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Ukraine minister among dead in helicopter crash

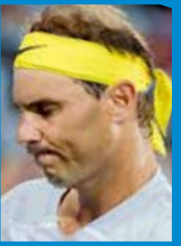
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Briefs

FM slams Khan's 'wrong approach'

KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto on Tuesday accused the previous government led by former premier Imran Khan of employing a 'wrong approach' towards the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). In an interview with Al Jazeera, the minister stated that the "policy of appeasement towards the Taliban has created problems for the people of Pakistan", adding that the past approach was done away with by his government.

'No doubt' Russia will win

DNA

SAINT PETERSBURG: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday he had "no doubt" Moscow would emerge victorious in Ukraine, despite military setbacks in the nearly year-long offensive. Putin sent troops to Ukraine in February last year, and in September announced a military mobilisation to prop up Moscow's forces in the pro-Western country. Despite a number of military defeats, victory was "guaranteed, I have no doubt about it," Putin told workers at a factory in Russia's second city Saint Petersburg.

Sanaullah leaves for London

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Wednesday left for London on a "private visit" from the Islamabad International Airport. During the visit, Sana - who is also the president of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Punjab - is expected to have an important meeting with PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif. He will also reportedly brief the party leader on important issues including the overall political situation of the country.

Imran Khan says No ties with new military leadership

Warns manipulated polls to further anarchy, predicts elections in April

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Lashing out at PPP over Sindh LG polls, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan said massive foul play was afoot during the second phase of the Sindh local government elections, adding that such "manipulated" polls would only aggravate polarisation and anarchy in society. PTI Chairman took the ruling party to task, saying that instead of holding transparent elections, "it uses force, blackmail, police harassment and money to get votes". Meanwhile, predicting that the general elections might take place in the country in April, former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan on Wednesday said that his party had "no relationship with the new military leadership yet". He was responding to a question during an interview with BBC Urdu about PTI's relationship with the new army chief General Syed Asim Munir and whether the party had established contact with the military leadership via President Arif Alvi. "Look, we don't have any relationship with (the new military leadership) at the moment," the ex-premier replied, who has been critical of the former army chief General (ret) Qamarjaved Bajwa for his alleged role in overthrowing the PTI government. He said that Imran said that recent reports regarding

Continued on Page 06

KP Assembly dissolved

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly stood dissolved on Wednesday as Governor Haji Ghulam Ali signed and approved Chief Minister Mahmood Khan's summary for the dissolution of the provincial legislature. The move comes days after the dissolution of the Punjab Assembly as PTI Chairman Imran Khan has vowed to disassociate himself from the "current corrupt political system" by quitting the two assemblies where he is in power. A notification from the governor, available with Dawn.com, was dispatched to CM Mahmood and Leader of the Opposition Akram Khan Durrani. It said the KP Assembly and provincial cabinet were dissolved with immediate effect under Clause 1 of Article 112 of the Constitution. The law states that the governor shall dissolve the provincial assembly if so advised by the chief minister; and the provincial assembly shall,

Continued on Page 06

Post election scene PPP, PTI workers clash in Karachi

Govt releases all arrested PTI workers

NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: PTI and PPP workers clashed outside the Keamari deputy commissioner's (DC) office in Karachi on Wednesday, pelting either side with stones during the consolidation of the results of the recently held local government elections in Sindh. The second phase of the local government elections was held in 16 districts of Sindh on Sunday. However, major contesting parties - including the ruling PPP - had raised concerns over an unusual delay in the results in Karachi and blamed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for mismanagement. The ECP took more than 36 hours to announce the results of 236 union committees of Karachi as the opposition PTI and Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) accused the provincial administration of "rigging and managing things" in its favour. On Wednesday, the PTI accused the PPP of attacking its workers while the

Continued on Page 06

JI threatens to block roads

DNA

KARACHI: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Karachi chief Hafiz Naemur Rehman has announced to block the roads across the country if the mandate of Karachiites is stolen after the local government (LG) polls, media reported on Tuesday. While addressing a sit-in outside a Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) office in District West, the JI Karachi chief Hafiz Naemur Rehman said, "We will block the roads across the country if it is needed. We have won majority seats in Karachi in the recent LG polls." "Even if Pakistan People's Party (PPP) spends 100 years, it cannot get a majority in Karachi.

Continued on Page 06

Four security forces men embrace martyrdom

Terrorists used Iranian soil to attack Pakistani security personnel



DNA

RAWALPINDI: In a terrorist activity from across Pakistan Iran border in Chukab Sector, District Panjgur, Balochistan, 4 security forces personnel have embraced martyrdom. Terrorists used Iranian soil to target a convoy of security forces patrolling along the border. Iranian side has been asked to hunt down the terrorists on their side. Earlier, in an Intelligence Based Operation (IBO) was initiated to clear a hideout of Terrorists, linked with firing incidents on

Security Forces and civilians besides planting of Improvised Explosive Devices on M-8, in general area Talsar, Hoshab. As a result of continuous intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) of the area, a location of the Terrorists was identified and security forces were held inserted. While the establishment of blocking positions to cut the escape routes was underway, 4 Terrorists opened fire onto the Security Forces. During ensuing heavy exchange of fire, all four Terrorists have been killed, while a cache of arms and ammunition including Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) has been recovered. Separately, security forces gunned down at least four terrorists during an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Balochistan's Hoshab, the military's public affairs wing said on Wednesday. According to a statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), an IBO was initiated "to clear a hideout linked with firing incidents on security forces along M-8, in

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ISLAMABAD: Air Marshal Irfan Ahmed, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff, Ambassador of Thailand Chakkririd Krachaiwon, the Defence Attache Col. Thanai Permputl and others cutting cake to mark the Thai Armed Forces Day. - DNA

ARMED FORCES DAY OF THAILAND Pak, Thailand enjoy excellent relationship

Thailand and its armed forces have always defended their homeland, says Air Marshal Irfan Ahmed

ANSAR M BHATTI

ISLAMABAD: Air Marshal Irfan Ahmed, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff has said Thailand and its armed forces have always defended their homeland against any misadventure. He said the importance of independence of any nation can never be over-emphasized. "I must mention here that independence can never be preserved without strong armed forces. The Royal Thai Armed Forces Day therefore is an important annual event", he added. Air Marshal Irfan made these remarks while speaking on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day of Thailand. Ambassador of Thailand Chakkririd Krachaiwon and the Defence Attache Col. Thanai Permputl also spoke on the occasion. A large number of guests hailing from various walks of life and the defence attaches of various countries

attended the event. Air Marshal Irfan further said, he was extremely glad to be part of the Thai Armed Forces Day. He also thanked the Ambassador and the Thai Defence Attache for inviting him as the Chief Guest.

He said Pakistan and Thailand have an enduring friendship for the last 71 years. The historical state of Takht Bahai in Mardan and Buddhist remains in Taxila carry huge sentimental value for the Thai people and Pakistan always welcomes the Thai people with open arms. Talking about the security challenges he said our two countries face significant security challenges. Pakistan and its armed forces have a rich history of combat readiness and dealing with armed conflicts and insurgencies. Both countries can benefit from each other's experiences especially in the internal security field. Ambassador of Thailand Chakkririd Krachaiwon in his speech said both coun-

tries enjoy cordial relations. He said Thailand recently celebrated the anniversary of our diplomatic relations. He said Pakistan is a key player in the South Asian region and has an important role to play in terms of peace and security in the region.

He said both countries have a long role in the peacekeeping activities as well adding Pakistan hosts a large community of military and defence attaches. Col. Thanai Permputl, the Defence Attache in his remarks thanked the guests for gracing the occasion with their presence. He added, Pakistan and Thailand have enjoyed excellent relations for a long time. Both countries have cooperated with each other on various regional as well as international forums. He said both countries have been sending their personnel for joint exercises adding Thailand will soon be inviting observers from Pakistan for joint exercises in Thailand.

欢乐春节

2023

20% DISCOUNT FOR CHINESE NATIONALS
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Haier group going local in Pak with new technology - Page 04

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Amb Zaheer assures easy consular services to diaspora - Page 07

Major emitters must assist clean energy transition - Page 08

IGP orders for appointment of at least 1 female SHO

LAHORE: Inspector General Police, Punjab, Aamir Zulfiqar Khan on Wednesday ordered the appointment of a female SHO in at least one police station in every district of the province within the next five days. He issued these instructions to the officers while presiding over a high-level meeting here at Safe City Authorities, Head Office Qurban Lines. In the meeting, the future agenda of the Women Police Conference and the professional issues of women police employees were discussed. The IG Punjab directed Additional IG Training to ensure the appointment of women SHOs in all districts of the province and submit a report in due time. He said the appointment of women officials at women help desks established in all districts should be ensured in every way so that women police officers could help women citizens who were victims of crimes and social problems by playing their role actively and provide them with all possible relief and assistance. The IG Punjab directed the CCPO Lahore to utilize all available resources to provide better environment and facilities in Ladies Police Hostel in Qila Gujjar Singh Police Lines. —APP

Need stressed for creating awareness about public health

PESHAWAR: Research scholar and expert on Zoonotic diseases, Dr. Muhammad Shahid has stressed for creating awareness about the threats posed to public health by Brucellosis disease, a most contagious bacterial infection of livestock that also affects humans, especially those handling animals. "Brucellosis is an occupational disease with those predominantly at risk either having close contact with livestock or handling them," says Dr. Shahid while talking with APP. Dr. Shahid who is serving as Senior Research Officer Microbiology and Biotechnology Center Veterinary Research Institute (VRI) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa said in developing countries this disease has public health significance as well as animals and economic implications for communities.

In view of the increase in the occurrence of brucellosis infection cases among people even in dwellers of urban localities, it is needed to create awareness about threats posed by this disease and measures for prevention from it. Dr. Shahid suggested. "Brucellosis frequently presents in people who are in direct contact with infected animals and its by-products," he appraised APP. The disease's major source of transmission is the consumption of raw milk or unpasteurized dairy products from infected animals. Dr. Shahid also laid stress on holding research in finding out more causes of brucellosis infection like consumption of meat of an infected animal, and transmission through other pet animals like dogs and cats. —APP

ICCI calls for focusing on real estate sector



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) has called upon the government to focus on the real estate sector for reviving the economy as this sector has great potential to bring the country out of the current economic turmoil and put it on the path of sustainable growth. He said that the business of around 70

industries is connected with the construction sector and its better growth boosts of the business of all allied industries that stimulates the economic growth of the country. He said this while addressing as chief guest at a function organized by the Top City Islamabad to give complete possession of its Block G & E and partial possession of Block F & I to the members. Top City has already handed over the possession of its Blocks A, B, C & D to the members.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that due to high taxes and other multiple factors, the prices of construction material including cement, steel and other items have increased manifold. He said that this situation has stagnated the business activities in the real estate and construction sector due to which unemployment is on the rise. He said that imposition of high taxes on real estate sector is also affecting its business activities and urged that the govern-

ment should rationalize taxes on this sector, reconsider tax on deemed income on immovable property and improve the business environment for the real estate sector to enable it to grow and contribute more to the economic development of the country. ICCI President said that the overseas Pakistanis are interested in investing in the real estate sector and the government should offer them good incentives that would bring billions of

dollars of investment to the country. He said that the government can take the country's economy from recession to sustainable development by focusing on the real estate and construction sector. Brig. (Retd) Sikandar, Chief Operating Officer of Top City-1 briefed the participants about the project. He said that a sewerage treatment plant of 2.5 million gallons capacity is being constructed in the Top City-1 and a lake is being constructed to store 10

million gallons of rainwater. He said that a golf course, zoo, premier club on 100 kanal area, mosques, schools and other facilities will be provided in the housing project. Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan former President ICCI, Sardar Tahir Mehmood President and Ch. Zahid Rafique Secretary General Islamabad Estate Agents and others also spoke at the occasion and stressed that the government should create a conducive ecosystem for the real estate and construction sector.

PESCO notifies power suspension

PESHAWAR: The Peshawar Electric Supply Company (Pesco) on Wednesday notified the power suspension programme for Peshawar, Mardan and Bannu. It said that due to maintenance work power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Jamrud Grid Station on January 19, 21, 24, 26, 28 and 31 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Resultantly, consumers of 11 KV Kacha Ghari, Achini Mera, Hayatabad New feeders will face inconvenience. Similarly, power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Peshawar University Grid Station on January 19, 21, 24, 26, 28 and 31 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. due to which consumers of 11 KV Achini and Abdara feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will remain suspended from 132 KV Peshawar Industrial Grid Station on 19th, 21st, 24th, 26th, 28th and 31st January from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. As a result, consumers of 11 KV New Deh Bahadar, Old Deh Bahadar, Dora Road, Sheikhhan, Sarband, Shahab Khel, Scheme Chowk, Landi Arbab, Sheikh Muhammad, di, Bara, Pishtakhara, Saida Abad, Nodia Payan feeders will face inconvenience. The power supply will also remain suspended from 66 KV PAF Base Grid Station on January 19, 21, 24, 26, 28 and 31 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. due to which consumers of 11 KV Badabair Old, Hassan Khel, Badabair New, Mashogagar, Saphan, Zangal feeders will face inconvenience. Whereas, the power supply will remain suspended from 66 KV Kuram Ghari Grid Station on January 19, 23, 26 —APP

Construction of low cost societies vital

QAZI SHOAIB KHAN

ATTOCK: Leader of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf and expected candidate for MPA Attock-II Qazi Ahmed Akbar while inaugurating Cambellpure Green Housing Society Attock on Wednesday said that construction of low cost modern shelters for middle, lower middle class families will be proved a

mile stone to make the 50 lacs housing dream of the former Prime Minister Imran Khan a reality. Addressing to the overcrowded ceremony, the Chief Executive Officer, Qazi Ahmed Akbar has said that the Cambellpure Green Housing Society Attock is the only one housing society in the private sector which has reserved maximum residential plots for the middle, lower middle and poor families to be

allotted on easy installments. The newly built housing society will be equipped with all modern facilities as par with other developed housing societies of the country. Earlier, Qazi Ahmed Akbar also highlighted the salient features of the society has told to the media that houses of 3.5 and 4.5 marlas will be constructed with high quality building material in first phase very soon. He further said that thousands of applicants have applied for 300 houses which will be allotted through an open balloting in the next coming days whereas another tranche of 300 houses will be launched in the second phase. He said that development work of 70% has already been completed and remaining is near to completion. He said that allotment of easy in-

stallment has planned for 3 to 10 years period enabling the owners to clear their dues within their meager resources easily, he added. Among others, the ceremony was also participated by Director Development Haji Syar Gull Khan, Assistant Commissioner Hazro Mohammad Saleem Raja, Deputy Superintendent Jail Attock Mr. Afzaal Ahmed Warriach, Chairman Attock Press Club Sheikh Faisal Javedhe, General Secretary Hafiz Shahzad Akhter, working journalists Hafiz Khalil Ahmed, Nadeem Haider, Karim Khan, Sheikh Zahoor Elahi, Hakeem Asim Hussain Sardar Moni Khan of Salar, socio political figures Syed Habib Shah, Mohammad Khan, Hakeem Asim Hussain and a large number of people came across the country.

Imran wants to create anarchy in country: Marri

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Shazia Marri on Wednesday said Imran Khan was a self-centered person who only wanted create anarchy in the country. Addressing a news conference here, she said the incumbent government wanted all the political parties to join hands to bring the country out of the economic crisis created by the previous government. She said BISP, a programme initiated by former president Asif Ali Zardari in 2008, under the vision of former Prime Minister Shaheed Benazir Bhutto, had acclaimed recognition at an international level. The programmes launched without any vision

did not achieve success, she added. The minister said the former chairperson of the programme Sania Nishar just to please her leader, removed over 0.8 million beneficiaries from the BISP without giving them a right to appeal. She said for the ease of beneficiary women of BISP, it had been decided to adopt a new mechanism of payment to them. The beneficiaries now would not have to stand in long queues for their financial assistance, she added. She said after a number of meetings with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and some other private banks, it had been decided that the beneficiaries would have now their own bank accounts in which they would receive their payments directly.

Initially the system would be launched under pilot project however, if it attain success it would be expanded to the whole country. The minister said the method of payment would also allow beneficiaries to save some of their amount in the banks which would not only help in financial inclusion of women but also increase their financial literacy. The already registered beneficiaries would not have to get involved in banking process, their transfer to bank accounts would be the responsibility of BISP. Shazia Marri said the country was currently facing multiple challenges and programmes like BISP prove to be beneficial for the vulnerable segments of society affected by these challenges. —APP



FAISALABAD: Students are busy in card making competition held at model college for girls Humak in connection with intercollegiate ceremony.— DNA

BII renews pledge to back clean energy & financial inclusion in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: The British International Investment (BII) celebrating 35 years of investing in Pakistan renewed the pledge to support clean energy initiatives and financial inclusion in the country. A business reception was held at the British Deputy High Commission in Karachi to celebrate 35 years of investing in Pakistan, said a news release here. The reception was hosted by BII CEO Nick O'Donohoe, and British Deputy High Commissioner to Karachi Sarah Mooney and the Director of Trade Pakistan. Business leaders and key stakeholders in Pakistan including Ali H Shirazi (Atlas Solar), Ali Muktar (Fatima Gobi Ventures), Roshaneh Zafar (Kashf Foundation), Danish Iqbal (Gul Ahmed Metro) and many more also attended reception. On the occasion, Sarah Mooney said it had been a pleasure to host BII today, an organisation which had provided

consistent support to Pakistan's economy over the last 35 years and was now needed more than ever. The BII's investment in key strategic areas had strengthened UK-Pakistan economic cooperation by delivering economic growth and creating jobs, she added. "BII's current focus on the renewable

energy sector and climate solutions will assist Pakistan to build inclusive prosperity, sustainable growth and a greener economy," she remarked. In his speech at the reception, Nick O'Donohoe highlighted that Pakistan's renewable energy sector would remain an important strategic investment focus

for the BII. With \$185 million invested in Pakistan's renewable energy infrastructure, the DFI's capital supported wind, solar and hydropower projects with a total operational capacity of 462 Megawatts (MW). "We are delighted to mark the start of this year's celebration, in a country where we have established

strong and successful partnerships for over three decades. We have a clear ambition to invest in climate change solutions, environment-positive innovations and renewable power projects in Pakistan," Nick O'Donohoe remarked. He said these investments would support Pakistan to build their resilience and adapt to the impact of climate change. Furthermore, he said they would not only deliver clean, reliable and affordable energy, but also improve standards of living for households and uplift communities with a potential to transform the entire country. BII's first investment in Pakistan dates back to 1988 when it backed leading companies including Engro Chemicals, Fauji Fertilizer and Hub Power. Today, the UK's Development Finance Institution (DFI) has investments and commitments of over \$350 million in more than 10 businesses. —APP



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National Days and Armed Forces Days

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 Day
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



Hotels & Restaurants

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



Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....	8494949
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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
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Rawalpindi.....	9270601-20



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Hospitals

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



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CDA.....	9221334-43
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Islamabad Metropolitan

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

Water Tank

Islamabad.....	0321-5744480
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DNA



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with the representatives of Chambers of Commerce and Industry from all across Pakistan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. The businessmen delegation was led by Sohail Altaf, Sakib Rafiq, Zahid Latif Khan and others. (Another picture on Page-7) – DNA

Minister directs for timely provision of census data

All the provinces assured their full support for the successful conduct of the national activity. The minister appreciated the efforts of PBS to bring transparency and credibility in the process

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Wednesday directed the authorities of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) to strictly follow the timelines for provision of data to Election Commission of Pakistan for conduct of General Election 2023 on time. The minister also emphasized the authenticity of the census process which is a huge national exercise. He said there should be no compromise on timelines. "Census should be transparent and will be successful with the joint efforts of all organizations involved."

He was chairing the fifth meeting of Census Monitoring Committee held here on Tuesday at National Census Coordination Centre (N3C). Census Monitoring Committee was constituted in pursuance of decision taken in 49th meeting of Council of Common Interest (CCI) last year to over-

see/monitor Census activities to ensure expeditious, transparent and credible census conduct. The main purpose of the meeting was to update all stakeholders about progress and ongoing activities of 7th Population & Housing Census, take decisions on methodology of Census in the snow bound areas, and decide to take decisions on issue of overlapping of national events with census timelines. Ahsan Iqbal directed that the provinces should be onboard and consensus must be made on all issues to avoid any controversy and effective utilization of resources. Standard SOPs should be followed in all provinces for bringing uniformity and consistency in the whole process. He advised NTC to strictly follow the case of oracle Exadata as it is core component for backup optimal solution. He asked provinces to ensure availability of teaching staff for enumeration and secu-

urity staff and stressed to share their security plans as soon as possible. He emphasized NADRA that all requested modules of software should be up to mark. He asked to implement strict consistency and quality checks as the data will be respondent based. The meeting was attended by members of the Committee from all relevant departments and stakeholders which includes relevant federal ministries, administration of all provincial and area governments, DG military operations directorate, NADRA, NTC etc. Chief Census Commissioner (PBS) Dr. Naeem uz Zafar, presented in detail the progress on 7th Population & Housing Census-related activities. He informed that 495 Census Support Centers have been established where trained staff is deputed. Provinces have allocated 120,000 Census Field Staff. Pilot

Census was successfully conducted in 33 districts. 125,500 Tablets were hardened and delivered to 495 Census Support Centre and training of 121,000 field staff is in progress since Jan 07, 2023, at 992 venues. However, problems were faced in attendance in all provinces especially Sindh & Punjab. He further added that NADRA has informed that all the requirements including the security audit will be completed soon and after security audit, self-enumeration may be launched depending on the provision of required Backend Infrastructure by NTC. Keeping in view the extreme cold weather, the methodology of census field operation in the snow-bound areas was also discussed. Issuance of the memoranda postal ticket to mark the conduct of first-ever digital census was also discussed. Dr. Naeem further requested the chair that census is a

ederation-strengthening exercise therefore launch of the Self-Enumeration portal and start of field enumeration may please be done in a manner to seize the opportunity to increase national integrity. To achieve this end, self-enumeration and field enumeration should be inaugurated by the President or Prime Minister at the Federal level, and provincial administrations at their respective levels. Member (RM/SS) Muhammad Sarwar Gondal informed that the basic purpose of the census is Planning and Policymaking and this census has been planned by following UN principles and taking on board all concerns of stakeholders, therefore it will definitely serve the purpose. All the provinces assured their full support for the successful conduct of the national activity. The minister appreciated the efforts of PBS to bring transparency and credibility in the process.

Chandio hopes JI to respect public mandate

ISLAMABAD: Senior leader of Pakistan People Party (PPP) Maula Bakhsh Chandio Wednesday expressed the hope that Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq would respect the public mandate after the recent Local Government (LG) elections held in Sindh and play role in strengthening the nascent democracy. "It is expected from the JI Ameer that he will take a political decision [regarding the new mayor of Karachi], keeping in view the current political situation in the country," he said while addressing a news conference here. He said the political situation in the country would have improved further, if all political parties had participated in the local bodies' election in Karachi to respect the mandate of each other. He asked the Jamaat-e-Islami to respect the mandate of the people of Karachi who had given the decision in the favor of Pakistan Peoples Party in the local body's elections. – APP

AIOU offers academic programs for int'l students

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) has offered admissions in various academic programs in the first phase of the spring semester 2023 for Overseas Pakistani as well as other international students. The Programs offered in this phase include Matric, F.A, I.Com, Matric, and Intermediate open courses (6 months). Apart from Overseas Pakistanis, residents of other countries can also enroll in these programs to increase their educational qualifications. According to officials, AIOU is the only university in the country providing educational opportunities for Pakistanis living all over the world. The university is offering more than 30 educational programs for international students from the semester autumn 2021 by using the latest online technologies. – APP

Amin-ul-Haq stresses for enhancing Pakistan-US business relations

ISLAMABAD: Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin-ul-Haque on Wednesday stressed the need for enhancing Paki-

stan-United States business relations and bilateral cooperation in various fields of mutual interest. Talking to US ambassador

to Pakistan Donald Blome, the minister said business relations would prove beneficial for both countries. The minister informed the

US ambassador that Pakistan's Information Technology and telecom sector had immense opportunities for American companies for investment, said a news release. Syed Amin Ul Haque discussed various issues including bilateral relations, IT and the telecom with the ambassador. He said that his ministry was ready to extend all kinds of cooperation and assistance to the US on matters related to the telecom sector. The minister informed the visiting guest that more than 70 projects worth Rs 65 billion for broadband services were being completed in the country to provide quality services to masses in remote areas. He said that the personal data protection bill and social media rules were business-friendly and in accordance with national requirements and the bills would be dispatched to the relevant forums for approval in the next 3 to 4 weeks. – APP

24 new Corona cases reported in last 24 hours: NIH

ISLAMABAD: Health officials on Wednesday said that 24 new Coronavirus cases were reported during last 24 hours across the country. As per data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.58 percent while 12 patients were in critical condition. No death was reported from the Coronavirus in the last 24 hours while 4,152 Covid-19 Corona tests were conducted. As many as 861 tests were conducted in Lahore out of which eight cases were confirmed with a ratio of 0.93 percent, while 221 tests were conducted in Peshawar out of which one case was reported confirmed with a ratio of 0.45 percent. Around 446 tests were conducted in Islamabad out of which one case was reported as positive with a ratio of 0.22 percent and 489 tests were conducted in Rawalpindi out of which one case was reported with a ratio of 0.20 percent. Meanwhile, Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, Abdul Qadir Patel said that the government had strengthened the role of Border and Health Services in Pakistan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19. The minister said that there was a surveillance system at all entry points of the country including airports. He said that there will be rapid tests and screening of passengers at all airports. He said that the situation was completely under control and asked the general public to avoid listening to rumors. – APP

Islamabad police launch 'Knock the Door' campaign

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad police have launched the "Knock the Door" campaign to register tenants and domestic servants which would urge the citizens to be more cautious before accommodating any person in their houses. The police source said that the campaign has been launched following directions of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan following which the registration of employees and tenants would be ensured. He said that police officials would go door-to-door and register house servants and tenants keeping in view the protection of the lives and property of citizens in the federal capital Islamabad. Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Islamabad, the source said, had registered data of 244 tenants and house employees within the jurisdiction of Aabpara police station. The purpose of this campaign is to avoid any untoward incident and maintain law and order in the city. The registration of tenants and domestic workers would help to have a close eye on mischievous elements and suspects. Police teams led by a senior upper subordinate of each police station of Islamabad would be included in the drive with a questionnaire about the details of tenants living in the houses. He elaborated that teams would be comprised of lady cops the male cops while personnel of the CTD and police commandos would remain ready in the police stations to tackle any untoward situation that occurs during the checking drive. The police teams would provide a written questionnaire to the house owners to deposit their answers with the documents with a copy of their national identity card, a copy of the rent agreement with the tenant, and other documents required for the registration. He urged the house owners to verify the backgrounds of people before giving them employment. The evil-minded elements can disguise themselves as ordinary citizens and cause damage by engaging in serious incidents like theft and house robbery. He further said that the federal capital police cared for the people and were committed to ensuring the protection to their lives and property. – DNA

PAKISTAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (PCAA)
TENDER NOTICE

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY AT JINNAH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (JIAP) KARACHI

1. Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) is inviting tenders from Registered Companies/ Firms/ Sole Proprietors in accordance with the criteria for eligibility of bidders as described in detail in tender terms & conditions on a single stage, two-envelope basis i.e. Technical & Financial offer for award of following concession at JIAP Karachi.

S. No.	CONCESSION NAME	RESERVE PRICE (In PKR P.M.)	LICENSED PERIOD	TIMING & CONTACT PERSON DETAILS	LAST DATE OF PURCHASE OF TENDER DOCUMENTS	TENDER FEE NON-REFUNDABLE	DATE, TIME & VENUE OF SUBMISSION	DATE, TIME & VENUE OF OPENING
a.	To Establish & Operate "Excess Baggage Handling Storage and Courier Facility on space measuring 550 sq.ft. under bridge (eastern Side) of JTC along with help desk/service counter facility on space measuring 5x5-25 sq. ft. inside international departure (Briefing Area)" of JTC JIAP Karachi	501,000/-	Five (05) Years with 10% annual enhancement on cumulative basis	0900 to 1700 Hours on Working Days Office of Officer In-Charge, Commercial, CAA (Room No.3016-17) at Level-III, JTC, JIAP Karachi Contact: 021-99071309/ 99071022	21-02-2023 Till cease of working hours	Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only)	22-02-2023 at 11:00 hrs Main Conference Room (Room No.6035) at Level-VI, Jinnah Terminal, JIAP Karachi	22-02-2023 at 11:30 hrs Main Conference Room (Room No.6035) at Level-VI, Jinnah Terminal, JIAP Karachi

2. For detailed Tender Notice kindly visit: www.caapakistan.com.pk & www.ppra.org.pk.

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Briefs

Prize distribution ceremony at NUTECH

ISLAMABAD: National Idea Bank (NIB) is the initiative of the President of Pakistan Dr. Alvi inaugurated in Feb 2021 with the aim to recognize and support innovative ideas and promote entrepreneurship culture in Pakistan. National University of Technology (NUTECH) being a partner university with National Idea Bank (NIB) organized a prize distribution ceremony on 18 Jan 2023. Earlier on arrival at the National University of Technology, the Chief Guest Prof Dr. Mahmood-ul-Hassan was received by the Pro-Rector Maj Gen Khalid Javed, HI(M). The ceremony was attended by distinguished Vice Chancellors, representatives from Industry leadership, award winners from different universities, students, faculty and support staff. While interacting with award winners, students, and faculty, the Chief Guest emphasized that National Idea Bank encourages new technologies and startups can play a significant role in uplifting our country. Such initiatives are very vital to develop an innovative industry-focused cooperative model to confront the emerging challenges. He urged the youth to create new technologies, take initiative, think creatively and become the future leaders and innovators of our society. —DNA

CTP hold awareness walk

RAWALPINDI: City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi and Markazi Anjuman Taran Cantt organized an awareness walk to educate road users about traffic rules. Additional Deputy Commissioner Nosheen Israr, SDPO Azhar Shah, DSP Traffic Headquarters Raja Nisar, In-charge Traffic Cantt Circle Ali Rafiq, Traffic Police Education Wing, President Anjuman Taran Cantt Sheikh Hafeez and other officials participated. During the walk, citizens were given awareness about traffic rules and road safety measures. On the occasion, Chief Traffic Officer (CTO) Rawalpindi Taimur Khan said that most of the deaths due to accidents on highways are the result of lack of knowledge about traffic laws. Due to the awareness campaigns, there was a significant reduction in accidents in 2022 compared to the previous year. —APP

Need stressed to promote industrial robotics

ISLAMABAD: The Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman and Chairman Khyberstan Trade House Meher Kashif Younis Wednesday said that in the prevailing global scenario, industrial robotics, artificial intelligence and manufacturing based economy were pre-requisite for sustainable economic growth and prosperity. It was stated by him here today at a meeting with Chairperson Punjab Higher Education Commission Dr Shahid Munir, President Gold Ring Economic Forum, a strategic think tank, Hasnain Raza was also present. He said over the years, industry-academia collaboration has enhanced knowledge, innovation and played an integral part in the economic growth of developed countries. —APP

KP gets over Rs29.7 bln gas royalty, GDS in 3 years

ISLAMABAD: The federal government has paid more than Rs 29.7 billion to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on account of natural gas royalty and the Gas Development Surcharge (GDS) during the last three years. "Around Rs 24,178.42 million royalty on natural gas and Rs 5,573.65 million Gas Development Surcharge (GDS) on natural gas have been paid to the KP province during a three-year period," according to an official document available with APP. As per the breakup, the government paid Rs8,821.53 million royalty and Rs Rs 68.22 GDS to the province during the fiscal year 2019-20. —APP



ISLAMABAD: Businesswomen posing for a picture on the occasion of 15th Chambers Presidents conference organized by the RCCI, at Islamabad Serena Hotel.—DNA

Haier group going local in Pak with new technology

In Qingdao, Humayun and other Pakistani delegates received warm greetings and concerns from the head of the HQ, respect and mutual assistance from their Chinese colleagues, and earnest teachings from Chinese masters

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Haier group is going local in Pakistan with new technology, according to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Wednesday. The report says, from UPS air conditioners to the electronically controlled variable frequency refrigerator that can make ice in one hour, to washing machines with "one touch" function, to today's smart home appliances, Haier Pakistan has formed a complete closed-loop process of design, research and development, production, local adaptation, marketing and promotion, and localization has gradually penetrated into various fields. Currently, 5 Haier Pakistan production lines, including refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, washing machines and TVs, have been localized to varying degrees, with the overall level of localization increasing from 5% in 2006 to 30% in 2021. Behind the strong localization is the comprehensive vision and coordination of Haier

Group and the efforts of employees in different positions in Pakistan. After graduating from a public college in 2001, with the dream of a young man, Muhammad Humayun left his hometown for the fledgling China-Pakistan joint venture Haier Pakistan Industrial Park. Haier Pakistan, which became a national special economic zone in 2021, is known as an important microcosm of Sino-Pakistani home appliance cooperation. While Humayun has also grown from a front-line worker to the head of Air Conditioner (AC) factory through his efforts and dedication. Humayun started with the very simple idea of just earning a paycheck. Single, he lived in a shared room with no fan, no bed, no cushions, but full of mosquitoes. Because of his willingness to think and practice, he was selected as one of the first batch of technicians to be sent to Haier HQ, Qingdao, China, for training. The month-long training became the starting point for the change in his life. In Qingdao, Humayun and other Pakistani delegates received

warm greetings and concerns from the head of the HQ, respect and mutual assistance from their Chinese colleagues, and earnest teachings from Chinese masters. Even today, Humayun's eyes sparkle as he shares with the reporter the experience of training in China. "Training in China is as if a journey from dream to reality," Humayun recalled, "our photos and excellent deeds were published in Chinese newspapers, so that our inner dreams began to sprout." Upon his return to Pakistan, Humayun combined the instructions of the Qingdao HQ with the actual situation on the ground, which greatly mobilized the enthusiasm of the staff at all levels and achieved a multiplier effect. Due to his outstanding performance, Humayun has grown from a grass-root employee to a senior manager of Haier Pakistan and the core of the AC product line. His growth is inseparable from his intelligence and ability, as well as his diligence and studiousness, not to mention the in-

dustrial park project of Sino-Pak cooperation, and even more inseparable from the fact that Sino-Pak friendly relations have taken root and blossomed among the people. Jamshed Ali is a graduate of Lahore Higher University with an MBA in marketing and also holds a master degree in marketing from IB&M University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore. Jamshed started his career at Haier Pakistan as assistant brand manager in April 2014 and assumed the position of senior marketing manager responsible for online marketing in 2020. Jamshed was actively involved in Haier's 2022 new refrigerator promotion program. In Pakistan, Haier launched its "first shot" of digital variable frequency refrigerator nationwide, and thus won the Black Dragon Award for Marketing Integration of Asia Dragon, which is the only Chinese enterprise in Asia to win this award. Prior to the main event, Haier Pakistan trained distributors in different cities on HCS preservation technology and how it can address the

users' pain points. The local refrigerator product manager gave an in-depth presentation on refrigerators and HCS freshness technology on a local morning TV show. Haier sold 269,000 refrigerators in 2021 and 417,000 refrigerators in 2022, an increase of 55% with Haier's share of the refrigerator market growing to 52%. Haier puts people first and has greatly helped Jamshed with his personal development, developing his professional skills and management skills through regular training sessions. Over the past 22 years in Pakistan, Haier has been nurturing talents in a variety of ways, from those who are diligent and step by step, to those who have graduated from university and are focused on emerging fields, capable and willing to make efforts. There are many individuals like Humayun and Jamshed in Haier Pakistan Industrial Park, and there are many stories that have happened, and they continue all the time.

'New world order must be rooted in human-based morality'

Dr Arif Alvi in his inaugural remarks lauded the initiative by IRS and said that it was high time for the world to redirect the world order on a trajectory that prioritised quality of human life at its core

MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD: The Institute of Regional Studies (IRS) began its 2nd Annual International Conference: Regional Dialogue 2023. The three-day event was inaugurated by Dr Arif Alvi, President Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The main theme of the conference this year is Contemporary Traditional and Nontraditional Security Threats in South Asia encompassing pertinent issues such as great power competition, significance of maritime domination and democratic values. On the non-traditional challenges, the conference brought together academics, politicians, practitioners and

diplomats from home and abroad to deliberate upon issues of climate change, population, health, energy shortages, food security and the emerging challenge of cybersecurity. Dr Arif Alvi in his inaugural remarks lauded the initiative by IRS and said that it was high time for the world to redirect the world order on a trajectory that prioritised quality of human life at its core. Dr Moeed Yusuf, former National Security Adviser while deliberating upon the aforesaid challenges said that there was a serious need of attention to oversee equitable distribution of available resources. He said that in case of Pakistan it was imperative to ensure uniformity between the cen-



tre and the provinces. A starting point in this regard could be to empower institutions such as the Council of Common Interests, he said. He added that on a regional level, geopolitical and historical constraints had rendered a sustainable level of cooperation between India and Paki-

stan unsuccessful. However, engagement was the only way forward. Ambassador Asif Durrani, Senior Research Fellow at IPRI said that while regionalism was still a rather new construct, there was a need to strengthen regional linkages for a better collective future of the countries in South Asia. He added that CPEC could serve as a starting point in this regard and could also serve as South and Central Asian Transit Hub. The first day of the Regional Dialogue 2023 also featured several academics from Pakistan and abroad, including Dr Arshi Saleem Hashmi, Dr Ahmed Ijaz Malik, Dr Christian Wagner and Dr Yelena Biberman.

Admin conducts 20,646 raids against hoarders, profiteers

RAWALPINDI: The administration on the directives of Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Saqib Manan conducted 20,646 raids across the division against hoarders and profiteers and imposed fines amounting to over Rs 3 million during last week. According to a Commissioner's Office spokesperson, the Commissioner had instructed the authorities concerned to take strict action in accordance with the law against hoarders and profiteers on daily basis. She informed that 22 FIRs were also lodged while 186 profiteers and hoarders were sent behind the bars during the period. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Rawalpindi Shoaib Ali had also ordered the authorities concerned including Assistant Commissioners (ACs) of Rawalpindi district to take strict action against profiteers. The ACs were also visiting Flour Mills and checking the wheat stocks and records. Revenue field staff and price magistrates were deputed to supervise wheat grinding as per quota and delivery of wheat bags to market as per ratio, she said adding, the ACs were also carrying out price checking activity in different areas and fines were being imposed on profiteers, hoarders and the shopkeepers not displaying the price lists. She said that Rawalpindi District Food Department had set up 74 wheat flour sale points in different areas of the district to facilitate the citizens and ensure regular supply of the flour on subsidized rates. Earlier, 60 wheat flour sale points were set up by the administration while on the directives of Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Saqib Manan the number of the sale points was enhanced to 74 in different areas of Rawalpindi including city, cantt and saddar. She informed that all the flour mills of the district were directed to supply 500 each subsidized wheat flour bags weighing 10 kg to the citizens daily. —APP

Pak transmission passing down most advanced tech

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's first DC power transmission talents is passing down most advanced technologies, according to China Economic Net (CEN). At Matiari Converter Station, the starting point of Pakistan's power transmission artery, the 886-km HVDC Transmission Line, Mir Arslan Ali is training junior engineers. As one of the founding employees of the project Pakistan's first DC power transmission talents, Mir Arslan Ali, Assistant Duty Officer of the Control and Protection Department,

is pleased to see that the state-of-the-art technology is being passed on among local technicians. From the completion of the project in 2020, the number of trained DC power transmission engineers has nearly doubled, growing from 16 to nearly 30. On the site of the first HVDC transmission project in Pakistan, the engineers who are bound to become the backbone of Pakistan's power transmission sector are learning different fault situations and the various solutions for the most complex conditions. "While China's most advanced power transmission technology offers a new starting point for the devel-

opment of power transmission in Pakistan, we take up the baton and impart the state-of-the-art knowledge to the local staff to sustain its safe operation and make the strongest power equipment worthwhile", Mir Arslan Ali told CEN in an interview after he received the award for outstanding Pakistani staff in CPEC projects from the Chinese Embassy. Since being put into operation in September, 2021, the project has transmitted approximately 20.6 billion KWH of cumulative electricity, providing consistent, high-quality and clean electricity for nearly 10 million local households. The transmitted power accounts

for about one-sixth of Pakistan's entire grid. It not only helped Pakistan solve the problem of grid load

distribution and uneven resources, but also provided at least 7,000 employment opportunities during the

construction period and carried out about 8,000 training sessions for Pakistani staff.



Birth anniversary of poet Momin

ISLAMABAD: Prominent Urdu poet, Momin Khan Momin was remembered here Wednesday on the 223rd birth anniversary, in the literary circles for his contributions to the Urdu language and literature. Momin received his education at the famous Shah Abdul Qadir's school under the coveted guidance of Shah Abdul Aziz, a celebrated theologian and reformer of his times. He had a wider exposure to a variety of disciplines and languages like Arabic, Persian, Urdu, medicine, mathematics, and astrology. He was essentially a poet of earthly love which he expressed best in the form of ghazal while music and chess were the other areas of his keen interest which he cultivated with care. In celebrating romantic love in all its manifestations, Momin drew upon the purity of diction, deeply nuanced phrases, and indirect modes of expression. He was an aesthete and personalized his material which distinguished him from many other poets who objectified them.—APP

ANF recovers over 188 kg drugs in five operations; arrests seven

RAWALPINDI: The Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan, while conducting five counter-narcotics operations, seized over 188 kg narcotics and arrested seven accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday. He informed that the ANF recovered 186 kg charras from secret cavities of a truck intercepted near Gadag Town Karachi, being smuggled from Balochistan and arrested two drug smugglers residents of Pashin. In another raid, the ANF recovered 201 charras-filled capsules from the possession of two accused residents of Hangu netted near Islamabad Motorway Toll Plaza. The capsules were going to be smuggled abroad. In third operation at Bacha Khan International Airport Peshawar, the ANF and ASF recovered over one kg charras from trolley bag of a Doha-bound passenger, resident of Bannu, going on flight no QR-601. —APP

DISCOs fined Rs 483.5 mln for fatal incident in FY-2021-22

ISLAMABAD: All power distribution companies (DISCOs) were fined Rs 483.5 million by the power regulator for fatal incidents that occurred during the fiscal year 2021-22. Official sources told APP here Wednesday that 11 per cent more fatal incidents were reported in FY-2021-22 as compared to FY-2020-21. DISCOs were unable to implement the standard operating procedures (SOPs) regarding safety measures due to which 196 fatal accidents occurred during FY 2021-22 against 189 fatal accidents recorded during FY 2020-21, they said. National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) not only imposed fine on DISCOs but also directed to compensate the families of the deceased on account of fatal accidents that occurred due to their negligence and non-compliance to the relevant standards. —APP

Four held for violating renting laws

RAWALPINDI: Taxila Police on Wednesday arrested four house owners and tenants for not providing their data to the relevant police stations and violating renting laws. According to the police spokesman, during a search operation, police held four house owners and tenants identified as Anwar, Nazaq, Akram and Madrarullah who had no proper documentation. Cases were registered under the Punjab Information of Temporary Residence Ordinance 2015. Under the Ordinance, details of new tenants should be provided to the police within 24 hours for transferring possession of the property, he added. —APP

Quad members grinding their own axes

The Chinese Foreign Ministry has urged India and Japan to do more to enhance mutual trust in the regional security sphere and act in the interest of peace and stability in the region. The urging came after the Indian Air Force and Japan Air Self-Defense Force started their first joint aerial exercise, Veer Guardian 2023, on Jan 12 at Hyakuri Air Base, Japan. The 15-day drill is a poisoned fruit of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, which the United States has formed with the two countries plus Australia with the aim of containing China, something it makes no bones about. Given New Delhi's reluctance to throw its weight behind the US on the Ukraine crisis, Washington should be happy to see that Tokyo is helping to pull New Delhi closer to its side through the bilateral drill. India's attitude toward the US' invitation to join its fight club has always been lukewarm. Being a member of the Quad, as well as a member of BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, it pays special attention to raising its own profile through balanced diplomacy. By agreeing to take part in the drills, New Delhi is continuing to stick to its balanced diplomacy, but as observers say, it is also part of its efforts to explore the possibility of diversifying its weapon sources. India can gain first-hand experience through the drill with Japan about how the US warplanes perform. The air force of Japan depends heavily on the US for weapons, intelligence and supplies. On the other hand, Japan will not waste the opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of the capabilities of the Russian stealth jets of the Indian Air Force, such as the Russian SU-30 MKI, that are taking part in the exercise. Although the drill was settled months ago during the Quad meeting in Tokyo last year, its timing is apparently well calculated to serve the Fumio Kishida government's agenda as it came at the same time as Kishida's visits to the US and other Western allies, in which security cooperation was a focus. Japan is trying hard to prove to the US its use value as both a spear and a shield. In exchange, it looks forward to the US granting it more space to normalize its status at an early date, preparing for the re-rise of militarism upon which hinges its smoldering empire ambitions. That means despite its small size, the US-orchestrated bilateral air force drill provides both sides a grinder on which to sharpen their own axes, but the US should know that will not necessarily serve its interests in the long run.

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Mutually beneficial cooperation

In his speech in Davos on Tuesday, Vice-Premier Liu He struck a tone that matched perfectly the theme of this year's World Economic Forum - "Cooperation in a Fragmented World". In a speech that was well-received by many Western observers, Liu, a key national economic policy adviser, sought to both allay overseas misgivings about Chinese policy orientation and reiterate the country's continuous commitment to harmonious interaction with the rest of the world. Whether through choice or misunderstanding, there have been some voices suggesting that after decades of reform and opening-up, China is backpedaling that process. Liu assured his global audience in Davos that simply isn't the case. "All-round opening-up is the basis of State policy and the key driver of economic progress. China's national reality dictates that opening up to the world is a must, not an expediency," Liu said. Enumerating the lessons China has learned from its recent economic achievements, Liu highlighted the need to prioritize economic development, continue market-oriented economic reforms, "unswervingly" support the vibrant private sector and encourage entrepreneurship, adhere to all-round opening-up to the outside world, govern the country according to law and pursue innovation-driven development. He stressed that at home, China will press ahead with market economy reforms; abroad, it would seek greater international collaboration. "Some people say China will go for the planned economy. That's by no means possible," he said, stressing that the pursuit of "common prosperity" doesn't mean the country enshrines egalitarianism or welfarism, but that as the country develops all Chinese people will be better off. It means there will be equal opportunities, but no guarantee of equal outcomes. It is aimed at preventing polarization and it can only be attained through development, which in turn is driven by entrepreneurs, including foreign investors, Liu said. "Foreign investments are welcome in China, and the door to China will only open up further," Liu emphasized. With the world political and economic landscapes undergoing profound changes and various unexpected incidents having occurred in the past few years, international cooperation is the only way to bridge the widening gaps dividing the present-day world, and mutual understanding is the prerequisite for strengthening cooperation, as Liu said. But the strategic mistrust runs so deep and broad among major countries that words alone won't suffice to heal the wounds. As well as closer, more candid communication, actions matching words will be of critical significance to eliminating erroneous perceptions. The Netherlands can set an immediate example in this respect. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte visited the White House on Tuesday, during which he discussed with US President Joe Biden the new US restrictions on exporting chip-making technology to China that the Biden administration wants the Netherlands to also put in place Prior to their meeting, Dutch Trade Minister Liesje Schreinemacher said in a television interview on Sunday that the Netherlands will not summarily accept US restrictions on exporting chip-making technology to China and that decoupling from China was an illusion. Holding to that line will reinforce the message that even the US allies are unhappy with the US' fragmentation bombs.

Islamabad-Washington relations post fall of Kabul

Muhammad Faisal Yousafzai



In this war, Pakistan receives 53,000 deaths, 126 million economic losses, over 500 suicide bombers, 1.4 million registered and 1.5 million non-registered Afghan refugees but Pakistan didn't step back she helped USA in clearing terrorists' sanctuaries in the tribal belt, conducting operations on western borders, she played a role of dismantling, decimating AL-QUAIDA, almost top seven wanted criminals of AL-QUAIDA

From the beginning Pak-US have not a constant relationship, their relationships have been gone through many twists and turns. After independence, to run the country smoothly Pakistan joined CETO and SENTO, however their relation was changed in 1965 and 1971 wars (arms embargo). In 1979 when USSR intervene in

Afghanistan, due to her interests she made a good relationship with Pakistan, she assisted Pakistan to establish a group of jihadis to train, equip them to fight against USSR in Afghanistan and Pakistan did this because of her interest (deterrence). During 10 years of proxies Pak-US relation was at peak and at the end of the day USSR was disintegrated. After the disintegration of USSR, USA left this region as well as Pakistan to deal alone with these jihadists' groups because her interest in this region was achieved. For the next ten years their relations were not good even USA imposed sanctions on Pakistan for making nuclear bombs (1998). In 2001, 9/11 event occurred, in which approximately 2760 American civilians were died, and this terrorist acts were acknowledged by terrorist group AL-QUAIDA leader USAMA BIN LADEN who was present in Afghanistan. At that time, in Afghanistan there was a government of "Mulla Omer", and USA tried to persuade him so that he will take over Osama bin Ladin to them but were failed. Then UNSC passed resolution and started a "war on terror". Before intervening in Afghanistan USA president "Gorge W. Bush" call Pakistan's president "general Pervaiz Musharraf" and asked him "whether with us or against us", Pakistan has no other option except to accept the American proposal and became front non-NATO ally in war on terror, due to which once again their relationship became strong. In this war, Pakistan receives 53,000 deaths, 126 million economic losses, over 500 suicide bombers, 1.4 million registered and 1.5 million non-registered Afghan refugees but Pakistan didn't step back she helped USA in clearing terrorists' sanctuaries in the tribal belt, conducting operations on western borders, she played a role of dismantling, decimating AL-QUAIDA, almost top seven wanted criminals of AL-QUAIDA operatives were taken out with the assistance of Pakistan, bought Taliban to negotiating table in Qatar, helped in safe evacuation of American forces and officials from Afghanistan, even early two to three years success of USA in overthrowing Taliban government and achieving objectives in Afghanistan was also a hard work and sacrifices of Pakistan. Unfortunately, after withdrawal of NATO forces from Afghanistan (15 august, 2021) USA didn't gave credit to Pakistan even imposed a label of "DOUBLE GAME" on Pakistan which was unexpected. After fall of Kabul, there is opportunity for both states to reframe their relationship, this time, in a more realistic manner. Pakistan is the world's only Muslim majority country with nuclear arsenals. Its borders are with India, China, Afghanistan and Iran as well as have a Gwadar port

which falls into Arabian sea and these all factors are important for US foreign policy in different ways, and these are the factors which makes Pakistan more important after the USA withdrawal from this region, because current US foreign policy is revolving around Indo-pacific region, she made QUARDS, arms deals with Taiwan, provide nuclear submarines to Australia, made India strong enough in terms of economy, politically and socially all these is to counter China, which seems a threat to her hegemony. The core dysfunctionality has been a strategic misalignment with regards to Afghanistan. They must need to put their relationship in a more modest plane; not overloaded with every issue under the sun and make a relationship more stable, predictable, and more sustainable, which would avoid the unrealistic expectations that had really curse the past. I think both countries must accept the ground realities which is that Pakistan is a middle income, post-colonial country, struggling with unusual crisis like stagnant bureaucracy, unemployment, poverty, inadequate infrastructure, dysfunctional and corrupt politicians, TTP, outsized military influence and an insurgent group. On the other hand USA have to realize that, in contemporary world the cosmopolitans are more aware of the past motives of USA in this region, it's not a time for USA to "micromanage" events in every part of the world, including in Pakistan and Afghanistan, currently USA is facing a competitor like China and Russia as well as social challenges at home and it would be difficult for USA to control the whole world as she did in the post-cold war era. There is no doubt that both states are duplicitous, because thing that were said were not done or not followed up on both sides. Due to their duplicity their relationship became worsen. However, USA is still the largest exporter destination for Pakistan. The USA is still one of the top five investors, that has been investing in Pakistan, USA is the fourth source of remittances to Pakistan, USA is home to one of the most influential dynamic Pakistani diasporas anywhere in the world. The relationship between Pakistan and USA in future needs not to emphasize so much on security and to curb terrorism, but there must be focus on economic and commercial issues as well. I think this is the area that hasn't been developed overtime and I think Pakistan is a type of country in which American's companies should wanted to invest because of cheap labors, resource rich, unused population/raw materials etc. Currently what Pakistan need is adequate infrastructure, economic aids for quality education, political stability, to counter refugee's crisis etc. to strengthen democracy. On the other hand, USA

was a state which from 1945 wanted/trying to spread and strengthen democracy. Thus, it is the time for both states to move away from misunderstanding and misplaced expectations of the past and to open the possibilities of going beyond government-to-government relationships. USA needs to allow Pakistani businesses and American businesses to interact and for that the simple path would be to take a second look at the "travel advisory", which is a big barrier for travel by US investors, because not all of Pakistan is in a security threatened zone and there are businesses in Pakistan that are sitting on cash, that would like to invest jointly with Americans partners. Bringing economic stability, greater regional connectivity in Afghanistan for any government will be another priority, and Pakistani government clearly stated and moved from geostrategic to geoeconomics paradigm, where Pakistan's government are very keen to see the point of interests for Pakistan in seeking peace in Afghanistan which will lead to wider region. After 4 decades, there is chance to create a real condition of peace; framing Taliban as the enemy and demonizing Taliban that would help USA to achieve its objectives in Afghanistan is a choice that she made early. However, Pakistan shared its perceptions and perspectives from the last 2 decades that "there is no military solutions", and it is a fact that "when military get involved in any political decisions things became alright, because they have their own objectives". There are various aspects where I believe that both states interests are still aligned and due to which their relationship in future is going to be more batter than in the past, some of these aspects are.... 1) There is a continuing threat of terrorism which is directed against the USA by AL-QUAIDA. 2) USA concerned are about the safety and security of Pakistan's nuclear arsenals which recently President Biden claim that a threat to whole world if Taliban acquired it. 3) There is a need to prevent a future war between Pakistan and India that could escalate to nuclear level. 4) Humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan due to which refugees burden fall on the shoulders of Pakistan and some other European states. Due to this crisis, there is a lot of violation of human rights reported by amnesty international. 5) Climate change, a threat to global world etc. This means whether USA like or not, she must have to finds ways to work together with Pakistan to curb all these challenges.

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Pink bus service woman empowerment at GB

Wajhullah Fahim

In Pakistan when we talk about infrastructure development related to mobility we consider only road widening, road repairing and road metalling as parameters, in fact, such developments causes only increase in the number of vehicles (cars, motorcycles) which leads to congestion and noise pollution. But actually, services like the Pink Bus Service are real infrastructure development because such services fulfill the objectives of infrastructure

The emergence of the concept of woman empowerment is associated with the women right movements started during the late 19th century and early 20th century in the western countries. Equal opportunities across all sectors of the economy without gender discrimination are the main aim of the women empowerment. Easy women mobility outside the home is considered as a way for empowering women in the society. In Pakistan, women mobility outside the home is restricted by social norms, safety, and security issues. Due to these issues and problems the government of Gilgit Baltistan launched "Pink Bus services" on 4th October 2022 to improve the women mobility and safety. Initially, the pink bus service was operating in Gilgit and Skardu cities. Now the service has extended to other districts of Gilgit Baltistan like Ghizer, Hunza and Diamer. In many aspects, this initiative can produce positive impacts on the society. In Pakistan when we talk about infrastructure development related to mobility we consider only road widening, road repairing and road metalling as parameters, in fact, such developments causes only increase in the number of vehicles (cars, motorcycles) which leads to congestion and noise pollution. But actually, services like the Pink Bus Service are real infrastructure development because such services fulfill the objectives of infrastructure development in the form of easy accessibility, time-saving and affordability. Unfortunately in our society harassment rate of females has increased so the female safety and security concerns have become one of the main obstacles to woman's empowerment. Now

the Pink bus service can remove such obstacles and women can play their contributions to the socio-economic development of Gilgit Baltistan. Affordable fare plays an important role in the long-term success of such initiative. In the initial stage, the Pink bus service is free of cost. The free-of-cost service will reduce the out-of-pocket expense for passengers which seem good. But a question arises here, on one side Gilgit Baltistan government ministers and officials during the press conference said that the federal government of Pakistan has reduced the development budget of Gilgit Baltistan and on the other side they are providing free of cost bus services. Other possible positive impacts of pink bus service can come as reduction in environmental degradation, as this problem has become a major issue in Gilgit Baltistan. The carbon emission is the main determinant of environmental degradation and on average a typical vehicle emits about 4.6 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year. As the pink bus service has the potential to reduce the traffic on roads which promote environment sustainability. Point to remember that the positive impacts of any project cannot be achieved and sustainable if the project doesn't continue for longer period. Budget constraints are the common problem in providing public service, as the Gilgit Baltistan government depends upon the federal for development budget, so budget constraints will be the major challenge for this service in future. Affordable fare should be fixed so that in long run this service can run because, in other cities of Pakistan like Lahore and Karachi, the pink bus service was failed due to financial reasons.

Adoptions of new services are not the easy task in developing societies. It is possible during the initial phase of service, the number of female commuters may be low than the expected number. In such conditions usually government discontinue the service like the government of KPK discontinued the pink bus service in KPK due to the less commuters. In such a situation the government of Gilgit Baltistan should shift the larger passenger capacity buses into small passenger capacity vans so that service can easily be continued for longer period. Service timing also plays an important role in the success of the project. During the peak hour between the 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., the service should provide without any disruption because female students and job holders can utilize the bus service to reach their destinations, and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. the same pattern should also be followed because at this time female can also use service to return back to their homes from school, colleges and from offices. Further, during these hours service can also be utilized for shopping purpose by housewives. Although such initiatives can improve women empowerment, but the government should also focus on other problems faced by females as barriers to women empowerment in the society. The lack of quality health services especially for delivery cases, lack of mental health care centers, lower opportunities for higher education, lower job opportunities and zero career counseling are the major issues faced by the females of Gilgit Baltistan, without addressing such problems only ease in mobility cannot enhance woman empowerment in the society.

Briefs

No ties with new military leadership

FROM PAGE 01
The polls had made it apparent that the PPP had no commitment to fair and free elections. "Now it is also clear why the ECP, its cabal of crooks and their handlers sabotaged electronic voting machines (EVMs)," he added. Imran Khan said that EVMs ensured transparency and provided results immediately, thereby preventing rigging and engineering. "Right now, results of LG elections which should have come out within a few hours at most were coming out in a staggering delay, some for days, allowing for massive foul play," he added. "If this is the sort of elections ECP, the state and the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) want, then the stability that elections are meant to bring will not happen. Instead, such manipulated elections will only cause more agitation, polarisation and anarchy," he said. Meanwhile, while presiding over a meeting in Lahore, Chairman PTI expressed satisfaction over the preparations for the elections. During the meeting, all the party's organizations briefed him regarding their ongoing door-to-door campaigns. Imran Khan also directed to complete the organization at block code level as soon as possible, adding that no delay in election date would be tolerated. The names given by the PML-N for the caretaker chief minister were an expression of their lack of seriousness, he added. Imran Khan said that the task of caretaker government was to conduct clean and transparent elections. "We have given names for caretaker government which no one can raise any objection and will be acceptable to all," he added.

Vietnam parliament approves president's resignation

HANOI: Vietnam's rubber stamp National Assembly on Wednesday approved the resignation of President Nguyen Xuan Phuc, a day after he dramatically stepped down as part of an anti-corruption drive. His sudden and unprecedented departure comes during a period of significant political upheaval in Vietnam, where the all-powerful Communist Party's anti-graft purge and factional fighting have seen several ministers fired. Authoritarian Vietnam is run by the party, which is officially led by the general secretary, president and prime minister. With no successor yet appointed, Vo Thi Anh Xuan, the current vice-president, automatically becomes interim president, according to the constitution. Phuc's resignation came after rumours he was next in line to be ejected and his exit makes him the highest-ranking party member to be purged, with analysts saying his removal is part of the "transforming" of the party. In an extraordinary meeting that was closed to international media, more than 93 percent of National Assembly members voted to approve Phuc's resignation, state media said. Key decisions are made by the politburo, which now numbers 16. - APP

Netanyahu ordered to remove key minister

JERUSALEM: Israel's top court ruled Wednesday that a senior member of premier Benjamin Netanyahu's newly formed government cannot serve as minister due to a recent tax evasion conviction. The decision was slammed by Prime Minister Netanyahu's coalition, which vowed to push ahead with controversial measures that would weaken the Supreme Court and its power to strike down legislation. Netanyahu returned to power last month at the head of a coalition with extreme-right and ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties following Israel's November 1 election. His appointment of Aryeh Deri as health and interior minister "could not stand" since it was "extremely unreasonable", according to a summary of the court's decision. - Agencies



ISLAMABAD: The administration of CDA on the special directive of Prime Minister holds Khuli-Kachahry at the Hockey Ground of Islamabad. - DNA

Australian Open-2023

Injured Nadal makes early exit, Gauff edges Raducanu

Earlier, world number one Iga Swiatek and dangerous American Jessica Pegula led the charge into the third round

MELBOURNE: Defending champion Rafael Nadal hobbled out of the second round in a huge upset at the Australian Open on Wednesday, as Coco Gauff beat Emma Raducanu in a battle of the rising stars. Nadal's wife Mery was in tears as the injury-hampered Spanish great lost to 65th-ranked Mackenzie McDonald at Rod Laver Arena, where the roof was closed because of more rain in Melbourne. The 36-year-old Nadal was clearly hindered by a hip issue that required a medical timeout, as he surrendered 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 to the American. It was the reigning champion's earliest exit from a major in seven years and will lead to more questions about whether injury and age are catching up with the record 22-time major champion. The men's title now looks Novak Djokovic's to lose. Nadal said defeat "hurt" and acknowledged that injuries were taking a toll. "I've never been in a position to complain, life has given me so many positive things that I have no right to complain," he said. "(But) I am tired, I am sad, I am disappointed, all this is a reality. "From here on... what I want is to continue playing tennis. Don't think I'm saying all this because I want to take a step back. "It is not the case, but my current feelings are bad." The 18-year-old American Gauff, seen as the heir to now-retired Serena Williams, defeated Britain's Raducanu 6-3, 7-6 (7/4). There are 70 places separating sev-



enth seed Gauff and 2021 US Open champion Raducanu in the current rankings, but you wouldn't have known it as the pair tussled for an hour and 42 minutes of pulsating tennis on Rod Laver Arena. It was a first-ever meeting between the two and a glimpse of an exciting future for women's tennis. Earlier, world number one Iga Swi-



atek and dangerous American Jessica Pegula led the charge into the third round. Polish title favourite Swiatek swept past Colombia's Camila Osorio 6-2, 6-3 while third seed Pegula downed Belarussian Aleksandra Sasnovich 6-2, 7-6 (7/5). Greece's Maria Sakkari also went through, but she looked anything but the sixth seed



in a 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 struggle against Russian qualifier and college student Diana Shnaider. Sakkari was irked by Shnaider's fist pumps and celebratory screams, before finding her composure. "During a match, you can be very pumped," Sakkari said. "But the way that some players celebrate their points, it's not appropriate. I wasn't happy with that." - APP

China slams US plundering of Syria's natural reserves

BEIJING: China has denounced the United States over its "blatant and egregious" attempts to further plunder natural resources in Syria, stating that American occupation forces are massively smuggling crude oil and grain from the northeastern part of the war-torn country to their bases in northern Iraq. "We are struck by the blatant and egregiousness of the US's plundering of Syria. According to Syrian government data, in the first half of 2022, over 80% of Syria's daily oil output was smuggled out of the country by US occupation troops," Spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry Wang Wenbin said at a weekly press briefing in the

capital, Beijing on Tuesday. He added that US forces used 60 tankers and trucks earlier this month to steal oil and wheat from Syria. "Such banditry is aggravating the energy crisis and humanitarian disaster in Syria. The Syrian nation's right to life is being ruthlessly trampled on by the US. With little oil and food to go by, Syrians are struggling even harder to get through the bitter winter," the Chinese diplomat pointed out. "The level of US greed in stealing resources from Syria is as striking as its generosity in giving out military aid often in the amount of billions or even tens of billions dollars. Whether the US gives or takes, it plunges other countries into turmoil

and disaster, and the US gets to reap the benefits for its hegemony and other interests," Wang said. The spokesman emphasized that the US must answer to Syrians and the international community for its oil theft. "We urge the US to stop trampling on international rule of law and breaking international rules," he stated. The US military has for long stationed its forces and equipment in northeastern Syria, with the Pentagon claiming that the deployment is aimed at preventing the oilfields in the area from falling into the hands of Daesh Takfiri terrorists. Damascus, however, says the deployment is meant to plunder the Arab country's natural resources. - DNA

Hashim Amla retires from professional cricket

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa's legendary batter Hashim Amla put curtains on his professional career, international media reported. Amla, who represented South Africa in 124 Tests, 181 ODIs and 44 T20Is, announced his retirement on Wednesday. "I have great memories of the Oval ground and to finally leave it as a player fills me with immense gratitude for what has been," said Amla who played his last County season for Surrey. The right-handed batter is recognized as one of the top batters of the current era. He has played for more than two decades and scored 34,104 runs across all formats. - APP

Formula One can't replace Chinese GP

LONDON: Formula One will have 23 races this season, still a record and one more than last year, with the sport facing a four-week gap in April after deciding not to replace the cancelled Chinese Grand Prix. The race in Shanghai, originally scheduled for April 16 as the fourth of 24 rounds, was axed last month for the fourth year in a row due to strict local measures to curb the spread of Covid-19. Formula One had said then that it was assessing alternative options, with various venues touted in the media including Portugal's Portimao circuit that was used as a replacement in 2020 and 2021 for races cancelled during the pandemic. "Formula One can confirm the 2023 season will consist of 23 races. All existing race dates on the calendar remain unchanged," the sport said on Tuesday. That will leave a gap between round three, Australia's race in Melbourne on April 2, and Azerbaijan's Grand Prix in Baku on April 30. Sources told Reuters the Chinese GP organisers had sought a reinstatement after Beijing relaxed Covid controls but that was ruled out for logistical reasons. Bringing the race in Baku forward by a week was also considered. The 2023 calendar features the return of Qatar in October, a debut night race in Las Vegas in November and six sprint weekends. Red Bull's Dutch driver Max Verstappen will be chasing his third championship in a row when the season starts in Bahrain on March 5 after pre-season testing at the Sakhir circuit in late February. - Agencies

Riyadh trying to find path to dialog with Tehran

The kingdom then pursued a confrontational foreign policy toward the Islamic Republic, especially during the administration of former US President Donald Trump, with whom the Saudi rulers had close ties

DNA

RIYADH: Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud says the kingdom is trying to find a path to dialog with Iran as the best way to resolve differences, amid a diplomatic process between the two neighbors aimed at mending strained ties. Speaking at a panel at the World Economic Forum in Davos on Tuesday, the chief Saudi diplomat stated that a decision by Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf states to focus on their economies and development was a "strong signal to Iran and others in the region that there is a pathway beyond traditional arguments and disputes towards joint prosperity." He added, "I think the more we can build a sense of cooperation in the region, the more we can work

together, the more we can deliver not just prosperity for our people, but also for our immediate region and beyond." Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian expressed hope on Friday during a visit to Lebanon that diplomatic ties between Tehran and Riyadh could be restored through dialog between them. "We are ready to restore ties, and such a move would have positive repercussions on the entire region," Amir-Abdollahian told a news conference in Beirut. He also said the first steps should be resuming talks on reopening Iran's consulate in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, and Saudi Arabia's consulate in the holy northeastern Iranian city of Mashhad for citizens interested in religious travel. "But as we see it, Saudi Arabia is not completely ready to work on... normalizing ties," Amir-Abdollahian told reporters. Last month, Amir-Abdollahian held a meeting with his Saudi counterpart on the sidelines of a conference in Jordan. The spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry suggested later that diplomats from the Islamic Republic would most likely launch a new round of tension-easing negotiations with their Saudi counter-



parts in Baghdad. "Our stance regarding Saudi Arabia and the process of negotiations between the two countries is quite clear. Fortunately, it seems that the two sides see eye to eye about the constructive and positive course of talks," Nasser Kan'ani said at a weekly press briefing in Tehran on December 26. He added that five rounds of talks mediated by the Iraqi government have been held between the official delegations of the two countries in Baghdad. "Given the status quo, it is likely to hold a new round of talks in Baghdad. Our Iraqi friends put in good efforts as to hosting previous talks between the two countries, and fortunately they continue their endeavors. The Iraqi side is trusted by both sides, and its efforts to create suitable conditions for holding a new round of dialog are welcomed,"

he noted. Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic relations with Iran in January 2016 after Iranian protesters, enraged by the execution of prominent Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr Baqir al-Nimr by the Saudi government, stormed its embassy in Tehran. The kingdom then pursued a confrontational foreign policy toward the Islamic Republic, especially during the administration of former US President Donald Trump, with whom the Saudi rulers had close ties. Saudi Arabia appears to have recently changed its antagonistic course, showing willingness through diplomatic channels and third parties to mend fences with Tehran and resume bilateral relations. The two neighbors remain deeply divided over a set of regional issues, mainly the destructive and protracted Saudi war on Yemen.

PPP, PTI workers clash in Karachi

FROM PAGE 01

Keamari DC maintained that PTI workers forcibly entered the office and harassed staff. Keamari DC MukhtiarAbro, who is also the district returning officer, told Dawn.com that the PTI workers had "encircled" his office. He alleged that PTI's Ali Haider Zaidi and others forcibly entered the premises and broke the locks. "The PTI workers ransacked the computer and harassed staff including female returning officers who were busy performing their electoral duty," he said. He further said that PTI workers threw stones and broke the windows of several vehicles. He said police took action against the hooliganism and removed the party workers from the DC office. Abro said a first information report would be lodged against PTI leaders and workers over the incident. A handout issued by the Keamari police said SSP Fida Hussain Janwari had reached the spot and brought the situation under control. The statement said district police arrived at the scene with water cannons and other equipment to deal with any emergency situation. It added that the situation was currently under control and all political workers had been dispersed. Zaidi, on the other hand, alleged that he had gone to meet his candidates and talk to the press when PPP "goons prepared with stones and under full protection of Sindh police attacked". "Media men and PTI workers sustained injuries," he said.

JI threatens to block roads

FROM PAGE 01

PPP's conduct and the style of politics are based on Karachi enmity." He slammed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for failing to address the complaints. He said, "The returning officers (ROs) changed the LG polls results under the nose of the Election Commissioner [Sindh]. How can we say that the election commissioner is performing his duties properly when ROs are manipulating the results?" Hafiz Naeem said that the election commissioner should tell people if he is unable to take any action due to pressure.

4 security forces men embrace martyrdom

FROM PAGE 01

general area Talsar, Hoshab" on a tip-off about the presence of terrorists. "As a result of continuous intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) of the area, a location of terrorists was identified and security forces were heli inserted [to nab the terrorists]." The statement said that while the forces were establishing positions to cut off escape routes, four terrorists opened fire on the troops. During the heavy exchange of fire, all four terrorists were killed, while a cache of arms and ammunition including improvised explosive devices (IEDs) was also recovered from their possession, the ISPR added.

KP Assembly dissolved

FROM PAGE 01

unless sooner dissolved, stand dissolved at the expiration of forty-eight hours after the chief minister has so advised. The notification said that the caretaker CM would be appointed by the governor in consultation with Mahmood and Durraani. The governor called on them to provide the names of their nominees for the position by January 21. He added that until the appointment of the caretaker CM, Mahmood will continue to hold office to perform the day-to-day affairs of the province.

Briefs

'No beds, doctors': UK healthcare crisis laid bare

LONDON: Five-year-old Yusuf Mahmud Nazir died from pneumonia after being sent home, despite a doctor describing his tonsillitis as the worst he had ever seen. Martin Clark, 68, was driven to a hospital by his family after they waited 45 minutes for an ambulance when he suffered chest pains at home. He later died after a cardiac arrest. As nurses went on strike on Wednesday, with its focus on low pay, the extent of the crisis facing patients in the UK's state-run National Health Service (NHS) is being laid bare.

"We go to work every day as nurses, and we do our best, and our best isn't enough right now, and that's because our workload keeps increasing and our resources aren't matching that," Orla Dooley, an accident emergency nurse, told AFP. "It (the strike) is about people's mums who are at home in the community having heart attacks and not having treatment because there are no ambulances to go out to them. 'It's about your dad not having surgery for cancer because there's no bed for him to go to after his operation. And it's about your granny dying on a ward by herself because there's no nurse to hold her hand because there just aren't enough nurses. That's what it's about.' The situation is being described as the worst crisis since the NHS was set up in 1948, with a particular focus on accident and emergency (A&E) but which also includes longer waiting times for other appointments and treatment. - APP

UNICEF urges Int'l community to support flood victims

ISLAMABAD: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has urged the international community to invest in building human capital and resiliency, particularly in rural Sindh and Balochistan where much of the devastation occurred due to recent floods.

"These vulnerable communities need reliable access to essential services such as healthcare, nutrition, education, protection, hygiene, and sanitation, especially those in remote and underserved communities," UNICEF Representative in Pakistan, Abdullah Fadil said at a press briefing at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. He said, "The rains have ended, and sadly yet 4 million children fight for survival near contaminated and stagnant flood waters." With homes destroyed, they are suffering a bitter winter, without decent shelter.

He said, "Villages turned into islands, children turned into orphans, families still living under scraps of plastic in literally freezing conditions." He said, "In the flood-affected districts, about 1.6 million children were already suffering from severe acute malnutrition, while another six million children suffer from stunting, a condition that can cause irreversible damage to children's brains, bodies and immune systems. UNICEF expects this situation to have worsened exponentially." - APP



ISLAMABAD: President RCCI Saqib Rafiq presenting a Souvenir to Federal Minister for Power Khurram Dastgir on the occasion of All Pakistan Chambers presidents conference, held at Islamabad Serena Hotel. - DNA

Canada to send Ukraine 200 armoured vehicles

DNA
KYIV: Canada's Defence Minister Anita Anand has made a surprise visit to Ukraine and announced Wednesday more military support to help Kyiv respond to Russia's invasion. Anand said Ottawa will be donating an additional 200 Canadian-made armoured vehicles worth \$90 million. The vehicles are being purchased from Roshel, a company based in Mississauga, Ont. This is part of the additional \$500 million in military aid for Ukraine announced by Prime Minister Trudeau in November 2022, a government statement said.

On her one-day visit to the capital, Anand also held a bilateral meeting with Ukraine's Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov.

"During today's productive visit to Kyiv, I met with Ukrainian officials including my friend and colleague, Minister Reznikov, to learn about Ukraine's most pressing security needs, and to reaffirm Canada's steadfast support," said Anand in a statement Wednesday.

Siraj demands Zardari accept public mandate

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Siraj ul Haq Wednesday demanded Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari accept the public's mandate and hoped that Bilawal-led party would listen to JI in putting an end to the confusion. Sunday's local body polls held in Karachi were marred by delayed results, which prompted rigging claims from JI, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), and other parties. However, when the results came out, PPP stood victorious, with JI trailing right behind it. Not accepting the results, workers of both parties - JI and PTI - held back-to-back protests in Karachi, leading to injuries of some as clashes took place. The PPP, which is the leading party according to unofficial results, has hinted at joining hands with JI for Karachi's "betterment", but ruled out forming government with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Major emitters must assist clean energy transition

Minister Rehman said that the commitment towards net-zero by 2050 loses its meaning if the 1.5C target was no longer achievable

DAVOS: Federal Minister for Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman on Wednesday said, "The historic emitters responsible for the majority of global GHG emissions need to move resources to allow developing and emerging economies to make the energy transition to renewable without compromising development." The Federal Minister was at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting being held in Davos. She was speaking at a panel discussion titled 'Bending the Emissions Curve' where she was joined by the Chairman of the Board, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Shunichi Miyayama, Chief Executive Officer, Heineken, Dolf van den Brink, and Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Baker Hughes Lorenzo Simonelli.

The panel was moderated by CNBC's journalist and anchor, Steve Sedgwick. Minister Rehman said that the commitment towards net-zero by 2050 loses its meaning if the 1.5C target was no longer achievable. "We are on an ambitious track to net-zero but all of that takes a huge pause if the 1.5C target set under the Paris Agreement is under threat, as we are struggling to keep it alive. If we continue business as usual, we are

hurting towards a 3.0C world which will be a race against time for many of us. We experience the burn much faster and harder than anybody else, and in a kind of scale that nobody has seen. We are in geographies of extreme vulnerability and our experience of climate change and global warming is very nonlinear," she stated. Minister Rehman highlighted that the pledges and commitments toward clean energy transition are quickly abandoned when there is a threat to the world's addiction to excess energy.

"A global reset is needed because the addiction to energy and consumption is taking away the futures of those that live in the arc of vulnerability, and also of those living in the developed world. It will be too late to change our addictions and habits to energy consumption as we are speeding towards a planet that's burning up, with investment in renewable energy not where it needs to be to save the planet. The Minister remarked that in tackling climate change, we are still working in silos which is counterproductive. "At the moment, there is no standardization of the best practices for regulatory frameworks that could be shared across the board

through global governance frameworks and multilateralism. For instance, if such a framework was made available for carbon pricing mechanism, it will then become a regulatory practice that the governments will feel bound to work with. We are still in silos because the multilateral system is not able to overcome the nationalisms that rise up every time there is a threat," she said. Minister Rehman said that moral imperative only is not enough, and there is a need for a system with clear incentives and penalties as the current system is not working. Senator Sherry Rehman met with CEO and Co-founder of Planet Labs, Will Marshall. - APP



Erdoğan hints at May 14 for long-awaited elections

ANKARA: "The Turkish people will stop this 'table for six,' 73 years after the one-party era ended in Türkiye," said President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on Wednesday, indicating May 14 as the potential date for the much anticipated general election. The election is formally scheduled for June 18, 2023, but officials have been hinting in recent weeks that they may move the polls ahead because of religious holidays and school examinations. Speaking to his ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party) convention in the capital Ankara, Erdoğan recalled the day Türkiye held its first free elections in 1950 when a May 14 vote was won by Adnan Menderes, the prime minister of the era who was toppled by a military coup in 1960 and was executed a year later. "The late Menderes said on May 14, 1950,

'Enough, the people will have their say,' and emerged victorious at the ballot box. Our people will answer (the opposition) on the same day 73 years later," remarked Erdoğan. The AK Party is currently running together with the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) under the People's Alliance. The opposition, helmed by the Republican People's Party (CHP), is still struggling to unite around their own Nation Alliance, along with the Felicity Party (SP), the Good Party (IP), the Future Party (GP), the Democrat Party (DP) and the Democracy and Progress Party (DEVA). The president named the so-called "table for six" opposition bloc as "coup sycophants who are eager to accept a foreign mandate" in his speech and said they did not want people to determine their future by a democratic election. "Still, we will launch the Century of Türkiye, in spite of them," he said, referring to his party's vision in and after the centenary of the Republic of Türkiye.

Pakistan, Russia review opportunities for deepening bilateral relations

The Russian delegation, comprising 80 members, is carrying out on-going technical consultations in various areas, including trade and investment, Agriculture, Energy, and Industry

DNA
ISLAMABAD: Eighth meeting of the Pakistani-Russian Inter-governmental

tal Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation started in Islamabad on Wednesday. Secretary Economic Affairs Dr. Kazim Niaz represented Pakistan, while

Deputy Director of the Department of Ministry of Economic Development of Russian Federation Mr. Israfil Ali-Zade represented his country.

The three-day session aims at reviewing the existing areas of cooperation and finding new opportunities for further deepening the bilateral relations. The Russian delegation, comprising 80 members, is carrying out on-going technical consultations in various areas, including trade and investment, Agriculture, Energy, and Industry.

Other areas under consultation are education, science, technology, and information and communication technologies. The groups from both sides will hold technical consultations in working sessions on their respective agenda items.



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