



Islamabad POST

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New GSP+ will be 'more for more' process: Belgian envoy

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Greece, Turkiye urge better ties post-earthquake

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PSL producing good players for country: Rizwan

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Briefs

Siraj blames PDM, PTI

DNA

DINA: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) emir Siraj Haq blamed on Sunday the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), Pakistan Peoples Party and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for economic woes. Mr Haq, speaking at a public gathering here, bemoaned the country's mounting debts. He lashed out at the rulers, saying, "These corrupt rulers had dragged the country into a quagmire." He also blamed the rulers for "people not getting justice in the country." He also expressed his concerns over "skyrocketing inflation," saying, "Now the masses will not bear more inflation."

Rana vows to ensure security of foreigners

DNA

GAWADAR: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Sunday directed the authorities concerned to take all possible measures to ensure the safety of masses and foreign nationals in the country. He was chairing a meeting in Gwadar on Sunday regarding counter terrorism and the security of foreign nationals in the country. During the meeting, he said foolproof security will be provided to Chinese nationals working on various projects in Pakistan and any negligence in this regard will not be tolerated.

Qureshi blames PDM govt for crises

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MULTAN: Former foreign minister and PTI Vice-Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Sunday blamed the PDM govt for the economic crisis, media reported. Shah Mahmood Qureshi held a press conference in which he strongly criticised the ruling government and blamed the PDM govt for political instability, wheat and economic crisis in Pakistan.

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New GSP+ will be 'more for more' process: Belgian envoy - Page 08

PM reviews relief efforts Aid to Syria and Turkiye continues

PIA's another flight reaches Turkiye as PM vows to continue assistance

ABID RAZA

LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that Pakistan would continue assisting the quake-affected brethren and sisters of Turkiye and Syria by sending the relief aid. He said that the fund established for the earthquake-affected people of Turkiye would also be utilized to support the quake victims of Syria. The prime minister chaired a meeting to review the ongoing relief efforts on part of Pakistan to provide succor to the quake-affected populace of Turkiye and Syria, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. During the meeting, the prime minister said that Pakistan would bear all the expenses on the supply of relief goods to these countries. He also directed the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to purchase the required items keeping in view of the needs of the quake victims, adding that Pakistan was not only utilizing the air bridge but also ensuring supply of relief assistance through land and sea routes. The meeting was attended by Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar, Minister for Planning

Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, PM's Special Assistant Syed Tariq Fatemi, secretaries of foreign affairs, aviation, chairman NDMA and other high officials. The prime minister directed the minister for planning to contact the educational institutions for running an organized fund-raising campaign. He also asked the ministry of religious affairs to spread awareness in the religious institutions by taking the ulema on board. During the meeting, the prime minister was apprised that relief items including winterized tents, blankets, quilts and warm clothes were being sent to Turkiye and a large part of this consignment had been sent through air bridge. Yesterday, a convoy of 21 trucks containing these items had left for the two countries. In the next few days, 1600 tons of ration would be dispatched to Turkiye and Syria through land and sea routes. Meanwhile, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) on Sunday transported another consignment of five tons of relief assistance to Turkiye in line with Pakistan's

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Maryam tells masses No chance of immediate relief

Says judiciary 'meting out special treatment' to Imran

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) senior vice president Maryam Nawaz admitted on Sunday there was no chance of immediate relief to the masses. Speaking to media, Ms Nawaz said that although the country was facing difficult times, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was making all-out efforts to take the country out of the quagmire. Talking about her new role in the PML-N, Ms Nawaz said, "PML-N supreme and PM Shehbaz Sharif has handed over the responsibility to me ahead of my surgery."



PPP to consult on contesting by-polls

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan people party (PPP) has decided to hold consultation over the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) proposed to not take part in by-polls election. Source told that PPP will hold consultation with their nominated candidates. Decision to take part or not in by-polls will be made after consultation with nominated candidates. A day before PDM virtual meeting was led by PPP leadership in which PDM leaders had proposed to not take part in by-polls. - Online

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review Pakistan's contribution in rescue and relief activities in the post-earthquake situation in Turkiye and Syria. - APP

ECP meets today to discuss LHC verdict
LHC had directed ECP to announce date for polls

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan has summoned a special meeting today (Monday) to discuss the Lahore High Court's decision of holding elections in Punjab in 90 days. According to the commission, a special meeting has been called at its secretariat in the light of Lahore High Court's decision to hold elections in Punjab. A brief statement said the future course of action and implementation would be discussed in view of the court verdict.

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Pak-US defence dialogue begins today

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The second round of defence dialogue between Pakistan and United States will be held from today. The Pak-US defence dialogue is scheduled from 13-16 February in Washington, Pakistan's Foreign Office Spokesperson has announced.

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Imran Khan claims Ex-COAS 'super king'; I was the punching bag

Claims ex-COAS manipulated US against him 'Regime change plan has backfired'

CENTRELINE REPORT

RAWALPINDI: PTI chief Imran Khan claimed he was made the "punching bag" and was on the receiving end of criticism for his government's performance despite the fact that ex-army chief retired General Qamar Javed Bajwa was the "super king" behind all decisions. In a televised address on Sunday, the former premier talked at length about the former chief of army staff (COAS), saying that the PTI government used to take decisions after seeking his formal approval.



NEWS DESK / DNA

ISLAMABAD: PTI chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan has blamed the "negligence" of Pakistan's security forces and intelligence agencies for the rising incidents of terrorism in the country. In an interview with Voice of America English, Imran spoke on the recent criticism surrounding

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Fawad slams ECP for not holding early meeting

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) senior leader Fawad Chaudhry slammed the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for not holding a meeting on Punjab general elections today (Sunday) despite court orders. Fawad, in a tweet, said: "The Election Commission should have held a meeting today for the polls, don't make a joke of the Constitution and court orders." Further criticising the commission, Fawad claimed that the "general impression" is that

since the ECP is made up of "Munshis" (clerks or personal assistants), it will not hold provincial elections like it did in Islamabad. "This fiddling with the Constitution will cost the country dearly," warned the former information minister. Fawad told the ECP that the Constitution is the only agreed document, and if that is also "trampled, then the state of Pakistan will be in serious danger". "Enough is enough, our movement for the supremacy of the Constitution is ready. This movement will start with Jail Bhoro [movement] and will continue till the restoration of the Constitution," said the PTI leader.

New GSP+ will be 'more for more' process: Belgian envoy

Ambassador Charles Delogne says Belgium hopes that Pakistan will be one of the beneficiaries of the new GSP+ process

Exclusive

ANSAR MAHMOOD BHATTI

Ambassador of Belgium to Pakistan Charles Delogne talked to Daily Islamabad POST, Centreline and Diplomatic News Agency (DNA). The ambassador talked about bilateral as well multi-lateral relations. Here is the text of his interview

1: Let us begin with the bilateral relations, please share with us some salient features of Pakistan-Belgium ties with particular reference to trade and economic activities? Our most complete statistics date from 2021: Belgium exported goods to Pakistan for 866 million EUR but this figure was boosted by the export of Covid-19 vaccines. Belgium imported goods from Pakistan for 457 million EUR, essentially textiles and rice. The statistics during the 9 first months of 2022 show a more balanced picture but still an increase of the overall turnover: the Belgian exports to Pakistan amounted 487 million EUR while the Belgian import from Pakistan had a value of 463 million EUR. I do not know the impact the floods will have on our trade relation this year. In total, Belgium is the 58th supplier of Pakistan and its 61st client. For those last figures, I used the statistics of the Belgian Trade Agency. According to



Ambassador of Belgium to Pakistan Charles Delogne talks to Daily Islamabad POST.

the Pakistani ones, Belgium is the 5th trade partner of Pakistan. 2: Since January 2014, Pakistan has GSP+ status and a general view even among the business community is that Pakistan has not been able to fully cash in on this facility because of certain internal factors. Do you think this impression holds any ground or you think Pakistan has made maximum utilization of this facility? It is impossible to answer this question which is rather speculative. For sure, the European Union is the main trade partner of Pakistan with an overall turnover above 13 billion EUR in 2019, last year with full statistics. This figure includes Pakistani exports of goods to the EU (7,5 billion EUR or 30 % of the total value of the Pakistani exports), the Pakistani imports of



Ambassador of Belgium to Pakistan Charles Delogne reads daily Islamabad POST

goods from the EU (5,5 billion EUR) as well as the import of services from Pakistan. But the European Union is much more than a trade partner or a development partner for Pakistan. In 2019, both signed a Strategic Engagement Plan that identifies a lot of fields of cooperation. In 2022, many high-level meetings witnessed the intensity of the EU-Pakistan relationship. 3: To be able to benefit from GSP Plus Pakistan ratified all 27 core international conventions on human rights, labour standards, environmental protection, and good governance. Since this ratification, not much has changed on the ground in Pakistan. Do you think Pakistan may face serious challenges in December this year when the Status is going to be reviewed? Implementation of these conventions

by Pakistan is indeed of utmost importance. The discussion is going on within the European Union about a new GSP+ regulation that will normally enter into force in January 2024 and will replace the current regulation. The big institutional change is that this new regulation must be approved by the European Parliament. This increases the political nature of the GSP+ which will be more than a mere trade agreement. Follow-up mechanisms will be put in place and this supposes frequent political talks. To summarize, the new GSP+ regulation will be a "more for more" process and not a zero sum game. Belgium hopes that Pakistan will be one of its beneficiaries. 4: How do you see the world response towards Pakistan floods at the recently held Geneva donors' conference? Please share with our readers the Belgian support extend-



Ambassador of Belgium to Pakistan Charles Delogne talks to Daily Islamabad POST.

ed to Pakistan in this regard? The Geneva Conference went beyond the expectations of the Pakistani Government. Belgium did not announce any pledge for the reconstruction but insisted on the importance of her contribution during the humanitarian phase of the floods in order to save lives. At the most critical moments of the floods, Belgium provided 300 tents to offer a shelter to 1,800 people and a water sanitation installation. These contributions in kind must be added to the considerable budgetary support Belgium gives to UNICEF, FAO and ICRC through the techniques of core funding and flexible funding that allow the quickest reaction of these multilateral bodies to address humanitarian crises such as the floods in Pakistan.

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PMA hails exempting of NLE exam decision

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) Islamabad chapter on Sunday appreciated the decision of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) of giving exemption to medical graduates of Pakistani medical and dental colleges from the National Licensing Examination (NLE).

In a statement, PMA President Dr. Akhtar Ali Bandedha and General Secretary Dr. Mubashir Mushtaq Doha said that now, PMDC had started issuing permanent registration certificates to doctors who graduated from Pakistani medical and dental colleges, without the requirement of NLE. They said that this important step was taken in accordance with the pledge of Minister for National Health Services Abdul Qadir Patel, who made this during the meeting with the PMA Islamabad chapter.

They said the PMA truly represented the doctors' community and made sincere efforts to get success in the fulfillment of their genuine demands including exemption from NLE. They said that taking up all the relevant matters and affairs by the PMA was a good sign. The PMDC started its registration portal as a priority after making all necessary arrangements for the transition from PMDC to PMDC. In this regard, an interactive PMDC online portal has been launched to facilitate doctors throughout the country while the PMDC also started issuing good-standing certificates and renewals, he expressed. They said that keeping in view the demand of the PMA and the direction of the Minister for National Health Services Abdul Qadir Patel, this step was taken after the PMA raised this issue at various concerned forums for their community.

They said that the PMA Islamabad chapter would continue its efforts to address the problems of medical students and the doctors' community. It is pertinent to mention here that the NLE exam was mandatory earlier as per the previous law of PMC and the local graduates had to appear and pass the NLE exam before getting their permanent registration. In this regard, several protests and demonstrations were held by different doctor forums and organizations at different levels and the past government was appealed repeatedly to withdraw the said black law.

Manzoor for ensuring transparent elections in KP

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Labour, Excise and Anti-Narcotics Manzoor Khan Afridi on Sunday said that he has joined the caretaker government with the mission of establishing a conductive environment for peaceful, clean, transparent and fair elections in the province. Manzoor Afridi said that as the Minister of Excise and Anti-Narcotics Department, he has made it his mission to eliminate the scourge of drugs, especially ice, from society, so the tribal elite should also support him in Pakistan. He said a handout. He said that this is also the real jihad upon which the tribal elite raised their hands and reiterated their commitment to support him in this jihad.—APP

Russian aggression against Ukraine should be ended

Ambassador Maciej Pisarski said Poland has been one of the fastest-growing export markets for Pakistan. The European Union was the largest destination for Pakistani exports

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Poland to Pakistan Maciej Pisarski on Sunday said that the bilateral trade volume between Pakistan and Poland has reached over €723 million and both countries are focusing on exploring more avenues of trade and investments in multiple sectors like information technology, food processing, and agriculture sector. The good news for the Pakistani side was that Poland was in a huge trade deficit of almost half a billion Euro deficit as Pakistani exports in textile, sportswear, foodstuff and leather products were much higher while Poland's exports are less. It was mostly due to the introduction of the GSP Plus trade mechanism which allowed Pakistani exports to the European Union, he told. Ambassador Maciej Pisarski said Poland has been one of the fastest-growing export markets for Pakistan. The European Union was the largest destination for Pakistani exports, and Poland had supported the inclusion of Pakistan in the

Indonesia attaches great value to ties with Pakistan

Ambassador Adam Tugio says Indonesian and AMAN 2023: Building Strong Partnership with Pakistan to Promote Global Peace and Security

NAZIR SYIAL

KARACHI: In discussion with Karachi Council for Foreign Relations (KCFR), Ambassador Adam Tugio underscored the solid foundation of bilateral relation between Indonesia and Pakistan which encompassing all aspects of cooperation. He mentioned the participation of a frigate vessel of Indonesian Navy to AMAN Naval Exercise 2023 as an example on how Indonesia attaches great importance of its partnership with Pakistan to promote global peace and security. The envoy further said that cooperation on defence sectors has a potential to grow beyond exchange of military officers and capacity building programs. "More than 50 percent of conflicts is taking place in OIC geographic. Indonesia and Pakistan are the two biggest UN troops contributing countries and the role of women peace-keepers of the two countries can give significant contribution to create enabling environment for peace and reconciliation in such conflicts", added Tugio.



Indonesia Pakistan Relations By Mr. Adam Mulawarman Tugio Ambassador Republic of Indonesia February 2023

Ambassador Tugio specifically made reference to newly established mechanism of Joint Ministerial Commission which would allow the two FMs to meet at regular basis for stock-taking progress of bilateral cooperation and give strategic direction to deepening bilateral relation. He further mentioned that Pakistan has full potential to develop its economy due to its geographic location to serve as gateway to the broader region in Central Asia. "Pakistan has strong resilience to overcome the economic crises and make strong revival as attested through its history", imbued the envoy. Ambassador Tugio encouraged Pakistan business community to look Indonesia as trade hub for expanding its

2nd International property expo in Peshawar on Feb 17

DNA

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry is organizing the 2nd Peshawar International Property Expo and Convention from 17th to 19th February 2023 at Marbella Cave Marquee, Warsak Road - Peshawar. This Event is Powered by AH Group of Companies & Sponsored by Square Nine International. More than forty leading builders and developers from across Pakistan will present their commercial and housing projects to the general public and foreign investors. A day before the expo starts, a Conference regarding the Investment Opportunities will also be organized on February 16, 2023 at Serena Hotel Peshawar. Commerce Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mr. Adnan Jalli will be the Chief guest. Vice Chairman Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment Engr. Saif Mahmood, DG Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Cultural Tourism Au-

thority, Presidents and representatives of all chambers of commerce of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Prominent businessmen will participate in it. Chairman PAEI Mr. Khurshid Barlas has said that economic activities in the housing and real estate sector in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the country will get a strong boost, keeping in view the current situation through the property expo. More than 30 small scale industries are linked to the housing sector thus increasing both investment and employment. Prominent builders and developers, Pakistani builders will showcase innovative eco-friendly housing projects for foreign investors. A large number of overseas Pakistanis are expected to attend the three-day property expo. AH Group Chairman Mr. Yasir Ali Mehsud said that overseas Pakistanis should take advantage of this expo by joint ventures with their Pakistani and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa builders and developers. Prominent builders and developers are very satisfied with the foolproof arrangements of the expo organized by the Pakistan Association of Exhibition Industry. After the conclusion of the expo and convention, the award ceremony of this expo and convention will be held on February 23 at Serena Hotel Islamabad in which the awards will be given to Participants.

Promotion of IT, vocational education vital

PESHAWAR: The promotion of information technology, technical and vocational education was imperative to financially empower youth and take full advantage of the government as well as CPEC projects. Ikhair Wali Khan, PNM KP spokesman and former member provincial assembly told APP on Sunday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has launched scores of programmes and initiatives for the promotion of technical and IT education for financial empowerment of youth. He said the present government has launched various uplift projects for financial empowerment of youth including provision of 2,000 Internships for young engineers, youth transformation programs for 20 underdeveloped districts in Pakistan including KP, innovation fund and 75 National Top Talent Scholarships Programme besides free laptop schemes, adding 600 students were sent to China for technical education to take full advantage of CPEC's projects. He said the demands for technical workforce has jacked up due to CPEC's projects and establishment of special economic zones (SEZ) including the one Rashakai SEZ in Nowshera which is a gateway to Central Asian Republics through Afghanistan that would benefit KP a hub of business and industrialization. "When our youth visit GULF for employment, they spend enormous amounts of money to get LTV, HTV driving licenses and others operational expertise of different machineries to get recruitment in foreign companies, however, the labour from neighbouring countries get these jobs easily due to prior expertise and experiences," he said. As of December 2019, more than 11 million Pakistanis proceeded to over 50 countries across the globe to get employment after fulfilling official procedures, he said, adding 96pc migrants prefer to go to Gulf states including Saudi Arabia and UAE nited Arab Emirates for employment. The remittances by overseas Pakistanis has reached to US\$21.84 billion during 2019 financial year out of which 60.65 percent of the remittances were from the Arab States, he said adding that these remittances could be increased if more skilled and required labour was sent abroad. Malik while referring to 2017 national population census said that about 64 percent population of our country comprised youth including 40.3pc to 29 years.—APP

Rashakai Special Economic Zone to become operational next month

PESHAWAR: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development & Management Company (KP-EZDMC), Javed Iqbal Khattak has said that 80pc of work on infrastructure development in Rashakai prioritized Special Economic Zone (sPEZ) has been completed and will become operational in March 2023. Talking to APP here on Sunday, he said that spread over an area of 1000 acres, sPEZ is a flagship project of the KP government under the industrial cooperation of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework that serves as CPEC Special Economic Zone. It is one of the four prioritized SEZs that would be the first SEZ to become operational next month. He said that power transmission and transformation were crucial parts of the project, which are near completion. He said that a special focus of this project is to set up export-oriented industrial units in it. Besides the investment of US \$ 400 million, they are also expecting the generation of 250,000 to 300,000 direct and indirect employment, he said, adding that 80pc of the labour force in the zone would be local, particularly natives of the area. Regarding investment in the project, the CEO KP-EZDMC said that so far 18 Pakistani and Chinese companies have agreed on making joint ventures in it.—APP

economic cooperation, political and military dialogue and the development of people-to-people relations during the last six decades. Answering a question about educational cooperation, he urged for institutional partnerships between the universities of Poland and Pakistan to seek potential, talented and skillful students in the field of science and technology and higher education for better outcome. So, this would enhance educational cooperation and people-to-people relationships. —Agencies

Wheat quota suspended for over 100 flour mills

LAHORE: Punjab Food department has suspended wheat quota for more than 100 flour mills as dispute rises high among Punjab food department and flour mills association. Most of the mills have been closed: source of flour mills association. Flour association will go on formal strike from today (Monday). Sources said that it has been asked to lodge cases against 1 mill owners. Flour mills stopped flour supply to shops. Source also said that interim Chief Minister (CM) Mohsin Naqvi has summoned report from food secretary of the region. CM also questioned that ID card and thumbs condition was imposed upon whose orders? He also asked how the dispute raised to this level.—Online

AKF mobilizes resources for earthquake relief in Türkiye

PESHAWAR, Feb 12 (AP)—In the wake of the tragic earthquake in Türkiye, the search and rescue teams of Al-Khidmat Foundation have arrived in the Türkiye to provide relief to the victims. The teams, consisting of 47 experienced search and rescue volunteers from Pakistan, arrived in Türkiye on the second day of the earthquake and have been included in the central operation of International Search and Rescue. Central Vice President of Al-Khidmat Foundation, Pakistan, Abdul Shakoor, and Peshawar District General Secretary, Engineer Iftikhar Ahmed, are also present in Türkiye to oversee the relief efforts. The organization has been assigned code number 10 and is working under the supervision of Director Fazal Mehmood. Mian Abdul Shakoor, the Central Vice President of Al-Khidmat Foundation Pakistan in Türkiye, has emphasized that the organization is not only working within Pakistan but is also actively involved in relief efforts abroad. He has appealed to immigrants to participate in the relief work for the earthquake victims in Türkiye and Syria.—APP

Attack police award penalty on its officer

QAZI SHOAB KHAN

ATTOCK: Attack police awarded major penalty of removal from service to its police inspector on proving sufficient grounds of serious misconduct of his criminal service record through concealment of his criminal service record with connivance of a clerk posted at District Police Office. Police sources here on Sunday said that police inspector Mr. Azmat Hayat a former SHO and incharge officer of Homicide Investigation Unit while posting at Hassanabad police station found guilty of taking bribe of Rs.5 lac for tempering an official record of a murder case of Jhari Kas. The Inquiry Officer proved the charges after departmental inquiry and subsequently, the authorized officer recommended his removal from service besides no further promotion under police order 2002. Measoom ur Rehman, Mr. Azmat Hayat manipulated his promotion from the rank of sub inspector to inspector after concealing his inquiry report from the official file with the blessing of the clerk incharge Mr. Junaid in District Police Attock in December 2022. Thereafter, another inquiry was also conducted to establish the charges of tempering in office record and obtaining promotion through unfair means. Police sources further said, consequent upon the approval of the Inspector General Punjab Police Mr. Azmat Hayat Police Inspector was removed from the service on the same charges. Similarly, clerk Mr. Junaid was also removed from service. The charges of misconduct in person or written within a stipulated period of seven days failing which he will also be removed from the service, sources added.

PPAF bringing change in less privileged people's lives

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Italy to Pakistan Andrea Ferrarrese said that Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund (PPAF) was bringing the changes of tempering in office record and obtaining promotion through unfair means. Police sources further said, consequent upon the approval of the Inspector General Punjab Police Mr. Azmat Hayat Police Inspector was removed from the service on the same charges. Similarly, clerk Mr. Junaid was also removed from service. The charges of misconduct in person or written within a stipulated period of seven days failing which he will also be removed from the service, sources added.

AC visits govt schools, health centers

PESHAWAR: Assistant Commissioner (AC) of Darra Adam Khel, Ashrafuddin Chitrali Sunday on Sunday paid a visit to public schools, health centers and inspecting the ongoing construction work in Chapar and Kohiwal. Naib Tahsilidar Darra was also accompanied by him. He checked the school building and other areas in order to provide maximum facilities to the students. He also went through the attendance register and school records of the teachers. During their visit, the team also inspected staff attendance during basic health check-up and also checked medicine records and expiry and instructed the staff to make public service their motto. After issuing necessary instructions to the health staff regarding the further improvement of public services and facilities, he also inspected the ongoing construction work on Girls Primary School and said that there will be no compromise on quality.—APP

Table with 4 columns: No., Tender No./Enquiry No., Description, Opening Date. Includes tenders for LED tubes, PMS, Polyclinic, and Shifa International.

SALE GAS - SAVE CASH P1D.L.2348

National Days and Armed Forces Days

- FEBRUARY Feb 04 / Sri Lanka National Day Feb 06 / New Zealand National Day Feb 06 / Uganda Defece Forces Day Feb 11 / DPR Korea National Day Feb 16 / Lithuania National Day Feb 18 / Gambia National Day Feb 19 / Nepal National Democracy Day Feb 23 / Brunei National Day Feb 23 / Guyana National Day Feb 23 / Russian Federation National Army Day Feb 23 / Tajikistan Armed Forces Day Feb 25 / Kuwait National Day Feb 27 / Dominican Republic Independence Day

Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel.....111 133 133 Marriott.....051-282621 Monal.....0334-542812

Airlines

Turkish Airlines.....8494949

Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15 Bomb Disposal.....15 Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad.....1122 & 16 Emergency Ambulance.1122 & Rescue Services.4451122 Motorway Police..926044 Motorway Police.9270601-20 Women Police Stations Islamabad.....9222596 Rawalpindi.....9270601-20

Emergency

Edhi Ambulance.....115 FIA Flight Info.....114 FIA Cargo.....9280979 Railway Inquiry.....117 Railway Exchange9270831-5 WASA Rawalpindi..5555489 CAA.....9281092

Hospitals

CMH.....5611111 MH.....5611116 Cant Hospital..9270907-11 DGH.....5556311-4 RHQ.....9290301-7 PMS.....9261170-9 Polyclinic.....9218300-09 Shifa International 4603666

Departments

CDA.....9221334-43 CDA.....9208301-04 Met Office.....9250306-0 RDA.....5558864 TMA.....5770886 Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Water Tank Islamabad.....0321-5744480



RAWALPINDI: Pir Mohammad Naqib Rahman, Sajada Nasheen Pir Mohammad Hassan Haseeb ur Rehman, Ambassador of Turkey Mehmet Pajaji, Ambassador of Morocco Mohamed Karmoune, Ambassador of Palestine Ahmed Javed Rabi offered prayers for those martyred and injured in the recent devastating earthquake in the Kingdom of Turkey in Darbar-e-Allia Eid Gah Sharif on Sunday. — DNA

ICCI collects donations for victims of Turkiye and Syria

Ahsan Bakhtawari appealed to the business community to donate generously for the relief of the earthquake victims of both countries so that the hardships of our Muslim brothers and sisters can be reduced



ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a ceremony to offer Dua for those who died in Türkiye and Syria due to the recent devastating earthquake. The event was attended by a large number of business community including Presidents of various markets. On this occasion, donations were also collected for the relief of earthquake victims. Speaking at the event, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the business community is standing with the earthquake victims of Türkiye and Syria in this difficult time and are trying to help them in every possible way. He said that the most destructive earthquake in history has caused a lot of destruction in Türkiye and Syria because the number of people killed by the earthquake in both countries has exceeded 24 thousand, of which 20 thousand deaths have occurred in Türkiye alone. He said that due to the earthquake, the economies of both the countries have suffered loss of billions of dollars, while millions of people have been displaced and they are facing severe difficulties in this winter season. He said that when there was a devastating earthquake in Pakistan in October 2005, the aid teams of Türkiye had arrived in Pakistan immediately, while Türkiye always came forward to help Pakistan in every difficult time, so it is our responsibility to help them in this difficult time. Ahsan Bakhtawari appealed to the business community to donate generously for the relief of the earthquake victims of both countries so that the hardships of our Muslim brothers and sisters can be reduced. He expressed his determination that Islamabad Chamber of Commerce will collect a reasonable amount of donations and will send relief goods to the earthquake victims of both countries and will support to mark the day. Schools, colleges and universities may prepare special activities for the day or plan a week of events around a theme related to poverty, social and economic exclusion or unemployment. Different media, including radio and television stations, newspapers and Internet sites, may give attention to the issues around the World Day of Social Justice. It is hoped that particular coverage is given to the links between the illicit trade in diamonds and armed conflicts, particularly in Africa, and the importance of the International Criminal Court. This is an independent court that conducts trials of people accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. —APP

Cat's Eyes provide reliable solution for road safety

ISLAMABAD: Road safety expert, Muhammad Anwar has said that Cat's Eyes were a cost-effective road safety solution for its benefits including clear visibility, durability, affordability and improving road safety by reducing the risk of accidents on roads. Talking to APP here on Sunday, he said that Cat Eyes consisted of a small cylindrical unit, fitted with retro-reflective lenses that reflected light back towards its source, such as a car's headlights. He said that Cats Eyes were highly visible, even in poor lighting conditions that have shown a significant reduction in accidents on roads. — APP

Sri Lankan delegation visits Pakistan Sweet Home

ISLAMABAD: A delegation from the National Defense University comprising Sri Lankan army officers, bureaucrats, and other officials on Sunday made a special visit to Pakistan Sweet Home. The delegation praised the arrangements and efforts being done to educate the orphan children while Patron in-charge of Pakistan Sweet Home, Zamrud Khan expressed his gratitude towards the National Defense University for continuously

Stakeholders for setting standards for driving schools

ISLAMABAD: The stakeholders have urged to establish standards for driving schools to ensure quality training, in view of rising concerns about road safety. Talking to APP here on Sunday, a senior official of National Highway and Motorway Police on the condition of anonymity said, "Without proper regulations, there is a risk that individuals who receive their driver's education from unqualified or poorly equipped schools may not have the skills and knowledge necessary to drive safely on the roads." He said, "Driving schools require various regulations including standards, training materials, instructors and vehicles." "The absence of standards can contribute to an increase in accidents and traffic violations" he added. "These individuals may provide substandard training, putting both their students and other road users at risk." "To address the issues, many countries have established regulatory bodies to oversee the operations of driving schools, he said. "These bodies are responsible for setting standards, conducting inspections and audits, and enforcing penalties for schools that violate regulations," he added. "By regulating driving schools, it is possible to ensure that individuals receive a high-quality education that prepares them to drive safely on the roads." When contacted the driving school for the opinion, a representative of Muslim Motors & Driving School located in Sector G-9 Markaz raised concerns about individuals operating driving schools without proper qualifications and noted, "Some people are operating driving schools having a single car with a number written on it,"

13 Feb World Radio Day

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will join the rest of the world in marking the 'World Radio Day' on Monday for paying tribute to the radio and its role in promoting freedom of expression, facilitating dialogue, and bringing communities together. Radio continues to be a vital source of information and entertainment for millions of people around the world and to celebrate the impact and importance of this medium, the UN has declared February 13th as World Radio Day. — APP

Public Notice

BE it known to all concerned that Muhammad Riaz S/O Jaffar Nazir Deceased (P.M.E.S. Sanjwal Cantt) has been expired on 24/09/2021 and as per Court decree issued by civil Judge Class I (Attock) and Affidavit dated 10/01/2023 he left following legal heirs behind him. In the following legal heirs of the deceased lessee have applied for transfer of legal share in their favour, which is under process as per law in the court of law. The legal heirs of the deceased are: (Widow) Shaiza Begum, Daughter Shaiza Bibi, Daughter Khadija Muneer, Daughter Tahira Bibi, Daughter Safa Naz, Son Hassan Ali, Mother Hafeez Jan, Grandson Abdul Haddi, Grandson Muhammad Khazima Abbas. Anyone having objection to the said inheritance mutation may submit to the undersigned within 14 days from the publication of this notice failing which mutation of lease hold rights of above said plot will be made in favour of above said legal heirs and thereafter, no claim/s whatsoever will be accepted/ entertained. Cantonment Executive Officer, Sanjwal Cantt.

Islamabad POST Now Available in SERENA HOTELS PESHAWER

President Dr Arif Alvi felicitates Iran

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi, on behalf of the government and the people of Pakistan, has felicitated Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, on the 44th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. In his message to the leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, the president said that the fraternal relations between Pakistan and Iran were rooted in linguistic, cultural, and religious bonds. He said that Pakistan remained committed to further strengthening of these ties across the entire gamut of bilateral relations, President Secretary Tarek Mehmood Wing said in a press release on Sunday. The president conveyed his best wishes for Seyed Ali Khamenei's health and happiness and for the continued progress, prosperity and well-being of the Islamic Republic of Iran. — APP

World Day of Social Justice to be marked on Feb 20

ISLAMABAD: World Day of Social Justice will be observed on February 20 across the globe including Pakistan to encourage people to look at how social justice affects poverty eradication. It also focuses on the goal of achieving full employment and support for social integration. Many organisations, including the UN and the International Labour Office, make statements on the importance of social justice for people. Many organisations also press for social justice to poverty, social and economic exclusion or unemployment. Different media, including radio and television stations, newspapers and Internet sites, may give attention to the issues around the World Day of Social Justice. It is hoped that particular coverage is given to the links between the illicit trade in diamonds and armed conflicts, particularly in Africa, and the importance of the International Criminal Court. This is an independent court that conducts trials of people accused of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. —APP

Briefs
APSUP & PAMI launches mission essar earthquake relief fund

ISLAMABAD: In order to assist earthquake-affected people in practical terms in south-eastern Türkiye and north-western Syria, the Association of Private Sector Universities of Pakistan (APSUP) and the Pakistan Association of Private Medical & Dental Institutions (PAMI) have collectively launched Mission Essar Earthquake Fund.

Both funds for Türkiye and Syria, a humble tradition of standing with our brothers and sisters in need, be it here in Pakistan or in our brotherly Muslim countries anywhere in the world with PKR 17.6 million contributed to such noble causes so far.

The relief fund would help ease the suffering of countless individuals and families who have lost their loved ones, their homes, and their livelihoods.

Millions remain in dire need of food, shelter, medical care, and, above all, an arm around their loved ones. Superior University has already contributed 5 million rupees to APSUP & PAMI's Mission Essar Earthquake Relief Fund for Türkiye and Syria. The confirmed death toll from the deadliest quake in the region during two decades stood at more than 24,000 across southwest Türkiye and northwest Syria.—APP

Kites on the sky despite ban

RAWALPINDI: Despite the ban kite flying is going unnoticed and police is not taking action against the violators. Kites can be seen on the sky in different localities including Tench Bhatta, Saddar, Lal Kurti, Dheri Hassan Abad, Talsi, Saint Mary's School, Lala Zar, Sher Zaman Colony, Baqir Colony, Chungi Number 22, Bakra Mandi, Dhoke Syedan, Adyala Road, Morgah, Westridge, Khariar, Miral, Shalimar Valley, Dhoke Mangtal, Rata Amral, Rake Cosque, Banni, Bhabra Bazaar, Asghar Mall Scheme, Jamia Masjid Road, Raja Bazaar, Ghatkote Chowk, Kohat Bazaar, Waris Khan, Iqbal Road, Naz Cinema, Shakriali, Kuri Road, Muslim Town, Bandh Khana Road, Iqbal Town, Commercial, and Ghatkote Kala. Khan, Dhoke Elahi bukhsh, Nadeem colony and Arya Mohallah. Moreover, sale of kites and strings was also being carried out unhindered in different parts of the city.

A police spokesman said strict action would be taken against the kite flying and said that no one would be allowed to violate the ban. He said that on kite flying should strictly be implemented.—APP

Metro donates safety masks to CDA workers

ISLAMABAD: Metro, Pakistan's market leader in retail and wholesale sector, donated 10,000 safety masks for health and sanitary workers of Capital Development Authority (CDA). The safety masks were handed over by Director Corporate Affairs Metro Heinz Akhtar to Chairman CDA Noor ul Amin Mengal at a meeting held at the CDA office, said a press release. Expressing his gratitude, the Director Corporate Affairs Metro said, "Metro has donated the safety masks, as part of its Metro care & share initiative, which has in the past also provided relief through essential food and safety supplies to the affected of national calamities, like recent floods and earthquakes, and during the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative aims at providing necessary protection to the CDA staff susceptible to health and safety hazards in the line of their duty." In a meeting, it was further agreed that Metro and CDA will partner on environment-friendly initiatives including tree plantation drive in the city. The chairman CDA thanked the management of Metro Pakistan for the gesture and reaffirmed his vision of providing necessary support to the private sector for enhancing business activity in Islamabad.—APP



ISLAMABAD: Students of FG college of home economics and management sciences F11/1 pose for group photo with Principal Prof Rozina Faheem in First Alumni reunion hosted on Sunday.—DNA

'Seeds in space' project a milestone in China-Pak ties

ISLAMABAD: After six months in China's spacecraft, under the first-ever Sino-Pak 'Seeds in Space' project, seven kinds of Pakistani medicinal seeds returned to the earth and their motherland. According to China Economic (CE) news, the seeds, three kinds provided by the International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS), University of Karachi and four by Handard University, have made history as the first to aboard the Chinese space station can induce genetic mutations that could make the plants more productive and resilient to climate fluctuations resulting from climate change. So far, China, the third country in the world after the US and Russia to achieve satellite breeding in space, has cultivated more than 200 new space-bred varieties with an annual planting area of 2.3 million hectares. Among them, when variety Layang 502 has increased production by 11% more than ordinary varieties and

ICCI discusses building expo centre and hospital in Gulberg Green

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) leading a delegation visited IB Employees Cooperative Housing Society (Gulberg Green) Islamabad and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest with Tariq Mehmoood President Bilal Riaz Burki Joint Secretary and other Office Bearers of the Society. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that Pakistan is currently facing a foreign exchange crisis due to which the economy is confronted with great challenges and added that the best solution to get out of the current crisis is to boost exports rapidly. He said that CCI has been trying to build an Expo Center in Islamabad for a long time, but due to non-availability of space, no progress has been made yet. He suggested that Gulberg Green should consider providing space for the establishment of Expo Center so that exports can be enhanced by organizing regular exhibitions in Islamabad. It will also increase the industrial and commercial activities in the region, he added. He further said that ICCI wants to build a hospital for its members and suggested that Gulberg Green should consider allotting a plot for the hospital so that ICCI can provide its members with a quality treatment facility building hospital. He said that ICCI also wants to start a spring festival and tree plantation drive to promote neat & green Islamabad and said that Gulberg Green should cooperate with ICCI in this mission as well. He also discussed other matters of mutual interest with the management of the society. Tariq Mehmoood, President, IB Employees Cooperative Housing Society welcomed the positive suggestions of Ahsan Bakhtawari. President ICCI said that he would consider them sympathetically. He said that he would also consider collaborating with ICCI in projects of common interest. He further said that proposal of ICCI for the spring festival and tree plantation drive as it is very important to plant maximum trees in Islamabad and across Pakistan to reduce the risks of climate change phenomenon.

CHEC to start de-silting operation in Gwadar Port

ISLAMABAD: China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd (CHEC) is all set to start desilting operations at Gwadar Port to reclaim 14.5 meters of natural and original operational depth of Gwadar Port at a cost of Rs 4.7 billion. According to Gwadar Port, it is a high-technological project that finally makes its headway at a watershed moment of the 10th anniversary of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a signature venture of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Under the title of "the maintenance dredging of a navigational channel in Gwadar Port," the project will be completed in 12 months as per the agreement signed between CHEC and Gwadar Port Authority (GPA). A GPA official told Gwadar Port that "since earlier we planned to kickstart only one part of the dredging process in two or three phases at Gwadar Port, so around Rs 1 billion was allocated in 2022-2023 budget for partial dredging. Later, it was finalized to do complete dredging in one go. This will save us a lot of money as the cost of the project stands at Rs 4.7 billion."

Country's only 'history museum' falling short of capacity

ISLAMABAD: Nations keep themselves alive by preserving their natural history, scientific heritage and achievements of their ancestors for transferring the legacies of ancient times to coming generations. Therefore, the role of natural history museums is acknowledged globally as powerhouses of scientific enquiry and voice of authority to inspire the younger generation with valuable knowledge about current and historical specimen. But, in our country, the only-of-its-kind Pakistan Museum for Natural History (PMNH) is not getting due importance by the authorities despite its huge contribution in terms of collection, preservation, identification of natural history and research activities. Situated in federal capital, this valuable asset relates to natural resources of the country and is a plausible source of imparting education through dioramas, exhibits, lectures, workshops, seminars, posters and film shows. The matter of the construction of remaining six blocks of the museum is lingering on since its establishment in year 1976, compelling the PMNH administration to display maximum specimens of natural resources even in small rooms and corridors. Visiting the museum is rather painful

E&P companies discover 16 hydrocarbon deposits in 2021-22

ISLAMABAD: Exploration and Production (E&P) companies, operating in different parts of the country, have collectively discovered 16 oil and gas reservoirs during the last fiscal year in pursuit of making the country self-reliant in the energy sector. Out of these, ten discoveries were made in the oil and gas fields of Sindh, four in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and one each in Balochistan and Punjab, according to an official document available with APP. Initially, the companies started extracting oil and gas from seven newly discovered wells of Sindh province, including Taji-1, located in Tando Allahyar district, Turk South-1 & Mulaki West-1 and Bhatti North-1 in Badin district, Fazi-1 in Ghotki district, Mohar in Khanpur district and Naimat West DT-1 in Sanghar district. Currently, their accumulative oil and gas production stood at 1258.98 barrels per day and 10.8 million cubic feet per day respectively. The E&P companies under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, carry out different development projects in the surrounding localities of their operational fields for the welfare of local communities regularly.—APP

Sania Alam receives award

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan education specialist Sania Alam, was honored with the prestigious "Brain of the Year" award by the UK's Brain Trust in recognition of her contributions to the field of mental literacy in the Chinese Space Station. Scientific and technical cooperation is an important part of China-Pakistan relations. Since the signing of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation in 1976, the two sides have jointly funded more than 475 research projects in the fields of agriculture, aerospace, water conservation, chemical industry, medical and health care, biotechnology, computer science, environment, energy and technology management. Sending seeds to the space will never be the end of China-Pakistan cooperation in space. As Professor Ashan Iqbal, Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiative (PD&SI), put it, "Space technology is one of those technologies which is most critical for human development and security of any nation." He said that "collaboration with China will open doors of development for us in future."

Eating fish twice a week essential for healthy life

ISLAMABAD: Health Expert Dr Mehmoood Raza Sunday said eating fish at least two times per week is part of a healthy life as fish is filled with omega-3 fatty acids and vitamins such as D and B2 (riboflavin). Fish is rich in calcium and phosphorus and a great source of minerals, such as iron, zinc, and magnesium, and potassium. It is also packed with protein, vitamins, and nutrients that can lower blood pressure and help reduce the risk of a heart attack or stroke. Dr Mehmoood Raza said while talking to a private news channel. He informed that "two omega-3 fatty acids" found in fish are EPA (eicosapentaenoic acid) and DHA (docosahexaenoic acid). Our bodies don't produce omega-3 fatty acids so we must get them through the food we eat, he said. Adding that Omega-3 fatty acids are found in every kind of fish, but are especially high in fatty fish. Some good choices are salmon, trout, sardines, herring, canned mackerel, canned light tuna, and oysters. Commenting on a question he said to help maintain a healthy heart by lowering blood pressure and reducing the risk of sudden death, heart attack, abnormal heart rhythms, and strokes add fish in daily meals. It may decrease the risk of depression, ADHD, Alzheimer's disease, dementia, and diabetes and to prevent inflammation and reduce the risk of arthritis, he added.—APP

Police help reunite a lost child with family

ISLAMABAD: In a heart-warming act of kindness, the National Highway and Motorway Police (NHMP) recently found a lost child and helped reunite him with his family on Sunday. According to the NHMP official, the child, aged 10, was found on the National Expressway (N-75) during routine patrolling and was unable to provide his address. NHMP utilized the "Public Address System" to gather local people in the area to inquire about the child and his family. After the efforts of NHMP, a local recognized the child and provided the contact number of his father. The police confirmed the credentials and handed over the child to his parents, who expressed their gratitude for the efforts of the NHMP. The community also appreciated the action taken by the police, and the incident was praised as a shining example of NHMP's commitment to the safety and wellbeing of the people they serve.—APP

Response to the earthquake

A disaster on the daunting scale of the earthquakes that have devastated large areas of Turkey and Syria has global reverberations. Just as rescuers briefly halt their work to listen in silence for voices beneath the rubble, so do the shockwaves of tragedy cause ordinary citizens in far-distant countries to momentarily pause their daily lives. Old prejudices fall away, cynical habits of insouciance are broken. All may sense the victims' torment. Their cry for help, appealing to our common humanity, is universally heard. The UN is facing criticism for not moving quickly enough – a familiar complaint. The efforts of many aid agencies and NGOs, including specialist first responders from Britain, have been heroic. But the task ahead is formidable – and international offers of support and solidarity will need to be sustained once the dust settles. For those who died – the present total is more than 24,000 – the struggle is over. But for the uncounted thousands who were injured, and for grieving families and relatives shattered by crushing loss, the long-term traumatic effects may never be wholly overcome. In shattered Turkish cities such as Antakya, ancient capital of Hatay province, it is difficult to see how rebuilding can even begin. Most of the city's historic centre has been levelled as if, in the words of a western reporter, it had been carpet-bombed. The absence of government leadership and organized rescue plans, freezing conditions, no electricity, no fuel and the risk of further building collapses are conspiring to turn misery and despair into understandable public anger. In government-controlled areas of Syria, too, anguish is mixed with fury at the inadequate response of Bashar al-Assad's illegitimate regime in Damascus. Syria's second city, Aleppo, which suffered terribly during the civil war, has taken another dreadful beating. Likewise in rebel-held Idlib, the impact of the unfinished fight with Syrian, Russian and Iranian forces has been exacerbated by the quake. About 2.7 million people already depended on outside aid. Their need is now acute. Worse, the injured and sick lack hospitals and clinics. Why? Because the Russians bombed them and killed their staff. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Turkey's president, has numerous questions to answer, too, over the speed and effectiveness of his government's response and over negligent official regulation, planning, enforcement and "amnesty" rules that permitted the construction of thousands of substandard apartment and office blocks, schools and hospitals. Previous earthquakes brought promises of improved government oversight. Epidemic high-level corruption ensured these promises were kept. A special earthquake fund was set up, but no one will say where the money went. Erdoğan styles himself Turkey's paramount leader. So the buck stops with him. Now, the focus, domestic and international, must be on reaching and caring for survivors and victims in both Turkey and Syria. Their cry for help has been heard. It echoes around the globe. Our thoughts, and those of a watching world, are with them.

India could be this decade's China

It could be India's decade if it plays its cards right. The subcontinental state is poised to be the next China, even if its path will likely be less straightforward than that of China and more of a Leninist two steps forward, one step backward. Despite multiple domestic issues, India will have to address to realise its full potential, it is already, in the words of an Indian analyst, in a "geopolitical sweet spot." Recently concluded defence and technology agreements with the United States constitute a milestone. The agreements acknowledge reality, including that one underestimates the United States at great length and that, despite the domestic travails the US and Britain still produce 50 per cent of the global wealth as opposed to China and Russia's combined 20 per cent. "For India, the West is the most important trading partner, the dominant source of capital and technology, and the major destination for the Indian diaspora," said columnist and former member of India's National Security Advisory Board C. Mohan Rana in a Foreign Policy article, entitled 'It's Time to Tie India to the West.' With India set to become the world's third largest economy, Mr. Raja advocated turning the Group of 7 (G-7), which groups the world's foremost developed economies, into a G-8 with India as its newest member. The agreements reinforce the notion that supply chain security and geopolitics have become as important as economics and pricing in creating and/or managing global value chains. Furthermore, they are a step towards enabling India to redress its trade imbalances skewed in China's favour. Finally, the agreements constitute a building block for a potential future multilateral security arrangement in the Gulf in which India would be a key player. The debate about whether the minds of Indian and US policymakers when they conceived the agreements. However, inevitably, that is where the Gulf is going for multiple reasons. These include a US desire to rejigger America's commitment to Gulf security and share the burden with regional players. The United States is not yet at a point where it is willing to share control of Gulf security with other external powers. Still, it is something that policymakers in both the Trump and Biden administrations have at various times considered. It's an option that the US has not pursued, but neither has either administration rejected it out of hand. "I don't think we are ever again going to see a position where the United States is prepared to be the primary security provider and bear any burden or pay any price to uphold order in the Middle East," said former Singaporean diplomat and chairman of the National University of Singapore's Middle East Institute Bilahari Kausikan. Mr. Kausikan added that "the United States made dreadful mistakes in the Middle East 20 years ago, and an analogous shift from direct intervention to the role of an offshore balancer is happening in the region right now." Gulf states continue to look to the United States to guarantee their security interests. But over time, as an US thinking evolves, Gulf states, like in other aspects, are likely to want to hedge their bets and diversify their relationships assertively. India is one player on which Gulf states have set their sights. Already, India's security posture in the region is changing. India regularly deploys ships in the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden as part of stepped-up military engagement with Arab states and as part of a six-member Saudi army delegation visited India for briefings on the Indian military's training methodology and infrastructure. In addition, India has a presence in Oman's Duqm Port. Regarding regional engagement, Iran remains for India the most vexing issue in its evolving security posture. To be sure, India will not allow its foreign relationships to be put at risk by cooperation with Iran. Yet, it is India's gateway into Afghanistan and Central Asia. Add to this, depending on how US-China relations evolve, it's only a matter of time before China will no longer want to rely on an adversary to guarantee its energy security. Chinese port, pipeline, and other infrastructure investments in various parts of Asia may allow it to reduce energy security risks in the Indo-Pacific but do not address threats in various strategic Gulf waters. More fundamentally, there is no effective Indo-Pacific strategy that does not include the Arabian Sea, which requires Indian involvement, not least because of geographic proximity. That maxim is reinforced from India's perspective by the security presence of China, India's main regional rival, and its alliance with a military base in Djibouti and is likely to expand. US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken told the 12U2 that groups India with the United States, Israel, and the United Arab Emirates was as much about economic cooperation as it was about working together on maritime security. Last year, India has its own strategic energy, security, and economic interests in the Gulf, including the millions of Indian expatriates and workers who work and live in the region. India's regional relationships, ability to get its domestic house in order, and grow its economy will likely shape its place in a new 21st-century world order. This year's Indian chairmanship of the Group of 20, which brings together the world's 20 largest economies, is an opportunity for President Narendra Modi to showcase where India is heading. The functional and regional alliances take on added significance in an environment in which Russia, the United States, and China, because of its handling of the Covid-19 pandemic and assertive foreign policy, have suffered reputational damage. The United States may have suffered the least, given its ability to marshal its allies in Europe and some in Asia to forcefully support Ukraine while remaining focused on its rivalry with China in Asia. Even so, as former Indian national security advisor Shivshankar Menon notes, "There are new opportunities, but also being distracted by Ukraine from its role elsewhere, particularly in the Middle East and Africa." Those worries are compounded by the bungled US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021 and concern about the impact of deep polarisation in the United States that is likely to be reflected in the campaign for the 2024 presidential election. 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Briefs

Abbasi says, "Will go to home if Maryam awarded party Presidency"

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Former prime minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has again said that he would quit if Maryam awarded the party's presidency. In an interview to a television, Abbasi said that his leader is Nawaz Sharif, if Maryam Nawaz elevated to the PML-N's top office, he will consider remaining in the party's fold or not. "I was named the senior vice president of the PML-N when Shehbaz Sharif was arrested in year 2019," Shahid Khaqan said. "When Maryam was given the leadership position and elevated to the Chief Organizer's position, I had tendered my resignation at that time from the party office to the PML-N president," he said. "I could not work further on the party's office, I told." Former prime minister said that "tolerance is two-way process not one-sided". "I have quit the party's post to avoid likely discord with Maryam Nawaz," he further said. "I have long-time relations and friendship with Nawaz Sharif, he is my leader, and this relation could not be bonded with Maryam," Shahid Khaqan said. "I am her uncle, Benazir Bhutto had also did not allow her uncles in party," he added.

DG CAA accused of Rs2 trillion corruption

NEWS DESK

KARACHI: Allegations of corruption of Rs2 trillion were levelled against DG Civil Aviation (CAA) Khaqan Murtaza and his team, media reported on Sunday. The CAA Officers Employees Association penned a letter dated Feb 06 to Aviation Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique and secretary aviation, contending that Murtaza was "not qualified" to hold office and expressing reservations that his team was likely to cause further harm to the country. The letter alleges that over Rs1.3 trillion were lost due to the possession of airport land not being released. It also states that fake licenses were issued for the national airline - the PIA and that additional damage was caused due to the CAA's failure to recover arrears of over Rs300 billion, while a loss of Rs10 billion was suffered by the airline in lease at Karachi Airport. Furthermore, a loss of Rs400 billion has been incurred on the Rs450 billion property of Lahore Walton Airport. The CAA Officers have also reportedly claimed that the clear instructions of the prime minister and his Cabinet were ignored in the case of Benazir Bhutto International Airport. They further alleged that the DGCAA illegally registered two Land Cruisers and a Prado vehicle.

New GSP+ will be 'more for more' process: Belgian envoy

CONTINUE FROM PAGE 1

5: Belgium is the NATO contact country in the region. How do you see NATO's role with reference to peace and stability in Afghanistan?

Through the framework "Partners Across the Globe", NATO and Pakistan developed cooperations in areas of mutual interest including emerging security challenges. Political dialogue and practical cooperation with Pakistan has expanded significantly in recent years, particularly with regards to Afghanistan. Furthermore, the NATO Science for Peace and Security Program is open to collaboration with scientists and experts from Pakistan. The key priorities of this program include various priorities such as counter-terrorism, energy security, cyber defense, etc. As a local NATO point of contact, the Belgian Embassy in Islamabad organizes meetings between some Pakistani personalities and the NATO embassies present in Pakistan and facilitates the visits of NATO delegations to Pakistan. The mandate of the Belgian embassy comes to an end in December 2023.

6: The EU is always looking towards NATO or other military forces whenever there is a need for that. As the founding member of the EU, don't you think the EU should have its own military alliance?



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Belgium Charles Delogne talks to Editor Daily Islamabad POST Ansar M Bhatti. - DNA

Keep in mind that some EU member states are not member of NATO and vice versa. This institutional reality explains the slow but steadily ongoing development of a European Policy of Defense. Belgium is a strong supporter thereof but, just like the other EU member states, she considers that the development of a European pillar of Defense can jeopardize neither NATO efficiency nor the Trans-Atlantic link. As a result of this vision, the different

European Defense missions that have taken place in several parts of the world continue to use NATO capacities but autonomously. There are things that the EU can do on its way such as the development of a European defense industry but interoperability with NATO remains crucial. Recently, the EU set up a revolving Peace Financial Facility that finances the EU military support to Ukraine. All these considerations

show you that NATO and the EU are complementary rather than competing. 7: How do you see the Russian invasion of Ukraine? Is there any possibility for Ukraine to be admitted into the NATO and EU any time soon?

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is a violation of the UN Charter and the international law and Belgium strongly condemns it. In their narrative, the Russians claim that a Ukraine's NATO membership would threaten their national security and that this justifies their two aggressions (in 2014 and 2022) against this country.

But let stick to the realities. First of all, NATO is a defensive alliance and not an imperial organization. Second, it is a sovereign right of a country to decide to apply to any international organization and Ukraine has constantly been viewing the Euro-Atlantic integration as its strategic goal since its independence in 1991.

EU and a NATO adhesions are based on the merits of the candidate country and, as far as NATO is concerned and before the war in Ukraine started, there was no unanimity among the Allied countries on the membership of this country.

This clearly illustrates the fake narrative Russia uses to hide its own imperialist and colonial project. The future will tell us if the Russian war is a game changer for Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic aspirations but, before that, this war must stop.

US shoots down unidentified object over Canada

WEB DESK

WASHINGTON: A U.S. F-22 fighter jet shot down an unidentified cylindrical object over Canada on Saturday, the second such instance in as many days, as North America appeared on edge following a week-long Chinese spying balloon saga that drew the global spotlight. Separately, the U.S. military also scrambled fighter jets in Montana to investigate a radar anomaly that triggered a brief federal closure of airspace. "Those aircraft did not identify any object to correlate the radar hits," the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) said in a statement. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau first announced Saturday's shutdown over the northern Yukon territory, saying Canadian forces would recover and analyze the wreckage. Canadian Defence Minister Anita Anand declined to speculate about the origin of the object, which she said was cylindrical in shape.

Mushahid proposes '5-point plan to promote Blue Economy' Calls for course correction on economic development

DNA

KARACHI: While chairing two sessions of Pakistan International Maritime Expo & Conference (PIMEC) 2023, Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman of Senate Defence Committee, proposed a 5-point Action Plan to promote Blue Economy. He said apart from Blue Economy, marine and mineral resources plus CPEC and building on a strategic partnership between Pakistan, China and Saudi Arabia would be a catalyst for an alternative development approach that can help 'bid goodbye to IMF'. The Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi, Vice Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Faisal Rasul Lodhi and other senior officers of Pakistan Navy plus representatives of 50 countries, participating in PIMEC, were also present. Outlining his presentation, Senator Mushahid Hussain said that "it's now clear that Pakistan is on the wrong development path, abdicating its autonomy of action and only increasing permanent dependency on the IMF, since economic independence is the material basis of political independence". He added "what kind of economic strategy is this that



we seek loans to return loans, while burdening our own people with more taxes and grinding inflation". He emphasized that a 'course correction on economic development strategy of Pakistan' is urgently needed for the sake of the people of Pakistan. He said the answer is to focus on exploring and exploiting marine resources by a strategy for Blue Economy, which, according to the World Bank, has resources worth at least \$ 100 billion. He added that 50,000 square kilometers were added to Pakistan's continental shelf as an exclusive economic zone in 2015, a huge mass of water, almost like a 5th province. Added

to this maritime economy is the immense mineral wealth, huge reserves of natural gas and 175 billion tons of coal in Thar, all of which cumulatively add up to a hidden wealth of almost a \$ 1 trillion (one trillion dollars), that has not been tapped at all due to an absence of policy on these areas. Senator Mushahid Hussain then called for developing an alternative economic developmental strategy through a 5-point Action Plan. First, the government should immediately establish a National Authority for Blue Economy (NABE), to prepare a comprehensive strategy that involves Pakistan Navy, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the private sector as principal stakeholders. Second, the Ministry of Maritime Affairs should have a Secretary, who is from Pakistan Navy, like the Ministry of Defence has a Secretary from Pakistan Army. That will make the Ministry of Maritime Affairs a proactive and pivotal player on the Blue Economy. Third, a special non-governmental Task Force be established comprising experts, academics, think tanks and relevant private sector for devising a Work Plan in 2023 for promoting awareness about Blue Economy amongst opinion leaders and relevant stakeholders.

Ukraine's president sacks top official in anti-graft drive

NEWS DESK

KYIV/LVIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Saturday issued a decree sacking a senior security figure and said separately that his drive to clean up the government would continue. Authorities have dismissed dozens of officials in recent weeks and opened probes as part of a widespread drive against wrongdoing. The European Union says addressing corruption is a requirement for Ukraine joining the 27-member bloc. Zelensky dismissed Ruslan Dziuiba as deputy commander of the National Guard, according to a brief decree issued by the presidential office. It did not give any reasons for the move. Zelensky - who has stressed the need for the defense ministry in particular to be cleaned up - did not specifically mention Dziuiba in his daily video address.

Instead, he said he had met defense sector and law enforcement officials to discuss ways to protect institutions from what he called attempts from outside or inside to reduce their effectiveness and efficiency. Referring to the crackdown, he said: "All this activity is not just about certain episodes or criminal proceedings... the state will continue to modernize the institutions themselves. The purity of the work of state structures must be guaranteed."

Ukraine's defense minister said on Thursday hundreds of officials at the ministry or in the armed forces had been disciplined last year after internal audits, and that he had "zero tolerance" for corruption. Meanwhile, Ukraine's top military commander on Saturday said the country's forces were holding defense along the frontline in Donetsk, including of the besieged town of Bakhmut, as the fiercest battles raged in the cities of Vuhledar and Maryinka.

Govt gives FIA green light to arrest Shaukat Tarin

ISLAMABAD: After completion of an inquiry against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) finance czar Shaukat Tarin, the coalition government has allowed the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to arrest the former finance minister in a case related to his alleged audio leak, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said on Sunday. A day earlier, the investigation authority sought the interior ministry's approval to begin legal proceedings and eventually arrest Tarin for allegedly sabotaging negotiations between Pakistan and the IMF - International Monetary Fund. The FIA has completed its probe against the former finance minister and his leaked audios involving the former Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa finance ministers. The federal probing authority initiated an inquiry into the matter last year after the alleged telephonic conversations between Tarin and the two provincial finance ministers surfaced that triggered a verbal spat between the government and the PTI for purportedly trying to jeopardise the IMF deal during the recent floods. - DNA

Turkiye arrests building contractors 6 days after quakes

ANTAKYA: As rescuers still pulled a lucky few from the rubble six days after a pair of earthquakes devastated southeast Turkey and northern Syria, Turkish officials detained or issued arrest warrants for some 130 people allegedly involved in the construction of buildings that toppled down and crushed their occupants. The death toll from Monday's quakes stood at 28,191 - with another 80,000-plus injured - as of Sunday morning and was certain to rise as bodies kept emerging. As despair also bred rage at the agonizingly slow rescue efforts, the focus turned to who was to blame for not better preparing people in the earthquake-prone region that includes an area of Syria that was already suffering from years of civil war. Even though Turkey has, on paper, construction codes that meet current earthquake-engineering standards, they are too rarely enforced, explaining why thousands of buildings slumped onto their side or pancaked downward onto residents. Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay said late on Saturday that warrants have been issued for the detention of 131 people suspected to be responsible for collapsed buildings. Turkey's justice minister has vowed to punish anyone responsible, and prosecutors have begun gathering samples of buildings for evidence on materials used in constructions. - DNA

Pak Army team pulls out 6 Turkish people alive

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Army teams are busy in search and rescue operations in more than 50 quake-hit areas in Turkey and pulled out a boy and little girl from the rubble after six days. The Pakistan Army's search and rescue teams have won the hearts of the people of Turkey and the international media, too, is all praise for them. These teams, which have been busy in the rescue efforts for the last six days, have succeeded in pulling out more than six persons from the rubble alive. These persons also include a 14-year-old boy, who was rescued after a passage of 138 hours and a 9-year-old girl who was rescued after 102 hours. Talking to TRT World, a Pak Army officer said that despite difficult circumstances, these teams managed to pull out the boy from the rubble alive. "Besides that, Pak Army teams also detected the presence of five persons underneath the rubble, who were later rescued by the local rescue teams," he elaborated. Similarly, he went on to say, Pak Army teams pulled out 80 bodies from underneath the rubble, which were later handed over to their families. On the other hand, on the instructions of the prime minister, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has dispatched sixteen NLC containers, carrying relief goods to quake-hit Turkey and Syria. The relief goods include tents and blankets as they are the most-sought after items owing to the winter season in the affected areas. Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, Federal Education Minister Rana Tanveer and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Ata Tarar saw off the consignment. - DNA

New Zealand braces for severe storm Gabrielle

AUCKLAND: Thousands of people in New Zealand have been left without power as parts of the country endure the start of a severe storm. Gabrielle buffeted Australia's Norfolk Island overnight and has begun to lash the northernmost region of New Zealand. Forecasters have issued "red" heavy wind and rain warnings for Auckland and Northland with 200mm of rain and winds of up to 130kph (80mph) expected. Evacuation centres have been set up and residents have been preparing. They have been told to ensure they have enough supplies to last three days in case they are trapped at home. The storm - which has been downgraded from a cyclone - comes weeks after torrential rain inundated the city of Auckland. - DNA

We stand with Pakistan Navy for Multinational Naval Exercise AMAN-23, wherein regional and extra-regional navies across the globe participating to share experiences to promote regional cooperation and stability

AMAN 2023 Multinational Naval Exercise

TOGETHER FOR PEACE

8 MULTINATIONAL FORCES

Pakistan Navy A Multi Dimensional Force

FEBRUARY 2023

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New GSP+ will be 'more for more' process