legislators commuted to constitution

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Awareness of Pakistan's Constitution among the electorates can help challenge and pressurize the legislators to pursue public interest and set priorities for lawmaking based on collective welfare, national consensus, and institutional competency in the current political environment marred by legislation based on personal interest. These views emerged during a session titled 'Impacts of Political Environment on Legislation Processes' held at the Institute of Policy Studies with the research associates of Tadveen (legislative drafting

and research clinic at the National Assembly) of Mantaq Center for Research. The session was addressed by Imran Shafique, advocate, high court and former special prosecutor NAB, Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, and Farzana Yaqoob, CEO and founding member, Mantaq. Although policymaking in Pakistan is seemingly based on national interest, one cannot find a forum or place where national interest is studied, analyzed, debated, and determined, argued Imran Shafique while highlighting the dichotomy in the system. He maintained that the Constitution of Pakistan is the reflection of the people's will and aspirations, and it does not permit

personal-specific legislation or legislation against the Qur'an and Sunnah and has established institutions like Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) and Federal Shariat Court (FSC) to ensure compliance. Despite that, the legislative process in practice is subverted because the country's political environment undermines the Constitution and its implementation. The lobbying done by politicians, person-specific legislation, the influence of political interest of non-political entities (both national and international), and personal dispositions of legislators are some of the elements of the political environment that undermine the relevance of public in-

terest in lawmaking. Lobbying by politicians, who only focus on attracting popular vote, increasing their vote bank, and preparing for the next election, has become a part of the political legacy in which the ruling elite has to maintain its dominance. In such a situation, the legislation done is person-specific with no regard for collective welfare or public interest. Another significant aspect of the legislative process is that political interests are not just limited to politicians. Even entities, institutions, and actors having no link to politics push their political interest, often bigger than the politicians, and influence lawmaking.

Democracy in Israel: under assault

lmost half of Israelis now believe that their country's democracy æ is in grave danger. They are right. The assault upon its institutions is not merely the alarming result of a far-right government. It is to a large degree the raison d' tre for this administration. Benjamin Netanyahu, prime minister once more and still fighting the bribery and corruption case against him, is no great admirer of the judiciary. The intentions are not new. But they have never been pressed so nakedly and aggressively. The plan announced by the justice minister, Yariv Levin, would allow even the slimmest Knesset majority to override supreme court decisions - which would mean that controversial new laws could be pushed through, targeting minorities, civil society and the right to protest against annexation. Politicians would also gain more power to pick the court's members. The timing of Mr Levin's announcement was pointed: the day before a high court of justice hearing on whether Aryeh Deri can serve as interior and health minister, given last year's suspended sentence for tax offences. The right claims that the public demand this change. They do not: 55% oppose it. Avi Himi, head of the Israeli Bar Association, says that the proposals would mean the destruction of Israeli democracy; the former prime minister Yair Lapid, now heading the opposition, describes them as "a unilateral coup". In a country already lacking sufficient checks and balances with a single parliamentary chamber and a weak constitution - they are particularly dangerous. Many will suffer from the encouragement of authoritarianism, but some far more so: the LGBTQ community, asylum seekers and Palestinians most of all. The government is moving at speed. Mr Netanyahu has often promised the right more than he has delivered, but it is unclear whether he can and will control the extremist bedmates he brought into power. A coalition member has called for the arrest of opposition leaders for "treason". Police have been ordered to turn water cannons on an anti-government demonstration. Itamar Ben-Gvir, once convicted of inciting racism and now national security minister, made a provocative visit to the al-Aqsa mosque compound, known to Jews as the Temple Mount, within days of taking office. He has ordered police to tear down Palestinian flags, and the government is punishing Palestinians by seizing Palestinian Authority funds in retaliation for it asking the international court of justice in The Hague for an advisory opinion on Israel's occupation of the West Bank. Some in Israel have long warned that occupation was eroding its democracy, and that the effects felt first, and most deeply, by Palestinians would not end with them. Their words have rarely seemed more relevant, or urgent, than now.

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China remains 'magnet' for world business

o matter how far the small number of China-bashing poli-ticians in the United States go in their efforts to besmirch China's optimized COVID-19 prevention and control policies, they are failing to dent global investors' confidence in and zeal for the Chinese market. Many foreign business councils in China have expressed that their member enterprises are arranging the itineraries for senior executives' trips to China and rebooting relevant projects. Likewise, the executives of many of China's export enterprises have itineraries for business trips overseas. The foreign business community has immunity to the China-bashers' lies about the world's second-largest economy. Foreign entrepreneurs recognize the Chinese economy's stability and scale provide a strong foundation for its long-term prospects, while its resilience and recovery capability ensure it has potential to tap in the near term. The government's consistent efforts to improve the domestic business environment and dock the domestic market systems with those of the world market give practical support to consolidate these. In 2020, the amount of foreign investment utilized in China increased by 6.2 percent year-on-year. In 2021, the growth rate reached 14.9 percent, breaking the 1-trillion-yuan (\$148.1 billion) mark for the first time. And in the first 11 months of 2022, it had already exceeded the level of 2021, up 9.9 percent year-on-year. China's foreign trade surged 1.9 percent year-on-year in 2020 - the only major economy in the world that saw positive growth in trade that year -21.4 percent in 2021, and 8.6 percent, despite the impacts of the pandemic, over the first eleven months of 2022. The many appeals of US enterprises for the US government to stop hindering their business operations highlight the extent to which the US political system has been poisoned by the toxicity of the China-bashers, if not how much the US economy and consumers are paying for that. China's status as a global market, major investment destination and source, manufacturing base, logistics hub and increasingly influential creative center are by no means condescending gifts from the US but a result of its own comparative advantages, that will only be strengthened with its higher-level opening-up and development. The future of the global economic recovery hinges upon the extent to which countries are willing to work together to dismantle trade and institutional barriers, maintain the stability of global supply chains, shorten negative lists, align their development strategies and coordinate their macro-policymaking, all of which China has been promoting.

Contradiction s of US foreign policy

Dr. Muhammad Akram Zaheer



It is now becoming much more difficult for the US and other countries to justify operational links with the Taliban. If the Taliban's abusive and repressive policies had already dashed hopes that their second round at the top would be different. Varzi's open defiance of their counter-terrorism promises in the February 2020 Doha Accords has now set them back on the path to become a pariah regime. US politicians and counter-terrorism analysts urgently need to revise their assessments

n the last week of July 2022, the United States attended a regional conference on counter-terrorism in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, where Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Mutaqi said his government had considered Afghanistan as a base against the international terrorism and honored promises which should not be used as such. Nonetheless, Al-Zawahiri's presence in Kabul appears to undermine Motaqi's statements and the Taliban's pledge to sever ties with groups like al-Qaeda. It also complicates talks between the Taliban and US officials last week over the release of Afghan central bank assets, which could help ease Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis. During the de facto Taliban regime, US policymakers have attempted to walk a fine line: involving the Taliban in humanitarian, legal, and governance issues important to Washington while minimizing and attempting to threaten to minimize that this engagement is still legal. But the US had to accept that even this minimal diplomatic engagement led to some normalization of the Taliban regime. The deal was that the engagement facilitated US support to end the enormous humanitarian and economic crises and opened a channel for the Taliban to push for inclusive governance that respects women and human rights. The al-Zawahiri strike reflecting the Taliban leaders' apparent continued willingness to harbor al-Qaeda brought this trade to the fore. It is now becoming much more difficult for the US and other countries to justify operational links with the Taliban. If the Taliban's abusive and repressive policies had already dashed hopes that their second round at the top would be different, Varzi's open defiance of their counter-terrorism promises in the February 2020 Doha Accords has now set them back on the path to become a pariah regime. US politicians and counter-terrorism analysts urgently need

to revise their assessments of the terrorist threat in Afghanistan. The successful US attack confirms those who have advocated an overarching counter-terrorism strategy in Afghanistan. But al-Zawahiri getting a port in Kabul could also portend a more serious threat than expected. Currently US officials need to explore options to end the suffering of Afghans that do not rely on cooperation with or support for the Taliban regime. The recent US measures to freeze the Afghan central bank's assets, which were intended to help ease Afghanistan's liquidity crisis and restore normal economic activity, now face further uncertainty. The lessons of the 1996-2001 Taliban regimes in relation to the delivery of humanitarian aid should be revisited. The assassination of Zawahiri is timely evidence that the United States, while preoccupied with other foreign policy priorities and plagued by domestic divisions, remains committed to the counter-terrorism mission. But it also demonstrates the bankruptcy of the Biden administration's foreign policy agenda on the other fronts. The killing of Zawahiri in an airs-trike in Kabul, where he was holed up in a safe house under the protection of the Pakistan-affiliated branch of the Taliban known as the Haqqani Network. The fact that the al-Qaeda chief was able to find refuge in the Afghan capital proves that the country's Islamist rulers have no intention of severing their long-standing ties to al-Qaeda, despite promising to do so last year. Therefore, the Taliban have not kept their side of the deal, as the White House itself now admits. According to Foreign Minister Antony Blanken, the Taliban "grossly" violated the terms of their deal with the US known as the Doha Accords by harboring Zawahiri on Afghan soil. Blankenship and other government officials remain silent about the practical consequences the US is willing to impose on the Taliban after exposing the group's

double-edged policies. The other stage is Iran. Since Zawahiri is no longer in the picture, the most likely candidate to take over al Qaeda leadership is Saif al-Adel, a former Egyptian army officer. However, US intelligence and counter-terrorism experts agree that he and other members of the group's leadership have spent most or all of the past two decades in Iran. There, al-Adeel continued to coordinate the terrorist group's global activities and plan its campaigns, despite being under nominal "house arrest". All of this should be of great importance in the context of the Biden administration's favored policy of engagement with Iran. For the past year and a half, the government has pursued a diplomatic strategy aimed at getting the Islamic Republic back on track with the 2015 nuclear deal known as the JCPOA. Even now, despite repeated denials, White House officials remain hopeful that Iran may still be willing to accept some sort of new deal over its nuclear program. But to keep that hope alive, the government must largely ignore the Iranian regime's regional concerns and its widespread support for international terrorism. Such an approach has already become a hard sell in Congress, where skepticism about Team Biden's prevailing Iran strategy is growing, even among members of the president's own party. This will become utterly untenable as more and more contacts between the Iranian government and Al Qaeda's top leadership mount, raising serious questions about whether the United States can support Tehran's terrorism, why should the government be empowered and what might happen if it does? Zawahiri's assassination should be celebrated for what it is: an overwhelming victory for the US counter-terrorism force. However, we must not be blind of the contradictions and risks inherent in the Biden administration's foreign policy.

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Pakistan's energy crisis and delay in TAPI

Gul.i.AyeshaBhatti



Otherwise, Pakistan's independent foreign policy will be impacted by the energy crisis. From a geopolitical standpoint, state sovereignty depends greatly on energy security. Foreign providers' guarantees of consistent energy supply at reasonable prices are always accompanied by a long list of demands that frequently damage a country's reputation. Therefore, as a result of the nation's inability to satisfy

Sustainable energy sources are crucial in today's world, and having access to them may enrich everyone's prospects in life. A vital component of a nation's growth and development is a reliable source of energy. Numerous statistics showed that if cost-effective access to energy is made simple, human progress can reach its pinnacle.

Located at the confluence of the world's energy resources, Pakistan has a strategic advan-tage. Nevertheless, Pakistan's energy situation is far from ideal because the state relies heavily on imports and does not have enough energy resources to sustain itself. The import expense is steadily rising as a result of the rising energy demand and shifting energy costs. Pakistan has been experiencing a serious energy problem for the past few decades, as seen by its frequent power outages, increased gas load-shedding, rising prices, and disturbed fuel supplies. Given that energy is a crucial component of national security, Pakistan's current situation is best characterized as energy insecurity. Pakistan is trying to explore regional coordination to overcome its energy efficiency. It has also been dependent on energy-richgulf states like KSA, Qatar, and Kuwait, for oil, LNG, and other petroleum products. However, it is cost-effective to explore CARs, Russia, and Iran nearby. In this regard, there are already a few projects pending like IP, TAPI, and CASA1000. Among them, TAPI is one of the world's greatest energy collaborations among the states. In contradiction to IP and PGSP, TAPI is a noncontroversial project with a highly effective outcome. These concerns have been expressed by State Minister for Petroleum Division MusadikMasood Malik last year in December. The government of Pakistan has been active in engaging Central Asian republics and Russia in energy deals. Completion of TAPI is one of the major concerns right now to overcome energy deficiency in the country. The Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India Natural Gas Pipeline (TAPI) Pipeline project is one that Pakistan is anxious to get started on right now. The fourth-largest gas reserves in the world

are found in Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan would be supplied with 1.4 billion cubic feet of gas altogether. The pipeline will travel from Turkmenistan to Chaman and then on to Multan, where it will be integrated into the Sui companies' network in Pakistan. "We are sincerely going ahead with the TAPI project and it would cost \$34 million," MusadikMasood Malik stated in an interview earlier in December. The pipe-line will carry natural gas from Turkmenistan's Galkynysh Gas Field to Pakistan, Afghanistan, and finally India. In November 2014, Turkmengaz (the biggest shareholder with 85% interest), Afghan Gas Enterprise (5%), Inter State Gas Systems (5%), and GAIL (5%), formed a special-purpose consortium known as the TAPI Pipeline Company (TPCL) to carry out the project. On December 13, 2015, work on the project's construction began in Turkmenistan. The ceremony marking the beginning of the construction of the Afghanistan-Pakistan section of the pipeline was held in February 2018. By providing inexpensive gas to Pakistan, and India, transit fees for Afghanistan and Pakistan, and an energy market to Turkmenistan, TAPI will benefit the economies of all the member states. Consumers will receive more affordable, cleaner energy, which will boost the economy and lower inflation rates. It will provide earnings or revenues that may be applied to improving the social sectors, particularly those related to housing, health, education, and clean water.By increasing sub-regional economic cooperation and increasing the usage of natural gas resources, it is predicted that the TAPI initiative would alleviate poverty. It will result in the creation of jobs by increasing sub regional economic activity and increasing the usage of natural gas resources, it is predicted that the TAPI project would alleviate poverty. Designed to serve for 30 years, the pipeline was expected to commence operations in 2021, but it was stalled. It is expected to transport 33 billion cubicmeterss of natural gas a year. The project's supporters envision it as a contemporary continuation of

the Silk Road. Pakistan has tried to convince other regional actors like Kazakhstan to be part of this project. Similarly, Russian authorities showed a great interest in participating in this project and supplying pipelines to Turkmenistan for the completion of 1st step of this project. This much-touted and already-delayed gas pipeline project has seen various challenges throughout all this time. In March 2022, it run into trouble as Asian Development Bank (ADB) halted all processing and due diligence operations until the Taliban regime is recognized and legitimized by the UN and major powers of the world. Later on, the Rise of TTP and the government of Pakistan's growing cold terms with the Taliban while dealing with it, seem like a big hurdle in the successful completion of TAPI in the given time. Therefore, rising uncertainty regarding security conditions in Afghanistan and in the adjusting region of Pakistan is a source of concern for TAPI member states. The dependence on ad hoc solutions to the issue and ongoing reliance on oil and gas imports show that the energy crisis has not yet been handled by the state effectively. Policymakers still need to craft long-term and sustainable policies including investing in the discovery of indigenous reserves, building hydropower projects, and concentrating on alternative and renewable energy sources. Otherwise, Pakistan's independent foreign policy will be impacted by the energy crisis. From a geopolitical standpoint, state sovereignty depends greatly on energy security. Foreign providers' guarantees of consistent energy supply at reasonable prices are always accompanied by a long list of demands that frequently damage a country's reputation. Therefore, as a result of the nation's inability to satisfy even the most basic energy requirements of its citizens, investor trust in the state has been eroding, and visions of industrialization and economic self-reliance are still a long way off from becoming a reality.

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WORLD / SPORTS

Islamabad **POST** Friday, January 13, 2023

Briefs **UAE** agrees to roll over US\$ 2 bn **Pakistan's** loan

06

FROM PAGE 01 The two leaders discussed the fraternal relations existing between Pakistan and the UAE; and explored ways and means to further strengthen these ties, especially in the fields of trade, investment and energy. The two leaders also had an exchange of views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

They also expressed satisfaction over the pace of steady progress in bilateral relations. They agreed on the importance of enhanced bilateral exchanges and regular dialogue at all levels to further solidify and provide momentum to the relation ship. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif invited Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed for a state visit to Pakistan to which he agreed. The dates will be decided through diplomatic channels.

'Saudi Arabia always helped Pakistan'

FROM PAGE 01 Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Saudi Fund Sultan Al Murshid, who led a four-member delegation. The prime minister said Pakistan highly values Saudi Arabia's assistance for the rehabilitation of flood victims. During the meeting, various development projects of Saudi Arabia in Pakistan were also reviewed. The meeting was attended by Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Law Minister Nazir-Tarar. Adviser to Prime Minister Ahad Cheema and senior officials.

How CM Elahi won trust

Aussies snub Afghan series over crackdown on women

Expenditures needed to be reduced: CJP

DNA

ACB said it would contact Int'l Cricket Council and was considering withdrawing its players from Australia's domestic Big Bash League in retaliation. Cricket Australia (CA) said their decision was taken after talks with concerned parties that included the Australian govt

SYDNEY: Australia pulled out of an upcoming series against Afghanistan in the United Arab Emirates on Thursday, citing Taliban moves to further restrict women's rights. The men's team were due to face their Afghan counterparts in three ODI games in March following a tour to India. The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) in Kabul described Australia's decision as "pathetic". "The decision to withdraw ... is unfair and unexpected and will have a negative impact," the ACB said in a statement, which did not mention the shrinking of women's rights in Afghanistan nor the Taliban's ban on female sport.

The ACB said it would contact the

SPORTS DESK

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was considering withdrawing its players from Australia's domestic Big Bash League in retaliation. Cricket Australia (CA) said their decision was taken after talks with concerned parties that included the Australian government. "This decision follows the recent announcement by the Taliban of further restrictions on women's and girls' education and employment opportunities and their ability to access parks and gyms," it said in a statement. "CA is committed to supporting growing the game for women and men around the world, including in Afghanistan.

"(We) will continue to engage with the Afghanistan Cricket

a jam-packed day in

Adelaide where all of

the quarterfinalists

are ranked inside

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2017. Badosa

speaks: "To

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International Cricket Council and Board in anticipation of improved conditions for women and girls in the country," it said. The games against Afghanistan were part of the ICC Super League. Australia will forfeit 30 competition points for the series, which go towards World Cup qualification. However, they have already secured automatic qualification for the 50-over tournament in India later this year. Pace bowler Naveen-ul-Haq has already suggested on Twitter he would pull out of the Big Bash League where he plays for the Sydney Sixers. "When a country is going through so much in place (of) being supportive you want to take the only reason of happiness

from them," he tweeted. The Taliban regained control of Kabul in August 2021 and quickly began placing restrictions on

women's participation in sport. The hardline Islamists initially promised a softer approach than their first stint in power from 1996 to 2001, a period notorious for rights abuses that included public executions and floggings.

They have gradually reintroduced an extreme interpretation of Islamic law, or sharia, and women have seen rights evaporate as they were squeezed out of public life. The Taliban barred teenage girls from attending secondary schools and then last month banned women from attending universities,

prompting global outrage and protests in some Afghan cities.

They then decreed at the end of last month that Afghan women could no longer work for NGOs, at a time when Afghanistan faces one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with its population of 38 million hungry and three million children at risk of malnutrition. Most women government workers have lost their jobs. Women are also barred from travelling without a male relative and have been told they must cover up with a burqa or hijab when outside the home. In November, women were also banned from entering parks, funfairs, gyms and public baths. - Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial on Thursday stressed the need of taking steps to reduce expenditures as the country was facing financial difficulties. The CJP observed that all the record of donors of the dams fund was available on the Supreme Court's website, and the people would be informed about the machinery purchased from it. They would ensure that the dams fund would not be spent on coping with the flood damages, he added. The chief justice remarked that transmission lines were very important for the projects. He was heading a five-member larger bench, which heard a case regarding the construction of Diamer-Bhasha and Mohmand dams.

During the hearing, the counsel of State Bank told the court that total Rs 10 billion was received in the the dams fund, which would increase to Rs 17 billion during the current month due to its investment in government securities. "No one had ever withdrawn the money and there is over Rs 16 billion amount present in the dams fund at the moment," he added.

The collected amount was first invested in the government securities and then its proceeds were reinvested in T-bills through the National Bank. The Secretary Water and Power told the court that the instructions had been given to release Rs 2.4 billion for the installation of transmission lines for the dam. The current circular debt in the country was Rs 2.6 trillion and it was expected to further increase, he added.

JI warns against disrupting Karachi polls

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi chief Hafiz Naeemur Rehman has demanded the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), Sindh government and oth-

in semis dosa held an early 4-2 lead in "I think we served big, we the opening set, but Haddad tried to go for the points, but she was moving very well. I think I was the same. It was very tough, but I back on serve at 5-4. knew I had to go aggressive on the break points, and

when I had my opportunities, that's By the numbers: The first between Badosa Haddad lived expecwith grueling 74-minute first set followed by an even longer 81-minute sec-Spanish No.1 Badosa edged topranked Brazilian

Haddad Maia at the tail end of both sets. Kvitova and level their head-Badosa finished the with eight more winners to-head at one win apiece. Kvitova had defeated Kasatkina handily in their only prior encounter, which the Czech won 6-4, 6-0 on the clay courts of Madrid in 2018. But this time around, it was Kasatkina who played the more composed match, converting five of her ten break points to seal the win.

Le Graet forced to step down

PARIS: French Football Federation president Noel Le Graet has been forced to stand down just weeks after France's defeat in the World Cup final, following a series of controversies, the body said on Wednesday. The decision was taken following an emergency meeting of the FFF in Paris. "Noel Le Graet, in agreement with the FFF executive committee gathered today in Paris, has chosen to step down from his role as president until the completion of the audit performed by the sports ministry," the federation said. Le Graet, whose mandate was due to run until 2024, had faced calls to resign after what he admitted were "clumsy remarks" about Zinedine Zidane's potential interest in coaching the French national team.

The 81-year-old, who has been president of the FFF since 2011, had said in an interview with radio station RMC on Sunday that he "wouldn't even have taken his call" when asked whether Zidane, a World Cup winner as a player and an all-time France great, had rung him to express an interest in taking over as coach from Didier Deschamps. Deschamps, who led France to World Cup glory in 2018 and oversaw their run to last month's final which they lost on penalties to Argentina, last weekend signed a new contract to stay as France coach until 2026. Speaking on Wednesday at an event in Nice, Deschamps admitted Le Graet's comments about Zidane had been "inappropriate". - APP

Real Madrid reach Spanish Super Cup final

MADRID: Real Madrid booked their place in the Spanish Super Cup final Wednesday after eliminating Valencia 4-3 on penalties in Riyadh. In the semifinal match, Real Madrid drew first blood as French forward Karim Benzema scored from the penalty spot in the 39th minute at King Fahd Stadium. Valencia's Samuel Lino scored the equalizer in the 46th minute. A penalty shootout decided the winning team after regular time and extra time ended in a draw. Real Madrid's Benzema, Luka Modric, Toni Kroos and Marco Asensio each converted their penalty kicks successfully. Edinson Cavani, Ilaix Moriba and Hugo Guillamon scored from the white spot for Valencia. But Eray Comert and Jose Gaya missed their penalties, causing Valencia to be eliminated from the competition. Real Madrid will face either Real Betis or Barcelona in Sunday's final. Real Betis will play against Barcelona on Thursday evening. A neutral ground, King Fahd Stadium hosts Spanish Super Cup final four. - APP

Badosa outlasts Maia, will meet Kasatkina

Maia slammed a forehand winner down the line to pull There were no further

with a crosscourt winner.

moments: On Thursday, Babreaks in the first set en

route to a decisive tiebreak. where Badosa hit an ace to lead 6-2 and hold four set points. Big hitting by Haddad Maia helped her fend off the first three, but Badosa converted her fourth chance Haddad Maia staved off the first five break points she faced in the second set, but Badosa achieved success by firing a backhand winner down the line to break for 6-5. Badosa then converted her second match point in the next game to close out the lengthy clash. Kasatkina awaits: Earlier on Thursday. Kasatkina took 1 hour and 32 minutes to topple two-

time Wimbledon champion

vote in Punjab Assembly?

LAHORE Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Parvez Elahi won the trust of Punjab Assembly (PA) amid ruckus. However, there's an inside story as to how the ruling coalition tricked the opposition inside and out side the assembly before securing the trust vote. Sources told that the PTI-PML-Q alliance showed less vote count in the PA's Aves lobby to trick the opposition into believing that the ruling coalition did not have the required majority. On the other hand, the absence of some PTI members in the house had, till the deciding hours, added fuel to the fire. But, the actual game had been played well before that. First of all, PTI leader Mian Aslam Iqbal convinced MPA Bilal Warraich to put his weight into the ruling coalition's side. Other than that, the absence of PTI MPAs from Chakwal and Bahawalpur in the house further raised the hopes for the opposition alliance that manifested in the form of the opposition's challenge to PA Speaker to count the votes. However, the hopes started dwindling when the government's count surpassed 180 and the opposition backed off from its challenge to the speaker. The PTI delivered its last googly when its MPAs from Chakwal and Bahawalpur arrived in the house Their presence rose the count to 186 helping the CM to win. But more important that is the revelation that all this had been planned in Mr Khan's residence at Zaman Park, and only a few members of the PTI knew about it. -DNA

Subsidized

flour stalls

LARKANA: The Sindh gov

ernment has started the pro-

cess of providing fair price

wheat flour to the people, in

this regard, subsidized flour

stalls have been set up at 12

places in Larkana district,

where people are getting

wheat flour at Rs. 650/= per

10Kgs bag. Additional Depu-

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Ms. Rabiaya Siyal said that fair

price wheat flour available in

10 Kgs bags at five localities of

Larkana city and one each in

Ratodero City, Bakrani town,

Dokri Town, Badha town, Garil-

lo town, Banguldero town and

Naudero town.-APP



half hours. In the final four, Badosa will face No.5 seed Daria Kasatkina, who became the first player into the semifinals with a 6-3, 7-6(3) win over No.12 seed Petra Kvitova. Kasatkina's win kicked off

[Haddad Maia] is a fighter, and it was going to be a very long match," former World No.2 Badosa said on court, after her win. "She doesn't give up, no matter what, and I really respect these kind of

and one fewer unforced error than Haddad Maia, and the Spaniard has now won nine of her last 11 matches against left-handed opposition. Badosa is seeking her first title since exactly one year ago, when she won her third career Hologic WTA Tour title in Sydney. Match



STOCKHOLM: Pakistan ambassador to Sweden, Zahoor Ahmed calls on Swedish Foreign Minister Tobias Billstrom in the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. - DNA

Infantino quizzed by Swiss prosecutors

GENEVA: FIFA boss Gianni Infantino has been quizzed by two Swiss prosecutors appointed to take over an investigation into his alleged secret meetings with the country's former prosecution chief, one of the magistrates confirmed to AFP on Wednesday. "I confirm to you that a confrontation hearing was held in the proceedings conducted by Dr (Ulrich) Weder and myself," Hans Maurer wrote in an email to AFP. "However, I do not comment on the time, scope and purpose of this hearing." Earlier Wednesday, news outlets Le Monde and Sueddeutsche Zeitung reported Infantino was questioned on Tuesday in Zurich, where the headquarters of FIFA are based. The boss of world football has been facing proceedings since July 2020 over "incitement to abuse authority", "violation of official secrecy" and "obstructing criminal proceedings". Swiss justices accuse him of three secret meetings in 2016 and 2017 with former attorney general Michael Lauber. Infantino, 52, has insisted that his meetings with Lauber were merely routine. Lauber eventually resigned while FIFA's internal justice system cleared Infantino. Infantino will stand unopposed for a third term as FIFA later this year. He will be the only candidate when the election takes place at the 73rd FIFA Congress in Kigali, Rwanda on March 16. Infantino's third term follows in the line of previous FIFA presidents - Joao Havelange was in charge from 1974 to 1998 and Infantino's predecessor Sepp Blatter held office from 1998 to 2015. - APP

PM visits Martyrs Abu Dhabi

Monument in ABU : Prime Minister Mu-

PARIS: Lionel Messi scored in Paris Saint-Germain's 2-0 win over Angers in Ligue 1 on Wednesday on his first appearance since leading Argentina to victory in the World Cup in Qatar. Messi had been rested for PSG's first three matches following the

DNA

long break in the season caused by the World Cup but he returned to training in Paris a week ago and was back in the starting lineup for this game against Ligue 1's bottom side. The win, which came three and a half weeks after he captained Argentina to their World Cup final triumph on penalties against France in Qatar, saw PSG move six points clear at the top of the French table. Neymar also started, having missed his team's last two matches due to suspension and to undergo treatment on the ankle injury he suffered playing for Brazil at the World Cup.

Meanwhile Kylian Mbappe was rested for a second straight game having been afforded time off for a holiday in New York in the wake of his own World Cup campaign, which saw him score a hat-trick in the final but come out on the losing side. Mbappe and Messi are expected to be reunited this weekend in Sunday's match away to Rennes. In the meantime the absence of the France star meant young striker Hugo Ekitike again started in

the home attack at the Parc des Princes and he opened the scoring in the fifth minute from a Nordi Mukiele cross at the end of a move in which Messi also featured.

PSG were not at their sparkling best but Messi swept in his 13th club goal of the season to make it 2-0 with 17 minutes left. Ekitike and Mukiele were again involved before Messi applied the finish. The goal was initially disallowed for offside but a VAR check allowed it to stand. "Messi has recovered well.

He is relaxed and in great shape physically, and with Leo the team looks different," said coach Christophe Galtier. Speaking to broadcaster Canal Plus, Galtier, who said he had come down with a fever during the game, added: "We are coming back off the World Cup so it is difficult for the players to find their reference points again." "We are all just getting used to playing together again and you could see at times that we lacked some



Lionel Messi guides PSG to victory on return

we had more often before the World Cup.' It was a 10th straight league loss for Angers, while Galtier's PSG team extended their lead at the top of the table as second-placed Lens were held to a 2-2 draw away at Strasbourg. PSG's unbeaten record this season had been ended in a 3-1 defeat away at Lens on New Year's Day, but they bounced back to win 3-1 at third-tier Chateauroux in the French Cup at the weekend without any of their superstar attacking trio. Lens are enjoying a fine season but could not get the better of struggling Strasbourg, who were playing their first game since the sacking of coach Julien Stephan. Alexis Claude-Maurice put Lens ahead in Alsace only for Sanjin Prcic to equalise before Kevin Gameiro gave Strasbourg the lead. Belgian international Lois Openda then made it 2-2 before the break, and there were no further goals. Marseille are now just two points behind Lens in third place after a 2-0 win at Troyes, sealed thanks to goals by Chancel Mbemba and Jordan Veretout, the latter a member of France's World Cup squad. Rennes in fourth lost ground after having two men sent off before conceding in injury time to lose 2-1 away at Clermont. Meanwhile fifthplaced Monaco drew 2-2 at Lorient, while Nice crushed Montpellier 6-1 in their first game since sacking coach Lucien Favre.

hammad Shehbaz Sharif Thursday visited national and cultural landmark of Wahat Al Karama in Abu Dhabi. The prime minister was welcomed by Khalifa Bin Tahnoon, Executive Director Martyrs' Families' Affairs Office in Crown Prince's Court. PM Shehbaz attended the solemn Guard of Honour ceremony. Afterwards, he laid a wreath at the Martyrs' Monument, which comprises 31 panels leaning on one another to symbolise the unity and solidarity between the UAE's leadership, people and heroic soldiers. The prime minister also toured Wahat Al Karama, where he was briefed about the memorial, which embodies the sacrifices of valiant Emirati soldiers. At the end of the tour, he wrote a note on the memorial's guest book.-APP

er relevant quarters to take notice of MQM-Pakistan's 'threat" to disrupt the local body elections, scheduled to take on January 15 in Karachi and Hyderabad. His statement comes soon PSP chief Mustafa Kamal and senior politician Dr Farooq Sattar announced rejoining the MQM-Pakistan to jointly raise voice for the rights of the people of the urban areas of Sindh.

"Our efforts to unify all factions of the [MQM] have borne fruit and all those who were hatching conspiracy against us will be disappointed today," said MQM-Pakistan Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui while addressing a joint press conference at party's Bhadurabad headquarters on Thursday. He was flanked by PSP chief Mustafa Kamal, Farooq Sattar and other party leaders. "We will not let the [local body] election take place on January 15... we are ready to fight elections if delimitations are fixed by overnight but if not then we will fight for our identity," announced Siddiqui while referring to his allegations that attempts are being made to snatch the mandate of the Mohajirs by gerrymandering.

07

BUSINESS / WORLD

Briefs

Australia finalizing security pact with Pacific neighbor

WELLINGTON: The leaders of Australia and neighboring Papua New Guinea said Thursday they are finalizing a new security treaty a move that comes as a challenge to China's growing assertiveness in the region. Last year, China signed its own security pact with the nearby Solomon Islands, raising alarm that it could lead to a military buildup in the South Pacific region.

Australia and PNG haven't released details of their planned new treaty, but Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said he expected negotiations to conclude in April and the treaty to be signed in June. Albanese said the treaty would be based on the deep trust between the two na tions. The people of Papua New Guinea showed heroism and humanity during World War II battles, he said. "In the years ahead, Australia and Papua New Guinea have a chance to honor our shared history of service in the cause of peace – by add-ing to it," Albanese said. "Deepening our defense ties and enhancing our national security cooperation, and achieving a swift conclusion to negotiations on a Bilateral Security Treaty." -Agencies

Huge surge in Italy migrant arrivals

ROME: ROME: Migrant arrivals in Italy have increased by more than 50% since farright premier Giorgia Meloni took office at the end last October, official statistics show, contradicting claims made by her government. On Monday, interior minister Matteo Piatendosi appeared on an Italian TV show and claimed the "growth curve [of boat arrivals] had declined" in the government's first two months in power. But statistics published by

the interior ministry and reviewed by Euronews show

Africa should not serve as a venue for global contests

African Union says all nations are welcome to partner with Africa but must respect continent's values, beliefs and interests

News Desk

NAIROBI: China's foreign minister said Wednesday that Africa should not be a platform for international competition. "Africa should be a key stage for international cooperation, not a place where powerful nations compete with one another," said Qin Gang, speaking in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa while launching the Chinese-built Africa Centers for Disease Control (Africa CDC) headquarters. In their meetings, Gang and African Union Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat spoke on numerous matters pertaining to the connection between China and Africa, according to statements from China's Foreign construction will be finished soon. Ministry and the Africa Union.

Mahamat for his part said they held wide-ranging discussions on how to deepen the already strong strategic partnership between the African Union and China for the continued benefit of their peoples. In a joint press conference with Qin, Mahamat said the absence of a permanent representation for Africa on the UN Security Council is a pressing problem as the council's agenda focuses mostly on and concerns African nations. "We are open to cooperation and partnership with everybody, but our principles, our priorities and our interests have to be respected," Mahamat said. According to officials at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the first phase of the Africa CDC headquarters has been completed and the remaining



The 40,000-square-meter building is equipped with modern gear to help the agency fight diseases in Africa. It features a training and conference room, laboratory, information room, emergency room and other essential rooms. The Africa CDC headquarters is a flagship project of China-Africa cooperation announced by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FO-CAC) Beijing Summit in 2018. The

launching comes after Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and Qin held meetings Tuesday to discuss bilateral ties between Ethiopia and China. -Soft power Qin's visit to Ethiopia builds on China's more than three-decade tradition of prioritizing Africa in its public diplomacy, Hassan Khanenje, director of the HORN International Institute for Strategic Studies, told Anadolu, adding that China has been building a lot of soft power with the continent for much of the post-Cold War period.

"And right now, it's paying dividends. If you look at the extent and the degree of investment, even just starting with Ethiopia, many African countries have been extremely receptive to Chinese investment," Khanenje said. He added that Qin's visit to Africa, which comes on the heels of the US-Africa Leaders Summit, may be viewed from the lens of geopolitical calculations to ensure that the Chinese solidify the kind of engagements they have with Africa. Khanenje lauded the move to inaugurate a CDC headquarters for Africa, noting that any contribution in terms of fighting disease and pandemics is something that is always going to be welcomed by African countries. "Inaugurating the CDC center is part of an extension of soft diplomacy or soft power by China. But it's something that, of course, is going to add to Africa's own capacity to be able to respond to the challenges of the continent," he added. After Ethiopia, Qin will visit Angola, Benin, Gabon and Egypt.

14 Malian soldiers killed by explosives

Islamabad **POST**

Friday, January 13, 2023

BAMAKO: Coordinated attacks by Islamic extremists have killed 14 Malian soldiers and wounded nearly a dozen, the army said. Multiple improvised ex-

plosive devices detonated between Dia and Diafarabe villages as well as between Koumara and Macina towns in central Mali, said Col. Souleymane Dembele, the director of public relations for the army, in a statement Wednesday. During the same attacks, which occurred earlier this week, Mali's forces killed more than 30 "terrorists," Dembele said. The West African nation has been riddled with violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group for a decade. Thousands of people have been killed. Mali's ruling junta, which seized power in two coups starting in 2020, has been struggling to beat back the jihadis, especially since French troops pulled out of the country in August amid frayed relations with the junta. France has been in the region since 2013 when it sent in troops to Mali to push back extremists encroaching on the capital, Bamako, but the jihadis have since regrouped. Since December 2021, the junta has been working with Russian mercenaries from the Wagner Group, but the Russians have also been unable to stem the violence. In August, 42 soldiers were killed when their military barracks was attacked.-APP

"Peru anti-govt protests spread

LIMA: Protests against Peruvian President Dina Boluarte's government that have left 48 people dead since they began a month ago spread through the south of the Andean country on Wednesday with new clashes reported in the tourist city of Cusco.

Health officials in Cusco said 37 civilians and six police officers were injured after protesters tried to take over the city's airport, where many foreign tourists arrive to see sites including the nearby Incan citadel of Machu Picchu. Protests and road blockades against Boluarte and in support of ousted President Pedro Castillo were also seen in 41 provinces, mainly in Peru's south. The unrest began in early December following the destitution and arrest of Castillo, Peru's first president of humble, rural roots, following his widely condemned attempt to dissolve Congress and head off his own impeachment. The protest, mainly in neglected rural areas of the country still loval to Castillo, are seeking immediate elections, Boluarte's resignation, Castillo's release and justice for the protesters killed in clashes with police. Some of the worst protest violence came on Monday when 17 people were killed in clashes with police in the city Juliaca near Lake Titicaca and protesters later attacked and burned a police officer to death.-Agencies

Tigray peace agreement French, German foreign ministers arrive in Ethiopia

PARIS: The French and German foreign ministers arrived in Addis Ababa on Thursday on a mission to support a peace agreement signed last year to end two years of brutal war. The visit by France's Catherine Colonna and Annalena Baerbock of Germany began a day after Tigrayan rebels announced they were starting to hand in their heavy weapons, a key component of the November 2 deal to silence the guns in northern Ethiopia. During the two-day trip, the pair are due to meet Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and other ministers as well as African Union officials and human rights campaigners, and visit a World Food Programme distribution centre. Colonna said in a statement before her departure that the visit was aimed at "supporting the peace process, the fight against impunity, and reconstruction". A diplomatic source said the ministers were carrying a message from the European Union that it is ready to re-engage in Ethiopia provided the ceasefire is respected and that a transitional justice mechanism is put in place.



The devastating war that erupted in November 2020 are slowly being restored has killed untold numbers to the stricken region of of civilians, displaced more six million people. While than two million and left the TPLF announced it has millions more in need of begun disarming, local reshumanitarian aid. Since the idents and aid workers say peace agreement signed in the Eritrean army and forc-

and forces that are not part of the Ethiopian national army. Access to the region is extremely difficult, and it has not been possible to verify the situation on the ground independently. The Horn of Africa and Ethiopia

Russian invasion of Ukraine 'turning point' in history

Japanese side is expected to raise global security challenges, from the war in Ukraine to China's aggression in the Indo-Pacific," in addition to bilateral trade and energy issues with the Canadian side during the talks in the capital Ottawa

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has said Russia's invasion of Ukraine "has become a turning point in history." It has "shaken the international order to its core," Kishida told Canadian daily The Globe and Mail in a statement published on Thursday. The Japanese premier is on a tour to Canada, Italy, France, the UK, and US to meet leaders of the most industrialized nations before the G-7 summit in May in Hiroshima, Kishida's native province. "My goal is to show the world the strong will of the G7 members in a long-lasting and powerful way. Together we will resolutely reject attempts to unilaterally change the status quo by force and the threat, not to mention use, of nuclear weapons," he said. "I want to make it an opportunity to firmly confirm G7 co-ordination on a free and open Indo-Pacific since the G7 Hiroshima summit is being held in Asia," said the chief executive of Japan, which has joined the US-led Quad, a loose security alliance that also includes Australia and India, to counter China's expanding economic and military influence in the wider Asia-Pacific region. The Hiroshima summit "would maintain the G7's commitment to helping Ukraine in its drive to repel Russian forces," the visiting Japanese premier added. Moscow launched a war on Ukraine last February, driving millions of people out of the country and resulting in deaths and injuries to thousands more. Kishida

that migrant arrivals by boat been considerably have higher since Meloni took office compared to the same period the previous year.

The new PM's first two full months in office - November and December - saw almost 20,000 migrants arrive by boat: a sharp rise from the same months the year before when there were 12,600 migrant landings. The upsurge in arrivals by boat in the first ten days of 2023 has been even more dramatic: 3,709 so far this year compared to just 378 during the same time period in 2022, marking an 881% increase.

When confronted with the statistics from this month, Piatendosi claimed the fresh wave of boat arrivals was facilitated by milder weather conditions and that the data was only "partial." Euronews reached out to the interior ministry for further comment, but they did not yet respond. -APP

World's oceans were hottest ever in 2022

LONDON: The world's oceans were at their hottest ever on record in 2022, according to a new study.

"The Earth's energy and water cycles have been profoundly altered due to the emission of greenhouse gases by human activities, driving pervasive changes in Earth's climate system." reads the report by an international group of scientists published in the Advances in Atmospheric Sciences journal. Warming of oceans has led to "more extreme weather ... and that has tremendous consequences all around the world," said John Abraham, a professor at the University of St. Thomas in the US who was part of the study team. Using records kept since 1958, the analysis determined that there has been an "inexorable rise in ocean temperature, with an acceleration in warming after 1990," British daily

The Guardian reported. As oceans absorb over 90% of the excess heat created by greenhouse gas emissions, ocean warming and its effects on extreme weather will increase until humanity approaches net zero emissions.-DNA

the South African capital Pretoria, there has been a limited resumption of aid deliveries to Tigray, which has long faced dire shortages of food, fuel, cash and medicines. Basic services such as communications.

es from the neighbouring region of Amhara remain in parts of Tigray and accuse them of murder, rape and looting. Under the deal, the disarmament should take place "concurrently" with the withdrawal of foreign

in particular are among the EU's priorities, as China seeks to boost its influence in the region, as illustrated by Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang's visit to Addis Ababa this week.-Agencies

is set to meet his Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau on Thursday. The Japanese side is expected to raise "global security challenges, from the war in Ukraine to China's aggression in the Indo-Pacific," in addition to bilateral trade and energy issues with the Canadian side during the talks in the capital Ottawa. Kishida will conclude his tour in Washington on Friday after meeting with US President Joe Biden.-Agencies

Kosovo reaffirms its commitment to stronger ties with US

BELGRADE: Kosovo is aiming for an even stronger partnership with the US, Prime Minister Albin Kurti said Wednesday. Kurti's remarks came after meeting with US State Department Counselor Derek Chollet in the capital Pristina. "Kosovo aims for an even stronger partnership with the United States of America and integration into NATO," said Kurti, according to a government statement. The dialogue process between Serbia and Kosovo and European plans were also discussed during the meeting. The meeting highlighted the need for mutual recognition between Serbia and Kosovo towards the full normalization of relations. Chollet also met with Kosovo President Vjosa Osmani and representatives of the Serbian List party, one of the main parliamentary parties in Kosovo. Osmani emphasized that the active participation of the US in the dialogue process will be decisive for achieving a successful outcome for the benefit of the people of Kosovo. "Kosovo is ready to make proposals that will contribute to the agreement as a constructive party with full determination, in coordination with the United States," said Osmani after the meeting. Chollet is expected to visit Serbia later this week. He will support a comprehensive agreement that needs to be reached on normalizing relations, according to media reports. Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said in October that Germany and France offered to expedite Serbia's European Union membership process if it recognized Kosovo's independence. Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia in 2008, with most UN member states including the US, UK, France, Germany and Türkiye recognizing it as a separate autonomous country from its neighbor.-Agencies

Oil Sector with carefully prepared

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one of the world's leading Chinese

multinationals having completely

integrated geophysical compa-

geophysical products and services

while its state-of-the-art R&D facil-

ity is staffed with outstanding per-

sonnel that isunrivaled in the in-

dustry. BGP has served more than

300 energy companies during the

last few decades with a remarka-



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Saudi Fund calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif. - APP

BGP (Pakistan) int'l participated 28th ATC on oil

ISLAMABAD: BGP (Pakistan) Inble footprint in over 70 countries, ternational-a world reputed Chienabling BGP to become one of the leading geophysical contracnese Multinational actively participated in the 2-day 28th Annual tors in the world today. Technical Conference (ATC) on

BGP carries out publicity work in seismic acquisition, data processing and interpretation, equipment manufacturing, optical fiber in-

telligence reservoir geophysics, Non-seismic surveys, Klseis and Geoeast software, new energy business, and other fields, attract-



ing strong attention from the oil industry. 28th ATC Annual Meeting came to a successful conclusion. The annual meeting is a stage to fully demonstrate the company's technical strength, a platform to communicate with many major management and technical personnel of oil companies, a stage to gather with old friends of oil companies, and a feast to make new friends. We look forward to further cooperation with oil companies in the geophysical exploration field in the New Year and continue the brilliant success of BGP in the geophysical exploration market in Pakistan. This very important 28th ATC on Oil was attended by BGP (Pakistan) International's Country General Manager for Pakistan Mr. Zheng Zhenqiang, Party Chief Mr. Ma Huiming, Chief Geophysicist Mr. Zheng Jie, Party Chief Mr. Liu Hui and Operation Manager Mr. Muhammad Rizwan apart from a dedicated team from BGP (Pakistan) International.-DNA

Spain drops sedition charge against former Catalan leader

MADRID: A Spanish judge has dropped sedition charges against former Catalan President Carles Puigdemont for his role in the region's illegal secession push in 2017 that brought Spain's most serious political crisis for decades.

Supreme Court judge Pablo Llarena took the step, which also included four other Catalan separatists involved in the events of 2017, because changes to Spain's sedition law that have taken effect mean it no longer covers their alleged wrongdoing, the court said in a statement Thursday. However, the judge maintained the charges of embezzlement and disobedience, the court said. That means that Puigdemont and his associates who fled the country five years ago would still have to stand trial if they return, albeit for crimes that carry a lower sentence. Puigdemont lives in Belgium where he is a European Parliament member. Spanish government efforts to extradite him have failed so far, and it's unclear if the changes made by Llarena could increase the chances of him being sent back by Belgian

officials.-DNA







Briefs **S. America: Solidarity** with Palestine replaces pro-Israel tilt

News Desk

SAO PAULO: Chile's announcement that it will open an embassy in Palestine, and Brazil's new government abandoning its predecessor's pro-Israel foreign policy, have raised hopes in Latin America about changes in regional stances on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Just one day after left-wing President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva took office on Jan. 1, Brazil announced a radical shift in its diplomacy. New Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira mentioned the Palestinian issue in his inauguration speech, saying Brazil will "resume its traditional and balanced stance kept for over seven decades" and support the solution of two states "completely viable, safely coexisting side by side with internationally recognized bor-

ders." Lula, the 77-year-old Brazilian leader, took office on Jan. 1. He already served as president from 2003 to 2010. (AFP) Latin America has been sharply divided over Israel and Palestine for most of the past half-century.

SHC rejects MQM's plea for stay order against LB polls

DNA

KARACHI: The Sindh High Court (SHC) on Thursday rejected the plea of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) for stay orders against the local bodies' elections in Karachi and Hyderabad. The lawyer for the MQM-P could not satisfy the court with his arguments. "How did three

MQM factions reunite ahead of LB elections "MQM will stage the biggest dharna on Sharae Faisal. We will see how the Jan 15 elections will take place", Farooq Sattar says

their lives for Pakistan's formations, should

DNA

formed their separate factions - Thursday

joined the Mutahida Qaumi Movement-Pa-

"It is important that under the circumstanc-

es, the people, whose families laid down

requires all people to join hands.

come together for a historic struggle," the MQM-P leader said. Siddiqui said that the KARACHI: In a much-hyped merger, Mustaelements who wished to divide the nation fa Kamal and Dr Farooq Sattar - who had are disappointed and vowed that the rejuvenated MQM-P would live up to the dreams of the masses and strive for urban cities' kistan (MQM-P). Kamal had established the development. "I welcome you all - Kamal, Pak Sarzameen Party in 2016 and Sattar Sattar, and their aides. I hope that all of you formed the MQM-P Bahali Committee in will strive for the nation," the former feder-2018 after developing differences with the al minister for information and technology party. In a press conference flanked by the added. In response to a question from a top brass of the party, MQM-P Convener journalist, the MQM-P convener said that Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said the "gravethe party would not allow the staging of the ness" of the situation in Sindh's urban areas upcoming local body polls - a move that will invite criticism from opposing parties.

"If they redo the delimitation again, we are ready to participate in the local body polls. If it is not fixed, then we will fight for our rights," Siddiqui warned. For his part, Kamal said this day will be re-

membered in history as an "important day" as certain decisions would be taken today that are "unthinkable". "If we [the MQM-P leaders] talk about ourselves, then we have taken such unthinkable decisions in the past as well, which were beyond people's comprehension," he said, recalling that when he left MQM founder Altaf Hussain on August 14, 2013, he was a senator and the member of the Rabta committee. He clarified that he had no personal differ-

ences with Hussain and that the decision to leave the party was completely based on political differences.

Walking the journalists down the events

that took place in the past, Kamal recalled that in October 2013, then-member of the Rabta committee Anees Qaimkhani left Hussain's party, and for three years both leaders remained silent. "On March 3, 2016, we [Kamal and Qaimkhani] came to Karachi and bluntly spoke the truth, which was once again in the wider interest of the Muhajir cause," he said. Kamal said the decision taken on March 3 - the date when he formed his party - was for the people and nation. Lambasting the Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP), the former senator said: "We did not remove the label of Indian intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) from Karachi so that [PPP Co-Chairman Asif Ali] Zardari can consider the metropolitan as his fiefdom."

China: Five dead after man drives into crowd

BEIJING: Chinese police have arrested a man who drove a car into pedestrians in Guangzhou, killing five people and injuring 13 others. The incident has sparked widespread public outrage, with many accusing the man of deliberately targeting people. Videos posted online show the driver getting out of the car and throwing banknotes into the air, shortly after the crash. Police have detained the 22-year-old man and launched an investigation.

The crash took place on Wednesday during the evening rush hour at a busy junction in the southern city of 19 million. "He deliberately drove into the people who were waiting for the traffic light. He rammed the car into them maliciously. After that, he made a U-turn and hit people again," an eyewitness told local outlet Hongxin News.

"He wasn't driving too quickly, but some people couldn't run away in time because they wouldn't have known he was hitting people deliberately." The man also reportedly drove into a traffic police officer and his motorcycle, but the officer managed to escape. - Agencies

Rain likely at various parts of country

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Rain is expected in northeast Punjab, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Islamabad and Potohar region during the next 24 hours, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD). Moderate to heavy rain and snowfall is expected in Kashmir, Gilgit Baltistan, upper Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Murree and Galliyat during the period. Dense foggy conditions are likely over plain areas of Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkh-

wa and Upper Sindh.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of United States Donald Blome calls on Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. - DNA

No new Russia-

US envoy Blome, **FM Bilawal discuss** flood situation

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome on Thursday called on Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to discuss the flood situation in the country. The meeting underscored the concerns of the flood-stricken people, and in this regard, Mr Bhutto-Zardari appreciated the US announcement of an additional \$100 million for the rehabilitation of the flood-hit people. During the meeting, visa interview facilities for Pakistanis were also discussed. In this regard, Mr. Bhutto-Zardari said he had a detailed discussion with the US foreign minister regarding visa facilities, adding that this initiative will not only speed up the process of taking visas but also enhance public communication.

In the meeting, Mr Blome reiterated his commitment to continue supporting the Pakistani people for the rehabilitation of the flood-stricken people. Earlier today, Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong paid a farewell call on Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in Islamabad. During the meeting, views were exchanged on bilateral relations and ways to enhance cooperation in various sectors, including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Mr Bhutto-Zardari thanked the outgoing Chinese Ambassador for his service and wished him well in his future endeavors.

Iran protesters fight death penalty as executions await

members of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issue the schedule instead of five members?" the court questioned during the hearing of the plea.

"The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will answer this question." said the Advocate General of Sindh. The ECP member said that the arguments of the advocate general were satisfactory.

PIA flight delayed as plane's window glass breaks

DNA

JEDDAH: The return of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight PK741 was delayed for 16 hours after the window glass of Boeing 777 broke during landing at Jeddah Airport. According to the PIA sources, the return of the flight was delayed because the PIA crew did not have any replacement for the broken window glass. Over 300 passengers faced with a great deal of inconvenience due to the delay in return of the flight.

It merits a mention here that the PIA plane, which had reached Jeddah from Islamabad on Wednesday, was to return on Thursday, with flight number PK740. A window glass for the replacement has been sent to Jeddah through flight PK731 from Karachi.

Putin lays into minister for 'fooling around'

DNA

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin lost his cool during his government's first meeting of 2023, publicly telling off the trade and industry minister. For several minutes he accused Denis Manturov of bureaucratic delays in ordering civilian and military planes. "Too long, it is taking too long," said the Russian leader, who has never been one to hold back in criticising top officials in public. "What are you fooling around for? When will the contracts be signed?"

Ukraine deal on prisoner swap

"Someone misunderstood something," Moskalkova said on the sidelines of an international conference in the Turkish capital

ANKARA: Russia and Ukraine have not reached a new prisoner exchange agreement during talks in Turkey, Moscow's envoy told AFP on Thursday, saying her earlier remarks about a swap were misinterpreted. Russian Human Rights Commissioner Tatyana Moskalkova held rare talks in Ankara on Wednesday with her Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Lubinets. Turkish state media later quoted her as telling reporters that they had agreed to exchange "more than 40 prisoners" from each side. But Moskalkova told AFP that those comments referred to the number of people the sides had already exchanged in the past.

'Someone misunderstood something," Moskalkova said on the sidelines of an international conference in the Turkish capital. "We were talking about the results of our past work. These exchanges already happened." Moskalkova added that she and Lubinets had exchanged lists of wounded soldiers in preparation for a possible future swap. "Such exchanges happen all the time. These agreements are reached by the military, and we work jointly with them." The warring sides have held few direct contacts since Russia invaded its neighbour 11 months ago.But Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has tried to use his good relations with both Moscow and Kyiv to arrange peace talks. Erdogan said on Wednesday that he backed the idea of setting up a permanent "humanitarian corridor" in war zone. Moskalkova called it a "very important proposal" that still needed to be agreed with Russian President Vladimir Putin. "The return of the wounded is a constant subject of our discussions, and Mr Erdogan proposed a new way of solving this issue," she said. - DNA

classified Biden documents found

2nd batch of

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden's aides have found a fresh batch of classified government records at a second location, in a growing political embarrassment for the White House. The first cache was found at a private office in Washington DC that Mr Biden used after his vice-presidency. The matter is under review by the US Department of Justice. Former President Donald Trump is facing a criminal investigation for allegedly mishandling classified files.

It was not yet clear on Wednesday when or where the additional tranche of files was found by Biden aides.

The original batch of about 10 documents was discovered in November at the Penn Biden Center, a think tank near the White House, but only came to light this week. Those papers reportedly include US intelligence memos and briefing materials related to Ukraine, Iran and the United Kingdom. They relate to his time as vice-president under President Barack Obama but it is unclear why they turned up in a private office he started using after that.

Access to classified documents is limited by law to people with special authorisation and there are rules about how they are kept and stored. All White House records, including classified ones, are required to be turned over to the US National Archives after an administration's time in office. The White House has not yet commented on the newly discovered batch. However, the find has been confirmed by the BBC's US partner CBS and other US media.

During her daily press briefing on Wednesday, Biden press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre declined to answer questions about the first cache of files. "This is under review by the Department of Justice," she said. "I'm not going to go beyond what the president shared yesterday." She was pressed on why it took two months for the news to be made public and refused to say when Mr Biden had been briefed on it. The discovery happened just days before the midterm congressional elections.

HRW highlights dire situation of Rohingya in Bangladesh

MONITORING DESK

DHAKA: Human Rights Watch (HRW) stated in its latest report, released on Thursday, that Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh face "impossible conditions" for safe and voluntary return to their homeland of Rakhine State in Myanmar. "Rohingya suffer threats, extortion, and ill-treatment by Bangladeshi security forces and other authorities," the rights organization stated in its World Report 2023.

Bangladesh, a Muslim-majority country in South Asia, is currently hosting over 1.2 million persecuted Rohingya in 33 squalid refugee camps in the country's southern border district of Cox's Bazar. The majority of them fled a brutal military crackdown in their home country's Rakhine State in August 2017. "In the Rohingya refugee camps, Bangladesh officials closed community-led schools, arbitrarily destroyed shops, and imposed new obstacles on movement," the report said. Based on claims made by the refugees, the report stated that the Armed Police Battalion (APB) stationed in the congested makeshift tents is subjecting Rohingya to threats, extortion, arbitrary arrests, and torture. "The (Bangladesh) government allowed humanitarian groups to begin teaching the Myanmar curriculum but continues to deny refugee children any accredited education," HRW said. The report stated of the relocation of Rohingya to a remote island, citing Bangladeshi authorities' claim of better living facilities: "During 2022, the authorities moved about 8,000 Rohingya refugees to Bhasan Char, bringing

the total to around 28,000 refugees living on the remote silt island where they face severe movement restrictions, food and medicine shortages, and abuses by security forces." It also stated that, despite the involvement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Rohingya refugees have been prevented from returning to mainland camps to meet their other close relatives

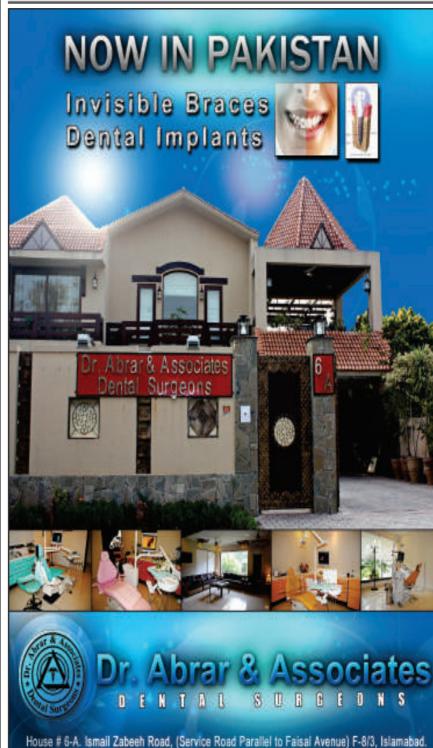
Concerning the current political tensions in Bangladesh, the rights watchdog stated that increased attacks on members of the political opposition have raised fears of violence and repression ahead of parliamentary elections.

Following the Dec. 7 clashes between police and supporters of Bangladesh's main opposition political party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), in which one person was killed and a hundred more were injured, Bangladeshi law enforcers sued thousands of opposition party members. In addition, after a clash with police on Dec. 30 in Dhaka, police arrested over a hundred Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami leaders and activists. In five separate cases, police charged over 5,000 party workers and office bearers. The Jamaat is the country's main Islamic political party and a key ally of the BNP. "The ruling Awami League is promising free and fair elections in response to increased international scrutiny but is belying those claims by ramping up repression,' Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director at HRW, was quoted in the report as saying. "Donors and strategic partners should insist that Bangladeshis can express themselves and select their leaders without fear, including by supporting independent election monitoring missions," she added.

WEB DESK

TEHRAN: After carrying out two executions on Saturday and two in December, Iran plans to execute two more young men for participating in the ongoing nationwide protests. But resistance is coming from within Iran and abroad. Mohammad Boroughani is 19 years old, Mohammad Ghobadlou is 22. They are incarcerated at Gohardasht Prison in Karaj, about 20 kilometers (12 miles) west of the capital. Tehran. Iranian human rights activists say they were each moved into solitary confinement on Saturday, which is widely seen as preparation for their executions. Over the weekend, Boroughani's mother announced on social media that she had been informed by the government that her son would be executed. On Saturday, she and other relatives of the young men gathered outside the prison.

According to the synoptic situation, a westerly wave is affecting upper parts of the country and likely to persist till Friday. During the last 24 hours, rain occurred in Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Islamabad and upper or central Punjab. Snowfall was also recorded in Malam Jabba, Kalam and Murree. While, dry weather prevailed in other parts of the country. Foggy conditions prevailed over plain areas of Punjab and upper Sindh.



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