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

Detailed News On Page-01

Greece, Turkiye urge better ties post-earthquake

Detailed News On Page-07



PSL producing good players for country: Rizwan

Detailed News On Page-06



Briefs

Siraj **blames** PDM, PTI

DNA



(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



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



minister Vice-Chair-Shah Mahmood Qureshi on

Sunday blamed the PDM gov't 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 gov't for political instability, wheat and eco nomic crisis in Pakistan.

Inside.

Indonesia attaches great value to ties with Pakistan - Page 02

ICCI collects donations for victims of Turkiye and Syria - Page 03

'Seeds in space' project a milestone in China-Pak ties Page 04

India could be this decade's China Page 05

KKAWF holds volleyball event 'Save Tomorrow 6'

Govt tax measures annual impact will be over Rs500 bn - Page 07

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

Maryam tells masses

No chance of

immediate relief

Says judiciary 'meting out special treatment' to Imran

though the country was facing difficult times, (PDM) proposed to not take part in by-

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was making polls election. Source told that PPP will

all-out efforts to take the country out of the hold consultation with their nominated

quagmire. Talking about her new role in the candidates. Decision to take part or not

PML-N, Ms Nawaz said, "PML-N supremo in by-polls will be made after consultation

and PM Shehbaz Sharif has handed over the with nominated candidates. A day before

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

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Mus-

lim League-Nawaz (PML-N)

senior vice president Maryam

Nawaz admitted on Sunday

there was no chance of im-

mediate relief to the masses.

Speaking to media, Ms Nawaz said that al-

responsibility to me ahead of my surgery."

Continued on Page 06

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 Turkive in line with Pakistan's

Continued on Page 06

PPP to consult on

contesting by-polls

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan people party

(PPP) has decided to hold consultation

over the Pakistan Democratic Movement

PDM virtual meeting was led by PPP

leadership in which PDM leaders had pro-

posed to not take part in by-polls. – Online

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. Continued on Page 06

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 Spokeshas announced.

Continued on Page 06

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

Claims ex-COAS manipulated US against him

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.

'Regime change plan has backfired'

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

Continued on Page 06

Continued on Page 06

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 Bharo [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 a 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 vou think Pakistan may face serious challenges in December this year when the Status is

going to be reviewed? Implementation of these conventions



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 UNCERF, 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.

Continued on Back Page

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

They said that taking up all portal has been launched to facilitate doctors through out the country while the PMDC also started issuing good-standing certificates and renewals, the expressed. They said that keeping in view the demand of the PMA and on the d rection 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

lamabad chapter would continue its efforts to address the problems of medical war. This Event is Powered by AH students and the doctors' mention here that the than forty leading builders and delaw of PMC and the local and pass the NLE exam the expo starts, a Conference regardbefore getting their permaling the Investment Opportunities nent registration. In this will also be organized on February regard, several protests 16, 2023 at Serena Hotel Peshawar. said black law.

Manzoor for ensuring transparent elections in KP

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pahas joined the caretak- the government as well as projects. parent and fair elections ment, he has made it his | for financial empowerment this is also the real jihad upon which the tribal elite raised their hands and reiterated

Medical Association (PMA) sion of the Pakistan Medical

between Indonesia and Paall aspects of cooperation. He mentioned the partici pation of a frigate vessel of Indonesian Navy to AMAN Naval Exercise 2023 as an attaches great important of its partnership with Pakistan to promote global peace and security. The Envoy further said that opperation 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 reconciliation in such con-

established mechanism of Joint Ministerial Commission which would

strategic location to serve

Mr. Adam Mulawarman io

mbassador Republic of Indonesia

ple in ASEAN. Responding kistan has strong resilience strategy for Pakistan to and bilateral processes with

ture as well increasing peobecome center for religious

sition of Pakistan as COM-STECH OIC headquarter tourism since it has many Khalid Mir attended by

added the Envoy.

Another potential cooper-

ation that the Envoy men-

vhere Indonesia and Paki-

the question on the collabo-

ration on science and tech-

nology, Ambassador Tugio

Attock police award penalty on its officer

ATTOC :Attock police awarded major penalty of removal from service to its police inspector on proving sufficient grounds of serious misconduct for getting fraudulent promotion through concealment of his criminal service record with connivence of a clerk posted at District Police OfficeAttock. Police sources here on Sunday said that police ispector Mr. Azmat Hayat a former SHO and incharge anabadal police station found guilty of taking bribe of Rs.5 lacs 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 of ficer recommended his removal from service besides no Mr. Azmat Hayat manipulated his promotion from the rank with their Pakistani and Khyber Pa- of sub inspector to inspector after concealing his inquiry eport from the official file with the blessing of the clerk incharge Mr. Junaid in District Police Attock in December 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. Iunaid was served a show cause by the DPO Attock to defend hi charges of misconduct in person or written within a stipulat ed 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

dor of Italy to Pakistan ademia, civil society organ-Andreas Ferrarese said izations and the representthat Pakistan Poverty Alle- atives of the communities viation Fund (PPAF) was that were benefited by varbringing a real change in ious initiatives under PPR the lives of less privileged made their presence on people which was the main the occasion. According to objective of the Italian gov- the participants, the PPAF ernment for lending the in collaboration with the support to the government Italian Agency for Developand the people of Pakistan. ment Cooperation (AICS), while addressing an event role to usher in a new era titled 'Celebrating the Im- of socio-economic developpact of Community Driven ment and the uplift of the get LTV, HTV driving licens- could be increased if more | by the Programme for Pov- eas of the country. the other day. The Italian most successful developenvoy said that Italy wanted ment cooperation examples

health centers and inspected the ongoing construction work in Chapar and Kohiwal. Naib Tahsildar Darra was checked the school building and other areas in order to provide maximum facilities to the students. He also went through the attendance regthe teachers. During their visit, the team also inspected ing necessary instructions to construction work on Girls

سونی ناردرن گیس پائپ لائینز لمینڈ Road, Lahore. www.sngpl.com. Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited معتدیات سوئی ناردرن گیس پائپ لائینز لمینڈ Gas House, 21-Kash Road, Lahore. Qty.(Nos.) Openin Size 1100-20 (16 Plv) 2. Tyres with Tubes & Flappers ashmir Road Lahore. Tender documents can be purchased, upto a d efore opening date of each tender, from 1100 to 1230 hours on any work (TL) along with their request for purchase of tender documents. For furth mation in International Tenders please contact Mr. Nabeel Ishtiag order/ Demand Draft in favor of SNGPL. Amount of Bid Security is cluding GST) of estimated value as mentioned in the tender docume

omestic Gas Meters G-1.6 & G-4

Wheat quota suspended for over 100 flour mills

LAHORE: Punjab Food de raises high among Punjah Most of the mills have been

closed: source of flour mills association. Flour mills association will go on formal strike from today (Monday). been asked to lodge cases

terim Chief Minister (CM) was imposed upon whose orders? He also asked how the dispute raised to this

AKF mobilizes resources for earthquake relief in

Türkive

provide relief to the vic

of 47 experienced search

and rescue volunteers from

Pakistan, arrived in Türkive

on the second day of the

earthquake and have been

included in the central op-

Central Vice President of

Al-Khidmat Foundation Pa

kistan, Abdul Shakoor, and

Peshawar District General

Secretary, Engineer Ift

ikhar Ahmed, are also pres-

ent in Türkiye to oversee the

relief activities. The organiza

tion has been assigned code

rector Fazal Mehmood. Mian

Abdul Shakoor, the Central

Vice President of Al-Khid

mat Foundation Pakistan in

working within Pakistan but

is also actively involved in

for the earthquake victims in

AC visits

govt schools,

health

centers

PESHAWAR: Assistant

Commissioner (AC) of Date

ra Adam Khel, Ashrafuddii

Chitrali Sunday on Sunday

paid a visit to public schools,

Türkiye and Syria.—APP

Search and Rescue.

Feb 23 / Russian National Army Day

> Feb 25 / Kuwait **National Day** Feb 27 / Dominican **Independence Day**

03

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

Federation

Feb 23 / Tajikistan

Armed Forces Day



Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel....111 133 133 Marriott......051-2826121



Fire Services Rawalpindi/ Islamabad...1122 & 16 Emergency Ambulance.1122 & Rescue Services.4451122 Motorway Police...9266044 Motorway Police.9270601-20 Women Police Stations ...9222596 Islamabad... Rawalpindi......9270601-20

Enquiry

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad

Chamber of Commerce and In-

dustry organized a ceremony

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

fits including clear visibility.

durability, affordability and

improving road safety by re-

ducing the risk of accidents

on roads. Talking to APP

here on Sunday, he said

fitted with retro-reflective

lenses that reflected light

back towards its source,

He said that Cats Eyes

were highly visible, even

in poor lighting conditions

that have shown a signif-

ing Sri Lankan army officers, bureau-

made a special visit to Pakistan Sweet

far Bakhtawari, President, Islam-

abad Chamber of Commerce and

holders have urged to materials, instructors, and

rising concerns about road traffic violations" he added.

safety. Talking to APP here Additionally, he said, "The

cial of National Highways lead to corrupt individuals

and Motorway Police on without proper qualifica-

of a small cylindrical unit, | ity said, "Without proper "These individuals may pro- school for the opinion, a

regulations, there is a risk vide substandard training,

that individuals who receive putting both their students

their driver's education and other road users at risk."

from unqualified or poorly To address the issues, many

have the skills and knowl- regulatory bodies to over-

that Cat Eyes consisted the condition of anonymtions or resources." He said,

equipped schools may not

edge necessary to drive

icant reduction in acci- He said, "Driving schools "These bodies are respon-

safely on the roads."

Sri Lankan delegation

on Sunday, a senior offi- lack of regulations can also

Edhi Ambulance.. PIA Flight Info.... PIA Cargo......9280979 Railway Inquiry......117 Railway Exchange9270831-5 WASA Rawalpindi..5555489

Hospitals Cantt Hospital...9270907-11

....9218300-09 Shifa International 4603666



Departments ...9221334-43

...9208301-04 Met Office......9250360-6 ...55558645770886 Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation......9209224

visits Pakistan Sweet Home ISLAMABAD: A delegation from the bringing international delegations to National Defense University compris- the institution, said a press release. Zamarud Khan emphasized that the viscrats, and other officials on Sunday it of the Sri Lankan delegation is a mes- Khan, who they referred to as "Papa" sage of peace, love and friendship from Home. The delegation praised the Pakistan to the world. He shared the arrangements and efforts being done story of Pakistan Sweet Home and how tion of a commemorative shield by Zamto educate the orphan children while it has changed the lives of thousands of arud Khan and children of Sweet Home Patron in-chief of Pakistan Sweet orphans and destitute children, includ- to the Sri Lankan delegation. The dele-Home, Zamarud Khan expressed ing its Blood Bank which has collected his gratitude towards the National over 10,000 blood donations and saved mitment to the great mission of serving

Defense University for continuously the lives of children affected by various humanity and the country. – APP

as, doctors, engineers, and army professors in the future. The Sri Lankan delegation highly appreciated the services provided by Zamarud Khan and the institution. They were impressed by spirit, courage, and confidence of children and expressed their admiration for Zamarud Jani," and his great love for his motherland. The visit ended with the presenta-

seeing these children serve the nation

ing schools, it is possible

to ensure that individuals

receive a high-quality edu-

cation that prepares them

When contacted the driving

representative of Muslim

kaz raised concerns about

individuals operating driving

schools without proper qual

ifications and noted, "Some

people are operating driving

schools having a single car

to drive safely on the roads.'

Islamabad POST

ISLANDICATION

ISLAN

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-Alia 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

both countries has exceeded 24

Stakeholders for setting standards for driving schools

establish standards for vehicles." "The absence of ties for schools that violate

quality training, in view of an increase in accidents and He said, "By regulating drive

countries have established

see the operations of driv-

require various regulations sible for setting standards, with a number written on it.'

ing schools, he said.

driving schools to ensure standards can contribute to regulations," he added.

President Dr Arif Alvi felicitates

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi, on behalf of the government and the peopl Leader of the Islamic Re olution of Iran Ayatollah seved Ali Khamenei, on the lamic Revolution In his message to the lead er of the Islamic Revolu tion of Iran, the presiden

said that the fraternal re

lations between Pakistan

and Iran were rooted i inguistic, cultural, and re igious bonds He said that Pakistan remained committed to further strengthening of these ties across the entire gamut of bilatera relations, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Sunday The president conveye his best wishes for Seyed Ali Khamenei's health an happiness and for the con tinued progress, prosperit and well-being of the broth erly people of the Islami

Republic of Iran. – **APP** World Day of Social Justice to be marked on Feb 20

ing Pakistan to encourag on the goal of achieving fu nployment and suppor for social integration.

Schools, colleges and univer community can deposit dona- sities may prepare special activities for the day or plan a week of events around a theme related to poverty, so media, including radio and television stations, news coverage is given to the links diamonds and armed con

court that conducts trials o

that the hardships of our Muslim brothers and sisters can be reduced Ahsan Bakhtawari appealed to nate generously for the relief of essed his determination that amount of donations and will quake victims of Turkiye and Syria. He said that the business tions ICCI Bank Account No. of various markets. On this every possible way. He said that loss of billions of dollars, while

World Radio Day. - APP

Bank Al Falah, Islamabad. He further said that camps will be set up in all major markets of | or unemployment. Different Islamabad to collect donations and each market association will receive donations from the traders of their market and give them to ICCI. Zafar Bakhtavari, Tarig Sadig, Muhammad Shakeel Munir former Presidents ICCI. It is hoped that particular occasion, donations were also the most destructive earthquake millions of people have been Asad Aziz President Iinnah Sucollected for the relief of earth- in history has caused a lot of displaced and they are facing permarket, Ahmed Khan Pres- | between the illicit trade in destruction in Turkiye and Syr-severe difficulties in this winter ident and Tahir Abbasi Group ia because the number of peo-season. He said that when there Leaders F-10 Markaz, Abdul ple killed by the earthquake in was a devastating earthquake in Rehman Siddiqui, Raja Imtiaz, and the importance of the In-Pakistan in October 2005, the aid Rizwan Chheena, Faseehullah ternational Criminal Court Industry said that the business thousand, of which 20 thousand teams of Turkiye had arrived in Khan others were present at the | This is an independent recent devastating earthquake. community is standing with the deaths have occurred in Turkiye Pakistan immediately, while Tur- occasion. The dua was offered The event was attended by a earthquake victims of Turkiye alone. He said that due to the kiye always came forward to help for the elevation of the ranks of

large number of business com- and Syria in this difficult time earthquake, the economies of Pakistan in every difficult time, those who died due to the earth- crimes against humanity and munity including Presidents and are trying to help them in both the countries have suffered so it is our responsibility to help quake in Turkiye and Syria.

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will join the rest of the world in BE it know to all concerned that Muhammad Riaz S/O Jaffa join the rest of the world in on Monday for paying trib- decree issued by civil Judge Class-I (Attock) and Affidavit dated ute to the radio and its role | 10.01.2023 he left the following legal heirs behind him . th in promoting freedom of ex- following legal heirs of the deceased lessee have applied fo pression, facilitating dialogue, transfer of legal share in their favour, which is under process along with bringing communi- as per laws/rules: (Widow Shahnaz Begum, Daughter Shazia ties together. Radio continues | Bibi, Daughter Khadija Muneer, Daughter Tahira Bibi, Daugh to be a vital source of infor- ter Safia Naz, Son Hassan Ali, Mother Hafeezan Jan, Grandson mation and entertainment for Abdul Haddi, Grandson Muhammad Khazima Abbas. Anyon millions of people around the having objection to the said inheritance mutation may submit world and to celebrate the to the undersigned within 14 days from the publication of this impact and importance of | notice failing which mutation of lease hold rights of above said this medium, the UN has I plot will be made in favour of above said legal heirs and ther declared February 13th as after, no claim(s) whatsoever will be accepted / entertained. Cantonment Executive Officer, Sanjwal Cantt





SERENA HOTELS

PESHAWER

from the National Licensing NAZIR SIYAL In a statement, PMA President Dr. Akhtar Ali Bande KARACHI: In discussion sha and General Secretary with Karachi Council for Dr. Mubashir Mushtac Foreign Relations (KCFR), Ambassador Adam Tugio had started issuing permaunderscored the solid foundation of bilateral relation cates to doctors who graduated from Pakistani medical and dental colleges, without tant step was taken in accordance with the pledge Health Services Abdul Qaduring the meeting with the PMA Islamabad chapter They said the PMA truly in the fulfillment of their

PESHAWAR: Pakistan Association of

Exhibition Industry is organizing the

2nd Peshawar International Proper-

ty Expo and Convention from 17th

o 19th February 2023 at Marbella

Cave Marquee, Warsak Road - Pesha-

Group of Companies & Sponsored

by Square Nine International. More

velopers from across Pakistan will

present their commercial and hous-

ing projects to the general public

Shehbaz Sharif has launched

initiatives for the promotion

government has launched

engineers, youth transfor-

Maciej Pisarski on Sunday much higher while Poland's

volume between Pakistan It was mostly due to the

formation technology, food ski said Poland has been

processing, and agriculture one of the fastest-growing

said that the bilateral trade exports are less.

of trade and investments Union, he told.

and Poland has reached

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: Ambassa- tile, sportswear, foodstuff GSP Plus to grant non-re- economic cooperation, po

trade mechanism

countries are focusing on which allowed Pakistani He said, we are celebrating

trade deficit of almost half for Pakistani exports, and investment increased.

dor of Poland to Pakistan and leather products were ciprocal preferential treat-litical and military dialogue

exploring more avenues exports to the European this year the 60th anniver- partnerships between the

in multiple sectors like in- Ambassador Maciej Pisar- of diplomatic relationship Pakistan to seek potential,

sector. The good news export markets for Paki- have accomplished a lot as and technology and higher

for the Pakistani side was stan. The European Union our economic cooperation education for better out-

that Poland was in a huge was the largest destination both in terms of trade and comes. So, this would en-

a billion Euro deficit as Poland had supported the He said that the bilateral ation and people-to-people

Pakistani exports in tex- inclusion of Pakistan in the agenda concentrated on relationships. - Agencies

as gateway to the broader region in Central Asian. "Pa-

mentioned that Pakistan munity to look Indonesia as ASEAN members. The en-2nd International property

expo in Peshawar on Feb 17

thority, Presidents and representa-

the property expo. More than 30 small scale industries are linked to the housing sector thus increasing both investment and employment. Pakistani huilders 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 over-Prominent builders and developers are very satisfied with the foolproof arrangements of the expo organized held by different doctor fo- tunkhwa Mr. Adnan Jalil will be the businessmen will participate in it. sion of the expo and convention, the

tives of all chambers of commerce of by the Pakistan Association of Exand demonstrations were Commerce Minister Khyber Pakh- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Prominent hibition Industry. After the conclu-

rums and organizations at Chief guest. Vice Chairman Khyber Chairman PAEI, Mr. Khurshid Barlas award ceremony of this expo and condifferent levels and the past Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment has said that economic activities in vention will be held on February 23 at government was appealed Engr. Said Mahmood, DG Khyber the housing and real estate sector in Serena Hotel Islamabad in which the repeatedly to withdraw the Pakhtunkhwa Cultural Tourism Au- Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the coun- awards will be given to Participants. Promotion of IT, vocational education vital

khtunkhwa Caretaker tion of information technol- gramme besides free laptop of Peshawar said that de- proceeded to over 50 coun- ISLAMABAD: Ambassa-Minister for Labour, Ex- ogy, technical and vocational schemes, adding 600 stu-mand of skilled labour has tries across the globe to get cise and Anti-Narcotics | education was imperative to dents were sent to China for increased manifolds in Paki- employment after fulfilling Manzoor Khan Afridi financially empower youth technical education to take stan in the wake of CPEC's official procedures, he said, on Sunday said that he and take full advantage of full advantage of CPEC's projects, mushroom growth adding 96pc mmigrants er government with the CPEC projects. Ikhtair Wali He said the demands for GULF's companies' high de-including Saudi Arabia and mission of establishing a Khan, PMN KP spokesman technical workforce has mand for skilled wworkforce Uthe nited Arab Emirates conducive environment | and former member provin- jacked up due to CPEC's and that whopping investfor peaceful, clean, trans- | cial assembly told APP on projects and establishment ment in technical education. The remittances by Sunday that Prime Minister of special economic zones was required to promote seas Pakistanis had reached (SEZ) including the one industrialization, SMEs and to US\$21.84 billion during scores of programmes and Rashakai SEZ in Nowshera capture local and internation- 2019 financial year out of being a gateway to Central al markets. "When our youth which 60-65 percent of the Anti-Narcotics Depart- of technical and IT education Aisan Republics through Afvisit GULF for employment, ghanistan that would turned they spend normally six Arab States, he said addmission to eliminate the of youth. He said the present KP a hub of business and inmonths to two years there to ing that these remittances dustrialization. cially ice, from society, so various uplift projects for He said that CPEC has the the tribal elite should also | financial empowerment of potential to generate 1.2 mil- pertise of different machin- was sent abroad. Malik while | PPAF here at a local hotel proved to be one of the youth including provision of lion direct jobs for youth, eseries to get recruitment in referring to 2017 national said a handout. He said that 2,000 Internships for young pecially in agriculture, food, foreign companies, however, population census said that

ment to Pakistan's exports, and the development of

a special arrangement un-

kistan and both countries dents in the field of science

during the last six decades.

he urged for institutional

universities of Poland and

talented and skillful stu-

hance educational cooper-

der which Pakistani prod-

introduction of the GSP ucts had privileged access Answering a question about

sary of the establishment

between Poland and Pa-

to the European market.

underdeveloped districts in nomic services in Pakistan. easily due to prior expertise their commitment to support | Pakistan including KP, inno- Professor Dr Zilakat Malik, and experiences," he said.

of housing societies and prefer to go to Gulf states

for employment.

remittances were from the es and others operational ex-skilled and required labour

Development'. young population aged 15 | development.

tourism, mineral processing, the labour from neighbour- about 64percent population | to enhance cooperation and for bringing a visible change mation programs for 20 oil and gas and socioeco- ing countries get these jobs of our country comprised | ties with Pakistan in diverse in the lives of people from youth including 40.3pc on | areas including economic vation fund and 75 National former Chairman Econom- As of December 2019, more to 29 years.-APP The members of diplomatic

PESHAWAR: Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development & Management Company (KP-EZDMC), Javed Igbal Khattak has said that 98% of work on infrastructure development in Rashakai prioritized Special Economic Zone (pSEZ) 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, pSEZ 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 80% 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

Rashakai Special Eco-

agreed on making joint ventures in it.-APP

nomic Zone to become operational next month

Islamabad **POST**

Monday, February 13 , 2023

E&P

companies

discover 16

hydrocarbon

deposits in

2021-22

ISLAMABAD: Exploration

and Production (E&P)

companies, operating in dif

ferent parts of the country.

have collectively discovered

16 oil and gas reservoirs

during the last fiscal year

in pursuit of making the

energy sector. Out of these,

ten discoveries were made

n the oil and gas fields of

Sindh, four in Khyber Pa-

khtunkhwa, and one each

in Balochistan and Punjab

according to an official doc-

ument available with APP.

Initially, the companies

started extracting oil and

gas from seven newly dis-

covered wells of Sindh

province including Taj-1,

located in Tando Allahyar

district, Turk South-1 &

Mulaki West-1 and Bhatti

North-1 in Badin district,

Fazil-1 in Ghotki district,

Mohar in Khairpur district

and Naimat West DT-1 in

Sanghar district. Currently,

gas production stood at

1258.98 barrels per day and

10.91 million cubic feet per

day respectively. The E&P

ompanies, under their Cor-

(CSR) initiatives, carry out

different development pro-

jects in the surrounding

localities of their operation

Sania Alam

receives

award

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan

education specialist Sania

Alam has been honored

with the prestigious "Brain

of the Year" award by the

UK's Brain Trust in recog-

nition of her contributions

to the field of mental lit-

eracy and her role in pro-

moting education through

super-learning. According

to the details issued by

the Futuristic Learning

mony was presided over by

Trust Chairman and Grand

Keene, OBE, and was held

in the heart of London's

ceived the award alongside

several other awards for

her efforts, including the

Pakistani Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif's Youth

Excellence Award and

the Lifetime Achievement

Award from US President

Joe Biden in 2021. Alam has

made a significant impact

on the world of education

through her teachings and

has helped leaders from

international organizations

and businesses to harness

the power of super-learning

for their own success. He

work has earned her world

wide recognition and has

been featured on the covers

In addition to her role as a

prominent educator, Alam

stan's Prime Minister's Na-

tional Youth Council, which

works to involve young peo-

ple in policymaking. She

continues to inspire and

encourage students around

full potential through her

innovative teachings and

relentless pursuit of excel-

Police help

reunite a lost

child with

family

ISLAMABAD: In a heart

recently found a lost child

and helped reunite him with

According to the NHMP

official, the child, aged 10

was found on the Murree

Expressway (N-75) during

routine patrolling and was

"Public Address System"

and gathered local peo-

ple in the area to inquire

about the child and his

NHMP, a local recognized

the child and provided the

contact number of his fa-

ther. The police confirmed

the credentials and hand

parents, who expressed

their gratitude for the ef-

forts of the NHMP. The

community also appreciat

ed the action taken by the

police, and the inciden

was praised as a shining

example of NHMP's com-

mitment to the safety and

well-being of the people

lence.—APP

of 12 magazines.

country self-reliant in the

Briefs

APSUP & PAMI launches mission essar earthquake

relief fund ISLAMABAD: In order assist earthquakes-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 the organisations have 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 477.6 million contributed to such noble causes so far. The relief fund would help ease the suffering of count less 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 shoulders. Superior University has already contributed 5 million rupees to APSUP & PAMI's Mission Essar Earthquak 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 south-

Kites on the sky despite

RAWALPINDI: the ban kite flying is going unnoticed and police is not taking action against the violators. Kites can Kurti, Dheri Hassan Abad. Tulsa, Saint Marry School, Lala Zar, Sher Zaman Col-Road, Morgah, Westridge, Mall Scheme, Jamia Masjid Road, Raja Bazaar, Committee Chowk, Kohati Bazaar. Waris Khan, Iqbal Road. Naz Cinema, Shakrial, Kuri Road, Muslim Town, Bandh Khana Road, Iqbal Town, Commercial, and Dhoke Kala Khan.Dhoke Elahi bukush , Nadeem colony and Arya Mohallah. Moreo-

ver, 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 said that no one would be allowed to violate rule of law. He said that ban 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, donate ed 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 Pervaiz 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 initi ative, which has in the past also provided relief through essential food and safety supplies to the affectees of na tional 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 the 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 China's spacescraft 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 (CEN), the seeds, three kinds provided by the International Centre for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS). University of Karachi and four by Hamdard University, have made history as very low temperatures outside the first to aboard the Chinese the space station can induce gespace station and opened a new netic mutations that could make chapter for S&T cooperation be- the plants more productive and tween China and Pakistan. This is an extraterrestrial way to enhance food production. Space- So far, China, the third country bred varieties have proved to be in the world after the US and said Pang Chunxue, Charge d'Af-

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar

Bakhtawari, President, Is-

lamabad Chamber of Com-

merce and Industry (ICCI)

leading a delegation visited

IB Employees Cooperative

Housing Society (Gulberg

Green) Islamabad and ex-

changed views on matters

Tariq Mehmood President.

Bilal Riaz Burki Joint Secre-

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari

comparing the seeds on board with their mother seeds on the earth to screen out new medicinal materials with higher quality and higher yield, Dr. Jiang Ning, Deputy Secretary-General of Sino-Pakistan Cooperation Center on Traditional Chinese Medicine, National Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine, China, told China Economic Net in an interview. How is that achieved? Scientific study shows that microgravity, cosmic radiation and resilient to climate fluctuations resulting from climate change.

to the earth, Pakistan and China them, wheat variety Luyuan 502 and technology cooperation has kistan cooperation in space.

ICCI discusses building expo centre

and hospital in Gulberg Green

great challenges and added ICCI wants to build a hos-

out of the current crisis is suggested that Gulberg

to boost exports rapidly. He Green should consider al-

said that ICCI has been try- lotting a plot for the hospi-

ing to build an Expo Center tal so that ICCI can provide

in Islamabad for a long time, its members with a quality

space, no progress has been hospital. He said that ICCI

made vet. He suggested also wants to start a spring

consider providing space for drive to promote neat &

the establishment of Expo green Islamabad and said

Center so that exports can that Gulberg Green should

be enhanced by organizing cooperate with ICCI in this

will conduct joint research on has increased production by 11% been included under the frame- As Professor Ahsan Iqbal, Min-

crisis due to which the activities in the region, he Management of the society.

economy is confronted with added. He further said that Speaking on the occasion.

treatment facility building

regular exhibitions in Islama- mission as well. He also abad and across Pakistan to

drought, diseases and pests. "There is no way to transform plant seeds in a set direction, but it is possible to achieve our intended outcomes by sending them to space. For medicinal plants, we hope they can grow better with stronger resistance, survival rate, and efficacy. All can be achieved via genetic mutation in space", said Dr. Wang Yan, Assistant Professor of Chemical and Biological Sciences, University of Karachi. Aboarding China's Shenzhou 14 manned spacecraft, Pakistan's medicinal plant seeds have undergone 6 months of scientific experiments. "[It] represents a landmark in China-Pakistan S&T in the history of their friendship," scientific and technological co-

crete manifestation of China's willingness to share the fruits of high-tech development with Pakistan," said Cao Zhouhua, Science Commissioner of the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan. He said that China's space station is an important part of the UN's "Shared Global Space" initiative and is open to all UN member States. Scientific and technological 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 ture, aerospace, water conservation, chemical industry, medical ty, etc when they returned to the able to perform better in terms Russia to achieve satellite breed-faires of the Chinese Embassy in and health care, biotechnology, of production and resistance, ing in space, has cultivated more Pakistan, terming the experiment computer science, environment, utilization of space in the future,"

experiment cooperation is a con- put it, "Space technology is one

opment and security of any nation", adding that "collaboration with China will open doors of development for us in future". Take the Sino-Pakistan Seed Orbit Breeding Project as an example. Prof. Liu Xinmin - Member, Expert Advisory Panel on Traditional Medicine, WHO - noted that the project will surely boost on the Chinese Space Station, He told the reporter, for seeds of the Earth. "It will promote the further and the return of seeds from than 200 new space-bred varie- as a milestone of China-Pakistan energy and technology manage- said Liu, who is also the Chief Scikistan's medicinal seeds return of 2.3 million hectares. Among operation. The bilateral science will never be the end of China-Pa- covery Technology (IDDT), Ningbo their genetic stability, material more than ordinary varieties and work of China-Pakistan Economic ister for Planning, Development scholars in this field, Liu added.

Eating fish twice a week essential for healthy life

that the best solution to get pital for its members and IB Employees Cooperative eating fish at least two times per week is part of a healthy life Housing Society welcomed as fish is filled with omega-3 fatty acids and vitamins such as D the positive suggestions of and B2 (riboflavin). Fish is rich in calcium and phosphorus and Ahsan Bakhtawari, President | a great source of minerals, such as iron, zinc, iodine, magnesium, and potassium it is also packed with protein, vitamins, and nutrients that can lower blood pressure and help reduce the consider them sympatheticalrisk of a heart attack or stroke, Dr Mehmood Raza said while consider collaborating with talking to a private news channel. He informed that Two ome-ICCI in projects of common ga-3 fatty acids' found in fish are EPA (eicosapentaenoic acid) interest. He further lauded the and DHA (docosahexaenoic acid). Our bodies don't produce proposal of ICCI for the spring 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 reduce the risks of climate he said to help maintain a healthy heart by lowering blood essure and reducing the risk of sudden death, heart attack, normal heart rhythms, and strokes add fish in daily meals. may decrease the risk of depression, ADHD, Alzheimer's disease, dementia, and diabetes and to prevent inflammation CHEC and Gwadar Port and reduce the risk of arthritis, he added.-APP

GSP carries out seismic surveys

an attached department of the Petroleum Division, carried out around 9,628 Line Kilometers (L-KMs) 2D and 3,531 | the National Highway and Square Kilometers (Sq-KMs) 3D seismic surveys during a Motorway Police (NHMP) three-year period to identify the untapped hidden reserves of oil and gas in potential areas of the country. The GSP has conducted the surveys across the country which greatly helped oil and gas companies initiate exploration.—APP

CHEC to start de-silting operation in Gwadar Port Rs 4.7 billion. According to finally makes its headway

said that Pakistan is current- bad. It will also increase the discussed other matters

ly facing a foreign exchange industrial and commercial of mutual interest with the

but due to non-availability of

of mutual interest with that Gulberg Green should festival and tree plantation

ISLAMABAD: China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd (CHEC) is all set to start de-silting operations at Gwadar Port to reclaim 14.5 meters of natural and original operational depth of Gwadar Port at a cost of

SHUMAILA NOREEN

ISLAMABAD: Nations keep

themselves alive by preserv-

ing their natural history, sci-

entific heritage and achieve-

ments of their ancestors for

transferring the legacies of

ancient times to coming gen-

Therefore, the role of natural

history museums is acknowl-

edged globally as powerhous-

es of scientific enquiry and

voice of authority to inspire

about current and historical

But, in our country, the only-

of-its-kind Pakistan Museum

for Natural History (PMNH)

with

specimen

younger generations

valuable knowledge



of collection, preservation,

identification of natural his-

Situated in federal capital,

this valuable asset relates

country and is a plausible

hibits, lectures, workshops,

seminars, posters and film

shows. The matter of the

construction of remaining

six blocks of the museum is

tory and research activities.

Gwadar Pro, it is a high-oc- 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 of Gwadar Port",

The museum comprises a

gallery and Biodiversity

Fossils, Higher Plants, Me-

dicinal Plants, Lower Plants,

Mammals, Reptiles and Fish-

es. Being the only of its kind,

this museum provides as a

source of imparting educa- Galley and galleries hosting

tion through dioramas, ex- Birds of Pakistan, Dinosaurs,

lishment in year 1976, com- sands of the students and

pelling the PMNH adminis- researchers who visit it daily

specimens of natural re- ing within the available re-

and corridors. Visiting the comfortable

sources even in small rooms sources try to provide them

ficial told Gwadar Pro 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 fell swoop, hence, now

the cost of the project stands at Rs 4.7 billion". Country's only 'history museum' falling short of capacity

Tariq Mehmood, President,

ICCI and said that he would

ly. He said that he would also

festival and tree plantation

drive as it is very important to

plant maximum trees in Islam-

agreement signed between

Authority (GPA). A GPA of-

change phenomenon.

by the authorities despite its when one sees the author- I for the construction of six for beetles (order Cleoptera) ceived by the DG PMNH is huge contribution in terms ities using even small spac-remaining blocks of the mu-from China and Pakistan" to start a training program es of the constructed two seum with a proposed cost of with the cost of Rs. five milfor school kids to teach them

blocks to exhibit nearly 1.5 Rs. two billion was approved million conserved specimens last year to expand its display Other projects are "Hazards acquire knowledge about and activities to benefit students," informed Acting Dito natural resources of the state-of-the-art Gemstone rector General, PMNH, Dr. Saima Huma Tanveer. "As the funds could not be allocated during last budget due to economic crunch and devastating flood, the expan-

sion is delayed. However, we hope that allocations are made during next budget," lingering on since its estab- source of education for thou- she said. Under the supervision of Dr. Saima Tanveer, the PMNH tration to display maximum and the administration keep is undertaking a number of research projects of national importance including "cooperative development of an

of wildlife aircrafts strike and conservation of nature protheir prevention" to be com- cedures. pleted at the cost of Rs. 4.3 PMNH is the only museum, million and "Biosystematics" working under Pakistan Sciof Insect Fauna of Khunjerab ence Foundation (PSF), and National Park, Gilgit Baltistan" at Rs. 4.5 million. The other projects include development of outdoor volcano over the country. code technology to enable teachers training and STEM

sources collected from all display, integration of QR During year 2022, in all 7218 visitors to scan code of the during month of November, exhibit through their android 13910 in October, 11530 in phone and get all linked in- September, 15643 in Auformation, development of gust, 23.761 in July, 18.121 in June, 19, 656 in May, 2351 in Resource Lab and maintenance of museum building in February and 18737 peomuseum is rather painful and maximum facilities. "PC- innovative auto-ID platform etc. Another novel idea conple visited it in January.

filming of short videos and

specimens of rich natural re-April, 11912 in March, 14577

05

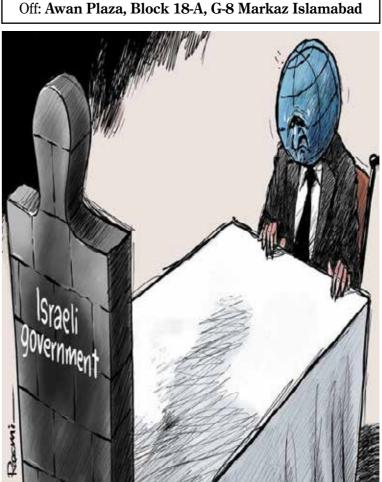
Response to the earthquake

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 e 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 organised 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 quakes. 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 Erdo an, Turkey's president, has numerous questions to answer, too, over the speed and effective ness 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. Endemic high-level corruption ensured these promises were not kept. A special earthquake fund was set up, but no one will say where the money went. Erdo an 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

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US hypocritical in maintaining Syria sanctions

e are providing humanitarian assistance to help Syrian earth-quake victims. We are their leading humanitarian donor since the start of the war – the US has provided more than the on to the Syrian people in Syria and the region. These funds go to the Syrian people, not the regime." This is what US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Twitter on Thursday. But he failed to say how the sanctions the US has imposed against Syria for decades have con tributed to the misery of the nation.

It is the US sanctions that have made it extremely hard for Syrian people to conduct rescue work without the necessary tools after the earthquake. It is the civil war, which Washington instigated and in which it has supported opposition forces in their attempt to overthrow the Syrian gov ernment, that has caused years of misery and suffering for the Syriar people. It is estimated that about half a million civilians have been killed since the war began in 2011. It is under the pressure of the international community that Washington announced on Thursday a 180-day exemption to its sanctions against Syria. The exemption is said to be only related to sanctions concerning earthquake relief efforts. What makes the rescue efforts extremely difficult is the fact that the war has already ravaged Syria's northwest region where the earthquake took place. The exemption will do nothing to change the increasingly worse situation there. When US Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo said: ". want to make very clear that US sanctions on Syria will not stand in the way of life-saving efforts for the Syrian people," he was trying to whitewash the misery the US' sanctions have caused the Syrian people and the role the US has played in the war with the aim of overthrowing the regime of President Bashar Assad. The US has imposed sanctions against the Middle East country for more than four decades since December 1979 after it designated the country a "State Sponsor of Terrorism". Since then it has repeatedly imposed additiona measures. Politicians in Washington have turned a blind eye to what the sanctions have done to the life of Syrian people, and they have placed what Washington hopes to achieve in its geopolitical games before the well-being of local residents. Human rights are constantly used by Washington as a pretext for whatever it does. But the irony is that consideration for human rights must be subject to Washington's geopolitical strategy. What is even more ridiculous is the fact that US military actions or its interference in other country's internal affairs including economic sanctions often lead to human rights disasters, as is the case in Syria. It is typically hypocritical and shameful for Washington not to lift its sanctions on Syria while claiming that it is the major provider of humanitarian aid.

India could be this decade's China

James Dorsey

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 leaders of the world's President Narendra Modi

20 largest economies, is an opportunity for 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 wolf warrior diplomacy, have suffered reputational

damage. The United States may have suffered the least, given its ability

his 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 backwards.Leaving aside the 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 one's peril and that, despite their 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 Raja in a Foreign Policy article, entitled 'It's Time to Tie India to the West.' (G-7), which groups the world's foremost democratic economies, into a G-8 with India as its newthat 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. Gulf security was not foremost in 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 commitments with other external powers. Still, it is something that policymakers in both the Trump and Biden administrations have at various

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 One focus will be the impact of the rise of Hindu Middle East Institute Bilahari Kausikan. Mr. Kaunationalism, the country's increasingly strained

ests. But over time, and as US thinking evolves, fragile proposition. Gulf states, like in other aspects, are likely to Even so, India is likely to be a factor in deterwhich 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. This week, a six-member Saudi army delegation visited India for briefings on the Indian military's training methodology and infrastructure. In addition, India has a play a greater role in a new world order. China will no longer want to rely on an adversary brings together the leaders of the world's 20 largits own transformation,' Mr. Menon said. est economies, is an opportunity for President Narendra Modi to showcase where India is heading.

mistakes in the Middle East 20 years ago, and an for its chairmanship, 'One Earth. One Family. One analogous shift from direct intervention to the role Future' means in practice. So far, India, like China, of an offshore balancer is happening in the region has benefitted from Muslim-majority states empharight now." Gulf states continue to look to the sizing national interests rather than communal and United States to guarantee their security interidentity concerns. However, that may prove to be a

want to hedge their bets and diversify their remining whether a new world order will be mullationships assertively. India is one player on ti-polar or bipolar and dominated by the United

States and China. Already, it is a world in which middle powers have greater agency and are more assertive

Functional and regional blocs like I2U2; Chip4, the semiconductor alliance between Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan, or the northern transport corridor linking India and the Indian Ocean with Europe will presence in Oman's Duqm Port. Regarding region- Furthermore, it will be a world in which Russia, as

al engagement, Iran remains for India the most a result of the Ukraine war, is likely to be a middle vexing issue in its evolving security posture. To be rather than a superpower, a consideration that sure, India will not allow its foreign relationships will not be lost on India, particularly at a time to be put at risk by cooperation with Iran. Yet, Iran that the principles of the inviolability of interna-With India set to become the world's third largest is India's gateway into Afghanistan and Central tional borders and the right to self-determination economy, Mr. Raja advocated turning the Group of Asia. Add to this that, depending on how US-Chine have become ever more paramount for stability. The functional and regional alliances take of added significance in an environment in which est member. The agreements reinforce the notion to guarantee its energy security. Chinese port, Russia, the United States, and China, because of pipeline, and other infrastructure investments in its handling of the Covid-19 pandemic and asservarious parts of Asia may allow it to reduce energy tive wolf warrior diplomacy, have suffered repsecurity risks in the Indo-Pacific but do not address utational damage. The United States may have threats in various strategic Gulf waters. More fundamentally, there is no effective Indo-Pacific strat- allies in Europe and some in Asia to forcefully egy that does not include the Arabian Sea, which support Ukraine while remaining focused on its requires Indian involvement, not least because of rivalry with China in Asia. Even so, as former geographic proximity. That maxim is reinforced Indian national security advisor Shivshankar Me from India's perspective by the security presence non notes, "worries remain... about the United of China, India's main regional rival, which starts States being distracted by Ukraine from its roles with a military base in Djibouti and is likely to exelsewhere, particularly in the Middle East and pand. US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken not- Africa." Those worries are compounded by the ed that the I2U2 that groups India with the United bungled US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021 States, Israel, and the United Arab Emirates was and concern about the impact of deep polarisaas much about economic cooperation as it was tion in the United States that is likely to be reabout working together on maritime security. Last flected in the campaign for the 2024 presidential but not least, India has its own strategic, energy, election. "There are new opportunities in this security, and economic interests in the Gulf, includ- uncertain world. India can work with neighbors ing the millions of Indian expatriates and workers to build the peaceful and more prosperous pe who work and live in the region. India's regional riphery that its own development demands. It can relationships, ability to get its domestic house in participate in the remaking of the rules of the interorder, and grow its economy will likely shape its national system now underway... And it can reenplace in a new 21st-century world order. This year's gage economically with the dynamic economies of Indian chairmanship of the Group of 20, which Asia, participating in global value chains, to further

> -This story is made on the author's remarks at the Maharana Pratap Annual Geopolitics

Can EU-Russia relations be repaired post-Putin?

Dimitar Bechev

he Russian opposition in exile and in prison insists that if Putin is to fall from power, the situation would reverse. Leonid Volkov, the number two of imprisoned opposition

leader Alexey Navalny, has even suggested that following the end of the war, the West should offer "a Marshall Plan" not only for Ukraine, in dire need of reconstruction, but also for Russia. In other words, oppositionminded Russians hope that Moscow will rebuild bridges with Europe

outside the country, blame the Russian president. For them, his delusions and paranoia have caused a turn to neo-totalitarianism at home and military aggression abroad.

The Russian opposition in exile and in prison insists that if Putin is to fall from power, the situation would reverse. Leonid Volkov, the number two of imprisoned opposition leader Alexey Navalny, has even suggested that following the end of the war, the West should offer "a Marshall Plan" not only for Ukraine, in dire need of reconstruction, but also for Russia. In other words, opposition-minded Russians hope that Moscow will rebuild bridges with Europe and the US once Putin is no longer on the throne. Understandably, the notion of "Putin's war" has next to no purchase in Ukraine itself. By and large, Ukrainians fault Russia as a country and as a society, whether it is the jingoistic cheerleaders for Moscow's "special military operation" or the silent majority who choose to simply ignore it and get on with their daily lives. Why should Russia be trusted to behave differently one day, they ask, given that Putin speaks for a nation with an imperial mindset? Besides, a successor to the 70-year-old leader is unlikely to come from the pro-Western opposition or be any different from the current occupant of the Kremlin. Some of the names pundits speculate about - say the head of Russia's Security Council, Nikolay Patrushev - are at least as hawkish as Putin. So for Ukrainians, Russia has to be defeated, no matter who runs the show in Moscow. But what about the European Union? Has the war moved its relations with Russia - cultivated so carefully for so long - past a point of no return? For Poland and the Baltic States that is very much the case. For a year now, they have had their "told you so" moment. Even before the Russian aimed at committing the US to European security, with clock will not turn back to February 23, 2022. invasion last year and the occupation of Crimea in 2014. the 2024 US presidential elections looming on the hori they made the case that Russian revanchism poses a funzon. But even so, it is safe to assume the Germans will

feet on providing military aid to Ukraine, notably on the

year after Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the debate about whether this is Presi
To the west, France and Germany, however, have been going forward. So then does the lack of full alignment dent Vladimir Putin's war or not continues. An much more ambiguous in their approach to relations on Russia mean that the EU is leaving the door open for ti-war Russians, many of whom have sought refuge with Russia. From the moment he first assumed office normalisation of relations in the long term? Not exactly. in 2017, French President Emmanuel Macron has been The war may and probably will last years. So long as making a case that Europe should think about the long there is fighting, it is hard to envisage any form of proterm and engage the Russians. Macron stuck to this line ductive diplomatic engagement, let alone rekindling pretty much until the invasion and kept calling Putin in political and economic links. Certainly, until Putin is in the hope of working out a diplomatic solution of some office relations will be confrontational. In case of de-essort. And as recently as last December, the French calation, a new line will be drawn across Eastern Europe president spoke of "security guarantees" to Russia that leaving Ukraine and possibly Moldova and Georgia on should be part of a settlement. Germany has elicited the "Western side", Belarus on Russia's, and Armenia even more frustration and ire among Eastern European and Azerbaijan in no-man's land. A Cold War-like scefriends of Ukraine. Long years of cosying up to the Rus- nario will materialise, with the pro-Western countries sians and business cum political ventures, such as the drawn into EU and NATO's orbit and Russia entrench Nord Stream gas pipeline, have tainted its record. The ing itself in whatever parts of Ukraine it might succeed German political class has long seen Russia as a friend to keep. This also means that Cold War-style diplomacy and some, like former Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, will be deployed. The EU - and its ally, the US - will landed lucrative gigs with Moscow's state-run energy engage with Russia only in order to preserve stability companies. In the past year, there has been some change and avoid a full-frontal collision. The essence of Western in action and rhetoric. In the wake of the invasion, Chan-policy will be containment, not integration as was the cellor Olaf Scholz declared the so-called Zeitenwende case in the 1990s and 2000s. The war has taken a heavy (historic turning point), the idea that Berlin will finally toll on economic links between Russia and the EU and take European defence seriously and put its weight behind it both financially and politically. His position has future leader might struggle to reverse. Moscow used to found support among the German public, the majority be one of the main energy suppliers to the union; it is no of which is pro-Ukraine, too. However, the German bias more and is unlikely to recover its position. The Russian towards hugging closely Russia, in the expectation that share of the European gas imports has gone down from denser ties yield greater security and predictability, has 50 percent in 2021 to a meagre 12.9 percent at present not been relegated to the past. With Scholz dragging his The European sanctions have forced Russia to gravitate towards China and to some extent, the Global South Leopard tanks, he is signalling that the German leader- This will be one of the war's lasting legacies. Anti-Puship has not given up on Moscow altogether. In Germatin Russians hope that their country may eventually find ny's logic, Russia will always be there, whether we like its way back to the West. European leaders are right to it or not, and we cannot simply shut it down, build a think long and hard about what comes after the fighting fence around it or ignore it. Of course, a more charitable stops – as sooner or later it will. Yet, as history shows, interpretation of the tank tussle is that Scholz's gambit wars are transformative events. For better or worse, the

-Courtesv: Al Jazeera

and Turkiye continues

From Page 01 people and government of the brotherly country fac ing widespread destruction caused by a 7.8-magnitude earthquake. "The national flag carrier has so far trans ported around 72 tons of relief assistance besides airlifting a 51-member rescue team," PIA spokesman Elaborating, he said, the PIA collectively operated six scheduled and two special chartered flights to Adana and Istanbul cities of Turkiye and Damascus, the capital city of Syria. "The relief flights are being operated by Boeing-777 aircraft from Lahore and Islamabad," he actively participating in the relief activities on behalf of the government of Pakistan. The spokesman said the National Disaster Manage ment Authority (NDMA) to the earthquake-affected

No chance of immediate relief

From Page 01 Ms Nawaz said she was no aware of the overwhelm response from the masses on her arrival at the airport "I told Nawaz Sharif that people gave me responses beyond my expectations." She admitted that party matters were impacted by the absence of the PML-N supremo in the country. Maryam Nawaz has clari fied that she is not interested in becoming the prime minister or the chief minister after the upcoming general elections in the country. She categorically said, "My focus is not on the slot of prime minister or chief minister." The PML-N stalwart also said for now, no intention of joining politics. "Junaid has to take the

Ex-COAS 'super king' I was the...

From Page 01 During the interview, the spoke about his allegations about the US involvement in a "conspiracy" that ultimately led to his ouster saying that based on the information he has received, perpower to have planned to topple his government. "Whatever happened, now as things unfold, it wasn't the US who told Pakistan tunately, from what evidence has come up. [former COASI General Bajwa who somehow managed to tell plan to oust mel was not imported from there. It was exported from here to there." relationship with Shehbaz Sharif, the current prime minister. And, for some reason, he conspired, and this

regime change took place. press for accountability of the corrupt, no one listened," h

said. "Even the National Ac countability Bureau (NAB) was in Gen Bajwa's hands." was no one to keep a check on the kind of power Gen Bapower went unchecked. I was power resided with Gen Bajwa." The PTI chief claimed that incumbent Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif was Gen Bajwa's "favourite".

the cases against Shehbaz. They (establishment) had decided that he will be made the possessed the authority take responsibility and be answerable for their actions. "Whenever my gov't made a good \[\] an Super Cup in August. decision, Gen Bajwa claimed decisions proved to be bad," The ex-PM pointed out that cided for the whole country

KKAWF holds volleyball event 'Save Tomorrow 6'

Minister for Inter-provincial Coordination (IPC) Ehsanur Rehman Mazari appreciated the efforts by Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation for sports awareness especially on youth

ISLAMABAD: To commemorate International Overdose Awareness Day, the Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation (KKAWF) organised "Save Tomorrow 6" event with some exciting and eminence volleyball matches between Pakistan women's teams and men's teams from Pakistan Army and Navy here at Liaquat Gymnasium, Pakistan Sports Complex Islamabad. Federal Minister for Inter-provincial Coordination (IPC) Ehsan Ur Rehman Mazari was the chief guest of the event while Chairperson Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation (KKAWF) Cristina von Sperling Afridi, Sophie Fergus from Canada, Acting Director General Pakistan Sports Board (PSB) Abrar Ahmad, Chairman Pakistan Volleyball Federation (PVF) Chaudhry Muhammad Yaqoob, Chairperson Women's Develop-



soaring in the last game 3-1.

icent start, squash sensation

Twitter and congratulated the

we are proud of you. Pakistan

Championship 2023 Chen-

shared pictures of national

mention that Pakistan booked

nessed a big number of audience good spiking and blocking prowwith some powerful smashes by ess for the Pink team. Azra Faroog and Aleesha Junaid Junaid and other dignities were Pink team by 25-18, 25-28. Azra also present in the closing ceremo- and Aleesha struck when it mat- to win the exhibition match. Some level teams to play show matches ny supported by Serena Hotels and tered most to help Yellow team take the honours. On the other The women's exhibition match side the tallest girl Khizran Fatiplayed between Pakistan Wom- ma along with Muqadas Bokhari

Triathlon Academy.

the 21st Asian Junior Team games with the former,

Squash Championship here consequently emerging vic-

Southampton sack manager

after just three months

LONDON: Southampton have sacked manager Nathan Jones

after just 95 days in charge of the Premier League club. For-

mer Luton Town boss Jones, 49, leaves with Saints bottom of

the table after Saturday's loss to 10-men Wolves. The Welsh-

man, who is Southampton's shortest-serving boss in the Pre-

mier League era, lost nine of 14 matches after taking the job

on 10 November. That record included eight defeats in nine

St Mary's. First-team coaches Chris Cohen and Alan Sheehan

have also left the club, while lead coach Ruben Selles will take

Despite leading 1-0 with a man advantage on Saturday, Jones

watched his side slump to a home defeat against fellow strug-

glers Wolves which was greeted with boos from the Saints

fans at the full-time whistle. He walked straight down the

tunnel, rather than applaud the home support, and said after

the match he did not know if it would be his last game in

charge. "I have never done that in my life before," Jones said

of his decision to immediately leave for the dressing room.

"In 390 games, I have never done that. But I am not sure if

charge of Saturday's Premier League match at Chelsea.

Pakistan thump India to win

Asian Junior Squash C'ship

In the second match Pakistan Army outclassed defending champion Pakistan Navy by 25-22, 25-21 blocking helped Army win the exhibition match with the help of Hamidullah and Ahmad Raza.

Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation von Sperling said that KKAWF progood spiking backed by exciting and creating interest of sports and physical activities among our youth

(KKAWF) Chairperson Cristina es. "KKAWF has been working intensely with Education Institutions vincial Coordination (IPC) Ehsanur Rehman Mazari appreciated the and this year, it's the sixth year of efforts by the Karim Khan Afridi Welfare Foundation for the sports

Atalanta beat Lazio 2-0 to break into Serie A top-four

"We had a very good defensive phase, we entered the pitch to get a result and we succeeded"

ROME: Atalanta secured a 2-0 win at Lazio with goals by

Davide Zappacosta and Rasmus Hojlund in Serie A on Saturday as they overtook the hosts to break into the top four. Atalanta moved up to third spot from sixth, level on 41 points with fourth-placed AS Roma and AC Milan in fifth. Lazio, who extended their winless run to four games in all competitions, dropped one place to sixth on 39 points. "We won with determination and concentration," Zappacosta told DAZN. "We had a very good defensive phase, we entered the pitch to get a result and we succeeded." Ademola Lookman had a chance to open the scoring for Atalanta in the 21st minute but Lazio keeper Ivan Provedel reacted quickly to parry the minutes later through defender Zappacosta who unleashed a superb shot into the top right corner at the Stadio Olimpico. "I was coming from a difficult period," Zappacosta added. "I hadn't scored for a long time and the goal was a relief. The is once again Asian champion | fact that so many different players are scoring (for Atalanta) and beat India in the final of | means that there is a (strong) group

Asian Junior Squash Team | Atalanta had 11 shots before the half-hour - six on target -Forward Hojlund was close to making it 2-0 in the 36th minute when he finished off a solo run with a shot from a tight angle towards the far post but narrowly missed the target. The 20-year-old slalomed through the defence again four minutes into the second half but Provedel saved his attempt. The Denmark international eventually when he controlled a cross from Lookman and bundled the ball into the net from close range. - APP

PSL producing good players for country: Rizwan

torious 3-1. The two players nai (India). Pakistan beat In-

ed with an 11-9 win in the ing Malaysia in the semi-final,

the hard-fought first game

locked horns with India's but Noor held his nerves players posing with the sil-

Krishna Mehra in the first calm to triumph 12-10 to verware. It is pertinent to

encounter of the enthralling attain the early lead. Meh-

India in the final to win final that lasted tense four ra, however, soon respond- a berth in the final after beat-

went hard at each other in dia 2/0," wrote PSF as they

er of the national cricket team, Muhammad Rizwan said that PSL was not only providing entertainment to cricket fans but also producing good players for the national team. In a press conference at Multan Cricket Stadium on Sunday, he said that he was expecting a lot from his team in the 8th season of PSL starting from Monday. He said that Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris of Lahore Qalandars were world-class bowlers adding that the Multan Sultan would enter the ground with a comprehensive strategy against them. Muhammad Rizwan said that fans of Multan had always showed their love and support for the team He said that many players have not been reached

Sultan's captain said that game with bravery would produce positive results adding that whoever plays bravely will win Multan due to flight issue. He also pointed that the dew fac tor would play an important role in the match. Sultan's captain said that game with bravery would produce positive results adding that whoever plays bravely will win. To a question, Muhammad Rizwan said that

he would disclose the name of the bowlers after the ournament who gave him tough time in the season. He said that through playing such tournaments players would get international-level experience. He said that Ihsanullah was bowling well and he could be another Haris for the national team. He said that credit of Pakistan's good performance in T-20 goes to PSL and hope that PSL would continue in future. Respondng to another question. Rizwan said hat the players always get handsome

Real Madrid win record fifth Club World Cup

Former Porto striker Moussa Marega pulled one back for the 2021 Asian Champions League winners, sliding a shot past Andriy Lunin, who should have done more to keep it out

ior Squash side on Sunday

breezed past arch-rivals

MADRID: Real Madrid lifted the Club World Cup for a record over Al Hilal on Saturday in Morocco. Vinicius Junior and Fede Valverde struck twice each, while Karim Benzema also scored on his return from injury in Madrid's spectacular victory over their Saudi Arabian opponents. Carlo Ancelotti's side, who qualified as Champions League winners last season, had far too much attacking quality for their opponents prime minister." Imran said it | to handle. Madrid's emphatic triumph at Rabat's Prince Moulay Abdellah stadium secured their second piece of silverware of the season, after winning the Europe-

It also provided welcome respite it. But I took the fall when the | from their La Liga campaign, where they sit eight points behind rivals Barcelona, who also beat them if one person unilaterally de- in the Spanish Super Cup final in January. Ancelotti brought Benzebehind closed doors, then the ma back into the starting line-up after he had missed the semi-final win over Al Ahly with a thigh inju-

bench. The 35-year-old striker cre- him on the pitch, Vinicius was to earn the title of world cham- 2021 Asian Champions League ated the opening goal for Vinicius able to enjoy himself in Morocco, pions. Valverde rifled the second winners, sliding a shot past An- and removing his name from with a short pass to send the Brazil- netting in both of Madrid's match- goal home through defender Ali driy Lunin, who should have done the PTI chairmanship. ian winger through on goal. After a frustrating spell in Spain as a whole, glad to take a short er Abdullah Al-Mayoof unsighted. fifth time with a pulsating 5-3 win because of racist abuse from the break from their domestic battle Former Porto striker Moussa

es. The same went for the team

Albulayhi's legs, leaving goalkeepstands and opponents targeting with Xavi Hernandez's Barcelona Marega pulled one back for the

an goalkeeper, standing in for the injured Thibaut Courtois, was celebrating his birthday but despite the win, he had a game to forget. For a short period it seemed the to truly test their more illustrious rivals, but Madrid stepped up a gear in the second half and secured an entertaining victory. cross using the outside of his boot and the French forward made no Uruguavan midfielder Valverde netted his second goal after a slick comial, finding his form and goals again

clinical strike but Vietto pounced

after a dip in form. Daily newsletter Receive essential international news every morning. Al Hilal pulled another goal back through ex-Atletivho dinked an effort past Lunin. Vinicius quickly hit back with a

'Regime change plan has **backfired**

an Pakistan (TTP) before t was ousted.He was responding to a question by the host, who asked him it he still "stands by" the decision to greenlight the talks. "One of the reasons that terrorism has spiked in Pakistan is because, according o the National Counterter rism Authority, the time tions with TTP was used by that group to reorganise Those talks started when you were in power.

Well, firstly, what were the choices [the] Pakistani government faced once the Taliban took over and they decided the TTP, and we're talking about 30, [30,000 they decided to send them back to Pakistan? Should we have just lined them up and shot them, or should ran replied. He went on to say that his government had had a meeting at that time and the idea behind that was resettlement with the all along the border", the erstwhile FATA region, security forces and the TTP. "But that never happened left and once our government was removed, the new government took its eye off

The former premier stat where were the Pakistani security forces? Where were the intelligence agenthem regrouping? "How could we be held responsible for their negli gence," the PTI chief asked in the country has worsened, with terrorist groups executing attacks with near impunity across the country Since the talks with the TTP broke down in November, the militant group has intensified its attacks, particu-KP and areas bordering Af

up their violent activities and formalised a nexus with the outlawed TTP. According to statistics re leased by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Securi ty Studies (PICSS), January 223 remained one of the deadliest months since July 2018, as 134 people lost their lives - a 139 per cent spike – and 254 received in

ECP meets today to discuss LHC verdict

juries in at least 44 militant

attacks across the country.

From Page 01 sion will resume hearing in three cases against ex-PM Imran Khan on February 15. The cases include his manship for which a notice has been served on the par ty's chief election commis sioner, Jamal Akbar Ansari. The commission will also take up an application filed by-elections held last vear

Pak-US defence...

From Page 01 logue was held in Pakistan in January 2021, spokeskistan's delegation, led by the Chief of General Staff will comprise of senior of ficials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Joint Staff ters, foreign office said. The US team will be ren resented by the office of undersecretary of defence according to the statement fence and security cooper ation will be discussed dur ing the defence dialogue Chief of general staff will with a clever turn and finish to cut | also participate in the talks

Briefs

Spanish Marines save 7-year-old boy from under rubble

rines who joined the country's rescue efforts Türkiye on Sunday saved a 7-year-old boy. The search and rescue efforts had been ongoing since late Saturday in Iskenderun where the marines located the boy alive, the Spanish Defense Staff said on Twitter. Also, a firefighting team including members from the cities of Malaga and Huelva saved three people under the debris in Serinyol, Hatay on Friday, according to the Spanish Embassy in Ankara. Some 22,300 people were killed and over 80,000 others injured by two strong earthquakes that jolted southern Türkive on Monday, according to the latest official figures. The magnitude 7.7 and 7.0 earthquakes, centered in the Kahramanmaras province, affected more than

13 million people across 10 provinces, also including Adana, Adiyaman, Diyarbakir, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye, and Sanliurfa. Several countries in the region, including Syria and Lebanon, also felt the strong tremors that struck Türkiye in the space of fewer than 10 hours. In neighboring Syria, the death toll has climbed above 3,300, with more than 5,200 people wounded, according to compiled figures.—APP

Saudis donate over \$66 quake victims

700,000 people participated in a donation campaign in Saudi Arabia that has so lion rivals (\$66.6 million) Saudi government's Sahem paign for relief of the quake victims in the two countries. The donation campaign was launched on Wednesday by the King Salman Relief Center, a day after King Salman bin Abdulaziz and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman directed the center to operate an air bridge and organize a popular campaign through the Sahem Platform, to support Türkiye and Syria in the wake of the earthquakes. The frequent update of the campaign platform shows a remarkable increase in the number of participants and the value of donations since its launch. Sixteen Monday's twin devastating Arab countries officially

president in tight run-off

NICOSIA: Cyprus went to

between two career diploed Mediterranean island. Polling stations close at 6:00 pm (1600 GMT) in the race to succeed two-term state and government of the small EU member country. Former foreign minister Nikos Christodoulides, 49, faces 66-year-old fellow diplomat Andreas Mavroyiannis after last Sunday's inconclusive first round. Christodoulides, who defected from the conservative ruling dependent, scored 32.04 percent a week ago, against 29.59 percent for Mayroviannis, who is backed by the communist AKEL party. Top irregular immigration and the island's almost half-century of division between the the north recognised only by Ankara. But many disaffected voters will simply opt for "the least worse candidate. - APP

Govt tax measures' annual impact will be over Rs500 bn

Anjum Nisar says whole business community opposes Rs170b new taxes to meet IMF conditions and petroleum levy rates to with sectoral inefficiencies. ed measures before a process would be complet- Fund (IMF) interference, as

He said that the regular staff-level agreement could

agreed to implement the

prior actions, which include

imposing taxes amount-

ing to Rs170 billion, as in-

creasing the GST rate to

18% was part of the taxes

- a measure that was high-

hurt poor people more than

the rich. He said the Rs170

billion taxes would be col-

lected during the remain-

der period of the current

of Pakistan Chambers of taxes in the proposed mini- of existing taxes, asked the ment's pledge of reducing tic industry, including 1% meet the conditions of the CI former president and

ing serious concern over and increasing oil pricto raise revenue by fur- power and gas tariffs will ther enhancing the ratio ultimately harm the governgovernment to tighten its the production cost for the tinuing its previous policy asked Pakistan to impose

of burdening the trade and new taxes to achieve the industry through further tax-to-GDP ratio target of indirect taxation that would 9.5%. Possible shortfall in devastate the economy, giv- the coming months may en the appalling state of the expose the government to economy and menacingly more pressure from the high inflation. He said that IMF. He said that slapping EU doing its best

the pressure of new taxes additional taxes on industri-BMP Chairman Mian An- will be on the businessmen, al raw material and essenjum Nisar said that the an- as tariffs, particularly on tial items would lead to furgas and electricity, will rise ther hike in inflation which significantly as part of the is already in double-digit. IMF condition to achieve The IMF statement indiernment has also assured full cost recovery rather cated that Pakistan would subsidies in the gas and to aid Türkiye, Syria amid quakes

"This adds to 1.600 rescue personnel. All of them are helping to find survivors. We're working in close coordination with Turkish authorities ISTANBUL: The EU will he said. "We also know that

keep on lending support people who have been af-

earthquakes, said the bloc's top crisis official. "We bridges and the provision are going to continue any best." On sending aid to cal aid to support Türkiye, order to help with the situ- EU sanctions, Lenarcic said according to official stateprovinces hit hard by Mon-The aid Europe is sending to Türkiye shows a "strong solidarity," Lenarcic added. underlining that the EU has 38 rescue and medical units on the ground. "This adds to 1,600 rescue personnel. the polls Sunday for a tightly fought presidential runoff find survivors. We're working in close coordination with Turkish authorities," Lenarcic added."Yesterday, Türkiye requested addithe situation. We have degram. "We have also allocat-

to Türkiye in the wake of

support we can provide in Syria, which remains under ation," Janez Lenarcic, Eu- that the sanctions do not crisis management, told a He said the "sanctions are press conference on Thurs- very carefully calibrated. day in Gaziantep, one of the Those sanctions target individuals and entities responsible for the oppression of the Syrian people. Those sanctions do not affect the principled delivery of humanitarian aid, which means that the aid is directly sent to those in need." All of them are helping to from the Syrian authorities and we encouraged EU member states to provide that kind of assistance such as medical equipment. We tional assistance and it has gets to the people in need, started to come. We are go- he added, underlining that ing to continue any support the bloc is in coordination

fected by this earthquake.

important as helping Turk-

ish people. We're doing our

'an affront to humanity'

agers to impose new taxes

es along with the hike in

businesses. The IMF has

NEW YROK: With extremist groups expanding their reach, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Sunday called on the international community not to lower its guard against terrorism. The appeal came in his message to mark the Day for the Prevention of cember by the UN General described terrorism as an bind us together."

Terrorism also threatens collective efforts to promote peace and security, protect uman rights, provide hunanitarian aid, and advance sustainable development. Suterres said, "We must be more vigilant than ever," he said, noting that "terrorist are finding fertile ground on the internet to spew their vicious venom." He said neo-Nazi, white supremacist and now represent the top several countries, as well as tries must act to confront the challenge through prevenwe can in order to help with World Food Pro- | tion, and by addressing the

place, he added. - APP

impact of the new tax measures would be much more by increasing the tariff, he socio-economic implications than Rs500 billion - a figure maintained. He said that attributable to a 24.5 perthat was closer to the IMF's the IMF was looking for a cent Consumer Price Index, significant increase in that 29% inflation rate for the curernment has agreed to rent fiscal year. He said the ly impacting on raw material minimize the untargeted

fiscal deficit. However, the

industry is the main victim of imports and therefore on

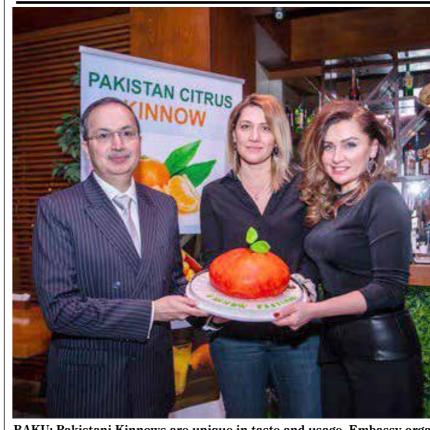
ed with the approval of the donors' involvement in

attempt of economic manbe reached. Pakistan has the federal cabinet, as, the Pakistan's economic matters Coordination and dictations to the polier Chairman of Pak-US Business Council Iftikhai Ali Malik on Sunday urged

around Rs2.9 trillion while the South Asian nations. He covered. He added that this towards alternative sources resulted in an increase in of electricity generation but either the circular debt or the Pakistan government's

the IMF of raising gas tariff than to focus on dealing have to take all the need energy sectors and this this International Monetary unemployment levels. Greece, Turkey urge better relations after quake

the country was hit by a devastating earthquake last Monday, despite a longstanding rivalry between the two NATO countries. Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias was met with a warm embrace by his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu, according to footage on state-run ERT TV, before they boarded helicopters to quake-hit regions. His arrival narks the first visit by a European minister to Turkey since the earthquake. "I would like o convey to the Turkish leadership and the Turkish people the warmest condolences of the Mitsotakis government and the entire Greek people for the losses after the two devastating earthquakes", Dendias said during a press conference with Cavusoglu in Antakya, referrin to Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. "This is showing the olidarity of Greek people with Turkey and the Turkish population. - APP



underlying conditions that BAKU: Pakistani Kinnows are unique in taste and usage. Embassy organcided to allocate 3 million ed 3.5 million for Syrians | drive terrorism in the first | ized a festival in partnership with Azeri Chef to promote Pakistani citrus |

Modi wants to declare India a Hindu country

to Türkiye as a first step," as a first step. - APP

casting Corporation (BBC), the New York Times has also exposed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's plan to make India a 'Hindu extremist nation'. The Narendra Modi government has been severeanti-minority tendencies in India and Kashmir. since the BJP came to power. The According to Lydia Polgreen, Modi International media has sounded New York Times, the author severe- cally cracked down on freedom of ly criticized the Modi government,

fell victim to Hindu extremism.

the Modi government deliberately made anti-Muslim laws. The colly criticized in the international meizenship laws and illegal annexation dia for its religious extremism and of the Illegally Occupied Jammu

is a hot-headed member of the alarm over the growing extremism Hindu extremist organization RSS. in India. In a column appeared in The Modi government systemati-

came to power. There is no custom want to abolish the secular constiof punishment for crimes against tutional status of India and give it Delhi in 2009 to work as a foreign zine covers brought to mind the khana. The Walled City Au Muslims. . Nehru's secular India the status of a Hindu country. Accorrespondent, there was already cording to Polgreen, Modi will win a decade's worth of magazine covthe election for the third time and change the constitution to declare India as a Hindu country. Succeshere rise of India to the top table umn also refers to the change in cit-sive articles show that there is a of the global order and its role as It is a critical player in just about

strong anxiety in the global media about Modi's Hindu extremist pol- China. Usually they included an el- et. Its economy is now bigger than icies, thus raising questions if the global media and the West worried an in a shimmering sari. The messy it, making it the fifth largest in the about Modi's victory in 2024? Will Modi create another false flag racy, a tangled bureaucracy shot China in population this year, if it operation drama against Pakistan through with corruption, the great hasn't already. The Ukraine crisis in his desire to become the prime difficulty of dragging hundreds expression. Critical voices were minister for the third time? - Won't of millions of people out of pover- powers around the world want to for their homeland on Febsaying religious extremism and anstifled by terror laws. Emergency another Modi government promote ty – these would all be overcome count on it as an ally.

ers heralding the inevitable, justaround-the-corner but not-quite-vetephant or perhaps a tiger or a wom-

increased dramatically since BJP the media. Hindu extremists always ously? Lydia Polgreen wrote in NY India's relentless spirit of progress. | na Museum, Lahore Fort The cyclical nature of these maga- | Sheesh Mahal and Barood famous quip about Brazil: India was the country of the future and always would be. "But now it appears that indeed the nation of the moment. a democratic counterweight to every major issue facing the planthat of the country that colonized problems of multiethnic democ- world. It is expected to outrank has shown how desperately great

Iran's Raisi to visit China: state media

EHRAN: Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will head to China within days for a three-day visit aimed at strengthening economi cooperation, state media reported on Sunday Raisi will set out for Be iing on Monday evening in esponse to an official invi tation by Chinese Presider Xi Jinping, Iran's state news agency IRNA said. Both presidents met for the first time last September in Uzbekistan at a summit for the Shanghai Cooperation

Organization, where the

Iranian president called for

expanded ties.

On his upcoming trip, Rais s expected to hold private talks with Xi, and delegations from both countries are due to sign "coopera tion documents." accord ing to IRNA. The agency added that Raisi will als Iranians living in the coun try.\ Iran and China have strong economic ties, es pecially in the fields of en countries signed in 2021 a 25-year "strategic coope s Iran's largest trade partner, IRNA said, citing the 10-month statistics of Iran

Pak-US business council urges access to US markets

the United States to provide direct market access to Pak products to stabilise its fragile economy that suffered irreparable colossa osses in the fight agains terror in the region. Talking to a delegation o exporters led by Muslin Khan Buneri here today ners with the US to stamp out the menace of terro tion to the collapse of major chunk of its infrastructure. He said still Pakistan econ omy could not absorb the vast financial losses inflictsaid the whole of the world, including US and West, sev eral times publicly acknowl edged Pakistan's role and the tremendous sacrifices of its valiant armed force in flushing out the terrorists from their hideouts.

He said Pak exports during the last two decades wer which went nosedived hitting the national economy to its lowest ebb besides rampant disruptions in the dent SAARC Chamber, said both countries have many shared interests as Paki stan-US cooperation is a He said ground realities and our bleak economy due

Azerbaijan delegation

to the war on terror speaks

volume of scrambling dev-

historical places in City

led by Fakhranda Hassanzaday, visited historical places ar Sorajan Singh Street and Wazir Khan, Fageer Kha thority officers gave a briefing about the city and the two days and three days in Islamabad and then leave



Islamahad POST



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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.

DG CAA accused of Rs2 trillion corruption

"I have long-time relations

and friendship with Nawaz

Sharif, he is my leader, and

this relation could not be

bonded with Maryam," Sha-

hid Khaqan said. "I am her

uncle, Benazir Bhutto had

also did not allow her uncles

in party," he added.

News Desk

KARACHI: Allegations of corruption of Rs2 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 Muratza 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 li-

censes were issued for the national airline - the PIA and that additional damage was caused due 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 NA-TO'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 shootdown 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 it's 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-gov-

ernmental 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 Econ-

omy amongst opinion leaders and

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 Dziuba 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 Dziuba in his daily video ad-

dress. 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 Turkiye 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 Turkiye 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 being responsible for collapsed buildings. Turkiye'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

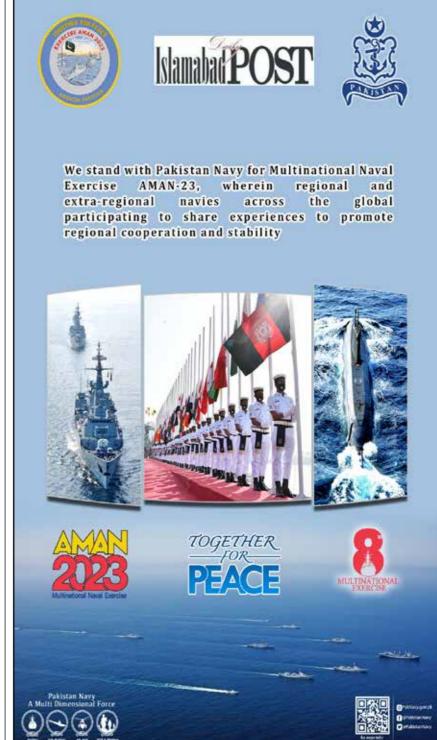
relevant stakeholders.

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Army teams are busy in search and rescue operations in more than 50 quake-hit areas in Turkiye 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 Turkiye 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



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