



Islamabad POST

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Chris Hipkins confirmed as New Zealand's next PM

Detailed News On Page-08

Iran likely to withdraw from NPT, says FM

Detailed News On Page-08



No 1 Swiatek knocked out of Australian Open

Detailed News On Page-06



Imran Khan also condemns incident

Desecration of Quran not acceptable: PM

Shehbaz Sharif demands of Swedish govt to take action against the culprit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday strongly condemned the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden by a far-right Danish politician. Leader of the Danish party Stram Kurs (Hard Line), Rasmus Paludan, burned a copy of the Holy Quran outside the Turkish Embassy in Stockholm. Multiple Muslim countries, including Pakistan, Turkiye, Jordan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have condemned the abhorrent activity. PM Shehbaz Sharif, took to Twitter to condemn the hurtful act, saying the "garb of freedom of expression can't be used to hurt religious emotions of Muslims". The Tweet read: "No words are enough to adequately condemn the horrible act of desecration of the Holy Quran by a right-wing extremist in Sweden. The garb of freedom of expression cannot be used to hurt the religious emotions of 1.5 billion Muslims across the world." PTI's Chairman Imran Khan also condemned the desecration of

Who is Rasmus Paludan?

DNA



STOCKHOLM: Rasmus Paludan (born 2 January 1982) is a Danish-Swedish politician, lawyer and far-right extremist. He is the leader of the far-right Danish political party Stram Kurs ("Straight Course" or "Hard Line") which he founded in 2017. Paludan has held several events in which the Quran was burned, leading to counter-protests, some marked by violence and burning of cars. Paludan calls for putting expelled foreign citizens unwilling and unable to travel back to their country in detention camps in North-Eastern Greenland, which is a Danish island. In June 2020, Paludan held a demonstration in Aarhus, Denmark, when a 52-year-old man pulled out a knife, entered the cordoned-off area, and ran towards Paludan. Police fired a warning shot, but the

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Ulema urge Sweden to take action

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ulemas-Mashaykh and religious scholars of different religious schools of thought from all over Pakistan have strongly condemned the act of desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden. In a released statement Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council and Ulemas-Mashaykh from all over the country strongly denounced the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden stating that this senseless and provocative Islamophobic act is unacceptable and this senseless act has hurt the religious sentiments of Muslims around the world. Ulemas-Mashaykh stated that these abhorrent acts cannot be covered in view of the expression of the right to freedom of expression or opinion. The religious leadership said that Islam is a religion of peace and Muslims including in Pakistan, believe in respecting all religions. The international community needs to show a common resolve against Islamophobia,

Continued on Page 06

Ji chief condemns desecration

OIC, UN should stop hatred against Islam

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Emir Sirajul Haq has condemned the disgraceful act of desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden. Addressing workers convention on Sunday, the JI chief said the extremists practice under the grab of so-called freedom of expression were unbearable to more than 1.5 billion Muslims across the world. It badly hurt the sentiments of every believer, he added, demanding the rulers of Muslim world and the OIC take strict action against the incident. He said Islamophobia had reached to unprecedented peak in Europe and some other parts of the world. The OIC and the UNO, he said, should develop a mechanism to stop hatred against Islam, Muslims and Islamic culture. Talking about political and economic situation of the country, he said the PDM, the PPP and the PTI governments failed to fix the economy and check the inflation. The people of Pakistan, he said, tested repeatedly he three parties but they deceived the masses every time they were provided an opportunity to govern the country.

PTI REJECTS APPOINTMENT Mohsin appointed as Punjab Caretaker CM

The PDM had proposed name of media house owner

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD, Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Sunday gave final approval to the name of the opposition's nominated Syed Mohsin Naqvi as Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister. The ECP has also issued the notification of the caretaker CM Punjab. This decision was made by the ECP in a meeting presided over by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja as the deadline to pick a caretaker chief minister for Punjab drew closer. The ECP has to pick from four nominees - Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi, Ahad Khan Cheema, Sardar Ahmad Nawaz Sukhera, and Naveed Akram Cheema. The opposition picked Mohsin Naqvi, and Ahad Cheema while the treasury selected Nawaz Sukhera and Naveed Cheema. Since Saturday, the ECP worked on preparing the profiles of four candidates nominated by the treasury and opposition leaders of the dissolved Punjab Assembly for the selection of the caretaker chief minister of the province. The detailed profiles of the nominees explained their qualifications and performance in their respective fields. The ECP secretary presented profiles of the nominees in today's meeting after which the ECP announced the final name of the CM. The matter to pick the Punjab caretaker CM came to the Election Commission when a parliamentary committee constituted by the Punjab Assembly speaker failed to build a consensus on a candidate for the slot. The parliamentary committee of the government and opposition members met on Friday last, however, they failed



to reach a consensus on a single name. The government had proposed the names of Sardar Ahmad Nawaz Sukhera and Naveed Akram Cheema while the opposition had nominated Syed Mohsin Raza Naqvi and Ahad Khan Cheema for the slot of the caretaker chief minister of Punjab. During the war on terror during Musharraf's reign, Mohsin Naqvi, as the regional head, demonstrated his skills throughout the world through his lively reporting. He also interviewed martyred former premier Benazir Bhutto who reportedly made her last call to him before martyrdom in 2007. Meanwhile, the PTI has rejected the name of Moshin Naqvi. Senior PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry in his Tweet said that the Election Commission has made a controversial appointment. The outgoing Chief Minister Punjab Ch. Parvez Elahi also rejected the name and said election drill conducted under him will not be credible. According to PTI course, Imran Khan has asked his legal team to challenge this appointment in the apex court. He told his party workers that Mohsin Naqvi played 'key role' in the C-pher issue and remained instrumental in dislodging the PTI government.

Ten killed in shooting in USA

Another 10 people were taken to local hospitals

NEWS DESK

NEW YORK: Ten people were killed in a mass shooting in the city of Monterey Park, California, at a ballroom dance venue late on Saturday, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said. The suspected gunman fled the scene, and police were still trying to find him, the department said early on Sunday morning. There was no information yet about a motive for the attack, the department added. Another 10 people were taken to local hospitals to be treated for injuries, and at least one was in critical condition.

The shooting took place after 10 pm around the location of a Chinese Lunar New Year celebration held in Monterey Park, US media reported. Footage posted on social media showed injured people on stretchers being taken to ambulances by emergency staff. Around the scene of the shooting - reported to have been at a dance club - police guarded cordoned-off streets, the video showed. "Our hearts go out to those who lost loved ones tonight in our neighbouring city, Monterey Park, where a mass shooting just occurred," Los Angeles City Controller Kenneth Mejia said in a tweet. Tens of thousands of people had attended the festival earlier in the day.

Briefs

OIC strongly condemns sacrilegious act in Sweden

NEWS DESK

ISLAMABAD: Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Houssein Ibrahim Taha on Sunday condemned in the strongest terms the vile act of desecration of the Holy Quran by far-right activists in front of the Turkish Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden. "The OIC Secretary-General urges the Swedish authorities to take necessary measures against the perpetrators of this hate crime. He calls for increased international efforts to prevent re-occurrence of such acts and for solidarity to fight Islamophobia."

FM to visit Uzbekistan on Jan 23-24

DNA

ISLAMABAD Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will pay an official visit to Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 23-24 January, 2023 to attend the 26th meeting of Council of Ministers (COM) of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). The theme of the conference is "Year of Strengthening Connectivity". The Minister of Foreign Affairs will address the Council and will separately hold bilateral meetings with participating ministers of member states and other dignitaries on the sidelines of the event.

Politicians, establishment blamed for mess

The PML-N leaders have been holding non-partisan talks on the current economic and political situation in Pakistan

BUREAU REPORT

QUETTA: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader and former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Sunday said that Pakistan's political leadership and establishment are responsible for the current situation in the country. Abbasi expressed these views in a joint press conference with senior party leader Miftah Ismail, former senator Mustafa Nawaz Khokhar, and ex-Balochistan chief minister Aslam Raisani in Quetta. He maintained that the country's political system does not have the capacity to solve the problems of the people. The former prime minister said that

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Afghanistan faced with famine-like situation

A latest report reveals that 28.3 million people in Afghanistan need life-saving aid

Comment

SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Whatever might be stance on the part of Taliban-calling itself Emirate Islami but the situation is worsening in all over Afghanistan where now millions of people are in dire need of food, medicines and other items of daily needs. Ironic to mention that almost all US led allies and the United Nations as well are reluctant to fulfill its responsibilities at this crucial stage. A latest report reveals that 28.3 million people in Afghanistan need life-saving aid in 2023 - that's a 350% increase in just five years. Economic decline, climate change, hunger and the effects of conflict have all driven needs higher and higher. Though further details of 2023 Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs Overview is awaited but it confirmed famine like situation for over 28 mil-

lion people, majority of whom now stranded and their lives are at mercy of gun-toting Taliban- who are considered very loyal to neighbouring Pakistan spy agencies, playing key role in long standing Afghanistan conflict since early 70's. Certain journalists and public opinion makers, stranded in Kabul and several other main cities and towns of Afghanistan, believe that besides non-recognition of Taliban regime by the international community, Taliban's own interpretation of Islamic doctrine has badly affected the routine economic activities including agriculture sector. Majority of the citizens prefers to be confined to homes as they fearing torture, aggression and even picking up at hands of Taliban on one or the other pretext. Likewise due to shuttering of girls' schools and banning women from work outside of

Continued on Page 06

WINTER ESCAPE

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Life saving drugs shortage in Attock

People ask United Nations World Health Organization and Government of Pakistan to ensure production of live saving drugs

QAZI SHOEB

ATTOCK: In line with other parts of the country, life saving drugs are also found missing from the local medical stores of the District Attock as a result of prevailing serious deficit in the national exchequer of Pakistan. This was disclosed by the Member Executive Body Pharmacist Union Attock Mr. Dastagir Bhatti while talking to the media here in Attock on Saturday. Replying various questions of the media persons, Mr. Dastagir Bhatti said that supply of more than 50 essential lifesaving medicines for cardiac, hepatitis, liver, lungs, brain, hypertension, hemophilia, paralysis, hemiplegia and other diseases has been interrupted by the pharmaceutical companies due to fluctuation in the prices of raw material being imported from different

countries through foreign exchange in US Dollars reached at the alarming proportion leaving uncontrolled devaluation of Pakistani currency on daily basis as well. He said that shortage of most necessary medicines include are Inj Rhogam, Inj. Rhofylac, Tab Co Oles-ta, Duac Gel, Syp Trimetabol, Tab Thyronorm, Syp Duphalac, Tab Prothiadin, Tab Prothiadin, Tab Iberet Folic, Tab Epival, Tab Tegrol, Tab Cardura, Tab Fasign, Duofilm lotion, Tab Artifin, Syp Tixlix, Tab Eziday Duo, Tab Telfast D, Tab Spiromide, Syp Maltofer, Humulin insulin, Inj Heprin, Inj Cardar-one, Inj Epival, Inj Streptokinase (heart attack), Inj Gravinate, Inj Augmentin, Tab Diovon, Syp Inventive, and even the pharma companies have also stopped the production of so many other medicines which are required to save the human life during their surgery or hospitalization nearing

to death. He said that people can live without bread for some time but patient can not wait for their medicines to save their lives.

Mr. Bhatti further said that all medical store owners are repeating the list of short medicines to their relevant whole sale dealers but they disappointed when they seemed reluctant to fulfill their requirements since long. He said that a number of pharmaceutical companies are planning to close and shift their business from Pakistan as the Government is not in a position to get opened LCs for import of raw materials from other countries.

He demanded of the United Nations World Health Organization and Government of Pakistan to ensure production of live saving drugs failing which death toll of the patients of serious diseases will be increased beyond their normal ratio, he added.

Police recover dead body

STAFF REPORT

ATTOCK: Attock Police recovered dead body of 11 years old school going boy molested and strangled to death was found in nearby fields at the outskirts village Mangial with in jurisdiction of new airport police station of Fatehjanghere on Saturday. Attock Police said that 11 years old Sufain- a student of local school went missing after leaving his house in village Mangial. Later his dead body with strangled signs was found in the fields in outskirts of village. On getting information, a police party of new airport police station reached at the spot and moved the body to tehsil headquarters hospital Fatehjang. According to hospital sources, the preliminary medical examination proved that the boy was molested before strangulated to death with rope. The new airport police registered a case and started further investigation.

Extra force deputed on snow hit areas of Motorway

ABBOTTABAD: SP Hazara Motorway Syed Saqib Shah said that after receiving the fresh spell of snow last night, additional personnel has been deployed in Battal and Chinarkot for assistance and convenience of passengers. He expressed these views while talking to the media here Sunday.

He further said that an awareness campaign was also launched in these areas since the onset of winter, while officials were deputed for awareness/ information at Chinarkot and Kuzabanda toll plazas. Saqib Shah said that snow-clearing machines have also been mobilized to clear the carriageway for all kinds of traffic. He said that before traveling in the snow-hit areas of the Hazara motorway, make sure that the vehicle is fully fit and the driver is experienced in driving on snow. Moreover, the road can be slippery at night and early in the morning due to black ice which is a post snow phenomenon, so avoid unnecessary travel during these times, adding SP Hazara motorway said. He said that negligence and careless driving can cause severe losses, in case of any emergency, for any help or information contact the Motorway Police helpline number 130. Besides other hilly areas of the Hazara division, the intermittent snowfall continued in the Battal and Chinarkot areas of Hazara Motorway for the third consecutive day on Sunday.

Court Notice

IN THE COURT OF YAQOOB ALI SHAHZAD CIVIL JUDGE GUJAR KHAN RAWALPINDI

Suit for deceleration Ali Asghar versus Mushtaq Husain etc Notice To, through legal heirs Tazim Akhtar (widow), Azhar Iqbal (son) Rizwana Kosar, Rubina Kosar, R/o Ghousin Post Office Mohra Bhatiya Tehsil Gujar Khan District Rawalpindi. The service through ordinary means is difficult, so you are informed to attend the court personally, through counsel or attorney on 23-01-2023 at 9 am avoid exparte proceeding.

Hexing signs agreement with Pakistan firm

DNA

ISLAMABAD: China's Hexing Group signed a strategic distribution agreement with Pakistani firm Inovi Technologies to expand the presence of its solar energy products with the goal of becoming one of Pakistan's top brands.

Gwadar Pro quoting a statement issued by the Hangzhou-based company, stated that the agreement will allow LIVOLTEK, a member of Hexing Group, to expand its distribution and product availability throughout the



country. The signing ceremony took place in Karachi between Zeeshan Mianoor (CEO Inovi Technologies) and Jin Hong Meng (General Manager Pakistan).

Hangzhou Livoltek Power Co., Ltd. is present in several countries, including an office in Lahore, Pakistan, according to the company's website.

Candle Making Workshop at PNCA

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Council of the Arts hosted an exciting one day Candle Making Workshop, conducted by Ms. Anita Nadeem a professional interior designer, architect and candle making is one of her many skills today at the PNCA, Islamabad. The workshop was a huge success and was attended by more than 20 participants from different walks of life. This workshop

was an incredible opportunity for the youth to learn from a master in the field. The workshop began with an overview of different wax types used in candle making and detailed information on soy wax. Participants discovered its properties from heating temperature to its pouring temperature. The participants got to learn mixing of color dyes and fragrances to develop unique and customized scented candles. By the end of the workshop everyone has the

necessary skill and knowledge to decorate and design their own scented candle with a creative touch. Anita developed a passion for candle making and it works as a creative therapy for her. She experiments with fragrances, colors and also the containers. She is an architect by profession and loves to design meaningful spaces and objects which led her to design unique containers for her candles. Recently she set up Kororo, a furniture design studio which explores innovative and environmentally conscious approaches to furniture design. She believes the act of candle making brings a sense of joy and calmness to our chaotic lives. Ms. Anita gave a demo before the commencement of the workshop and guided the participants throughout.



LAHORE: Member National Assembly Mr. Abid Raza calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif at his residence. Special Assistant to the PM Mr. Atta ullah Tarar is also present on the occasion. —DNA

Rs3.2 trillion spent on debt servicing
Development expenses were slashed by 50% to create room for other expenses, according to government sources

MONITORING DESK

ISLAMABAD: Amid reluctance to opt for debt restructuring, interest expenses have shot-up significantly to Rs2.57 trillion during the first half of this fiscal year. This equals to 65% of the annual debt servicing budget and is forcing the government to cut out its other expenses — except those on defence. Sources in the Ministry of Finance told that during the July-December period of the current fiscal year, there was an alarming increase of 77% in the cost of interest on the federal government debt stock. The fresh provisional details suggest that, due to the precarious situation, there has been a cumulative reduction of 15% in all other non-development expenditures, excluding defence. The development expenses were slashed by 50% to create room for other expenses, according to government sources. The finance ministry paid about Rs2.57 trillion in interest costs, up by Rs1.1 trillion or 77%, according to the sources. For the current fiscal year, the government had budgeted Rs3.95 trillion for interest expenses but 65% of it has been consumed in just six months.

Thar Million Tree Program a miracle in desert

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Near the Thar Block-II integrated mine-power project located in the Thar desert, a million trees and shrubs are striving to grow their roots underground deeply to store water and survive in the harsh arid environment, showing a kind of enduring resilience and vitality, and bringing a ray of hope to the people and creatures living here. According to a report published by Gwadar Pro on Saturday, this is a desert garden of 100 acres created by Thar Block-II integrated mine-power project under the Thar Million Tree Program in 2017 and has been expanding since then. The annual carbon dioxide reduction from the plants is about 600 tons per year. It's hard to maintain a garden in the desert, and

even harder to do so near a coalfield, but the team of the project has made it with tenacious efforts and a spirit of endurance. The area where Thar coalfield is located has a subtropical desert climate, featured with little to no rainfall and generally hot temperatures year-round. The Chinese constructors who first arrived here were 'greeted' by nothing but sand and dust all over the sky. They had to live in makeshift homes made from containers, obtain water from deep wells dug by themselves and face load-shedding from time to time. Things have changed a lot now. With 6 years of devotion to tree planting in the desert, the landscape in this area has been transformed significantly. Seven types of desert plants, such as Rhodesea Grass, Aloe vera, and Pennicium had been plant-

ed year by year, starting from one tree to a patch of plants to the sea of green. "Due to the harsh and arid environment here, we need to set up seeding room first to cultivate saplings, and then transplant them outdoors after irrigation," Liu Zhe, commercial manager of CMEC Pakistan Engineering (Pvt) Ltd told Gwadar Pro. Adopting this method, the team had also developed an ecological garden (50 acres), a green park (65 acres), an olive forest (10 acres), and a jubube orchard. The vast area of plants brushes the barren land with a refreshing green, distinguishing it from other places in the Thar desert.

"Villagers are very glad to see the green land in the desert and have been using the leaves of these trees as fodder for their animals," Liu said.

ICT admin to hold Islamabad Health Championship 2023

ISLAMABAD: Office of Chief Commissioner Islamabad has announced "Islamabad Health Championship 2023" which will commence on February 5. According to the details, participants would register themselves in six categories including Girls Kids Health Camp, Girls Health School Camp, Girls Health College Camp, Boys Kid Health Camp, Boys Health School Camp, and Boys Health College Camp. From each

category one camp will be selected as a winner and would receive awards and certificates. The criteria of the contest would be set by the Islamabad Healthcare Regulatory Authority and Pakistan Medical Council. All the students in the age group of 5 to 16 and enrolled in the schools of Islamabad would be eligible to participate in the contest. Teams of public health

experts would also visit schools and colleges to provide awareness sessions and health-related training to students and teachers. The participants would be able to register themselves for free till January 31, 2023. The winners would be announced on the social media handlers of Islamabad Capital Territory Administration and Capital Development Authority.



CHINIOT: People purchasing Government subsidize flour at Shahi Mandi. —APP

PRCS provides medical treatment to 141,063 patients

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) has provided medical treatment to 141,063 patients through 28 Mobile Health Units (MHUs) under the Monsoon Emergency Flood Response Operation 2022. The PRCS has reached out 99,697 people through health and hygiene promotion activities and distributed 410,871 inclusive health and hygiene kits in the flood-hit areas, a release. The health facilities included

ed the provision of free-of-cost check-ups, tests, treatment and medicines while the society has also provided first aid services to 3124 people. Besides health and hygiene facilities, the PRCS has provided 2.80 million liters of safe drinking water regularly (3.818 households are benefiting from 02 water treatment plants on daily basis). The PRCS has distributed 31,269 family tents, 247,586 hot

meal packs and prepaid cards to 1700 households for restoring family links. Pakistan Red Crescent (PRC) is a humanitarian organization, dedicated to improving lives of vulnerable segments of society, since 1947. PRC endeavours to strengthen humanitarian and social values by promoting the ideals of tolerance, non-violence, sympathy, love and respect for others in society. —APP

Mobile phone imports decreases

ISLAMABAD: The import of mobile phones into the country has witnessed a decrease of 66.73 percent during the six months of current fiscal year (2022-23) as compared to the corresponding period of last year. Pakistan imported mobile phones worth US \$ 362.862 million during July-December (2022-23) as compared to the imports of US \$ 1090.647 million during July-December (2021-22), showing decline of 66.73 percent, according to the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS). Meanwhile, on year-to-year basis, the import of mobile phones also dipped by 69.10 percent during the month of December 2022. —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



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Rawal Town.....	5773343

Water Tank

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World must condemn crime against humanity: Envoy

Khalid Rahman termed the martyrs of Black January as a source of inspiration for all the people fighting for liberation and self-determination

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The world must condemn the brutality and violence of oppressor states as crimes against humanity and support the liberation struggle of oppressed people and their right to self-determination under international law, stated Khazar Farhadov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, while paying tributes to the martyrs of the Black January massacre by Soviet troops in Azerbaijan. The remembrance session titled "The National Will and Determination of Azerbaijani People: Commemorating January 20, 1990", was arranged by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS), Islamabad, and Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Pakistan. The well-attended session was also addressed by Khalid Rahman, chairman, IPS, and Ambassador (r) Syed Abrar Hussain, vice chairman, IPS, Khalid Taimur Akram, executive director, Pakistan Research Center for a Community with Shared Future, and Dr. Tughrul Yamin, senior research fellow IPS and former dean, CIPS, NUST. The martyrs of January 20, 1990, are never to be forgotten as they paved the way to Azerbaijan's liberation and sacrificed their



lives for the territorial integrity, freedom, national identity, and sovereignty that Azerbaijan today enjoys, said Khazar Farhadov. Commemorating the memory of the sacrifices of his compatriots who were subjected to violence, he apprised that January 20, 1990, marks a terrible tragedy, known as Black January, in the history of Azerbaijan as thousands of Soviet troops invaded

Baku, brutally killed around 150 unarmed civilians, including children, women, and elderly people, injured hundreds of peaceful people, and unlawfully imprisoned around 800 people in one night. In direct opposition, around one million Azerbaijanis gathered in the streets in an unmatched act of solidarity and for 40 days continued the patriotic war. After only one and a half years, Azerbaijan

regained its independence as the Republic of Azerbaijan. Unfortunately, there are many similarities between this degree of aggression and today's world where acts of violent extremism and terrorism motivated by hatred are at work to crush the freedom struggle and resistance of oppressed people, like Kashmiris and Palestinians, noted the speakers. Azerbaijan's struggle for liberation and self-

termination lies parallel with the struggle of Muslims of Kashmir and Palestine. Both Pakistan and Azerbaijan have always supported the struggle of the people for liberation. Owing to the history of similar struggles and cordial relations based on common cultural heritage, shared perception of issues, and cooperation at international forums, Pakistan has always supported the Azeri cause against Armenia. Similar support has been extended by Azerbaijan to the cause of Kashmir, the speakers observed. However, the rapidly changing global landscape now mandates deeper cooperation between Muslim states to present a strengthened stance and unity. In this regard, Pakistan and Azerbaijan must strengthen their bilateral ties and work for common causes, interests, and challenges with the help of different actors like think tanks, said speakers.

Khalid Rahman termed the martyrs of Black January as a source of inspiration for all the people fighting for liberation and self-determination. He highlighted that Pakistan and Azerbaijan must strengthen support for this cause in Kashmir and foster their enduring cultural, geopolitical, religious, and diplomatic relations through various channels at regional as well as international level.

Pollution needs to be checked

My purpose of writing this



letter to highlight the issues of Pollution. Pollution in our city is increase day by day people are effected by this environment day by day. It is a great impact of life the pollution is danger for health. All these disease are caused due to Air pollution All these disease can be solved by eliminating pollution. The city government is responsible for keeping the city clean and pollution free. The authorizes should be do something urgently to reduce the increasing pollution. Adnan Shafi Student Degree BS(SE) Riphah international university Rawalpindi

Series of activities launched to celebrate 'Chinese New Year'

ISLAMABAD: The China Cultural Center in Pakistan has launched a series of activities to grandly celebrate the 2023 Happy Chinese New Year here on Sunday. The "2023 Chinese New Year" falls on Sunday, January 22, this year, and celebrations culminate with the Lantern Festival on February 5, 2023. "Chinese New Year" is also known as "Spring Festival". It is the most important festival of the year for the Chinese nation. It is a time reserved for families. It is an important opportunity for families and friends to get together and celebrate the new year. Often, family members and relatives travel from all over the country to come together for the special event, said a press release. Chinese people strive to make this event as special as possible, often spending hours preparing food and decorations for the events of the festival. In order to celebrate the 2023 Happy Chinese New Year, the China Cultural Center in Pakistan is working with the Shanghai Municipality this year to promote the cultural. —APP

CDA to resolve issues of business community

DNA

ISLAMABAD: CDA Member Planning Waseem Bajwa, Member Finance Mazhar Hussain Shah, Head of Treasury Mian Tariq Latif and Director Estate Zahid Ijaz Tarar visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) to give a presentation to the business community on CDA auction of plots scheduled to be held on January 24-26 at Jinnah Convention Center Islamabad. The auction will include commercial, industrial, hotel, hospital, school, petrol pump, class three shopping center, farm houses and residential plots. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that CDA should focus on development works in markets and industrial areas



as including revamping of sewerage, water supply and sanitation systems, parking facility and carpeting of road to facilitate the growth of business activities. He said that parking plazas in G-9 Markaz, F-10 Markaz and Blue Area should be built on a war footing basis. He said that encroachments from markets should be removed in cooperation with market

associations. He said that work on IJP and Margalla Roads should be expedited to complete these projects soon. He said that ICCI wants to start a tree plantation drive in collaboration with CDA to improve the environment of the federal capital. Faad Waheed, Senior Vice President ICCI highlighted the issues of Industrial Areas, I-9 and I-8 sectors. He

said that additional trade should be allowed on industrial plots, the lease of industrial plots should be automatically extended up to 99 years, excessive water bills and property tax rate should be revised and the process of approval of drawings should be expedited. He said that the performance of one window should be further improved.

ANF teams fired upon in Rawalpindi

ISLAMABAD: An officer was injured when two teams of Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) came under fire in Rawalpindi and Peshawar, a private TV channel reported on Sunday. Drug smugglers opened fire on ANF teams during raids resulting in injuries to an officer who received a bullet in his arm in Dhok Munshiyah in Rawalpindi and on Nasir Bagh Road in Peshawar. Police conducted a raid in Rawalpindi to arrest drug trafficker, known as Khan who supplied drugs to youth through Facebook. During the raid, the accused opened fire on the ANF team in which one officer was injured. Lance Naik Moeen was rushed to the hospital for emergency treatment. The ANF team, with the help of the local police, launched an investigation while taking steps for arrest of the accused. In another incident in Peshawar, ANF vehicle was sprayed with bullets on Nasir Bagh Road. Luckily, no ANF officer was injured in the firing. After the officers' retaliation, the drug smugglers escaped from the scene leaving behind their vehicle. The accused were proclaimed offenders and were wanted by the ANF in several cases. During the search of their vehicle, the ANF personnel seized 10kg heroin and 10kg ice drug. An ANF spokesman said that further action was underway to arrest the culprits. —APP

Martial arts training receives spotlight in twin cities

ISLAMABAD: An elevated interest to learn martial arts has been witnessed among the youngsters of twin cities, for gaining physical and mental health along with an added skill of self-defense. Talking to APP here on Sunday, Martial Arts Trainer Irfan Bhatti said that people were choosing to learn martial arts due to four reasons, including fitness, sports, career opportunities and personal safety. He said fitness is one of the primary reasons due to which many people choose to learn martial arts. He said martial arts involve a lot of physical activity, such as striking, grappling, and cardio training which helps in improving overall fitness level and gain strength, endurance, and flexibility. He said that sport is another popular reason for learning martial arts. Individuals learn martial arts, such as Ninjitsu, Karate, Mix Martial Arts (MMA), and Taekwondo to participate in different national and international sports competitions. Irfan said that training in martial arts can also help individuals to develop discipline, focus, and mental toughness, all of which are important in other sports as well. Career opportunities are another draw for martial arts, he said adding that many professions, such as law enforcement, security, and military, require training in martial arts. He said that self-defense was an important tool in developing an individual's response upon encountering a threatening situation. It conditions the mind to defend oneself rather than covering and fleeing, he maintained. He highlighted that Islamabad Capital Police has also started Self Defense course that is offering combat skills and weapon handling. He said that private schools are also arranging martial arts classes for their students, which is enabling them to learn self-defense and remain physically fit. Irfan argued to the parents and teachers to motivate the children towards positive sports activities as full sports grounds would lead to empty hospitals. —APP

All possible facilities to tourists in Murree

RAWALPINDI The Punjab Tourism Squad has been directed to provide all possible facilities to tourists in Murree and adjoining areas. According to a Commissioner Office spokesperson, on the special directives of Secretary Tourism Punjab Shahzad Saeed and Deputy Controller/Director Department of Tourist Services Tourism Deptt Punjab Hafiz Ghazanfar, the tourism squad under

the supervision of Assistant Director Operations Punjab Tourism Squad, Syed Khuram Hassan was fully active in the field. The tourists visiting Murree to enjoy snowfall were regularly being briefed at various points. The spokesperson said that a special tourism squad was available at all important tourist spots in Murree and helpline 1421 of the tourism squad could be used in case of any difficulty.

She informed that earlier, chairing a meeting Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Saqib Manan had reviewed the snowfall season plan finalized to facilitate tourists in Murree. The responsibilities being fulfilled by all the departments concerned and the preparations finalized to deal with any emergency during heavy rains and snowfall were discussed in detail. The authorities were instructed that the clearance of the roads during snowfall would be the responsibility of the Highway Department while the Murree Expressway would be cleared by National Highway Authority. Rawalpindi Waste Management Company. —APP

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Contents

- Module 1 – Supply Chains, Demand Management, and Forecasting
- Module 2 – Global Supply Chain Networks
- Module 3 – Sourcing Products and Inventory
- Module 4 – Internal Operations and Logistics
- Module 5 – Forward and Reverse Logistics
- Module 6 – Supply Chain Relationships
- Module 7 – Supply Chain Risk
- Module 8 – Optimization, Sustainability, and Technology

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

Timings: 6 pm to 9 pm

Contents

- Basic concepts and conventions of accounting
- Budgeting
- Business and Accounting Cycles
- Profit planning
- Inventory management
- Risk and return
- Debt management
- Cost of capital
- Receivable management
- Cash flow analysis
- Concept of cost and cost accounting
- Capital budgeting
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5 Months	Sunday	January 29, 2023	3 Months	Mon & Wed	February 16, 2023

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PID K No.2113-D/22

Court Notice

In The court of Afshan Younas Civil Judge Gujrat Title Balqees Begum etc. versus: Province of Punjab etc. Suit for Declaration with consequential Relief Notice to: 3.Parvez Iqbal, 8-Khalid Iqbal Sons Rasool Bakhsh cast Jutt Warraich R/o. Chak Majoo Tehsil & District Gujrat. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendant is not to be served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 10-02-2023. Otherwise case will be decided ex party.

Court Notice

In The court of Afshan Younas Civil Judge Gujrat Title Abdul Ghafoor versus: Naseem Akhtar etc. Suit for Specific Relief with Permanent Injunction Notice to: 2-Muhammad Asif, 3-Muhammad Iqbal Sons, 4-Yasmin, 5-Tasleem Tahira, 6-Shazia, 7-Sonia Daughters Ch. Muhammad Yaseen Presently Residing England. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendant is not to be served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 9-02-2023. Otherwise case will be decided ex party.

Court Notice

In The court of Muhammad Amir Sultan Kalachi Civil Judge Gujrat Title Syed Ali Hussain etc. versus: Saleem Raza etc. Suit for Permanent Injunction Notice to: 1-Saleem Raza, Zaighum Raza Sons Ghulam Hussain R/o. Moeen-ud-Din Pur Tehsil & Distt. Gujrat. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendant is not to be served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 23-01-2023. Otherwise case will be decided ex party.

Court Notice

In The court of Mohsin Ali Civil Judge Gujrat Title Khurshed Zafar versus: Mumtaz Zafar etc. Suit for Declaration with consequential Relief etc. Notice to: 3-Muhammad Zafar S/o. Zafar Ullah Khan, 7B-Ghafar Hameed Son R/o. Mararian, 7E-Samina Begum, 8-Aqeela Khatoon Daughters Zafar Ullah Khan, Presently Residing USA. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendant is not to be served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 24-01-2023. Otherwise case will be decided ex party.

Court Notice

In The court of Afshan Younas Civil Judge Gujrat Title Khan Muhammad versus: Farhanda BiBi etc. Suit for Declaration with consequential Relief etc. Notice to: Farhanda BiBi widow of Shoukat Ali, Faiza Shoukat, Mubeen Shoukat D/o. Shoukat Ali cast Gujrat R/o. Mosa Kamal, Tehsil & District Gujrat. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendant is not to be served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 23-01-2023. Otherwise case will be decided ex party.

“Mily assets’ accumulation in Taiwan may trigger war

Seema Taher said China’s economic spread cannot be curtailed by hook or by crook. China is not only an economic might but its military strength is also unchallengeable

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Defence and geopolitical experts from Pakistan and China warn of severe economic repercussions of increasing US-Taiwan military collaboration. Overwhelming approval of the Taiwan Policy Act 2022 by the US Senate seems a green signal to setting up a near future war field in the Asia-Pacific. Though, it is believed that it would have the most profound impact in the bilateral diplomacy and arms sales, covering broad security and military assistance to support Taiwan against potential threats from Beijing. Though the experts did not rule out the chances of war between China and Taiwan, they say “china will not initiate the war while the US would try to impose on it to stop its economic spread”. The US-Taiwan new strategic partnership is also worrisome for the people of both China and Taiwan as they all believe in peace and security. The webinar was organized



by the Devcom-Pakistan (Development Communications Network) and DTN on Saturday. Lt. General (Retd) Talat Masood was the keynote speaker. Other guest speakers included Ambassador (Retd) Naghmana Naheed Hashmi and geopolitical analyst from Chengdu (China) Dr. Dan Ge, co-chair of the

News One media group Seema Taher, and Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed. Devcom-Pakistan Executive Director Munir Ahmed in his introductory remarks said the Taiwan Policy Act 2022 creates a new initiative to bolster Taiwan’s defense capabilities, providing almost \$4.5 billion in security

assistance over the next four years and designating Taiwan as a “Major Non-NATO Ally”; reforms bureaucratic practices and procedures to bolster support for Taiwan’s democratic government; provides additional support for Taiwan’s participation in international organizations and in multilateral trade

agreements; takes concrete steps to counter China’s aggressive influence campaigns. The accumulation of military assets in Taiwan may ignite a Ukraine-like situation in the Taiwan Strait. Lt. General (Retd) Talat Masood Taiwan’s heavy militarization is unwarranted and will cause a severe dent to the peace and

stability not only of the region, but global too. A weaker China will cause recession in the developed world too. No other theory will succeed but the reunification of China. Historically Taiwan has been part of China, but never reverted back to after the end of the WW-II as it was agreed among the warring countries. He said China’s economic, strategic and military growth is unprecedented in a short span of time. Its economic position will be stronger in the coming years. China is likely to take over the entire US economy, and this is what scares the US. China’s containment is not possible at this time, even engaging it in a war. The military strength is much better though not more than the US, but the Chinese people and their army is more resilient. Ambassador (Retired) Naghmana Naheed Hashmi said “One of the two centennial goals of China is the return of the lost territories and reunification of China and rejuvenation of the Chinese nation by 2049.

PM’s decision on resumption of IMF programme lauded

ISLAMABAD: Former Vice President of FPCCI Atif Ikram Sheikh on Sunday lauded the decision of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif to resume the stalled IMF programme which is necessary to improve limping economy and infuse confidence in the jittery investors. After an unnecessary delay, the government has decided to step back from its rigid position on the IMF’s bailout conditions and lean towards an early resumption of the stalled loan programme which is a very sensible choice, he said. Atif Ikram Sheikh who has also served as Chairman PVMA said that the government has invited the lender to start negotiations to sort out all outstanding issues. These issues have impeded the IMF’s ninth review for almost four months and delayed the disbursement of the next loan tranche which has destabilised the economy, he said. It is said that the government has completed its workings and now it should waste no time to close the deal that is central to stabilising Pakistan’s weakening external sector. The acceptance of IMF conditions will be against the wishes of some economic managers who oppose the free float of the rupee but they have never realised the gravity of the situation, he observed. The value of dollar is hardly a convincing reason to delay action on the IMF’s demands, especially in a situation when the lender is the last option. Atif Ikram Sheikh said that it remained to be seen whether the IMF will send its team by the end of next week or if it will wait for Pakistan to execute the actions needed to meet its conditions before the formal meeting.

Govt failed to show economic progress

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) on Sunday said the government has completely failed in the economic field and it has disappointed people and the business community. Government is more concerned about politics instead of the country which is against national interests and open violation of promises, it said. The disappointing economic performance of the government is having an impact on 220 million people and national defence as well, said Brig. (ret) Aslam Khan, Chairman of PEW. In a statement issued here today, he said that at that time all the important circles of the country are frustrated over bad governance. At this critical juncture, the priority should be the economy, but the government’s priorities are something else, due to which the economic crisis despair and anxiety are increasing. Aslam Khan said that the people hoped that the economic situation would improve by removing Miftah Ismail and appointing Ishaq Dar as the finance minister, but the idea proved wrong. Economic managers continue to stick to their wrong policies and important decisions are not being made according to the country’s conditions.—DNA

Court Notice

In The court of Afshan Younas Civil Judge Gujrat Title Zafar Iqbal versus: Muhammad Anwar etc. Suit for Declaration with consequential Relief Notice to: 1A-Nadeem, 1B-Waseem, 1C-Naveed, 1D-Tanweer Javed Sons Anwar R/o. Chah Beri Wala Gujrat City. Whereas in the above mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendant is not to be served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendant will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 10-02-2023. Otherwise case will be decided ex party. Given under my hand seal of the court this 22nd JAN., 2023

Delivering on IMF terms critical to unlock cash flow

ISLAMABAD: Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, Sustainable Development Policy Institute remarked that the perma-crisis which is a series of crisis occurring globally one after the other, has exacerbated the global inflation crisis, with inflation in Pakistan rising to 24.5% currently. He was speaking at seminar on “Pakistan’s Economy and Debt Challenges” organized by SDPI here today. He suggested that political instability globally and nationally have contributed to exacerbate the economic crisis developing into a vicious cycle. In past few years, Pakistan has managed to sail smoothly amidst the intensifying geo-political tensions, however, the future developments seem concerning. He stressed that “We must remain politically correct with the West since loans from even friendly countries have become conditional to being able to secure the next loan

installment from IMF”. “Now is perhaps time, political forces in Pakistan realize that IMF is a must despite its tough conditionalities; for the political capital taking non-popular decisions is inevitable.” He stressed that we should support the current government in availing the current IMF program and after the elections, the next government as well and demonizing IMF and international finance partners will not do any good. He warned that Pakistan is on the brink of a crisis like Sri Lanka which needs to be averted otherwise the county will even be able to import essential goods like medicines and fuel for transport. He said that preempting such events, “the government needs to strengthen social protection to cushion the lower income segments during economic crisis.” Referring to the recent international financing pledges he said that we cannot rely on

the pledges to shore up our foreign exchange reserves as even in past half failed to materialize while the other half were transformed and remodeled into loans which will only add to the current challenges. He suggested that NDRMF should do follow up on Geneva Convention pledges, present do-able project proposals to avail these pledges. Dr Vaqar Ahmed, Joint Executive Director, SDPI stressed on political stability as lenders want assurance for repayment of long-term loans often undermined by political strife in the country. He stressed that “we must not walk away from what is committed to IMF” and that we must demonstrate good public finance management by quickly packaging public sector development programmes which is instrumental in unlocking these foreign loans. He said that by demonstrating good fiscal

consolidation in this quarter we can unlock the to go back to the diaspora and bond market and secure future loan payments. He said that an opportunity lies in every crisis and in this crisis, the opportunity is for exporters who can pivot and innovatively increase productivity. In last year, the sector generated \$5 Billion in IT and ICT exports which is still possible this year. He recommended “export through indigenous resources and services sector, strengthening debt coordination mechanism, GST harmonization, effective targeted subsidies, regaining trust of diaspora to revive remittances” to transform the balance of payment crisis into an opportunity. Dr Aqdas Afzal, Assistant Professor, Habib University, predicted that “by agreeing to the IMF’s conditions, the country can avert the immediate crisis, but the storm is yet to be over”. —DNA

Saadhay 14 August: bought laughter & satire to Islamabad

ISLAMABAD: The play, which was well-liked in Karachi and successfully ran 100 performances, is now in its final week of performances in Islamabad. Saadhay 14 August, like Karachi, was able to draw large crowds to each performance, and the audiences were astounded by the incredible presentation, drama, choreography, and, of course, the powerful storyline. Dr. Arif Alvi, the president of Pakistan, attended the performance at the Pakistan National Council of Arts in Islamabad with the first lady. His honourable attendance and fervent admiration for Saadhay 14 August demonstrated that the masterpiece was not only adored by the general public but also by those responsible for setting national policy. Saadhay 14 August is the third and last part in the trilogy that started with Sawa 14 and Pawanay 14 August. Exceptionally well-written by the legendary Anwar Maqsood and masterfully put together by Dawar Mehmood. Saadhay 14 August is a thorough thought-provoker and entertainer. The political, economic, and social upheavals in Jinnah’s and Gandhi’s respective countries were explicitly presented to them by the inclusion of well-known historical and contemporary personalities. Even when serious situations are shown, people are seen laughing because of Maqsood’s writing magic and every actor’s immaculate performance. The audience and the main characters of the play are shown everything there is to know about Pakistani and Indian politics from Kashmir to Lahore to Delhi to London. From the bustling streets of Lahore to the burgeoning political activism among its citizens—from a state-sponsored film set in Delhi to London—you see the most outstanding, humorous performances along with Sajid Hassan’s convincing portrayal of a Sindh politician in London who, like the many politicians and powerful individuals in Pakistan, managed to flee despite having his name on the Exit Control List. Saadhay 14 August provides satire.—DNA

PNRA’s remarkable performance makes it a prominent

ISLAMABAD: On the occasion of 22nd Anniversary of Pakistan Nuclear Regulatory Authority (PNRA), Chairman, Faizan Mansoor (SI) expressed his commitment to continue serving the nation by achieving the highest standards of nuclear safety and security in Pakistan for ensuring protection of people and environment from the harmful effects of ionizing radiation. “I am simply humbled by the progress and achievements made by PNRA. The support and recognition of our stakeholders i.e., our licensees, the government, general public and international nuclear community as well as their satisfaction with our work has always been remarkable”, he said. He further added that since its inception, PNRA has been able to discharge its regulatory responsibilities effectively and efficiently and has always strived for continuous improvement in its processes, competence and services and hence being currently recognized as one of the prominent nuclear regulatory bodies in the world. PNRA, established in 2001 as an independent nuclear regulatory authority, has been authorized by the federal government to control and regulate the use of nuclear radiation for peaceful applications in Pakistan including power generation, diagnostic and therapeutic medicine, industry, agriculture, research and education. PNRA also works closely with international organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and actively contributes in its efforts to uphold the principles of nuclear safety and security worldwide.—APP

PTA issues ultimatum to unregistered social media companies

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has issued a final notice to unregistered social media companies operating in the country, warning them to register and cooperate in blocking immoral and illegal content, including blasphemy. In a statement, the authority has also recommended action against these companies by other government regulators such as the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), and commerce ministry. The PTA has also urged organizations and businesses to check the status of social media companies before conducting any business with them, and to end cooperation with those that are not registered. The authority has expressed disappointment over the non-cooperation of these companies on such sensitive issue and has deemed it unacceptable. The PTA has also warned that penalties will be imposed against unregistered companies under social media laws, and that companies that ignore the instructions of the government of Pakistan may face closure.—DNA



ISLAMABAD: A Thai artist performs during a function in Islamabad.—DNA

HEC puts ban on private MA, MSc admissions

ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission (HEC) has put a ban on private MA and MSc admissions and Punjab University (PU) has also stopped registration for these degrees until the issue is resolved. It merits here to mention that the registration in private MA, MSc was started on the instructions of former Acting Vice-Chancellor of PU. Following the former VC’s approval, the administration started the private registration process from December 5. The deadline for private candidates’ registration was March 15th. However, on January 6th, the HEC issued a warning to the applicants not to get enrolled. A university delegation will meet the HEC officials to resolve the issue. Candidates wishing to pursue higher education.—DNA

Pakistani superstar sings at China’s 2023 Spring Festival

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani singer Sahir Ali Bagga performed at the highly anticipated 2023 Spring Festival Gala held on Saturday evening as Chinese people worldwide celebrated the start of the Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival. According to China Economic Net (CEN), the Spring Festival Gala, also known as “Chunwan,” has taken place every year since 1983. It is an indispensable part of the celebrations for the Chinese people to ring in the Chinese New Year, the most important Chinese festival centering on family reunions. It has been recognized by Guinness World Records as the world’s most-watched TV program. A collection of singing and dancing, opera, sketch comedy, crosstalk, martial arts, acrobatics, and other types of programs were provided to the



audiences at home and abroad in this four-hour extravaganza. As the year 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Sahir Ali Bagga, among other singers from countries along the Belt and Road, sang a Pakistani song Korina at the gala, making him one of many international stars like Canadian-French singer Celine Dion and French actress Sophie Marceau who have appeared at the show. Sahir Ali Bagga is a victorious Pakistani singer

who rose to fame in 2009 and since that time he is ruling the hearts of millions of people not only in Pakistan, in fact, all over the world. The Spring Festival Gala will be aired on multiple TV channels, radio stations and new media platforms. According to the national broadcaster China Media Group, the total audience of the 2022 Spring Festival Gala reached a record 1.296 billion at home and abroad, with more than 650 media outlets from over 170 countries.

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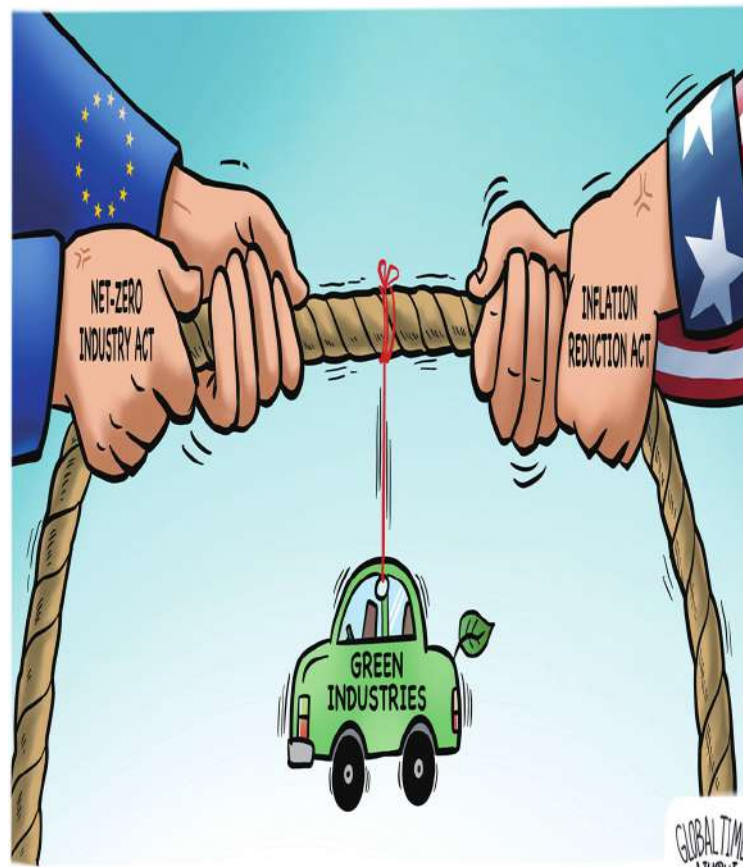
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Israel's far-right govt punishing Palestinians

A day before his coalition government was sworn-in on December 29, Netanyahu published his administration's guiding principles and coalition agreements, which prioritise the expansion of illegal settlements. Analysts say those policy aims make it clearer that its eventual goal is the erasure of Palestinian society. The government's stance on its Palestinian population presented in the documents is not entirely new, however. Historically and ideologically, Israel's major political parties have never been far apart when it comes to the treatment of Palestinians. Israel's new government includes ultranationalist and ultra-Orthodox Jewish parties as well as far-right religious factions. Among Netanyahu's most controversial moves is his coalition agreements with far-right politicians Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich. Under the new government, Ben-Gvir now serves as the Minister of National Security. Ben-Gvir is an Israeli lawyer and the leader of the far-right Jewish Power party (JPP), which has been referred to as anti-Palestinian. He has been convicted for his support of the radical Kach political party, which was banned from the Knesset in the 1980s for "incitement to racism" and declared a terrorist organisation by the Israeli government in 1994. Ben-Gvir was also known to have a portrait in his home of Israeli-American terrorist Baruch Goldstein, who killed 29 Palestinian Muslim worshippers at the Ibrahimi Mosque in 1994. He is said to only have removed the portrait after it was reported ahead of the March 2020 election. The appointment of Smotrich as finance minister also drew sharp criticism. The leader of the Religious Zionist Party (RZP) supports the expansion of illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank and the extension of Israeli sovereignty over the entire Palestinian territory. Speaking at a conference of right-wing activists in November, Smotrich said the new government needs to "take action" against human rights groups, calling them an "existential threat to the state of Israel." In his first few days in office, Smotrich signed a decree to block an estimated \$39.6 million in tax revenue from the Palestinian Authority (PA), the Fatah-controlled governing body that oversees parts of the occupied West Bank. The decree ordered that the funds be redirected to "victims of terrorism", a move seen as a retaliation against the PA's decision to question the occupation before the International Court of Justice. As part of Netanyahu's deal with his allies, the Knesset passed an amendment to the Police Ordinance, making the police subordinate to the National Security Minister. Some of the most concerning Israeli measures also include the expansion of power to revoke the residency and citizenship of Palestinians, accelerate the development of Jewish settlements in the Negev and the Galilee and expand impunity for Israeli armed forces accused of killing Palestinians.



Desecration of Quran is not freedom of expression

Condemnations continued to pour in from across the Arab and Islamic worlds over the burning of a copy of the Quran, Islam's holy book, by a Swedish-Danish right-wing extremist in the Swedish capital, Stockholm. Rasmus Paludan, the leader of the Stram Kurs (Hard Line) Party, under the protection of police and with permission from the government, burned a copy of the Quran outside the Turkish Embassy in Stockholm on Saturday. Saudi Arabia condemned the Swedish authorities for allowing the far-right politician to burn the Quran. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry decried the Quran burning as a "disgraceful act." Qatar also denounced in the strongest terms Sweden's permission to burn the Quran outside the Turkish Embassy in Stockholm. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) also condemned the incident and reiterated "its rejection of all practices aimed at destabilizing security and stability in contravention of human and moral values and principles." The Turkish Foreign Ministry condemned the burning of Islam's holy book in Stockholm as a "vile attack." Iran also termed the Quran burning as an attempt to stoke hatred and violence against Muslims. Tehran said some European countries under the false pretext of advocating freedom of speech "allow extremist and radical elements to spread hatred against Islamic sanctities and values." Jordan joined the chorus of condemnations, stressing "the kingdom's rejection of this act that fuels hatred." Amman underlined the necessity to spread the culture of peace and acceptance of the other, adding that "condemning extremism is a collective responsibility." Pakistan termed the incident as a "senseless and provocative Islamophobic act that hurts the religious sensitivities of over 1.5 billion Muslims around the world." The Foreign Ministry of the interim Taliban government in Afghanistan also "strongly" condemned the burning and desecration of the Holy Quran and urged the Swedish government to punish the perpetrators of this act. The West must understand that the hearts of Muslims are connected with the Qur'an and the Holy Prophet. Freedom of expression does not mean that you insult the feelings and sacred things of others. It is this attitude of the West that creates a strong reaction among Muslims, which in turn further promotes extremism. In the name of human freedom, if billions of people are given severe suffering, then perhaps there is no other inhuman behavior. The governments of the western countries never take seriously to stop such extremist actions for the sake of their political interests, but they will have to bear the loss. Now the world is not ready to tolerate the campaign of hatred under the guise of false slogans of freedom and rights any longer. If the West wants to remove the stigma of this inhuman behavior from itself, it must take practical measures to prevent such incidents. The West has to change its mentality that every problem it has is the problem of all the people of the world, but the sacred things of billions of people of the world do not matter to them. If the growing Islamophobia in the Western society is not eliminated, the West will have to suffer a severe reaction not only from the Muslim countries but also from the millions of Muslims living in its society.

US-Israeli dilemma as window for diplomacy with Iran closes swiftly

Yossi Mekelberg

The only question that remains concerns the magnitude of the conflict, and whether it will end with a direct military confrontation. In a recent press conference, US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan was categorical in stating that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or Iran nuclear deal, is not a priority for Washington in terms of timing or context. But there was also a warning to Tehran that the Washington administration's position is clear – "that Iran never obtains a nuclear weapon." To underline Biden's

At the beginning of this month, the US and Israeli air forces conducted a joint drill at the Nevatim air force base in southern Israel. US F-15 fighter jets, together with Israel's F-35 stealth fighter jets, simulated what were described as strikes on targets deep in enemy territory. In light of the stalemate in reviving

the Iran nuclear deal, this phrase is nothing more than a euphemism for both air forces practicing an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities and other strategic sites in that country. In recent months, tensions between Iran and other sectors of the international community, especially the US and Europe, have been accelerating, and not only around the nuclear issue. This leads to the conclusion, a dangerous one, that the window for diplomatic negotiations is closing swiftly and is being replaced by a trajectory of continuous collision. The only question that remains concerns the magnitude of the conflict, and whether it will end with a direct military confrontation. In a recent press conference, US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan was categorical in stating that the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or Iran nuclear deal, is not a priority for Washington in terms of timing or context. But there was also a warning to Tehran that the Washington administration's position is clear – "that Iran never obtains a nuclear weapon." To underline Biden's determination to stop Iran's march toward a nuclear military capability, Sullivan visited Israel last week and met with the country's political and military leadership to discuss strategies to not only avert Tehran's evolving nuclear threat, but also counter its other menacing activities in the region. Iran is increasingly positioning itself as a pariah state, with brutality at home against its own people, the supply of "kamikaze drones" to Russia for use against Ukraine, and its damaging role in places such as Yemen, Syria and Lebanon, and in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A central factor in settling international conflicts through negotiation is the establishment of mutual trust and goodwill. During the years of the more pragmatic presidencies of Mohammed Khatami and especially Hassan Rouhani, when the nuclear deal was agreed, the international community, especially the West, was prepared to take risks with its Iranian interlocutors, as it was assessed that in the complex political realities in Tehran the agreement had also received the blessing of the more radical elements in the leadership, including the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. There was also a subtext among the UN Security Council's P5+1 that for the regime in Tehran the

deal not only supplied the bait of removing the international sanctions against it, but also that such a development was another step in empowering the more pragmatic elements within the regime, as the removal of sanctions and the resulting improvement in the country's economic situation would be credited to them. The US and Israel would like to see the current demonstrations across Iran develop into a full-blown revolution that ends in toppling the regime. This second assumption is hard to either corroborate or disprove, because America's short-sighted withdrawal from the JCPOA during the Trump administration changed the dynamic of this agreement and led to the acceleration of Iran's nuclear project. This sorry saga left both the US and Israel with a crucial dilemma: Did their commitment to preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons merit the use of direct military force, or could it be achieved by sanctions, diplomatic pressure and clandestine operations? In Israel there is a new government, the most hawkish in its history, which is already facing a deep constitutional crisis. With the exception of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose Middle East outlook concentrates on containing Iran and especially its nuclear ambitions, the rest of the government is more interested in Israel's domestic politics and its relations with the Palestinians. This should allow Netanyahu more freedom to set the strategy vis-à-vis Iran, and not only on the nuclear issue. Israel is very likely to confront Iran and its Hezbollah ally in Syria and Lebanon in order to prevent them from further strengthening their stronghold in Syria and continuing to arm their Lebanese ally with more sophisticated weapons, which is a source of grave concern that it will encounter these weapons in due course in a confrontation with Hezbollah with the encouragement of Tehran. Similarly, the "war between the wars," which entails a wide range of covert operations, including assassinations and cyberattacks, is expected to continue, but the question is whether these are expected to intensify, not only as Iran gets closer to a nuclear military capability, but also as a result of Netanyahu's efforts to deflect from

his own domestic difficulties, in particular his corruption trial.

Biden and his administration have little trust in Netanyahu. The president was Obama's deputy when the JCPOA was signed, and as Netanyahu, then Israel's prime minister, made a blunt intervention in US domestic politics in an attempt to stop that 2015 nuclear deal. Yet, if the US decides to sanction a military operation against Iran, Israel's capabilities in the air and in intelligence could be very useful. However, this might also complicate the regional political scene, especially if the anti-democratic elements in Israel should further strengthen their hold on the society and politics of the country, and their government moves closer toward the annexation, albeit de facto, of the West Bank. Tehran at the same time is underestimating the antagonism it is creating by supporting Moscow in its unjustified and brutal war against Ukraine and by its own brutality against those who participate in legitimate protests over the death of Mahsa Amini, hundreds of whom have been already killed by the security forces or executed after summary trials. The hanging earlier this week of Iranian-British dual national Ali Reza Akbari – labelled by British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly as "a barbaric act that deserves condemnation in the strongest possible terms" – is a further push for the international community to respond decisively. The US and Israel would like to see the current demonstrations across Iran develop into a full-blown revolution that ends in toppling the regime. But this is unlikely to happen soon, as the protests have failed to gather sufficient momentum and critical mass. This leaves the US and Israel, and many others, wondering how to deal with the regime, and not only on the nuclear issue. For now, it remains unclear whether either or both have an adequate answer beyond a few tweaks at the margins that might not be enough.

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How the US views Turkiye-Syria reconciliation

Maria Maalouf

This is not to mention the required support of the Arab world, led by Saudi Arabia, as King Salman affirmed at the opening of the third year of the eighth session of the Shoura Council last year, in the presence of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, that it was necessary to adhere to UN Security Council resolutions in a manner that preserves Syria's sovereignty, stability and Arab identity. The US administration may try to find a reasonable and internationally accepted

There has been much talk lately about a reconciliation between Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Turkiye and Bashar Assad's Syria. Erdogan wants this reconciliation as a way to strengthen his position ahead of June's Turkish presidential election, as he needs a diplomatic achievement in the wake of his failure to achieve his goals in northern Syria. Assad, meanwhile, has been exhausted by the war and, after imposing his bitter rhythm on Syria's land and people, he realized that his bet on the Russians could not lead to the reconstruction of Syria without the consent of the US in particular and the West in general. This is not to mention the required support of the Arab world, led by Saudi Arabia, as King Salman affirmed at the opening of the third year of the eighth session of the Shoura Council last year, in the presence of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, that it was necessary to adhere to UN Security Council resolutions in a manner that preserves Syria's sovereignty, stability and Arab identity. The US administration may try to find a reasonable and internationally accepted solution to end the Syrian crisis without showing that it has given up or backed down. Washington is trying to find a balance between

many contradictory interests and goals. Chief among them is America's support for the Kurds and its geopolitical relationship with Turkiye, a member of NATO. It wants to find a way to end the Syrian crisis and thus begin a peaceful political process in the country. The US administration believes that Turkiye is an essential partner in the Middle East and seeks to work with it to achieve common goals. Despite this, it deals with Erdogan in the matter of the Syrian crisis with concern for the sake of regional security and stability, especially since the Turkish president apparently has dreams of reviving the Ottoman Empire, which observers view as a pipe dream or an illusion. It is believed that the US administration will not go far in pressuring Erdogan to stop his reconciliation steps with Assad, based on the fact that the Turkish Parliament has not yet ratified Finland and Sweden's accession to NATO and these two countries joining the alliance would be seen by President Joe Biden as a significant geopolitical victory in the war against Russia. It is believed that the US administration will not go far in pressuring Erdogan to stop his reconciliation steps with Assad. Observers state that the Turkish-Syrian reconciliation may take place with an un-

announced American green light, based on the fact that Biden wants to alleviate the crisis in Syria. At the same time, the US president does not want to clash with the Republicans, who will undoubtedly accuse him of weakness on the Syria file.

On the other hand, observers expect that the Biden administration will find itself in a complicated situation, as it has so far refused to reach any solutions in Syria. While some believe that the US will have the final say on the success of the Turkish-Syrian reconciliation efforts, especially since ending the Kurdish control over northern Syria – whether by handing over the Kurdish areas to the Syrian government peacefully or through a military operation – requires Washington's approval. The American military presence in Syria also has its strategic justifications, from fighting the remnants of Daesh to narrowing down the Iranian influence in Syria after it has desecrated it for years.

Accordingly, the US administration looks at the Turkish-Syrian reconciliation pragmatically.

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Briefs

Desecration of Quran ...

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Quran by the Swedish politicians and demanded of the Swedish authorities to take action. In a Tweet he also resented the Swedish government for allowing the incident to happen. He added, during the PTI government they had taken practical steps to not only condemn acts of Islamophobia but to highlight the issue at all forums. Earlier, Pakistan's Foreign Office also denounced the action, emphasizing that it hurt the emotions of the 1.5 billion Muslims in the world. Such actions, the ministry said, are not covered under any legitimate expression of the right to freedom of expression or opinion, which carries responsibilities under international human rights law, such as the obligation not to carry out hate speech and incite people to violence.

"Islam is a religion of peace, and Muslims, including in Pakistan, believe in respecting all religions. These principles must be supported by all," the Foreign Office said. The Saudi Foreign Ministry said in a statement: "Saudi Arabia calls for spreading the values of dialogue, tolerance, and coexistence, and rejects hatred and extremism."

The move has drawn severe criticism from Türkiye as well, with Ankara calling off a visit by Sweden's defence minister and mentioning that "it's a racist action, it's not about freedom of expression". "Permitting this anti-Islam act, which targets Muslims and insults our sacred values, under the guise of 'freedom of expression' is completely unacceptable," said a Turkish foreign ministry statement. It added that the burning of the Quran was another example of the "alarming" extent to which Islamophobia, racism and discrimination had reached Europe, and it called on the Swedish government to take "necessary measures". Paludan's announcement of a Holy Quran burning "tour" for the holy month of Ramadan sparked riots across Sweden in April last year. Pakistan strongly condemns the abhorrent act of desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden today. According to the Pakistani Foreign Office, this senseless and provocative Islamophobic act hurts the religious sensitivities of over 1.5 billion Muslims around the world. Such actions are not covered under any legitimate expression of the right to freedom of expression or opinion, which carries responsibilities under international human rights law, such as the obligation not to carry out hate speech and incite people to violence. "The international community needs to show a common resolve against Islamophobia, xenophobia, intolerance and incitement to violence on the basis of religion or belief, and work together for promoting inter-faith harmony and peaceful coexistence. Pakistan's concerns are being conveyed to the authorities in Sweden. We urge them to be mindful of the sentiments of the people of Pakistan and the Muslims worldwide and take steps to prevent Islamophobic acts, the statement added.

Ulema urge Sweden to take action

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intolerance and incitement to violence on the basis of religion or belief, and also needs to work together for promoting inter-faith harmony and peaceful coexistence, said Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, Special Aide to Prime Minister on Religious Harmony and Middle East. Ulemas-Mashaykh said that authorities concerned in Sweden should take action against elements accomplice in desecration of Holy Quran and should be taken to justice. We urge them to be mindful of the sentiments of the people of Pakistan and the Muslims worldwide and take steps to prevent Islamophobic acts, Ulemas-Mashaykh stated.

Swiatek, Gauff dumped out in more Australian Open shocks

The fourth seed from Serbia is however nursing a hamstring injury. Stefanos Tsitsipas is now the highest-ranking seed left in the decimated men's draw at three. The Greek faces young Italian Jannik Sinner, seeded 15, later Sunday

SPORT DESK

MELBOURNE: Top seed Iga Swiatek and a tearful Coco Gauff both crashed out in straight sets in the last 16 on Sunday on another day of shocks at the Australian Open. Swiatek's defeat to Elena Rybakina makes it the first Grand Slam in the Open era - since 1968 - to lose the top two seeds in the men's and women's draws before the quarter-finals. There was no such trouble for Jessica Pegula, however, the American third seed surging into the last eight with a 7-5, 6-2 win over former French Open champion Barbora Krejcikova. Wimbledon champion Rybakina swept past the 2022 French and US Open winner Swiatek 6-4, 6-4 in 1hr 29min at a stunned Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne. Moscow-born Kazakh Rybakina, seeded 22, moves on to a last-eight encounter with Jelena Ostapenko. The Latvian 17th seed provided the second upset of a crazy few minutes by knocking out seventh seed Gauff 7-5, 6-3 on neighbouring Margaret Court Arena. The 18-year-old Gauff broke down in tears during an emotional post-match press conference. World number one and hot favourite Swiatek admitted that Rybakina deserved to win. "I felt the pres-



sure," Swiatek, 21, said. "I felt that I didn't want to lose instead of wanting to win." Swiatek, who dominated women's tennis last year and is already a three-time major champion, added: "I felt today that I don't have that much left to fight even more. "I felt like I took a step back in terms of how I approach these tournaments, and I maybe wanted it a little bit too hard. "So I'm going to try to chill out a little bit more." Swiatek follows second seed Ons Jabeur out of the Melbourne exit door, the Tunisian having gone

out in the second round in another surprise. The American Gauff had been favourite to defeat Ostapenko, the 2017 French Open winner. But the 25-year-old Ostapenko was always in control to ensure that Gauff must wait at least a bit longer for a first major title. Gauff told reporters it was a "little bit frustrating", then her voice suddenly began to crack, the tears flowed and the teenager was offered a tissue. "I'm OK, we can keep going," she said. The men's draw has also seen a series of surprise results. Un-



seeded Jiri Lehecka added to the list by beating sixth-seeded Felix Auger-Aliassime. The 21-year-old Czech was knocked out in the first round at the four majors last year but was too hot for the Canadian, winning 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/3). "After losing in the first round last year, if someone had told me before the tournament that I would be playing like this, I wouldn't have believed them," said 71st-ranked Lehecka. "I'm super happy and excited." Karen Khachanov also reached the last eight after the Russian 18th seed

blew away Japan's Yoshihito Nishio 6-0, 6-0, 7-6 (7/4). The men's draw has an unfamiliar look to it. Injury-hampered top seed and defending champion Rafael Nadal went out in round two, as did second seed Casper Ruud. Also out early was 2021 and 2022 runnerup Daniil Medvedev. But nine-time Melbourne champion Novak Djokovic is still on the scene as he chases a record-equaling 22nd Slam title. The fourth seed from Serbia is however nursing a hamstring injury. Stefanos Tsitsipas is now the highest-ranking seed left in the decimated men's draw at three.

FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023: Fixtures, Timings

Table with columns: Date, Fixture, Timings (IST). Lists matches from January 13 to 28, including Argentina vs South Africa, Australia vs France, England vs Wales, India vs Spain, etc.

Afghanistan faced with famine-like....

FROM PAGE 01

homes, the purchasing power of common men has been badly affected, thus posing very negative impacts on trade and business circles throughout that war devastated country. Pleading not to be named, a highly responsible officer in the previous Dr. Ashraf Ghani government is now compelled to earn two time meals as a taxi driver. He said like him hundreds of others have adopted the same job. "Even some of them are running three-wheelers called Auto Rickshaw just for survival," he remarked. A large number of teachers, colleges and universities academicians become jobless due to Taliban's introduced strict laws. Banning women in works outside of homes and women education, has multiplied miseries of war affected people. The volunteers of international non government and welfare bodies are now making attempts to collect data of such affected people. A report from Kabul states, "the Afghan women affected by Taliban bans on work and study fear for their futures. Displaced women fear they will be unable to support their families without access to work and education. On a recent snowy winter morning, with temperatures hovering at -10° degrees Celsius, a group of worried women have gathered at a community centre on the eastern outskirts of Afghanistan's capital, Kabul. Many have recently completed a livelihood training project run by local NGO, Amputee Bicyclists for Rehabilitation and Recreation (AABRAR), a partner of UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency." Save the children, an international body in its report states, "three weeks since the Taliban announced that Afghan women were banned from working for any non-government organisations (NGOs), Save the Children said it was restarting some of its activities where reliable assurances had been given for a full and safe return to work for its female staff." David Wright, Save the Children's Chief Operating Officer, said: "Following the ban on female aid workers announced by the Ministry of Economy on 24 December 2022, Save the Children paused its activities. Our female staff are essential for the safe and effective delivery of our services, and we simply cannot operate without them. Women make up 50% of our workforce and are crucial for reaching women and girls. "While the majority of our programmes remain on hold, we are restarting some activities - such as health, nutrition and some education services - where we have received clear, reliable assurances from relevant authorities that our female staff will be safe and can work without obstruction. Organisations like Save the Children have been essential in helping Afghan children and their families survive for many years, especially over the past 18 months as an economic downturn and natural disasters have plunged the country into a catastrophic crisis. More than 28 million children and adults will need humanitarian support in 2023. Despite its uncertain stance regarding the current situation of Afghanistan, the UN officials are holding frequent meetings and discussions with the Taliban high ups. The Executive Director of UN Women, Sima Bahous, has linked humanitarian aid to Afghanistan with women rights while talking to the Taliban deputy prime minister Mullah Abdul Salam Hanifi, in Kabul on Wednesday. The Taliban deputy prime minister office in a statement, She told Hanafi that aid to Afghanistan is linked to the activities and working opportunities of women. She told him the Taliban should find opportunities for women based on values and culture of Afghanistan. A high ranking UN delegation led by Deputy Secretary-General, Amina Mohammed has also in Kabul since last Monday.

Politicians, establishment blamed for.....

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"today's politics is the name of revenge", adding that the political system lacks the capacity to solve the people's problems because politicians are focused on insulting and abusing each other. "Economic crisis and political conflict will not solve the problems of the people," said Abbasi. He furthered that there is no "miracle solution" for the economy, adding that the country needs political stability. "I am not here to defend my party and the government, but the problems of the last 20 years cannot be resolved in eight months," the PML-N leader said. At the press conference, former finance minister Miftah Ismail stated that Pakistan has to repay the loans of \$21 billion. "We have to focus to uplift the agriculture sector in the country," he added. The PML-N leaders have been holding non-partisan talks on the current economic and political situation in Pakistan. A day earlier, the leaders also commented on the issues of Balochistan at a seminar titled: 'Reimagining Pakistan' organised by Balochistan Peace Forum (BPF) chief Nawabzada Haji Lashkari Raisani to discuss ways and means to pave the way for a political settlement of issues relating to the country and the province. On the occasion, Nawabzada Lashkari Raisani said that they had "tried to present the problems of Balochistan to the political leadership of Pakistan". He had demanded that Haq Do Tehreek (HDT) leader Maulana Hidayatur Rehman and other captives in Gwadar be released and the cases against them ended. Former finance minister Miftah Ismail, who was also present at the occasion, said that the country's "debt is increasing in the last 20 years and has reached up to Rs51 trillion". "Instead of focusing on education and health, the government will be paying debt instalments. The country has to return \$21 billion.

Iranian Navy ships, submarines visit Pakistan

The visit of Iranian navy ships to Pakistan is a manifestation of strong bilateral ties between two countries and resolve towards regional peace

DNA

KARACHI: Iranian Navy ships and submarine port called Karachi and participated in naval exercise with Pakistan Navy (PN). Upon arrival at Karachi port, PN officials along with Iranian consulate Staff warmly welcomed the visiting flotilla and National Anthems tunes of both countries were played as mark of respect. The recent visit of Iranian Navy to

Pakistan reaffirms joint efforts to promote regional stability and maritime security for protection of Sea Lines of Communication and Seafarers in the region. During stay at port, both navies held mutually rewarding professional interactions, exchange visits and table top discussions on matters of mutual interests. Upon culmination of visit, passage exercise between the two navies was conducted to enhance naval cooperation.



India out of WC Hockey quarters race

DNA

ODHISA: India and New Zealand were tied at 3 goals each in the full time and hence the match between the sides went to penalty shootout in the ongoing FIH Men's Hockey World Cup Crossover round at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar on Sunday. Lalit Upadhyay scored from the right flank to break the deadlock while Sukhjeet Singh followed him with another goal as India scored two in the second quarter. The same quarter also saw Sam Lane helping the guests close the gap on India. The hosts extended their lead to 3-1 as Varun Kumar scored India's third goal in the third quarter. However, New Zealand scored later the third quarter to trail 2-3. In the final quarter, the side levelled the scores.

Who is Rasmus Paludan?

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assailant did not lay down his weapon, whereupon police opened fire and wounded the assailant in the leg. In the aftermath, there was unrest in the area. Police were hit by fireworks and rocks were thrown by other assailants in the Gellerup area of Aarhus. In April 2019, Paludan held a demonstration in Viborg, Denmark, which led to chaos with the presence of about 100 counter-protesters. Three people were arrested and, in June 2019, a 24-year-old Syrian in Denmark was sentenced to 60 days in jail for having thrown a rock at Paludan. The offender was also to be deported after the jail term, and was banned from returning to Denmark for six years. In connection with a planned Quran burning in Malmö in August 2020, Paludan was banned from entering Sweden for two years, but in October he was granted Swedish citizenship due to his father's citizenship. In April 2022, Paludan again organised and announced several demonstrations in major Swedish cities, where he burned or said that he would burn the Quran. This led to rioting by counter protesters, including destruction of private and public property and attacks on police. Riots also erupted in the lead-up to his demonstration.

کورت ٹوش
بعدالت جناب سدرہ بانو چوہدری صاحبہ رسول
جج فیملی کورٹ راولپنڈی دہلی دلا پائے تن سہر
و غیر عنوان مقدمہ کلکتہ بی بی وغیرہ بنام محمد
عاصر علی ولد محمد پریدز ساکن مکان نمبر 435
عبد و سترج بازار راولپنڈی کیف تحصیل و ضلع
راولپنڈی ہرگاہ مقدمہ عنوان بالا میں دعا علیہ کی
قبیل سن سے ہونی مشکل ہے لہذا بذریعہ اخبار
اشہار مطلق کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ اصالت دکان کات
مورخہ 22 جنوری 2023 بوقت 9 بجے صبح
حاضر عدالت آویں ورنہ کاروائی یکطرفہ عمل
میں لائی جائے

کورت ٹوش
بعدالت جناب سدرہ بانو چوہدری صاحبہ رسول
جج فیملی کورٹ راولپنڈی دہلی دلا پائے تن کلاچ
برخاستے عنوان مقدمہ منی بی بی بنام غلام
سرور ولد غلام قادر ساکن محلہ میانہ بی بی کلاچ
تحصیل وزیر آباد ضلع گجرانوالہ ہرگاہ مقدمہ
عنوان بالا میں دعا علیہ کی قبیل سن سے ہونی
مشکل ہے لہذا بذریعہ اخبار اشہار مطلق کیا جاتا
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2023 بوقت 9 بجے صبح حاضر عدالت آویں
ورنہ کاروائی یکطرفہ عمل میں لائی جائے

کورت ٹوش
بعدالت جناب شافعہ وید صاحبہ رسول جج
فیملی کورٹ راولپنڈی دہلی دلا پائے تن چرچان و
انفد و غیر عنوان مقدمہ آرمہ شاہین بنام محمود
الحسن ولد غلام عباس ساکن ڈھوک سنگھ
ڈاکٹرانہ Same پنڈ Bhainso تحصیل
کلریڈیال ضلع راولپنڈی ہرگاہ مقدمہ عنوان بالا
میں دعا علیہ کی قبیل سن سے ہونی مشکل ہے
لہذا بذریعہ اخبار اشہار مطلق کیا جاتا ہے کہ آپ
اصالت دکان مورخہ 25 جنوری 2023
بوقت 9 بجے صبح حاضر عدالت آویں ورنہ
کاروائی یکطرفہ عمل میں لائی جائے

Briefs

Russian lawmaker warns of 'global catastrophe'

MOSCOW: The head of Russia's lower house of parliament, the State Duma, warned on Sunday that the delivery of heavy weapons to Ukraine by Western countries would lead to "global catastrophe."

"If Washington and NATO countries supply weapons that will be used to strike civilian cities and attempt to seize our territories, as they threaten, this will lead to retaliatory measures using more powerful weapons," Vyacheslav Volodin said on Telegram. Volodin urged members of the US Congress, in addition to lawmakers in Germany's Bundestag, the French National Assembly, and other European parliaments, to "realize their responsibility to humanity." The US recently vowed to support Ukraine if it launched an operation to retake the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia illegally annexed in 2014. Moscow also annexed four regions in eastern Ukraine last year after what the West denounced as "sham" referendums.

"With their decisions, Washington and Brussels are leading the world to a terrible war: To a completely different military action than today, when strikes are carried out exclusively on the military and critical infrastructure used by the Kyiv regime," he further noted. He also said that politicians needed to understand that such decisions could end in "a global tragedy" that would destroy their countries, based on the "technological superiority of Russian weapons."—DNA

Supporters of PKK stage demonstration in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM: Supporters of the YPG/PKK terrorist group on Saturday staged another provocative demonstration in the Swedish capital. Having gathered at Norra Bantorget Square in Stockholm, supporters of the terrorist group demanded the cancellation of the memorandum of understanding that was signed between Sweden, Finland, and Türkiye last summer to address Ankara's concern about the PKK's operations in the two Nordic countries.

The supporters were carrying pieces of cloth symbolizing the terrorist group and posters of its ringleader Abdullah Ocalan. They also hung a puppet likened to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Another puppet likened to Erdogan was shown carrying a piece of cloth symbolizing the YPG/PKK terrorist group.

'Sadiq, Amin' confesses.....

FROM PAGE 01

that "Saqib Nisar's 'Sadiq aur Amin' admits to investing Shaukat Khanum's \$3 million charity fund in a housing society". The minister said that the people of Pakistan had given Zakat funds for Shaukat Khanum Hospital, not for the private housing society. Referring to double standards of Imran, she said he accused others of theft but now himself confessed to stealing and misuse of charity money. Marriyum Aurangzeb said that Imran did not even get approval from the board of directors of the hospital while investing millions of dollars of charity money. She termed Imran a swindler and fraud who had stolen Toshakhana gifts and misappropriated Zakat funds.

She said that Imran did not consider the plunder of Toshakhana gifts and misappropriation of £ 190 million any issue. For him 5-carat diamond or getting foreign funding against the national interests was not a crime, she maintained. She said that 458 Kanal land was taken as a bribe in the name of Al-Qadir Trust, and Bushra Bibi sold every job and every appointment in Punjab. On the contrary, she said against his political opponents whom he called thieves he could not prove false accusations in any court in Pakistan or in Britain.

Thirty-two UN peacekeepers, including Pakistani, killed in wanton attacks in 2022

Peacekeepers and the civilian personnel who work side by side with them are on front lines of the United Nations' work in the world's most challenging environments

UNITED NATIONS: At least 32 UN peacekeeping personnel, including seven from Pakistan, were killed in deliberate attacks against them last year, according to the UN Staff Union. For the ninth year in a row, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) was the deadliest for peacekeepers with 14 fatalities, followed by 13 fatalities in the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), four fatalities in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic

(MINUSCA) and one fatality in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Among the 32 fatalities were 28 military and 4 police personnel, including a woman police officer, the press release said.

"Peacekeepers and the civilian personnel who work side by side with them are on the front lines of the United Nations' work in the world's most challenging environments," Staff Union President Aitor Arauz said in a statement.

"Each malicious attack against UN personnel is a blow to peacekeeping, one of the pillars of the multilateral edifice," Arauz said. "It is a collective responsibility of the

international community to put in place appropriate mechanisms to ensure accountability for these heinous acts, which may constitute war crimes under international law." The UN Staff Union said that the 32 killed in 2022 bring to 494 UN and associated personnel killed in deliberate attacks in the past 13 years from improvised explosive devices, rocket-propelled grenades, artillery fire, mortar rounds, landmines, armed and successive ambushes, convoy attacks, suicide attacks and targeted assassinations. It said the peacekeepers who died in 2022, by country, were 7 from Pakistan, 7 from Egypt, 4 from Chad, 3 from

Bangladesh, 2 from India, 2 from Nigeria, 1 each from Guinea, Ireland, Jordan, Morocco, Nepal, Russia and Serbia.

Among the Pakistani peacekeepers, six - Muhammad Ismail, Faizan Ali, Asif Ali Awan, Samiullah Khan, Muhammad Saad Noman - serving MONUSCO, were killed in a helicopter crash in east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The MONUSCO helicopter that crashed in the Tshanzu area, 20 kilometres south of Rutshuru, in North Kivu, was part of a surveillance and reconnaissance mission, carried out in an area where clashes had taken place

between the M23 militia and the armed forces of the DRC.

Another Pakistani peacekeeper Babar Siddique, serving with MONUSCO, was killed in an attack on the Mission's operational base in Minembwe, South Kivu, by suspected members of the Twirwaneho armed group, the press release added. Pakistan has been one of the largest contributors of uniformed personnel to U.N. peacekeeping operations. Since the 1960s, Pakistan has contributed over 200,000 troops to 43 missions. In its service to the cause of peace, Pakistan lost 157 of its bravest who made the ultimate sacrifice.—APP

16 killed in building collapse in Aleppo

BEIRUT: A building collapsed in a neighborhood in Syria's northern city of Aleppo early Sunday, killing at least 16 people, including one child, and injuring four others, state media reported. The five-story building housing about 30 people is in the Sheikh Maksoud neighborhood under the control of the U.S.-backed Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces. It collapsed overnight, according to the report, after water leakages weakened the structure's foundation.

Dozens of firefighters, first responders and residents covered in debris and dust were searching through the rubble for the remaining residents with drills and a bulldozer. Some relatives of the tenants waited anxiously nearby, while others mourned at the entrance of a nearby hospital as the bodies arrived in ambulances and on the backs of trucks.

Hawar News, the news agency for the semi-autonomous Kurdish areas in Syria, initially reported that seven people were killed and three were injured, two of them critically.

Many buildings in Aleppo were destroyed or damaged during Syria's 11-year conflict, which has killed hundreds of thousands and displaced half the country's pre-war population of 23 million.—DNA

At least 4 killed in apartment fire in Japan

TOKYO: At least four people were killed, and another three are feared dead after a fire broke out early Sunday at an apartment in Kobe, western Japan, authorities said. Firefighters received a call around 1:35 a.m. local time (16:35GMT Saturday) from a neighbor who saw smoke emanating from a window on the first floor of the three-story building located in the Hyogo Ward of Kobe. Kyodo News reported citing police and hospital sources. Four of the men were confirmed dead on the scene, police and hospital sources said.

Three of the other four men taken to the hospital remain unconscious, according to the media outlet.

A man in his 40s was revived, the police said. All eight people were found on the first floor of the apartment, they said.

The building, which was built in 1963, houses approximately 30 people, the majority of whom live alone and are pension recipients or on welfare.—APP

Parisian youth protest against pension reform

PARIS: Youth organizations demonstrated Saturday in Paris against the government's pension reform proposal. A demonstration was held in the French capital at the request of youth organizations. The protest which began at Bastille Square and finished in Nation Square, was held to protest the proposal and the raising of the retirement age. "Resistance!" and "We are here, even if Macron does not want us!" read slogans held by members of a dozen youth organizations.

Jean-Luc Melenchon, the former leader of the hard-left party La France Insoumise, took part in the protest along with Yellow Vest protesters.

Melenchon congratulated demonstrators on his Twitter, saying that 150,000 people turned out. While masked, demonstrators damaged cash machines and the glass at banks and garbage bins were set on fire. Glass bottles were thrown at security forces at the end of the demonstrations.

High school student Olivia Dufourt, 18, told Anadolu that they were protesting pension reform since it would cause individuals nearing retirement to have to wait longer.

More strikes are expected amid simmering anger at President Emmanuel Macron's planned pension reforms, which include hiking the retirement age from 62 to 64. According to the government, 10,000 police officers were deployed at Thursday's protests, including 3,500 in Paris.—DNA

Despite sanctions Over 90% of EU, G-7 firms active in Russia

FOREIGN DESK

LONDON: Only 8.5% of EU and G-7 companies have taken steps to exit Russia or suspend their operations in the country, a new report revealed. According to a report released by Switzerland-based St. Gallen University, despite sanction decisions against Russia, the companies continue their relations with the country as usual. After Russia started what it called a "special military operation" in its neighbor on Feb. 24, 2022, many sectors and countries announced sanctions or suspensions for trying to exert pressure on the Russian economy. Some firms stopped their operations and deliveries in Russia, while others ended their investments or withdrew from their partnerships in Russia, even in Belarus.

The report said there were 2,405 subsidiaries owned by 1,404 EU and G-7 com-

panies as of April 2022 and only less than 9% of them were closed or sold.

"Confirmed exits by EU and G-7 firms that had equity stakes in Russia account for 6.5% of total profit before tax. As for EU and G-7 firms with active commercial operations in Russia, with available information in the ORBIS database, 8.6% of tangible fixed assets, 8.6% of total assets, 10.4% of operating revenue, and 15.3% of total employees were found," the report stated.

The report also showed that there are more exits by foreign firms headquartered in the U.S. than those based in the EU and Japan; fewer than 18% of U.S. subsidiaries have actually divested.

"Of those EU and G-7 firms remaining in Russia, 19.5% are German, 12.4% are American owned and 7% are Japanese multinational firms," it added.

Other data released this week by Brand Finance showed that Western com-

panies dominated the world's top brands list, and it was seen that several global brands suspended their operations in Russia, mostly in March.

Top global brands, excluding some Chinese firms, have not been active in the Russian market due to its war on Ukraine since the last February. There were 12 U.S. brands among the top 25 brands, followed by China with seven, Germany with three, South Korea, Japan and the U.K. with one.

The world's top brand, Amazon, suspended its Russian operations on March 9, 2022, announcing that it will not be accepting any new customers in Russia and Belarus.

Apple, taking second place in the top brand's list, has also suspended all official sales in Russia as of March 2, 2022, and turned off selected applications and services in the country.

Google, as the third most valuable brand, suspend-

ed some services in the country in March 2022, such as the advertising and application market. Then, Russia's communications authority blocked Google's news services in the country, accusing the service of spreading false information about the war. The fourth most valuable brand Microsoft suspended new sales in the country on March 4, 2022, but according to Yale University's research, it is continuing to allow existing access in the country.

The fifth brand on the list, Walmart, with no operations in Russia as of 2022 and only some prior investment plans, closed its Moscow office in 2010.

From Samsung to Starbucks, Mercedes to Disney and Shell, other top brands also announced suspensions. While some brands were still not active in Russia even before the war, GSM firms Verizon and AT&T provided free services for Ukraine.

Iran warns EU of 'reciprocal' response

TEHRAN: Iran's Foreign Minister has warned the European Union of "reciprocal" measures after the European Parliament voted to add the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to the EU's terror list. "The parliament (of Iran) is working to place elements of European countries' armies on the terrorist list," Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said on Twitter on Sunday.

"The European Parliament shot itself in the foot," Iran's top diplomat said, adding that the response would be "reciprocal." Amir-Abdollahian's tweet came after the European Parliament on Wednesday adopted an amendment that was added to an annual foreign policy report and called on the EU and its member states to include the IRGC in their terror list. The parliament also passed another resolution on Thursday, calling for more sanctions against Iranian individuals and entities and putting the IRGC on the EU terrorist list over alleged human rights violations during the recent riots. Amir-Abdollahian and chief commander of IRGC Major General Hossein Salami attended a closed-door parliament session on Sunday morning to discuss the European Parliament's move.

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi strongly criticized the European Parliament's decision to brand IRGC as a "terrorist organization," saying any hostile move against IRGC, the most important force in the fight against terrorism, is doomed to failure. Raisi made the remarks on Sunday as he attended a parliamentary session to review the general bill for the next Iranian calendar year 1402, which starts on March 20, 2023. "No military and armed force have countered terrorism and purged terrorists in the [West Asia] region other than the IRGC. Both military forces and top-brass commanders in the region acknowledge that the IRGC played the leading role in the fight against terror," the Iranian president said.—Agencies

Death toll hits 60 from protests in Peru

BOGOTA: Demonstrators continued Saturday to demand the resignation of Peruvian President Dina Boluarte after six weeks of violent protests that have killed 60 people.

Boluarte accused protesters of "vandalism" in a television address late Thursday after hundreds took to the streets in the nation's capital of Lima in the so-called "Takeover of Lima" demonstration.

The president said the protesters had "no social agenda" but sought to "break the rule of law, generate chaos and disorder and seize power." With the death of another person in Puno, the toll has risen since Dec. 11.

Numerous individuals were hurt on both sides when security officers used tear gas in response to demonstrators throwing stones at them, according to reports. Police raided the National University of San Marcos in Lima with a tank and detained 200 students.—APP



ISLAMABAD: A view of massive traffic jam near Bhara kahu Bypass at Federal Capital.—APP

Trade industry announce against SBP to curb imports

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's former president Mian Anjum Nisar has said that the business community across the country has decided to come to the streets against the anti-industry policies of the government on Monday, 23rd Jan 2023 (today), lodging a massive and strong protest demonstration, especially against the non-opening of LCs (Letter of Credits) to import industry raw material for the smooth running of business activities in the country.

Mian Anjum Nisar, who is the chairman of FPCCI's ruling group of Businessmen Panel (BMP) and also patron-in-chief of the PIAF, which is presently ruling at LCCI, threatened the government of continuing this protest across Pakistan until the clearance of their containers of imported goods, stuck up at ports for a long time, as the economy is presently in a standstill position owing to this unfortunate attitude of the authorities.

Mina Anjum Nisar urged the government for immediate restoration of the opening of letters of credit with the availability of foreign exchange for the import of raw materials putting industries into gear. He said that representatives of all trade bodies, industrial associations, markets and bazaars would participate in this protest, in the lead of BMP and PIAF, being held in front of Lahore Press Club today (Monday) to give a strong message to the government, telling them that every sector of trade and industry is severely affected due to stoppage of imported goods, as a result the economy is going towards a total closure and default.

He said what we need urgently is opening of LCs with availability of foreign exchange for meeting the requirements of industrial sector. He said that many industries are now facing shortage of raw material and are on the verge of cutting their production. He said that key products especially under HS code 84 and 85 include home appliances, air conditioners, IT products, gen-

erators, telecom, steel and automobiles. Importers are worried due to non-opening of LCs. PIAF chairman Faheem ur Rehman Saigol observed that factories importing raw materials for producing food, medicines and iron are now facing serious supply constraints. Due to non-release of our import documents and consequent non-availability of raw material, the manufacturing units are on the verge of closure, he said. He said that despite the lifting of the import ban by the government, delay in opening Letters of Credit (LCs) for essential machinery, equipment and spare parts is a matter of grave concern for traders. He said that the current economic situation is very disturbing; SMEs and large-scale industry (LSM) are suffering from slowness. Production has stopped due to non-availability of parts, bank payments are not being made, operational expenses are also becoming difficult to meet, which has increased the fear of unemployment, he added. He said that large firms in Pakistan rely on imported raw ma-

terials / parts, which run our industries. He appealed to the Finance Minister and Governor State Bank to take immediate notice of the situation and open LCs.

Faheem Saigol observed that the country has been reeling from economic distress amid fast-depleting foreign exchange reserves, weakening rupee, and worsening macroeconomic cues, as the gap between inter-bank and open-market US dollar rates has widened by over Rs24, highlighting the difference in how the greenback is being valued in two formal marketplaces in Pakistan. Mian Anjum Nisar said that the current economic situation in Pakistan, marred by rapidly-depleting foreign exchange reserves, has also forced commercial banks to be selective in opening LCs even for sectors such as healthcare, as it has been unable to open Letters of Credit (LCs) as per its usual banking cycle.

He lamented that the economists foresee an imminent humanitarian and healthcare crisis in Pakistan unless prompt actions are taken by

the State Bank of Pakistan, Ministry of Finance and other institutions to avert the disaster. The BMP Chairman and PIAF patron-in-chief said that at the same time, the country has failed to secure much-needed funding from friendly nations and struggled to restart its International Monetary Fund bailout program. The struggle has left policymakers in Pakistan scrambling to arrange foreign exchange amid heightened worries over the country's economic health. Moreover, market rumors of a possible default by Pakistan are also making rounds but the government remains optimistic that Saudi Arabia will offer crucial support for foreign exchange reserves. The FPCCI former president said that the currency market continued to stay engulfed in a massive dollar shortage, as customers struggled to get their hands on the greenback. Dollars are not available in the market as the economic situation remains vulnerable, while foreign exchange reserves remain low.

Briefs

OIC UNA condemns Swedish politician

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Union of Organization of Islamic Cooperation News Agencies (UNA-OIC) Sunday strongly condemned the vile act of desecration of the Holy Quran by far-right activists in front of the Turkish Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden. "UNA warns that this provocative action, which is considered a hate crime and has been committed repeatedly by far-right extremists, targets Muslims, insults their sacred values, and serves as a further example of the alarming level reached by Islamophobia, hate, intolerance, and xenophobia," a press release said. The UNA further urged the Swedish authorities to take necessary measures against the perpetrators of this hate crime and called for increased international efforts to prevent the re-occurrence of such acts and for solidarity to fight Islamophobia.

Punjab govt changes key members of JIT

LAHORE: The Punjab Home Department has once again changed the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) probing the November 3 attack on former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan. According to the notification issued by Home Additional Chief Secretary Capt (retired) Asadullah Khan, three key committee members, who had been probing the case for the past two months, had been replaced. The provincial government did not change the JIT head, Lahore Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Ghulam Mehmood Dogar. The new JIT members include District Police Officer (DPO) Dera Ghazi Khan Muhammad Akmal, SP Anjum Kamal, and Jhang Crime Investigation Agency DSP Nasir Nawaz. The development comes days after the CCPO Lahore Ghulam Mehmood Dogar blamed the JIT members for 'damaging' the Wazirabad Attack case. JIT head CCPO Ghulam Mehmood Dogar submitted the report against the JIT members to the additional chief secretary's home and requested to take strict action against them. - DNA

President Lula fires army chief

BRASILIA: Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva sacked his army chief, Julio Cesar de Arruda, according to media reports Saturday. De Arruda will be replaced by Gen. Tomas Miguel Ribeiro Paiva, army commander for the southeast, Brazilian newspaper Folha de S. Paulo reported. The firing of de Arruda, who had been commander since Dec. 30, came after riots earlier this month by supporters of former President Jair Bolsonaro. Bolsonaro lost to Lula in a tight presidential race Oct. - Agencie

CPEC a unique gift of China for Pakistan: Kundi

Monal Group celebrates advent Chinese New Year in style

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Monal Group Of Companies Hosts Chinese Embassy Officials for Cake-Cutting Ceremony to Celebrate the Start of The Chinese New Year 2023. The Founder and CEO of Monal Group of Companies Luqman Ali Afzal hosted a high-level delegation of officials of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China for a cake-cutting ceremony and lunch on the occasion of the advent of the Chinese New Year 2023 (The Year Of The Rabbit). The guest of honor at the ceremony was the Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Security, Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi. The delegation from the Embassy was led by Mr. Xing Lijun, Head of the Cultural Section at the Embassy and accompanying him were La Jielian, Chairman of the Chinese Association of Pakistan, Zhao Li Ru, Vice President of ZTE, as well as Lee Zu, Assistant Head of the Cultural Section at the Embassy. The Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Security Faisal Karim Kundi spoke about the time-tested brotherly relations between Pakistan and China as well as the



potential benefit to both countries from the ongoing work on the CPEC Project which is bound to bring prosperity to the region. He added, China was the future and it was in the interest of Pakistan to have close and brotherly relations with China. The minister appre-

ciated efforts of the Monal group in bringing peoples of Pakistan and China even close through the culinary diplomacy. Addressing the ceremony, Luqman Ali Afzal spoke about the importance of China as a friendly country and global business partner in the post-Covid

world. Whilst congratulating the Chinese delegates on the occasion of the Chinese New Year, he also announced a 20% goodwill waiver for all Chinese patrons visiting Monal and Asian Wok restaurants in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore and Peshawar start-

ing from January 20th till February 10th, 2023. Xing Lijun, Head of the Cultural Section of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in his address thanked the management of the Monal Group Of Companies for hosting the event in honor of the Chinese New

Year 2023 and said that person-to-person exchanges such as this event are essential in ensuring long lasting brotherly relations between the two countries. The ceremony concluded with lunch being served to the distinguished guests and media persons at the event.

Despite economic crisis, \$1.2bn worth of cars imported

The economy is suffering, but hefty spending on cars and other vehicle imports is raising a lot of questions

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Despite efforts to conserve foreign exchange reserves by restricting imports, Pakistan spent \$1.2 billion (or Rs 259 billion) on the import of transportation items, including luxury cars, high-end electric vehicles, and their parts, during the last six months, reported a media outlet. Pakistan is facing an acute shortage of dollars and has less than \$5 billion in its reserves which is hardly sufficient to finance three-week of its imports. Despite the overall reduction in imports of transportation vehicles and other items compared with last year, the economy was still burdened with heavy outflows for buying expensive luxury vehicles and useless items. During these six months, the country imported completely built units (CBU), completely knocked down/semi knocked down (CKD/SKD) of \$530.5 million equivalent to 118.2 billion. Since CKD kits are not allowed to be imported, yet multimillions of dollars of these kits are being imported, harming the local industry and their production. The economy is suffering, but hefty spending on cars and other vehicle imports is raising a lot of questions about the government's policy of halting imports related to the industrial and commercial sectors. Road motor vehicles (built units, CKD/SKD), \$1.03 billion or Rs230.5 billion were spent during these six months. Last year in the same period, the spending on these vehicles was \$1.87 billion, showing a reduction of 63%. Under the completely built units (CBU) during July-Dec 2022-23 imports of buses, trucks and other heavy vehicles imports were \$75 million (Rs16.6bn), motor cars with \$32.6 million. Under the CKD/SKD, imports of buses, trucks, and other heavy vehicles imports were \$722.5 million (Rs161 billion), while motor car imports were recorded at \$498 million (Rs111 billion).

SC hears cipher case tomorrow

STAFF REPORT

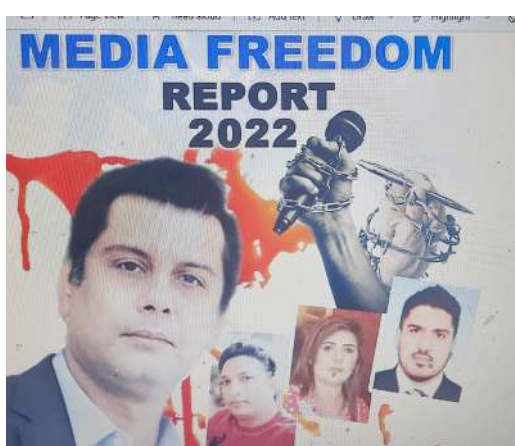
ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court (SC), on January 24, will hear identical pleas seeking a probe into the alleged "threatening letter" incorporating an alleged international conspiracy to remove former premier Imran Khan's government, reported media. Justice Sardar Tariq Masood will hear the appeals challenging the Registrar of the Supreme Court's objections on the petitions. The petitions were filed in the apex court by Advocates Zulfiqar Ahmed Bhutta, Syed Tariq Badar and Naeemul Hassan. Former prime minister Imran Khan, in a public gathering of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf workers on March 27, 2022, had pulled out a piece of paper from his pocket and waved it at the crowd, claiming that it was evidence of an "international conspiracy" being hatched to topple his government. Later,

Advocate Zulfiqar Ahmed Bhutta had first filed a petition in the Supreme Court under Article 184(3) of the Constitution, naming the federation of Pakistan and law secretary as respondents. He had argued that it was an unusual situation that could destabilise the country's law and order by seeding hostility against cordial countries. He had implored the apex court that the respondent may be directed to deliver the "letter" to the civil and military officers to examine. However, the registrar's office returned the plea objecting that the petitioner had not pointed out what questions of public importance were involved in the case concerning any fundamental rights to invoke the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under Article 184(3) of the Constitution. The registrar's office added that the plea did not meet the conditions required to invoke the court's extraordinary jurisdiction under Article 184(3) of the Constitution. The registrar's office added that the applicant drew the notice properly, neither mentioning the purpose of the petition nor providing a copy of the petition to the respondent. It stated that the applicant did not draw the petition as per the Supreme Court Rules, 1980. However, the applicant Zulfiqar Ahmed Bhutta filed a chamber appeal against the registrar's objections in the apex court and pleaded for his appeal to be accepted and place the matter before the bench of the apex court.

Media in Pak faced hardships in 2022

The inhumane murder of journalist, Arshad Sharif, Athar Mateen, and Zia-ur-Rehman Farooqi has exposed the mendacious claims of media freedom by the government and authorities

DNA



KARACHI: The Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE) has issued "Pakistan Press Freedom Report 2022". According to the report, freedom of media in Pakistan faced exacerbating scenarios of jeopardy in 2022 whereas freedom of speech was continuously suppressed and sabotaged. According to CPNE's "Pakistan Media Freedom Report 2022", four media persons were killed during the performance of their duties. The inhumane murder of well-known anchor and journalist, Arshad Sharif, Athar Mateen, and Zia-ur-Rehman Farooqi has exposed the mendacious claims of

media freedom by the government and authorities whereas the death of Sadaf Naem, a female reporter, and journalists, during the performance of her duty as consequences of substandard safety measures. The Federal, a coalition-led government, further advanced the anti-media policies of the PTI Government, and infringe their claims of media freedom. It further continued revengeful and retaliative practices as per the previous government of PTI. According to the report, freedom of media and freedom of expression in Pakistan on the latest world index ranked 157th which is 12 points worse off, compared to the year 2022. Despite the ruling of a new government in 2022, the malicious intimidation tactics to oppress media freedom, freedom of expression, and information accessibility remained unchanged. These statistics and stated incidents in the issued report, are derived from Media Monitoring Desk set up at CPNE Secretariat, gathered from first-hand information, various media sources, newspapers and news websites and carefully composed after thorough investigation by CPNE's Press Freedom and Monitoring Committee. As indicated in the report, the most gruesome murder case on the line of duty is of Anchor & Journalist Arshad Sharif in Kenya, of which accusations are allegedly being pinned on certain people in Pakistan. Wherefore dreadful murder of Arshad Sharif does not only threaten the Pakistani Journalists carrying out international-level investigative journalism but also incalculates fear in prospective candidates and those willing to join the media profession. The influential and authoritative people manipulated, threatened, and harassed professional journalists by wrongfully imposing their power, hither and thither. Undemocratic

black law, enacted by PECA (Prevention of Electronic Crime) is still forcibly being implemented which some of the clauses are negatively impacting the freedom of journalism and freedom of expression. During the past year, threats and attacks faced by media personnel in the context of freedom of expression, have contradicted the claims of democratic government in Pakistan and reflected the authoritarianism system. According to CPNE's report, in 2022 journalists, media employees, and media organizations were subjected to anti-media activities as a result of intolerance and prejudice against the media. In more than 28 incidents, 13 journalists faced violence, households of 2 journalists were attacked, 10 journalists were arrested and cases were lodged against them, and 3 female journalists were harassed. In remuneration of tactful and truthful reporting about floods and affectees in Sindh, along with Ilyas Samoo, the journalist from Ketri Bandar, many journalists from different areas of Sindh were arrested on false allegations under Anti-terrorisms Act. The case based on false allegations against Waqar Satti, an Islamabad-based journalist, under Blasphemy Act is still pending irrespective of clear instruction by the High Court. Moreover, journalists also face self-censorship and other restrictions. Also, in 2022, online harassment against journalists continued. Various defamatory trends were run against journalists and media organizations. Social media trends backed by some religious and political groups triggered serious life and safety threats for journalists.

German, French CGs celebrate 'Elysée Treaty'

KARACHI: Consul General of France to Karachi Alexis Chahtahinsky and Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr. Rüdiger Lotz on Sunday celebrated the signing of 'Elysée Treaty' 60 years ago. They termed it as a historic treaty of friendship. The treaty on Franco-German cooperation was ratified at the Elysée Palace in Paris on January 22, 1963. 'After World War II, France reached out to its former enemy and treated Germany as a partner.' They said 60 years have been the happiest in our two countries history. They said Germany and France have shown how two nations, formerly hostile to each other, can achieve unprecedented friendship and cooperation. This was neither easy nor natural. 'It requires a great deal of leadership and political wisdom on both sides', they added. - DNA

Iran likely to withdraw from NPT

FOERIGN DESK

TEHRAN: Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian reacted to the European Parliament's act against IRGC, saying that Iran may withdraw from Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) if Europe does not change its positions. Based on the remarks made by the rotating head of the European Union, the Westerners do not tend to implement this resolution, Amirabdollahian said, adding that if Europe does not change its positions, the possibility of taking any countermeasures is conceivable. He stated that the European Parliament made an emotional decision and did not act based on rationality. He noted that the Iranian parliament's act that binds the government and at the same time blacklists the European military forces as terrorist army is a countermeasure. Amirabdollahian said that a few European political leaders have no experience in the field of diplomacy.

Chris Hipkins confirmed as New Zealand's next prime minister

NEWS DESK



AUCKLAND: New Zealand's ruling Labour Party announced on Sunday that Chris Hipkins will be the party's new leader and the country's 41st prime minister. His election was confirmed by a vote in the party's caucus meeting on Sunday, which lasted less than an hour. The 44-year-old caucus member, minister for education, police, and public service, and leader of the house, was the sole nominee, following his predecessor Jacinda Ardern's shock resignation. Ardern announced on Thursday that she will step down as prime minister and party leader in February and will not seek re-election in the 2023 general election slated to be held on Oct. 14. Hipkins, 44, will take the oath of office as Prime Minister on Wednesday. During a press conference following his election, he said a cabinet reshuffle would be announced in the coming

week. In addition to focusing on domestic issues, Hipkins said his government will prioritize rising inflation, high housing prices, and law and order. Born in the Hutt Valley in 1978, Hipkins attended Waterloo Primary School, Hutt Intermediate and was Head Boy at Hutt Valley Memorial College (later called Petone College) in 1996. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in politics and criminology from Victoria University of Wellington. Hipkins entered parliament in 2008, and after the 2011 general election, he was named Labour Party spokesperson for internal affairs and chief whip. He was also the spokesperson for State Services and Associate Education. Hipkins was appointed minister for education in 2017 after being elected as a cabinet minister by the Labour Party caucus. In early 2020, he was appointed as health minister, and a few months later, in Nov. 2020, Hipkins was minister of education, minister of public service, and COVID-19 response minister. In June 2022, he was appointed police minister. The Labour Party caucus elected Carmel Sepuloni as the country's new deputy prime minister. Sepuloni first entered parliament as a list member following the 2008 general election, becoming New Zealand's first MP of Tongan descent. Since 2017, she has served as New Zealand's Minister for social development. She is also the minister responsible for the accident compensation scheme (ACC) and the arts

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