

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

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China accuses US of flying balloons over its airspace

Detailed News On Page-07

Unilateralism, sanctions root cause of crises

Detailed News On Page-07



English captain Morgan retires from Cricket



Briefs

Actor Zia Mohyeddin **Dasses away**

NAZIR SIYAL



National Academy of performing art Zia Mohyeddin passed away in Karachi on Monday after protracted illness. He was 91. Born in Faisalabad, on June 20, 1931, he gradu-

ated from Government College, Lahore. Known for his excellent comparing, broadcasting, poetry and prose recitation, acting and theatre direction, he mentored hundreds of students. He was recipient of Hilal-i-Imtiaz award for excellent services Art in 2012. The funeral prayers will be offered in Karachi today after Zuhr prayer.

2,000 workers got jobs through **EPS:** Envoy

DNA



Pakistani workers found employment in Korea through the Employment Permit System (E9). The ambassador appreciated that Pakistani workers were getting more jobs in Korea under the Employment Permit System (E9) (EPS). He said that his embassy would cooperate to further expand the EPS project in the future, said a news release issued by the embassy.

Isa slams protesting judges

DNA



ISLAMABAD: Irked by frequent strikes lawyers, Justice Qazi Faez Isa - the senior puisne

judge of the Supreme Court – on Monday remarked that the licences of protesting lawyers should be cancelled. Justice Isa made the remarks while hearing a case related to gas theft worth over Rs67 million against a local factory. During the course of the proceedings, the lawyers earned the ire of the judge as the trial court's order stated that the lawyers did not appear before the court two to three times due to their strikes.

Inside..

Religious minister urges unity among believers of all religions

ICCI, Life Residencia agree to establish

Citizens Club

US needs to understand

complexities of

Middle East

Why now is the time

for UK to lead

in Palestine

After Multan, we

will go to Peshawar,

Quetta: Sethi

Unilateralism,

sanctions are root

causes of crises: Raeisi

Turkiye finds more

survivors but hopes

dwindle with time

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SEDITION CHARGES

Ex. PTI finance minister Tareen booked by FIA

Tarin has been accused of sabotaging govt deal with the **International Monetary Fund**

Arshad Sharif murder

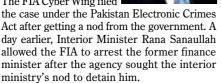
JIT denied access to

evidence by Kenya

The SC bench expresses displeasure over JIT report

KHAYAM ABBASI / DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Investigation Agency on Monday booked former finance minister and PTI leader Shaukat Tarin in a sedition case under the PECA Act after completing investigations into an alleged video leak. The FIA Cyber Wing filed



Tarin has been accused of sabotaging government's deal with the International Monetary Fund as has been revealed in a purported audio. Besides Tarin, Tamur Saleem Jhagra and Mohsin Leghari have also been nominated in the case. The case was registered under sections 124 and 505 on the complaint of Arshad Mehmood, s/o Ghulam Sarwar. Last year, an audio tape was leaked in which a voice believed to be that of Tarin was advising the finance ministers of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to scupper the IMF deal by refusing to generate extra funds. According to the FIA, Tarin failed to give satisfactory answer when questioned about the leaked audio tape. The FIA also issued summons for Tarin asking him to participate in the process of investigation.

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A special joint investigation

team (JIT) probing the murder of senior

journalist Arshad Sharif was not given

access to evidence by the Kenyan authori-

ties, the Supreme Court was informed on

Monday. A five-member bench, headed by

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata

Bandial, resumed the hearing of the suo

motu notice of Sharif's murder in Kenya.

Other members of the bench are Justice Ija-

zul Ahsan, Justice Sayyed Mazahar Ali Ak-

bar Naqvi, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail

At the outset of hearing, JIT head Owais

Ahmed submitted the second progress re-

port to the apex court. At this, the bench

also expressed displeasure and ordered an

investigation against those who disclosed

the fact-finding report of Sharif's murder.

CIP Bandial questioned who made the

fact-finding report public and directed to

and Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar.

Nobody holds mafias accountable, says Imran Khan

A sister publication of **CENTRELINE & DNA News Agency**

News Desk

LAHORE: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan lamented on Monday that nobody held the mafias accountable. Addressing people through video link, the deposed premier took a dig at the incumbent government, saying. "It is clearly written in the constitution that elections will be held within 90 days. But the rulers are making excuses by saying that the country is short of money to hold the elections." Mr Khan lamented that the country had been devastated by the loot of ministers, saying, "In the country, those in power take no time to get NRO." The mafias in the country were enjoying immunity in accountability as nobody held them accountable, he said.

Saying the country gained independence in the name of Islam, Mr Khan said, "What led to the European countries sweeping past the Islamic countries?" Mr Khan went on to say, "I am not a religious scholar, but I have travelled the

Continued on Page 06

been mistakes in the

investigation carried

Justice Naqvi re-

marked that the

court has read every

single word of the

report. "Have you

done what was as-

signed to you?" Justice Naqvi asked the JIT.

He questioned whether the team found any

At this, JIT chief Owais Ahmed replied

that they met officials in Kenya, adding

that the East African country did not

grant access to evidence. "We did not find

any concrete material in Kenya regarding

"Where are Arshad Sharif's mobile and oth-

er equipment?" questioned Justice Ahsan.

To this query, the JIT chief said that Sha-

rif's mobile phone and iPad are with Ken-

ya's IT department. However, the rest

Arshad Sharif's murder," he added.

material related to the murder in Kenya.

out in Pakistan.

LHC verdict ECP to consult governor on Punjab polls date

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has decided to consult Punjab Governor Baligh Ur Rehman over the date for the general elections in Punjab as per a Lahore High Court order. As per a statement issued on Monday, the decision to approach the governor was taken in a meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja. The ECP said that the meeting discussed Lahore High Court's (LHC) judgment on the general polls in Punjab. "As per the honourable court's order, the election commission has requested the Punjab governor to hold a meeting on February 14 to consult on the date for the general elections for the Punjab Assembly," said

Continued on Page 06

Mini budget through

ISLAMABAD: Government has decided to promulgate ordinance in connection with mini budget. According to official sources the presidential ordinance will be promulgated as soon the joint session of both the houses of parliament ends. The change in taxes and duties will be made through ordinance. The presidential ordinance will remain in force for four months. The government sources further said that National Assembly can accord extension for further 120 days in it through a resolution. - Online

ordinance



for Capital Administration Tariq Fazal Ch, Ambassador of Iran Mohammad Ali Hosseini and others cutting cake to mark the National Day of Iran. - DNA

NATIONAL DAY OF IRAN CELEBRATED Pakistan, Iran ties time-tested: Fatemi

In the year 2023, the volume of trade between the two countries will reach more than two billion dollars: Ambassador of Iran

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ISLAMABAD: State Minister and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi has said relations between Pakistan and Iran are time-tested adding this friendship is getting deeper and deeper with the each passing day. Tariq Fatemi made these remarks while speaking on the occasion of the National Day of Iran. The event was organized as the Islamabad Serena Hotel and attended by large number of diplomatic community, members of the civil society and serving and retired civil and military officials. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry, Federal Minister for Capital Administration and Development also attended the event.

Tariq Fatemi further said Iran had always stood besides Pakistan through thick and thin. He hoped this brotherly relationship would grow even further in the days to come. Ambassador of Iran Mohammad Ali Hosseini in his speech thanked Pakistan brothers and sister for attending the event in large num-

bers. He added, Iran enjoys geographical strategic location in the region, enormous natural resources, competitive and economical energy basket, human resources and a large potential market. It makes an incomparable capacity to develop and expand the allaround economic and trade cooperation in all fields with all the countries of the world. Meanwhile, Iran and Pakistan have a collective population of more than 300 million people, along with which a wide array of commonalities and links provides a mosaic constellation of opportunities for the activists of the two countries, he added.

Ambassador Hosseini further said, the 21st Joint Commission of Economic Cooperation was successfully held in Islamabad. In the year 2022, more than five exclusive trade exhibitions were held in different cities of Pakistan. About one month ago the trade tariffs for Pakistani export goods was removed as an Iranian initiative to expand Pakistani interest margin from bilateral trade.

Continued on Page 06

find out who was behind it. "The fact-findof his belongings have been received, he ing report was made public without any told the court without elaborating further. verification," the CJP remarked, questioning whether it was done deliberately. He Continued on Page 06 **Pakistan stands with people**

The Premier visits Turkish Embassy to offer condolences

of Turkiye in testing times: PM

SHUJAAT HAMZA

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday assured Turkish ambassador Mehmet Paçaci that in the test-



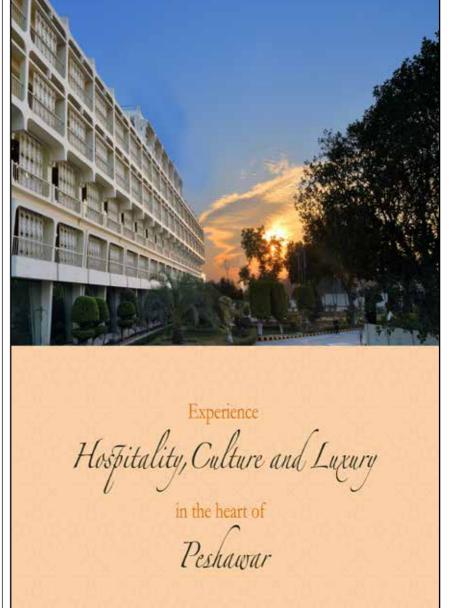
ing times, the government and the people of Pakistan stood in strong solidarity with the people of Turkiye. He made the remarks during his visit to the Turkish Em-

bassy here to express condolences over the loss of life and property in the devastating earthquake in Turkiye. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayyaz Sadiq, Minister for Law Azam Nazeer Tarrar, Special Assistants to the Prime

Minister Attaullah Tarrar and Tariq Fatemi. The Prime Minister conveyed his condolences to the Turkish ambassador and prayed for the victims of the earthquake in Turkiye.

He reiterated that Pakistan will continue its rescue and relief efforts for Turkish brothers and sisters until the last affected person was rehabilitated.

The Prime Minister also highlighted the relief efforts of Pakistan for the earthquake victims of Turkiye. He told that Pakistan was sending winter tents, blankets, warm clothes and other essential items for the people of Turkey. He also recorded his remarks in the condolence book. Thanking the Prime Minister and the people of Pakistan, the ambassador of Turkiye said that they were touched by the outpouring of sympathy and support from the entire Pakistani nation.





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5 illegal

godowns

sealed

Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Mohammad Azam Khan on Monday announced plans to extend support to the earthquake victims in Turkey. The chief minister has instructed the chief secretary to prepare an action plan for

In his statement, Mohamgovernment and the people are equally sharing in the brothers and sisters in this hour of trouble. The hour of trial."

The chief minister urged the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and other federal institutions to provide information on the essential items required by the earth quake victims. -DNA

More school holidays announced

DNA

of schools in winter zone thorities to extend the hol- | National Commission for



this cause.

mad Azam Khan said, "The of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa suffering of their Turkish provincial government and the people of the province are determined to help the earthquake victims in this

PESHAWAR: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Elementary and Secondary Education Department Monday extended the winter vacations due to unusual changes in weather conditions. Accord- | Mufti Abdul Shakoor on ing to a private news chan- | Monday said there was nel, the KP winter zone | a fierce conflict between includes Swat, Buner, Dir, | religious and secular secla Par, Malakand, Bajaur, era. Mohmand, Khyber, Kur- Talking to a 20-member ram, Orakzai, and North Waziristan. A notification | munity that called on him mentary and Secondary Ed- | said believers of all reliucation Department stated | gions should unite at one that all public and private | platform and highlight the educational institutions will | virtues of their religions remain closed till Feb 28 | in appropriate manners and educational activities on the globe. The westerly waves and | Prabandhak Committee winter rain have brought (PSGPC) Pardhan Sardwinter zone forcing the au- | delegation comprising of



DIAMER: Federal Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah Khan visiting Diamer Basha Dam to assess overall security Scenario at the project, Federal Secretary Interior Yousaf Naseem Khokhar, Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd) and National Coordinator, NACTA Muhammad Tahir Rai also accompanied him. -DNA

Minister urges unity among believers of all religions

ter for Religious Affairs Interfaith Harmony tions of society in today's

delegation of Sikh comhere in the ministry, he Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara

nity from Nankana Sahib tion,

leaders of Sikh commu- Welcoming the delega- ship of the Sikh religion occasion, the delegates es of worship were safe in



Pakistan and it was an exemplary country in terms of the protection of mi-They said after the con-

stitution of PSGPC in of worship places had significantly improved. The Sikh Yatris coming to Kartarpur from India faced added. The delegates also made several suggestions for the welfare of the Pakistani Sikh community in the meeting with the ation and implementation presented by the delega-

(Pvt.) Limited has an the objective and philosophy nounced the grand opening of its latest residential that he observed the living project, Smart 100, located standard of people in Amerbad and held an open house this level of smart technoloevent on location. This state- gy to the people of Pakistan. of-the-art house boasts a host With a mission to revolution of cutting-edge technology ize the housing and construct

Imran Khan lost govt due to his own non-political attitude

QAZI SHOAIB KHAN

ATTOCK: Senior Vice President Muslim League (N) Punjab and former Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Sheikh Aftab Ahmed while addressing a thanks giving ceremony here Dhok Miskeenabad, Hassanabdal on Monday has said that the regime of Imran Khan was lost due to his own misdeeds and non-political attitude towards his political opponents but he was hurling allegations on America, PDM and General (R) Bajwa to save his skin under one pretext or the other. Senior Vice President Muslim League (N) Punjab and former Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Sheikh Aftab Ahmed was addressing the public gathering on completion of sui gas project which was left unattended during the tenure of PTI. Among others the gathering was also participated by a large number of PML(N),s workers, expected candidates for MPA Attock Sardar Iftikhar Ahmed Khan, Sheikh

Sulman Sarwar, ex-Chairman, MC Attock Mr. Nasir the country from default which was leading to-District Secretary Information Mian Rashid Mushtaq, and elites of the area. Sheikh Aftab said that Attock Fort under self-fabricated cases, deported verge of default if Imran Khan further prolongs. Nawaz Sharif had ameliorated the living stand-

Mehmood Sheikh, Sh. Ajmal Mehmood, District wards a serious financial crunch while the PTI Vice President, PML(N) Haji Mohammad Yaqub, leadership of Imran Khan has dragged the country at political economic collapse due his ineligibility. He said that PML(N) Government of Mian unfortunately, Mian Nawaz Sharif was detained in Nawaz Sharif had provided maximum relief to its people within the available resources during from Pakistan and thirdly removed from his heavy 2018. He said the regime of PML(N) under the mandated government even he was convicted in a able leadership of supremo Mian Nawaz Sharif pre-planned case just to keep him from his people. was a golden period of the country when the Mian Nawaz Sharif during his meeting in London common people are prosperous and the prichad said that they put their politics on stake by saves of the daily use items, petroleum products, ing the State as the country was reaching at the electricity, gas, wheat flour were within the reach of the people. But, now a days, the polit-Sheikh Aftab Ahmed said PML(N) supremo Mian ical economic position of the country plunged ards of his nation by launching mega projects of Imran Khan and his immature team besides to eradicate poverty .Highlighting the salient political instability and uncertainty among the features of PML(N)'s previous tenure, Sheikh people of the country. This was happened due Aftab Ahmed said that present Government of to adamant and non-serious attitude of Imran PML(N) led by Mian Shahbaz Sharif has purged

China Study Center organises art exhibition

PESHAWAR: China Study Center, University of Peshawar is organizing three days Art Exhibition on the theme "PAKISTAN-CHINA ALL WEATHER FRIENDSHIP" focuses on China, Pakistan- China Friendship, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Chinese Art and Cultural Heritage (buildings, monuments, landscapes, books, works of art, artifacts, traditions, language, calligraphy, culturally significant landscapes, and biodiversity) at China Study Center, University of Peshawar. Students, Teachers, and artists across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa are taking part in the Art Exhibi tion. A total of 50 art pieces were selected for the art competition by the organizers. The Art Exhibition was inaugurated by Syed Ali Nawaz Gilani Secretary-General Pakistan China Friendship Association KP (PCFA) in the presence of Prof. Dr. Zahid Anwar Pro- Vice Chancellor and Director China Study Center, University of Peshawar, Dr. Fazlur-Rahman Associate Professor Department of Urban and Regional Planning, UoP and Dr. Nadir Ali Khan Assistant Professor HoP on about China, its culture, history, and February 13th, 2023.A large number of students, scholars, academia

and teachers participated in the in-



lani Secretary-General (PCFA-KP) said China Study Center, UoP is playing a vital role in bringing Pakistan and China closer. Through these kinds of healthy activities, people will be able to know more architecture etc. He appreciated the efforts of Prof. Dr. Zahid Anwar Pro- Vice Chancellor and Director

Peshawar on the occasion highlight-University of Peshawar is organizing different activities focusing on Pakistan-China friendship. And said that this art competition will help in un-China Study Center, University of derstanding about Chinese Culture,

On the occasion Syed Ali Nawaz Gi-Peshawar, and his team for organ-history, traditions, language, CPEC izing such important activities at and BRI, etc. The Art Exhibition CSC, UoP. Prof. Dr. Zahid Anwar will continue from February 13th Pro- Vice Chancellor and Director to 15th, 2023 at the China Study China Study Center, University of Center, University of Peshawar. The ed that the China Study Center, petition will be awarded will cash prizes and certificates. The prize on February 15th, 2023 at the Con-

DNA

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ing it a standout among the local real estate offerings. Smart Hub Construction Hub Construction, shares its projects.











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03

Feb 04 / Sri Lanka

National Day

Feb 06 / New Zealand

National Day

Feb 06 / Uganda

Defece Forces Day

Feb 11 / DPR Korea

National Day

Feb 16 / Lithuania

National Day

Feb 18 / Gambia

National Day

Feb 19 / Nepal

National

Democracy Day

Feb 23 / Brunei

National Day

Feb 23 / Guyana

National Day

Feb 23 / Russian

Federation

National Army Day

Feb 23 / Tajikistan

Armed Forces Day

Feb 25 / Kuwait

National Day

Feb 27 / Dominican

Republic

Independence Day

Hotels &

Restaurants

Serena Hotel....111 133 133

Rescue (Police)...

Fire Services Rawalpindi/

Emergency Ambulance.1122

& Rescue Services.4451122

Motorway Police...9266044

Motorway Police.9270601-20

Women Police Stations

Rawalpindi......9270601-20

Enguiry

Railway Inquiry.....117

Railway Exchange9270831-5

WASA Rawalpindi..5555489

Hospitals

Edhi Ambulance.

PIA Flight Info...

PIA Cargo...

..9222596

PESHAWAR: District ad sealed five illegal godowns in residential areas of the city and arrested their owner here on Monday. Commissioner (DC) Peshawar, Shafiullah plaints about the operation of commercial activities in residential area of Kohati Gate, due to which the residents were facing severe hardships. Taking notice of the situation, the Depu v Commissioner directed the Assistant Commission er (AC) Rao Hasham, who along with the Additional (AAC), Junaid Shah conducted a raid on the area wherein godowns were set up inside the houses and trading activities were going on there. The officers of district administration expressed anguish over the situation and after sealing five godowns also arrested their owners to initiate further legal proceedings against them. Deputy Comnissioner. Peshawar Shafi ullah Khan has directed the officers of district administration to keep a strict check on commercial activities in residential areas and take action against them. He has also appealed to the general public to register tial areas with the Control Room on telephone No.091-9211338.-**DNA**

Ready to hold elections in 15 days if asked by ECP

Minister Sved Mohsin Raza Nagyi has categorically stated that main aim of his care elections and leave graceful-Talking to journalists in Lahore on Monday, Mohsin Raza said "We will hold elections whenever the Election Commission of Pakistan asks ter made it clear that they are even ready to hold elections on a 15-day notice. "If the ECP asks to conduct polls We want to hold elections and go home with dignity. We have come for a very short period of time.—DNA

housing and construction, Zain Bajwa, CEO of Smart modern technologies into









Cantt Hospital...9270907-11 ...5556311-4

...9290301-7 Holy Family......9290322-79261170-79 PIMS..... Polyclinic......9218300-09 Shifa International 4603666



Departments ...9221334-43

...9208301-04 Met Office......9250360-6 ...5555864 ...5770886 Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation......9209224 PotoharTown......9209224 Rawal Town......5773343 **Water Tank**

Islamabad.....0321-5744480

Islanabad POST INTERMEDIATE INTERMEDIATE

ICCI, Life Residencia agree Forces Days to establish Citizens Club **F**EBRUARY



STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamadustry (ICCI) said that the including the establishment of Chamber is trying to establish citizen club for the benefit of the business community and citizens, so he suggested that gested that the Society should help in revival of the economy.

a community of entrepre-

neurs to promote home

based women workers and

artisans while the two-day

event was organized for the

third time featuring more

lifestyle exhibits like fash-

than 150 stalls of made in ing women entrepreneurs

Islamabad............1122 & 16 Pakistan homemade prod- across the country for the Community while talking to

ate with ICCI in establishing the club with joint efforts. He said that ICCI is interested in taklow-cost housing options to the

Women artisans display

colorful stalls at F-9 Park

SLAMABAD: As many as spirit of entrepreneurship economic opportunities. It

200 women entrepreneurs among the young minds facilitates the beneficiaries

display a huge variety of and engage them in healthy through various platforms

nandmade products here at activities. Food court with exclusively aimed to create

F-9 Park in a mega cultural traditional foods was set up business opportunities for

event "Bahaar Rung - Is- to offer a variety of foods small entrepreneurs at var-

lamabad Women Gala" that for families and visitors in a jous where artisans can dis-

some stalls were dedicat-

by Lets' Grow Together - ed to imported products line their own terms, inter-

including women and fami-

lies visited the stalls at the

fun filled event encourag-

ucts by women entrepre- welfare of local community APP. LGT is a community

neurs featuring a variety of of women entrepreneurs in working for the support and

ion products, interior decor gether (LGT) Community to empower them through

products, furniture, resin is a dedicated platform for direct investment in the total

art, paintings, garments handmade, homemade, art socio-economic development

and jewelry etc while some and craft entrepreneurs, of marginalized communities

stalls were also given to especially women working living in densely populated

CONDOLENCE

APNS expresses profound grief over the sad

demise of veteran publisher and senior colleague

Mr. Amig-ur-Rehman Saifi

Publisher and Chief Editor

Daily Saadat Faisalabad, Lahore and Gujranwala.

May Allah the Almighty rest his soul in eternal peace

and grant courage to the family to bear the loss.

APNS

All Pakistan Newspapers Society

children to inculcate the with the mission to create urban slums. -APP

for income generation of act and network with their

women entrepreneurs. A counterparts, "such events

large number of visitors help empower women, edu-

Islamabad. Lets Grow To- strength for women in order

cate children, improve health

and enable communities to

breen Haider, Leader of LGT

during a meeting with Sarfraz Sial and hoped that he would Life Residencia during his visit of mutual interest. Speaking on would help promote the interests traders in Islamabad, so he sug- of the business community and

increase by

ISLAMABAD: The size o

labour force has increased

by 4.6 million during 2014-

2018 (equivalent to 1.4 mil-

Annual Plan 2022-23.

lion per annum), said in an

proximately, half of the

mainly due to very low fe-

male labour force partici-

pation (FLFP) rate and a

high percentage of youth

who are 'Not in Education,

(NEET) with the NEET

ratio remaining at 30-34

percent between the years

Resultantly, youth unem-

ployment rate is higher

than the average unemploy-

NHMP urged

to provide

vehicles for

driving tests

ISLAMABAD: The citizens

seeking to obtain a driv-

ing license have called on

the National Highways and

Motorway Police (NHMP)

to make vehicles available

for the driving test, as the

current situation is causing

undue stress and financia

The non-availability of cars

for the driving test is a

growing concern for the

applicants and is putting a

significant strain on their

financial situation. In light

of these concerns, the ap-

plicants have also suggest

ed the NHMP to include

the charges for the car

along with the regular fees

of the license. Answering

the online queries, the Ad-

ditional Inspector General

of Police Zubair Hashmi

stated that the NHMP was

or the logistics from the

government to make vehi-

cles available for the driving

test. He said that NHMP

had not received funding for

fuel, maintenance and wear

and tear of vehicles which

had made it difficult for the

iesto provide cars for the

applicants. Despite this, he

acknowledged the problem

and stated that it was right-

ly highlighted by the appli-

cants and that the issue

should be addressed. He

suggested that on the day

of the driving test, around

25 applicants could pool in

to hire the car, avoiding the

burden on a single person.

This situation highlights

the urgent need for the rel-

evant authorities to take im-

the lack of vehicles at the

testing center.—APP

mediate action and address

burden for them.

ment rate.—APP

Sial, Chief Executive Officer of cooperate with ICCI in efforts extend the instalment payment Ahsan Bakhtawari said that Executive Officer, Life Residenthe recommendation of ICCI, ICCI intends to work with the cia, welcomed the suggestions its members will also be given an Expo Center and provision of Life Residencia on projects that of Ahsan Bakhtawari and as- a suitable discount in the prices sured his support in their imple- of plots. He assured that he is recommendation of ICCI, Life the efforts to establish Citizen

payment instead of 20% and to period from three years to five

theme. The competition is likely to have two cate gories, category 1: young people aged between 15 young people aged between 23-29 years. The first, sec ond, and third winners will receive cash prizes of Rs 200.000/-. 150.000/- and Faiz Ahmad Faiz 100,000/- respectively in each category and recognition for their efforts. By holding this photographic

Shahzad assumes

o protect the planet.

engage young people in

nvironmental activism and

nspires them to take action

entries for green digital

photography competition

ISLAMABAD: Under the

Higher Education Com

mission (HEC) is holding

a nationwide Green Digita

Photography Competition

environmental protection

and sustainability. In this

connection, HEC has invit-

ed entries from Pakistan

youth through www.pmyp

gov.pk by February 20

The competition is provid

ing an opportunity to the

youth (age limit: 15 to 29

syncratic photographs for

depicting climate change

impact in Pakistan. Th

Photography Competition

aims to showcase the bear

ty and diversity of the na

ural world as well as th

impact of human activities

on the environment and the

perspective of youth on the

impacts of climate chang on eco-system of Pakistar

of Climate Change on the

Entrants are encouraged

to submit their best pho

tographs that capture the

Eco-System of Pakistan.

remembered on his competition, the Prime birth anniversary Minister's Green Youth ISLAMABAD: One of the most celebrated poet, Faiz Ah-

mad Faiz was remembered on his birth anniversary in the literacy circles on Monday, for his contributions to Urdu language and literature. Born on 1911 in Sialkot, Punjab, Faiz received his early education from the Church Mission School and later, went to earn his Master's degree n English and Arabic from the Government College i Lahore. Faiz's college years saw him pursue his passion for poetry, and in 1936, he became an English lecturer at M.A.O. College in Amritsar. In 1939, Faiz's first collection of poetry, "Nagsh-e-Faryadi," was published, receiving widespread recognition and acclaim. During the time, he also served as the editor of the literary magazine "Adab-e-Lateef." In 1940, he took up a lecturer position at the Hailey College of Commerce in Lahore. With the outbreak of World War II, he joined the army and later worked for the Pakistan Times and the "Imroz" newspaper, where he received recognition for his journalistic abilities. Faiz was a vocal advocate for the rights of workers and served as VP of the Trade Union Federation. He represented the labor force at the I.L.O. Geneva Conference. In 1951, he was arrested under the Pakistan Safety Order Act and imprisoned. This period of confinement inspired his second collection of poetry, "Dast-e-saba." Throughout his career, Faiz blended the themes of love and life in his poetry, resonating with the youth of his time. He is recognized as a renowned poet of both the ghazal and nazm forms and his works have been translated into multiple languages. He got several awarded, including the Lenin Peace Prize in 1962. Faiz passed away on November 20, 1984 in Lahore, leaving behind a legacy of timeless poetry. His work have been published as "Nuskhahaae Wafa."-APP

charge as DIG Operations

ISLAMABAD, Feb 13 (AP-P):Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari on Monday assumed the charge as Depu tv Inspector General (DIG CPO Operations Islamahad He was previously posted as CPO Rawalpindi. After taking charge of his office as DIG Operations, he visited the branches and held an introductory meeting with the staff. He said "it should be clear to all that we al of law, protect the life and property of citizens, pe form our duties responsibly and efficiently, and in this

School meals increase nine percent enrolment

ISLAMABAD: School meals alone increase enrollment and attendance rates by nine per cent and eight per cent, respectively, a UNESCO report revealed. According to the report, deworming and micronutrient supplementation can keep children in school for an additional 2.5 years in anaemia and infections prevalent places. Additionally, students are 50 per cent less likely to skip school when the learning environment is free from violence, and absenteeism is reduced in low-income countries when promoting handwashing, particularly for girls during menstruation, when water, sanitation and hygiene is improved. The farming commun ty needs innovative ways to address significant complexities of food security and support for agriculture development to grow and sustain. The report also addresses other issues such as the promotion of eyecare, mental health and well-being of children, and prevention of school violence. Measures like these represent a significant return on investment for countries, in

addition to improving the lives of children and adolescents, with benefits extending to homes and whole communities.—APP





Serena Hotels

PESHAWER

Briefs

PAF'S IL-78 aircraft **evacuates Pakistani families**

ISLAMABAD: An IL-78 aircraft of Pakistan Air Force landed back on Monday at PAF Base, Nur Khan after a successful mission of providing humanitarian assistance to the earthquake-stricken people of Turkiye. According to the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), owing to the efforts of PAF, a number of Pakistani students and families stuck in the area were evacuated through the Ilyushin-78 and were brought back to the

homeland safely. The Pakistani students and families expressed their gratitude for the overall efforts of Pakistan Air Force in bringing them back to fellow countrymen strand ed in the natural calamity abroad. -APP

Two bike lifters arrested

RAWALPINDI: Police have recovered a stolen motorcy cle and other items from their possession. According to a police spokesman, team under the supervisio of SHO, Sadiqabad Police Station managed to net two bike lifters namely Abdullah and Yasir and recovered stolen motorcycle and other sion. A case has been registered against the accused while further investigation is underway. Superintendent of Police, Rawal said the accomplices and facilitators of the accused would also be sent behind the bars. He said that the operations against the lawbreak further. –APP

CPO directs to accelerate operations

tives of City Police Officer (CPO) Rawalpindi Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari have accelerated their ongoing campaign against kite sellers, flyers and managed to net 74 on recovery of 11,680 kites and over 200 kite flying string rolls during the last eight days. According to a police spokesman, Rawalpindi District Police rounded up 74 and recovered 11,680 kites and over 200 kite flying string rolls from their possession. Divisional Superintendents of Police had also directed the police teams to accelerate operations against kite sellers and flyers and informed that or the special instructions of Police, Operations Rawalpindi, stern action was being taken against the violators, and were being sent behind the bars. Senior (SSP) Operations Rawalpindi had directed the relevant officers to accelerate their ongoing operations against kite sellers, kite flyers and aerial firing. Special teams

ing, 138 kite flyers.—APP Terrorism a major threat to people and economy

had been formed to conduct

raids to deal with kite flyers

across the city, he said add-

ISLAMABAD: Chairman o National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance and former provincial minon Monday said terrorism has become a big threat to Pakistan, its people, and its economy. The offer of the United States to help Pakistan combat the menace of terrorism should be welcomed, he said. Mian Zahid Hussain said that Pakistan has already been weakened by irresponsible politicians. and finance ministers who bankrupted the country for artificial growth, coronavirus, floods, inflation. and prolonged political lems have weakened the country and it needs help to fight the growing terrorism, he added.-DNA

ISLAMABAD Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf posing for a group photograph along with participants after the seminar on "Empower ing Women in Leadership" national Convention of Women Parliamentarians at Pakistan national Council of the Arts in Federal Capital.— Online

US needs to understand complexities of Middle East

The US approach towards Iran that particularly focused its relationships with the various groups in the Middle East spoke volume about US's apprehensions as the current CENTCOM head also highlighted

DNA ISLAMABAD: Iran's emerhope for the Islamic revolutionaries in the Middle East that urged Tehran to extend its moral and financial support to them. Started with the likeminded groups was the first ever Islamic party with a political and at Special Euraisa, said in Lebanon, Yemen, Svria,

ganized by the Institute of Regional Studies on Iran's Middle East Relations. Speaking on the occasion. Ms. Debbie, who was a Middle East Correspondent of a US-based news agency 'The lished in the region and was aries throughout the world

These were the views ex- were at odds ideologically. communities were dominant: Muslims, Christians and Jews, that later formed Hezbollah, she added. Hezpresence in the Lebanese parliament, she said.

pressed by the panelist in Yet. Tehran was able to conous military wings. In Yemanon where three religious Iran and Saudi Arabia tussle through proxies in Yemen led to a worst humanitarian crisis in the country. Another speaker, Ms. Silvia Boltuc, Managing Director after the revolution, Iran particularly in the Middle the like-minded groups pro- and protecting the govern-

particularly by those who lar Mobilization Forces, a was a matter of great concy tool for Iran as it had unique party that had varicern for the US but initially not only helped Iran in hance Tehran's influence. The US approach towards Iran that particularly fowith the various groups CENTCOM head also

volume about US's appre- While concluding the sesrevolutionary state estab- military wing which had its that during the first decade hensions as the current sion, Mr. Fraz Nagyi said view that maintaining needed to understand However, Tehran's growing East. However, Iran's revo-vided access to Palestine. ment system from exter-ties with the likeminded the complexities associties with likeminded groups lution was not well received. Ms. Debbie also added that nal threats. She was of the groups have become an ated with Iran's Middle have troubled its relations by the regional countries Iran also supported Popu-view that Iranian revolution important foreign poli- Eastern outreach

was fragile as it allowed

COMSTECH Funds Science Projects

ISLAMABAD: COMS-TECH and International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), Trieste, Italy iointly funded five research grants and six fellowships to the researchers from

OIC member states, worth 52.65 million rupees. Researchers from Came roon, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Sudan and Tunisia have been granted fellowships of 3 to 10 months long duration, which will be hosted by Hungary, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Italy. The research projects submitted by researchers from Algeria, Iran, Kuwait, worth 20,000 Euro each. The research projects healthy and mastitis camel of rate-limiting enzymes, and heat transport mecha-

system as a successful strategyfor a substantial 4-substituted Pyrazolidine sights into the resistome of

milk microbiome, Synthesis

Grant announced for

scientists of 'Green

Chemistry' programme

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan National Commission (PNC) for UN-

ESCO with the collaboration of International Union of Pure

and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) and PhosAgro-the largest

producer of phosphate-based fertilizer in Europe, on Monday

announced the research grant of US\$30,000 for the young

talented scientists under the 'Green Chemistry' research

programme. According to the Pakistan Science Foundation

(PSF), the intended young scientists and researchers are re-

quired to submit research projects in the field of 'Green Chem-

istry' to acquire grant. The programme offers research grant

of up to US\$30,000 to each scientists aged 39 or under, for

innovative research projects that respect the 12 principles

of green chemistry, to assist them in implementing their

work. The interested researchers can submit their projects

to PNC for UNESCO before end of May, 2023. The 'Green

Chemistry' has become a focus for cutting-edge research

into sustainable technologies. These technologies may re-

duce or even eliminate the production and use of hazard-

ous substances in mining and in the design, manufacture

and application of chemical products, and can be helpful in

energy savings, providing a better environment and improved

health. Research in 'Green Chemistry' and associated fields

in biochemistry, geochemistry, biotechnology, ecology and

healthcare give young scientists ample opportunity to demon-

strate their inventiveness and provide important input to sus-

tainable development. The project was launched in year 2013

by UNESCO's International Basic Sciences Programme (IBSP)

and PhosAgro and IUPAC. -APP

DBTNBT and DBAT, in nism of biodiesel from ma-Taxus cellsuspension cul- rine macroalgaefeedstocks ture using CRISPR-Cas9 catalysed by activated palm kernel shell waste towards biofuelstandard specificaincrease in Taxol, New tion, and Optimizing root system architecture to im-Malaysia and Pakistan have and Isoxazolidine as poten- prove phosphorus use effibeen given research grants tial antimicrobial agents, Inciency in rice. COMSTECH and ICGEB entered into a scientific

program agreement in April

2022 to establish a general

of excellence for research, train-

and ICGEB in the fields of common interest. The main components of this program are: research grants, visiting scientist scheme and fellowship scheme. COMSTECH is an OIC Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation, works fo socio-economic development of OIC member states through the application of science, technology and innovation, whereas the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechernmental organisation and its operations are aligned to those of the United Nations common system. It operates as a centre

ing and technology transfer to

industry to promote sustaina-

ble global development.

tion between COMSTECH

in science, education and

technology, to facilitate

and strengthen collabora-

5G technology to be launched in major cities He said that the Ministry of IT was

extending full support to telecom companies, urging the telecom companies to play their due role in

bringing modern technology to Pakistan SLAMABAD: Ministry of Information Technology and elecommunication has planned to start 'trial coverage' of G services at certain points in major cities of the country aring the current year. "Future of technology in Pakistan linked to introducing 5G technology and the ministry s taking all possible steps to make new technology business-friendly," an official of the ministry said while talking o APP. He said that the Ministry of IT was extending full upport to telecom companies, urging the telecom compaies to play their due role in bringing modern technology Pakistan. He said the provision of broadband services across the country was the topmost priority of the govrnment, adding the ministry of IT through the Universal Service Fund (USF) had launched some 70 projects of ptical fiber cable (OFC) and broadband infrastructure de elopment in four provinces at a cost of Rs 65 billion. "All ojects underway in far-flung areas would be completed June." "In the province of Sindh alone, 20 projects of NGBSD and OFC worth Rs 16.3 billion have been started so far in 20 districts, including Tharparkar, Nawabshah Khairpur, Larkana, Badin, Jacobabad, Shikarpur, Mirpur khas, and Dadu," the official said. He said projects of con nectivity of the un-served and under-served communitie of Baluchistan, Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) rovinces had also been launched.-APP



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Maldives to Pakistan Farzana met with Prof. Dr. M. Azam Khan of PMAS-Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi today, Discussed ongoing collaboration between the University and the Maldives .-DNA

Pandemonium in Senate leads to adiournment

05

Lebanon's crisis: a

people betrayed

he contempt that Lebanon's political and financial elite have shown for the rest of its 6 million citizens is returned

er and incompetence have run an already troubled country into

the ground. The currency has been devalued by 90% - still not

enough to reflect its slide in full. Inflation is in triple digits. Pub-

lic services have collapsed; without hiring a private generator,

households can expect only an hour or so of power a day. Short-

ages of drinking water have contributed to disease outbreaks, in-

cluding the first cholera cases for decades. Parents are sending

their children to orphanages because they cannot feed them. A

growing number of citizens have resorted to armed robbery as

the only way to extract their own deposits (now vastly reduced

in real terms) from banks when they desperately need to pay for

basic services such as healthcare. This is one of the most severe

economic collapses seen internationally since the 1850s, and it

is taking place in a highly volatile environment. The World Bank

has called it "a deliberate depression ... orchestrated by [an] elite that has long captured the state and lived off its economic

rents", while poor and middle-class people bear the burden of

the crisis. Lebanon's problems are longstanding. Corruption, vio-

lence and incompetence dogged the years following the civil war;

Iran. Saudi Arabia and others duel for influence via their proxies.

Political jockeying and outright violence play out within as well as

between sectarian communities. But the challenges have dramat-

ically worsened in recent years. Those at the top essentially ran a

lars through absurd interest rates for investors. In 2019, an aus-

terity plan designed to balance the budget without impinging on

elite interests triggered vast protests demanding root-and-branch

reform. Covid halted them, and also compounded the desperate

economic picture. Outside parties have been part of the problem,

not the solution. As the economist Nadim Shehadi observed of

a recent summit in Paris: "The whole world seems to have a say

in the election of a president in Lebanon." Emmanuel Macron

has drawn anger for promising the population to act on their be-

half - then conspicuously failing to follow through. One small step forward would be for the UN Human Rights Council to launch

a fact-finding mission on the port blast, as sought by bereaved

relatives and civil society groups, despite cynicism about its prospects. The bigger changes that Lebanon's people require look, for now, impossibly remote.

giant Ponzi scheme - propping up the currency by attracting dol-

in spades - and rightly so. Their corruption, lust for pow-

ISLAMABAD: Pandemo nium was witnessed in the Upper House of the Parlia ment as the legislators of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) continued lodging vociferous protest against the possible arrest of former Finance Minister Shauka Tarin despite warnings of Senate Chairman to maintain order in the House. The Leader of the House in Senate Dr Shahzad Waseem and others continued interrupting State Minister for Law and Justice Shaha dat Awan, who was replying the accusations of Leader of the Opposition Dr Shahzad Waseem, pertaining to the arrest of Shaukat Tarin. Reply to the leader of the Minister of State for Law and Justice Shahadat Awan said Shaukat Tarin should be punished for conspiring

He said the inquiry agains Shaukat Tarin has been completed in a case per taining to his alleged role in derailment of the deal with International Monetary He said FIA was inde-pendently conducting the inquiry against Shaukat Tarin, sans any duress and surfaced in August last year

in which a man purportedly be heard guiding Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab finance ministers, belonging to the PTI, to tell the Paki stan Democratic Movement IMF that they would not be able to commit to a provin cial budget surplus in light of the monsoon floods that wrought havoc across Paki-

Marriyum grieved over demise Zia Mohyeddin

ISLAMABAD: Minister for

Information and Broadcast

ing Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday expressed profound grief and sorrow over death of well-known actor, director and host Zia Mohyeddin. In a statement, the minister expressed her family members of Zia Mohyeddin. She said that Zia Mohyeddin was a literary figure whose style of read ing and speaking gained world fame. He made the name of Pakistan famous by working in theater and films even outside Pakistan, she maintained. He presented famous programs like 'Payal', 'Chacha Chhakan', 'Zia Ke Sath' and 'Jo Janey Whe Jeetey' from Pakistan Television, Marriyum said Zia Mohyeddin earned a good name by presenting works of Urdu literature in his beautiful voice. The services of the deceased for the show business industry will always be remembered, she remarked. She prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear this loss with fortitude.-APP

14 new primary healthcare facilities being established

has been highly active in serving ISLAMABAD: Cognizant of the basic health needs of the rural population, the District Health Department is working on a comprehensive plan of extending all-possible services to the ailing humanity under which 14 new Community Health Centers (CHCs) and Basic Health Units (BHUs) would be made operational during the next year. "Around 11 new CHCs and three BHUs, having 515 indoor-bed capacity, are in the fithat will be functional during the next year," Project Director of Health Department Islamabad Sardar Shabbir Ahmed told APP. Sharing details, he said the new initiatives having indoor facilities included 200-bed King Salman bin Abdulaziz Hospital at Tarlai, 30-bed CHC at Bari Imam 40-bed CHC at G-13, 25-bed Mother & Neonatal Child Health Centre at I-14 (Badha na Kalan), 20-bed Mother & Child Health Centre at Gohra Shahan, 60-bed Mother & Neonatal Child Health Centre at Bhara Kahu, 40-bed CHC at Bokra (Proposed to be built in its transport fleet I-12 sector).-APP

Pakistan's First And Only Diplomatic Daily **Editor-in-Chief: Ansar Mahmood Bhatti Deputy Editor: Abid Raza** Member APNS / ABC Certified

Vol: 03 Issue: 166 Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com Phone: **051-2266165** / **051-2261960** Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad



Washington has NATO in its pocket

he hyping up of the meteorological research balloon that inad vertently entered United States' airspace as a security threat shows no signs of abating. Vocal anti-China hawk NATO Generd Secretary Jens Stoltenberg has thrown his hat into the ring. With his trademark hyperbole, he claimed that China was carrying out a surveillance flight program that represents a threat to not just national security but global security. In a joint press conference with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday, he warned of "the onstant risk of Chinese intelligence" and said countries must step up what they do to protect themselves. Giving lie to his and Washington's scaremongering, he also revealed the purpose of it. Claiming that "the balloon over North America" - notably just balloon, not surveillance or spy balloon - confirms the challenges that "China poses to our security, to our values and, and to our interests", he said that it "very much nighlighted the importance of strengthening the cooperation between NATO and our partners in the 'Indo-Pacific'". By playing up the balloon incident and praising the US for shooting it down - which he called "a prudent, responsible and vigilant" response - Stoltenberg made clear to the world, if it wasn't clear already, that the US has NATO firmly in its pocket. Before pointing fingers at others as threats, the NATO chief should look at what NATO has done to stoke the conflict in Europe. The Ukraine crisis, now poised to drag on into its second year, has been the result of NATO's relentless pressure on Russia. As a relic of the Cold War, NATO should have been disbanded long ago. Yet instead it let itself become the spearhead for the US in its efforts to constrain Russia. Having pushed up to Russia's doorstep, NATO has poured oil on the flames at the expense of Europe's peace and stability by supplying Ukraine with military assistance and increasingly more advanced and longer-range weaponry. As Stoltenberg's remarks made clear, NATO has also eagerly jumped on the US bandwagon to contain China. Last year, the military alliance adopted a new strategic concept which laid bare intentions of the US, its de facto leader, to instigate bloc confrontation by demonizing China and Russia and seeking to link them together in the popular imagination. It is a typical practice of its double standard for the military alliance to ask its members to hike military expenditure, beef up military muscle and expand its traditional line of defense on the one hand and accuse others whom it deems to be strategic rivals of being a threat. It is NATO's willingness to be a puppet of the US that is the real threat to global security, as the US' motivations are not deterrence and defense, but

Why now is the time for UK to lead in Palestine

Alistair Burt

Arab states should make clear to Israel that it will not make the progress it wishes through its present actions toward the Palestinians, and tell Palestinian leaders from Ramallah to Gaza that there is a risk there will be no international interest in the Palestinian cause within a decade unless they are also prepared to take new steps. In the absence of anything else, the UK should now be using its convening power, from the UN to its relationships, to say that we should no longer be crossing our fingers every morning

hortly after I was appointed minister process. There is no status quo. It is going more focused and blunter with both.

Third, the UK has deep relationships with asked Downing Street if the UK could governments is the same; the analysis is neighboring Arab states who want a differbecome actively involved in assisting the ef-shared, something very bad is going to hapent Middle East, as demonstrated through forts being made by the US to revive and pen, but there is nothing to be done. The US the Abraham Accords process. The UK has deliver on the Middle East peace process. After a couple of days I had the answer: no, absent, and diplomatic bandwidth is taken up it can advance, or yield the new Middle East there was no point. The efforts were not go- by the immediacy of Ukraine and the calcu- that is desired, while the issues between Ising anywhere, the issue was insoluble, and lations deriving from it. However, there are rael and Palestine are simply unresolved and there was little benefit in expending political no vacuums in foreign policy. If someone is a new conflict is feared. The UK needs to be capital on it when there were other priori- not attempting something good, either oth- clear with its friends that it has a key role ties. Although I was disappointed, I cannot er actors or events will conspire to create to play with both Israel and the Palestinians, say that Prime Minister David Cameron was something bad. So why should the UK take not least because there are other actors in wrong. The years that followed proved his it up? There are three good reasons. First, the region keen to make the most of any fupoint, which reflected the common policy Britain's history in the region is unique. It ture breakdown to the detriment of all. belief of the time. But now I am asking again has not all been good, but we know that, and Arab states should make clear to Israel - only this time for the UK to take a lead in a use that history to work for better ends. The that it will not make the progress it wishes situation which, a dozen years later, is on the UK is not the most powerful or the wealthithrough its present actions toward the Palbrink of catastrophe. So why now, and why est of states with interests in the region, but estinians, and tell Palestinian leaders from the UK? The rising tensions in Israel and the it has a depth of knowledge, commitment Ramallah to Gaza that there is a risk there occupied West Bank are obvious. Last year and relationships that give it a hearing above will be no international interest in the Palwas the deadliest for violence for years, and its material strengths. the toll this year already exceeds the compar- Second, the UK has strong ties to both Israel are also prepared to take new steps. In the ative period in 2022. That year followed the and the Palestinians. Surface relationships absence of anything else, the UK should outbreak of rare intercommunal violence in are good, from trade and security with Israel now be using its convening power, from Israel in 2021. Israeli military action in the to support for the Palestinian Authority, for the UN to its relationships, to say that West Bank leaves a trail of death, not only of UNWRA, in defense of threatened commu- we should no longer be crossing our finits terrorist targets but also of the innocent nities for Palestinians, and a "no contact" gers every morning that some event has and children. The rise and nature of settler policy toward Hamas that suits both. But not triggered the outbreak of full-scale violence appears to be little checked. Terror beneath the surface, all UK ministers know violence that so many fear. We try again. has returned to the homes of Jewish families the unseen events and decisions made, when I would rather the UK werequeried for in Jerusalem. The potential flashpoint of the we have not said publicly what we could have challenging the hopelessness of the situholy sites is known to all. A new Israeli gov- done about each, in efforts to keep an equi- ation today, than organizing the evacuaernment containing elements unthought of librium and ensure doors to a peaceful resotion of its citizens tomorrow. in office a decade ago, and a sclerotic Pales- lution of issues remained open. I think this

is not driving a process, local leadership is been supportive of this, but it seems unlikely

tinian leadership, will not self-start a peace ought to allow some license to the UK to be

estinian cause within a decade unless they

-Courtesy: Arab News

PAF On Call For Humanitarian Crisis

Asma Ishaq

Pakistan Air Force humanity,regardless to the distance, expense and man-power.Quite recently, in the aftermath of last year's destructive monsoon and flood, PAF offered exemplary services in providing instantaneous aid to its affected countrymen. This time again, PAF has made it clear in action that Pakistan stands with Turkey in this hardhitting period. PAF rescue teams are in the first row to save the maximum number of survivors. PAF alwaysmakes it certain that

air-bus to sending a text-message within a second across the globe, all is so easy now. Yet! Man is helpless in front of the Wrath of Nature: they say, it always shows up uninformed. Thus, man has been unsuccessful to curtail the natural calamities. The world has recently seen horrible tremors

of earthquake shuddering two countries in the main, Turkeyand Syria on February-06-2023. The magnitude of earthquake recorded on Richter scale was 7.8. The estimated losses are 29,000 deaths, 42,654 non-fatal injuries, displaced people at least are 298,000 and building destroyed totally are 6,400. Overall, 13 million people have got affected. Whereas, Southern part of Turkey seems with the most of its infrastructure upside down. The upshot of earthquake gavea massive upsurgeto the humanitarian crisis. Damage of infrastructure further exacerbated the crises. All this has sent the call for earthquake affected brethren of Turkey. help to every country in the world. Pakistan and Turkey, at all times, have been cherishing the brothers-bond. Both countries' officials and country people share the Muslim brotherhood in particular. To demonstrate this bond in the truer sense, PAF has stepped forward to start sending the humanitarian assistance in the earthquake hit are- back to home safely. PAF has put in sin- stands with Turkey in this hard-hitting perias. Pakistan Air Force promisinglyexhibited its unstinted practiceof serving humanity of Foreign Affairs and Pakistani Embassy save the maximum number of survivors. PAF inhelpingthe brothers and sisters in Turkey. PAF Spokesperson issues press releases in

cartons of relief goods, tents, and blankets. All night of 12th February. these services, relief goods and rescue equipment were handed over to the Turkish officials for displaying solidarity with the brethren of Turkey by people of Pakistan.

to serve the common people trapped in any crisis. So, the following next day-08 February, 2023, second C-130 aircraft of Pakistan Air Force that carried tents, blankets and essen- of earthquake survivors from under the tial items from PAF Base, Lahore reached rubble relives the grief. The fearless and Turkey. The C-130 Hercules aircraft carried professionally steadfast rescue workers 18634 pounds of humanitarian assistance risked their lives in saving as many lives relief goods from people of Pakistan for the One another commendable and responsible in serving humanity, regardless to the disact of PAF has come appeared to work for retance, expense and man-power. Quite recent patriation of the stranded Pakistani students ly, in the aftermath of last year's destructive in the earthquake hit areas of Turkey. Keeping monsoon and flood, PAF offered exemplary the worrisome-state of respective families services in providing instantaneous aid to in view, PAF carefully collected the details

in Turkey for Pakistani students. After C-130 Hercules, PAF brought Ilyushin-78 order to keep the nation informed about its in use from the transport fleet for transporting proud national institution's high spirit for serv-the relief goods from Pakistan to Turkey. On 11

ing humanity. The details are there to share February, 2023 IL-78 aircraft of Pakistan Air

about the essential-relief goods and rescue op- Force carried tents and relief goods from PAF

an has gone far-off in making the unbelievable advancement in various fields of life. From enjoying a fur-eration equipment. Following the directives from Government of Pakistan, the first air-craft of PAF-C 130 took off its flight from PAF aircraft has taken 16.5 tons of humanitarian assistance relief goods from people of nished drawing-room-like travelling in an Base, Nur Khan that landed in Turkey on 07 Pakistan for the earthquake affected brethren February, 2023. The PAF C-130 Hercules car- of Turkey. Simultaneously, Pakistan Air Force ried members of search and rescue teams with ensures of making all out efforts to repatriate equipment of rescue operation, mainly helmet, stranded Pakistanis in particular students. The protective clothing, protective boots, respira- PAF official has apprised further that 08 Pation protective appliances, safety belt, rope kistani students will be arriving on PAF IL-78 and other equipment. The aircraft also carried aircraft on its way back to Pakistanfollowing

Thenatural calamities-predictable or unpredictable continue to trial the existence as well survival of humans, here or there, and in all around the world. Nevertheless, these crises course, PAF is never on rest when it comes bring the humans on one page that is realization of serving the humanityimmediately irrespective to creed, caste or nationality. News coming about safe pulling out as can be made possible.

Pakistan Air Force has been highly active its affected countrymen. This time again, about the stuck students to bring them PAF has made it clear in action that Pakistan cere efforts in collaboration with Ministry od. PAF rescue teams are in the first row to alwaysmakes it certain that its transport fleet takes the lead on call for humanitarian crisis, responding rapidly to both inland and abroad.

> -Asma Ishaq teaches English Language and English Literature to senior classes.

Chuppu

declared

Bangladesh

president-

abuddin Chuppu, 74, has

been declared as the nex

president-elect of Bang

ladesh by the country

Election Commission after

party had the numbers to

Briefs

Imran Khan

From Page 01 Recalling the significance o Rivasat-e-Madina, Mr Khan said, "In Riyasat-e-Madi na, the minds of the hi man beings were made independent mentally. The Madina state was elevated on the basis of principles he added. Highlighting the prevailing practice of "typical society," Mr Khan said, tige to those who can speak English with more fluency." He took a dig at the political opponents, saying, "The country is witnessing quite an instability as people are being arrested." Drawing a practices in western countries and Singapore, Mr Khan the west or Singapore.' Believing with the theft at harm in the country, Mr Khan wrong when the country's bigwigs started to plunder the League (PSL) season 8.

existence of rule of law." Iranian CG calls on KP

Mr Khan said, "The country

Governor PESHAWAR: Acting Iranian Consul General here on Monday called on Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali at Governor House and expressed his deep condolences over the tragic police lines' mosque blast. He said the function about the anniversary of Iranian Revolution was also cancelled due to the police lines' blast. The KP Governor thanked and people of Iran for their enormous love and affection Haii Ghulam Ali said he had visited Iran on several occasions at the invitation of the brotherly country and was impressed with its overall development, especially with modern technology. The Governor proposed an exand Iran exhibition that was welcomed by the Iranian

PSF holds reception for squash team

Consul General. – **APP**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Squash Federation (PSF) arranged a reception in honour of Pakistan team on their return from India LONDON: Qatari investors are preparing to make a bid to buy Premier League club Manchester United "in the al in the 21st Asian Junior coming days", Bloomberg reported on Monday, citing Squash Team Champion sources familiar with the deal. The report added that ship in Chennai, India. A group of 10 teams partic- the end of the week, and that officials from the Qatar ipated in the championship | Investment Authority are helping with preparations for and the 4-member team the bid. Jim Ratcliffe's company INEOS formally entered comprising Noor Zaman, the bidding process to buy United last month after the Hamza Khan, M Ashab club's U.S. owners, the Glazer family, said in November Irfan and Anas Ali Shah I they had begun looking at options including new investoutclassed hosts India with ment or a potential sale. Earlier this month, the Daily superb performance in the Mail newspaper reported that Qatari investors are planfinals. On their arrival at ning to make a huge bid to buy Premier League club Manchester United. The Daily Mail report stated the Sialkot International Airport in the morning, a large | interested investors are separate from Qatar Sports Innumber of squash lovers were present to receive the the money will come from an "individual fund" rather Meanwhile, in the evening, a reception was also held here at the Pakistan Sports Complex for the national team on

Europe's spend on nears 800 billion euros

Monday. – **APP**

BRUSSELS: European households and companies from soaring energy costs has climbed to nearly 800 billion euros, researchers said on Monday, urging countries to be more tar geted in their spending to tackle the energy crisis. European Union countries have now earmarked or allocated 681 billion euros in energy crisis speding, while Britain allocated 103 billion euros and Norway 8.1 billon euros since September 2021, according to the analysis by think-tank Bruegel. – **DNA**

PSL 8 kicks off

After Multan, we will go to Peshawar, Quetta: Sethi

PCB's management committee chairman Najam Sethi thanked jam-packed Multan Cricket Stadium for welcoming PSL season 8

MULTAN: The Pakistan Super League season eight began with a glittering opening ceremony at the Multan Cricket Stadium today (Monday). The cricket fans in Multan and all around the world saw spectacular performances by different artists and one of the major attractions were the performances of the singers. Abdullah Siddiqui. line of demarcation on mal- Asim Azhar, Faris Shafi and Shae Gill, of the PSL 8 anthem. The fans were also treated to performances by the renowned music composer Sahir Ali Bagga and talented singgiving NRO to the looters in er Aima Baig as the two added to the star-studded line-up. Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB)'s

> packed Multan Cricket Stadium for welcoming Pakistan Super For the first time ever in PSL's history, Multan hosted the opentechnologies including Augmentity (VR) and drone show. Speaking on the occasion, Sethi told people of Multan that he fulfilled his promise of bringing PSL's PSL to Quetta and Peshawar,"

LONDON: Manchester City ter. German midfielder Ilkay

continued to pursue Eng- Gundogan scored Man City's

a good start with a goal by ute just before the end of the

Qatari investors

preparing imminent

bid for United

the consortium will submit an initial bid for the club by

vestments (QSI), which owns Paris St Germain, and that

than a sovereign wealth fund. - Agencies

second goal in the 39th min-

ute and his teammate Rivad igin, shared his thoughts on

Mahrez made it 3-0 with a his official Twitter account.

penalty goal in the 46th min- He admitted that the win

lish Premier League leaders

Arsenal by beating Aston

Villa 3-1 in a week 23 match

Sunday. The hosts enjoyed



"Dear people of Multan, we fulfilled our promise to bring PSL's ing ceremony that too with latest opening ceremony here," said Sethi. "I still remember that time ed Reality (AR) and Virtual Real- when we hosted opening ceremony in Dubai. From there, we took Multan. Next year, we will take

in collaboration with Balochistan government, hosted an exhibition match in Quetta to break the ice. Quetta Gladiators and Peshawar Zalmi played a competitive contest at Quetta's Bugti Stadium. and 13-14 local players will be making debut this year which

"PSL has come a long way. This year, 21 foreigners and 13-14 local players are making debut. This shows that our league is a real Hassan and many others. I look forward to seeing more players he added. On February 5, PCB, shows that PSL is popular all

from Iran to Pakistan in creased by 2 times and up to more than 200 megawatts. In for him to choose between Lahore Qalandars and Multan Sultans in opening match. "My heart is with Lahore and mind is with Multan.

Let's see who wins today," he concluded. The tournament opener will be played between 2021 wining champions Lahore Qalandars; cine, sightseeing, common meanwhile the closing ceremony and final will be played on March ft the Supernova Trophy but will also collect a cheque of Rs120m, while the runners-up will receive cheque of Rs48m. ahore Qalandars will attempt to become the first side to win back-to-back titles: meanwhile Islamabad United will aim to become the most successful side by lifting the trophy thrice.

Rawalpindi will stage 11 fixtures, Karachi and Lahore will host nine Afternoon matches will start at 2pm local time, meanwhile evening matches in Karachi, Latan will begin at 6pm except for

World Cup-winning Man City continue to pursue captain Morgan Premier League leaders Arsenal retires from cricket

ONDON: Eoin Morgan, who captained England to a trying to save those trapped thrilling One Day International World Cup success in 2019, said on Monday he was retiring from all forms under the ruins, adding that he is heartbroken. Man of cricket. The 36-year-old Ireland-born batsman had City, the reigning Premier already called it a day in terms of international cricket last June when he stepped down as England ODI skip-League champions, reduced their point difference with per. Morgan captained England in a record 126 ODIs the Gunners, which have 51 and 72 T20s. His 118 wins as skipper across the two points to 3 and are ready to face them in the next match. He had gone on playing for London Spirit in The

Hundred and then most recently South African outfit Paarl Royals in the SA20. "It is with great pride that I am announcing my retirement from all forms of cricket," said Morgan. "After much deliberation I believe that now is the right time to step away from the game that has given me so much over the years. "From moving to England in 2005 to join Middlesex, right up to the very end, playing for Paarl Royals in SA20, I have cherished every moment." Morgan said he had been fortunate to have had the chance

including Adana, Adiyaman, to travel the globe. "Thanks to cricket, I have been able to travel the world and meet incredible people, many of whom I have developed lifelong friendships with," he said. "Playing for franchise teams across the globe has given 3,574 people were killed and me so many memories that I will hold on to forever." Morgan played for Ireland, including at the 2007 World Cup, but was eligible to play for England through his in the northern provinces of English mother. He went on to play 16 Tests for them Idlib, Latakia, Aleppo, Hama and Raqqa, according to govbut it was the shorter form of the game that was his real forte. Morgan took charge of the T20 side in 2012 and Rodri in the fourth minute at first half. Aston Villa's only thoughts are still with all the officials in opposition-held one-day side in 2014 and was also part of the 2010 T20 World Cun-winning side. - Agencies

Etihad Stadium in Manchesgoal came from Ollie Watpeople affected by the horriareas. - Agencies Rihanna makes dazzling return to stage in Super **Bowl half-time performance**

Türkiye, the country's dis-

people across 10 provinces,

Hatay, Kahramanmaras, Ki-

lis, Malatya, Osmaniye and

Sanliurfa. In Syria, at least

thousands of others injured

ernment sources and rescue

Gazianten.

aster agency said Sunday

Rihanna made a grand return to the It was the 34-year-old Grammy winstage, floating high above the Super ner's first stage performance in five Bowl field, thrilling the crowd with a years. Her last album, "Anti," was refast-paced medley of her hits and reealing that she is pregnant with her led social media users to speculate second child. Dressed in a hot pink she was expecting another child. The umpsuit and baggy coat, Rihanna Hollywood Reporter and other media opened the biggest showcase in music by singing "Bitch Better Have My Money" as she stood, with a noticeably ounded belly, on a platform suspended n the air. She was gradually lowered to A\$AP Rocky in May 2022. She con the ground as she went through well- cluded her Super Bowl set with "Di-

Rihanna was surrounded throughout

Following the match, Gun-

dogan, who is of Turkish or-

was important but said his

leased in 2016. Rihanna's appearance singer confirmed that Rihanna was indeed pregnant. The singer gave birth to her first child, a boy, with rapper



World)" to "Rude Boy" and "Work." around the stadium. Daily newsletter-formed at the Super Bowl, from Lady Receive essential international news Gaga to Beyonce, Prince, Madonna

Napoli continue march towards Serie A title

wards a first Serie A title in over three decades with Sunday's 3-0 win over rock-bottom Cremonese which provisionally moved the runaway league leaders 16 points clear. A 33-year wait for the league crown looks closer to ending with each passing week and once again Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Victor Osimhen were the kev men for Luciano Spalletti's flambovant team at the Stadio Maradona, Winger wizard Kvaratskhelia set Napoli on their way with a delightful individual effort in the 22nd minute on his 22nd birthday before Osimhen's league-leading 17th goal of the season midway through the second half and an Eljif Elmas strike 11 minutes from the end. Thanks to a sixth straight league win Napoli will be at least 13 points ahead of Inter Milan come Tuesday morning, their closest rivals travelling to crisis club Sampdoria for the final match of this round of fixtures on Monday night. "The city is making sure that we're always on the case, we all want to win," Spalletti told DAZN. "We need to take it one match at a time... we can't think it's already done and start thinking about other things, or

think everything's going to look after itself.

"We need to take care of everything our

selves." Cremonese meanwhile are still yet to

win in their first Serie A season since 1996

recently-appointed coach Davide Ballardini. The away side, who knocked Napoli out of the Italian Cup on the same ground last month, started well but as soon as Kvaratskhelia weaved into the box and drilled home his ninth

a corner Kim Min-Jae nodded the ball over to him. And substitute Elmas ensured that Napoli's tally of dropped points stayed at an league goal of his debut Serie A campaign the incredible seven, exchanging passes with Gio-



fiery form but in the 65th minute the Nigeria goal of the season past Marco Carnesecchi. striker was in the right place to tap in from Juventus survived a scare in their 1-0 home practically on the goal line when following win over Fiorentina after Gaetano Castrovil li's 89th-minute leveller for the away side was ruled out for an extremely tight offside France midfielder Rabiot met Angel Di Ma ria's exquisite cross with a header which just crossed the line in the 34th minute in Turin, his fourth Serie A goal of the season which moved Iuventus up to ninth. And Castrovilli's superb first-time strike was chalked off following a pitchside VAR check when referee Michael Fabbri ruled Luca Ra- can a country seek coopnieri was interfering with play in the build- eration in an investigation up to the goal as his heel strayed offside. Massimiliano Allegri's side are in mid-table due to the 15-point penalty inflicted last month for transfer offences, 10 points behind Lazio who currently occupy the last European place in sixth. "We needed a bit of | remarked the chief justice. time to adapt (to the punishment), now we | The court wants to know need to go after the teams above us one by what the JIT has found yet one," said Allegri. "We shouldn't forget that | said the CJP. "What will be we would have been second on 44 points." | the special JIT's strategy in Juventus could have sealed victory earlier | the future?" he asked. The but Dusan Vlahovic was denied his third | chief justice added that no goal in as many league matches since returning from injury when his neat finish | murder as of yet. After the just before the hour mark was scrubbed arguments, the hearing was

trade between the two countries will reach more than two billion dollars, setting a new record in the trade area and border market are also at the verge of opening in the near future. He said tourism need to including hearth and medi-

Pakistan.

Iran ties time-tested:

Fatemi

From Page 01

ago, the electricity export

Islamabad **POST**

and so on. The private sec supported by the positive approach of the officials. People-to-people recognition and contact is of significant importance and need be regarded. Banking relations, Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline cooperation in the energy sector are among the issues that should be taken into account by a positive and con-The ambassador said, one of the greatest achievements of Iran during the past few decades is the improvemen family in all fields including health, education, entrepre neurship, investment and employment, social rights and so on and so forth. Wom

ed defeat on the founders

of the economic terrorism

and when there is the mat-

ter of the violation of their

rights and aggressionby

the hostile sides, they have

defended the security of

their country with courage

ECP to

consult

governor

on Punjab

polls date

From Page 01

that the "important letter"

has been dispatched to the

governor. A three-member

delegation headed by the

ECP secretary – including

the special secretary and

director general law - will

meet the governor and

then brief the commission

so that a future course of

ECP's meeting today was

held following the verdict

that was issued by LHC

last week. The high court

had directed the ECP to

ensure that polls in Punjab

Announcing the reserved

verdict, Justice Jawad Has-

san accepted the Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI

plea and asked the electoral

body to stage the polls with-

in the constitutional limit.

JIT denied

access to

evidence

by Kenya

are held within 90 days.

action can be decided.

and determination'.

en's literacy has reached above 96 percent, more than 60 percent of university students in Iran are women and ing is significantly grown. 'The government and peo ple of Iran are proud to have proven that; when it's based upon mutual respect and good will, they always respect the agreements and

eastern France.

historic defeat

> 25 years. The defeat comes as the nation endures record-high inflation coupled with an energy crisis.

BERLIN: Germany's ruling Social Democratic Party (SPD) has lost the election for Berlin's city parliament for the first time in nearly

The repeat election in Ber lin was called after Germany's top court ruled last vear that the September 2021 vote was invalid due to a number of irregularities. casters ARD and ZDF, the man Chancellor Olaf Scholz among its members came second with 18.4%, just 105 The Left Party (Die Linke) ti-immigration Alternative for Germany (AfD) came in whole will see a growth rate of positive growth. Germany and Ita-

Business / World

Kazakhstan

to double pension in 4 years

ASTANA: The Kazakh gov ernment is considering new Social Code, projecting a 51 percent basic pension growth in four years, reported the ministry's press service.

Minister of Labor and So

cial Protection Tamara Duate, an upper chamber of the Kazakh Parliament. The Social Code embraces the new social policy, an essential aspect of the rethat the ministry studied the European Union Social Code when developing the Kazakhstan.

"Kazakhstan is undertaknual growth of the average basic pension is set to reach 13 percent, affecting two minimum basic state pension is expected to increase from 54 to 70 percent of the subsistence minimum and the maximum from 100 to 120 percent. This year, the monthly calculation index (MCI) equals 3,450 tenge

(\$7,64). Since the beginning of this year, Kazakhstan plans to increase the maximum income for calculating a solidary pension for all new pensioners from 46 to 55 MCI (\$351 to \$420). Lyazzat Kaltayeva, the head of the Shyrak Association, an NGO supporting the rights of people with disabilities. underlined the need to correct the term "disability" in the So-

France's lynx at high risk of

PARIS: The elusive Eurasian lynx is at risk of vanish- briefing on Monday. He was ing completely from France, \ asked by Western journalists day that called for urgent measures to boost the popadult lynx hidden in the Air Force earlier this month. France, cut off from health- force majeure, Wang stated. ier wild cat populations in behind the genetic study accusing the US of abusing the US should be considered the US and Canada have shot published in the journal advanced technologies in its the world's "biggest spy and down at least three objects of doing over yours." Frontiers in Conservation

Science. "Given the rapid loss of genetic diversity, we estimate that this population will go extinct in less than 30 vears," said co-author Nathan Huvier of the Centre Athenas, a wildlife refuge in

"This population urgently needs new genetic material The lynx, which disappeared in France in the early 20th century, was reintroduced in the 1970s, French-Swiss border, where the majority of the population remains.—Agencies German chancellor's party suffers

From Page 01 Additional attorney-ger eral said that Kenya did der investigation. At this, Justice Ahsan asked how if the relations with that nation are not that good "Kenva is an independent country and doesn't come under our jurisdiction. one can be accused of the

Briefs Unilateralism, sanctions are root causes of crises: Raeisi

"As two living and dynamic human civilizations, Iran and China were connected to each other via the historic Silk Road, and ascertained the fact that prosperity and happiness as desirable popular goals can only be achieved through interaction and cooperation," he wrote

News Desk

in various fields, enjoy a

pursue similar approaches

unilateralism, and stress

the need for respect for

other countries' rights and

Both countries view unilat-

eralism and coercive meas-

ures, including oppressive

efforts in order to obtain

besides worldwide iustice

international equality and a

"The basic interests and

Raeisi noted.

China shoots back at

"Iran, given its Islamic

teachings and respect for

all religions, is fiercely op-

posed to extremism and ter-

as contrary to pure Islam

and human progress. Pure

Islam is against terrorism.

BEIIING: President Ebrahim Raeisi says Iran and ism and cruel sanctions as to imperialism as well as the root causes of existing crises and spread of insecurity and stress the need for multilateralism as well as Raeisi made the remarks in in the People's Daily, the

forms announced by Pres- an op-ed article published kayev. Duisenova reiterated official newspaper of the Central Committee of the (CCP). "As two living and tions, Iran and China were connected to each other via the historic Silk Road,

that prosperity and happirights of nations, including ness as desirable popular the right to development. goals can only be achieved through interaction and cosequently deprive nations, Beijing, which have signed at the expense of exploita- extremist and Takfiri idetion of international mech-

US spy balloon claims Washington's own high-altitude balloons have entered Chinese airspace without permission multiple times, Beijing has alleged FOREIGN DESK BEIJING: US high-altitude palloons have violated Chi-

nese airspace more than 10 times since January 2022 alone, a Chinese diplomat has claimed. Washington recently accused Beijing of spying on nations on five continents with its aircraft Wang Wenbin, a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, made the allegations

against the US during a daily about Washington's accusation that China flew "spy balloons" over other nations, balloon shot down by the US had straved off course due to The spokesman described

criminate surveillance and The original "spy balloon" its own allies. Wang recalled surveillance program and the cusing his administration of tapping of phones used by indecisiveness over its initial

Israeli regime

of 'collapse'

against prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu-led far-right

momentum in the occupied territories. "For a while,

whose role is primarily ceremonial, was quoted as say-

He also called for compromise talks between the Ne-

tanyahu-led far-right cabinet and the opposition to

overcome what he termed a "difficult dispute." The

so-called "reforms" seek to tighten political control

over judicial appointments and limit the apex court's

powers to overturn the cabinet's decisions or Knes-

set's laws. The plan was decried by foreign govern-

ments, including the Tel Aviv regime's staunch ally,

the United States. Netanyahu's coalition, however

claims that the reforms are needed to curb, what

calls, overreach by judges. - Agencies

clash. The gunpowder barrel is about to explode."

claimed during a press conference last Wednesday that China had "violated the sovereignty of countries across

that over 40 countries were affected. The issue led to a A magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck the province of Gazianlast Thursday, when spokesespionage operations around traversed the US for around man Ned Price declined to ulation of isolated wild cats. including the US. A Chinese the world, including against eight days in early February, explain what evidence the becoming a major news sto- allegation was based on. AP Obama-era revelations about ry, with political opponents correspondent Matt Lee re- | Syria, combined figures from the government in Damascus the NSA's mass electronic of President Joe Biden ac- marked that that lack of transparency made it look like "you guys are conducting exactly Germany and Switzerland, the use of force by the US leaders of European nations, failure to take down the unthe same kind of surveillance according to the scientists as an "overreaction," before such as Germany, to argue manned aircraft. Since then, over these countries that vou're accusing the Chinese

to other parts of the world such as stem cells, space tary prowess only to deter "The Islamic Republic world, especially friendly powers like China. Beijing has always shown how a ism - something which is

is to rely on regional actors.

Experience has shown that

foreign intervention only

leads to the exacerbation

of insecurity and spread of

terrorism in the West Asia

"Iran's valuable experience

in the fight against Daesh

Takfiri terrorists, and suc-

flying at high altitude, includ-

ing the first one, which Bei

jing recognized as its own

Washington has accused

China of running a system

of global surveillance using

high-altitude balloons. Secre-

tary of State Antony Blinken

characteristic of Western Raeisi said. such an approach." Raeisi commented. The Iranian scribe China's ambitious ary 14 to 16 at the official Belt and Road initiative invitation of his Chinese as a large-scale project. which will spur development and will serve as a cultural and industrial turning point. "Nowadays, Iran has made President Raeisi success

clearly showed that Iran is industries, biotechnology, a guarantor of peace and nanotechnology and nuclestability and uses its mili- ar technology. "Political independence, military might to ensure security, educated manpowseeks maximum interaction er. low cost of production, with all countries of the energy reserves, transit Iran's capacities that can be country can develop with- tapped in order to deepen out exercise of colonial- the strategic partnership between Iran and China," owers – and help others The spokesperson for Chidevelop as well. The Islam- na's Foreign Ministry Hua ic Republic of Iran values Chunving announced on Sunday that the Iranian

president will pay a state Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed major breakthroughs in and great achievements various fields of science, on his trip to China

estimated

A price tag of \$84 billion

would represent more than

a tenth of Türkiye's GDP

NKARA: The devastating earthquakes that struck Tür-

kiye and Syria on Monday could have wreaked \$84 billion

worth of damage in Türkiye alone, according to a business

group cited by Bloomberg. The group's figure is dramati-

cally higher than previous estimates. Bloomberg reported

the likely price tag on Sunday, citing an unnamed "Turk-

ish business group." Earlier this week, the US-based

Fitch ratings agency claimed that economic losses "ap-

pear likely to exceed \$2 billion" and could reach \$4 billion

billion, plus "at least another \$2-3 billion needed for sup-

porting impacted people." A price tag of \$84 billion would

tep in southeastern Türkiye on Monday morning, followed

anmaras Province. The earthquakes dealt widespread dev-

astation across nine Turkish provinces and in neighboring

Syria, killing 22,327 people in Türkiye and injuring 80,278,

according to a government tally on Saturday evening. In

and militant groups in the affected regions put the death

toll above 3,500. The earthquakes were the most powerful

killing more than 17,000 people. – **Agencies**

represent more than a tenth of Türkiye's GDP.

or more." Bank of America put the figure at around \$3-5

no other candidate was put forward. Speaking to re porters in the capital. Dha ka. Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal said the ruling Awami League (AL party's nominee was elect ed unopposed as the 22nd president. The nomination process for the presidentia With 302 members, th AL party has the majorit in the 350-seat national parliament, and no other

candidate Born in 1949 and hailing from the northern Pabna district, retired distric judge Shahabuddin also served as a member of the AL's Advisory Council. A freedom fighter of the country's independence war in 1971, he also served as commissioner of the country's autonomous body place the incumbent, Abdul Hamid, whose tenure ex pires on April 24. Economic toll of Türkiye quakes al election must be held 60 to 90 days before the expiry of each five-year term Hamid cannot become preident again as he was elect

to the country's constitu ion.-APP Over 4,000 children abused by Portugal's

ed for two terms, according

Church Catholic Church sexually abused at least 4.815 chil port has found. The commission investig that 77 percent of the perpe

ing the issue said on Monday trators were priests and mos tribute to those who were abuse victims during their childhood and dared to give a voice to silence," head of the nmission and child psy chiatrist Pedro Strecht said They are much more than a

to strike Türkiye since the 1939 Erzincan earthquake, a Among other locations, Stre magnitude 7.8 shock that killed an estimated 32,000 people cht said the children were and injured 100,000. The most devastating earthquake to abused in catholic schools, hit Türkiye in recent years struck Kocaeli Province in 1999, priests' homes, and confes sionals. In October, the experts working on the report said it had recorded 424 legitimate accounts from pre sumed victims. They warned hat their testimony indicated the number of victims was

> "much larger" The accounts found "serious situations which persisted for decades ... and in some cases reached epidemic proportions". Thousands of reports of paedophilia with the Church have increasingly surfaced worldwide, putting more pressure on Pope Fra cis to tackle the issue. Portugal's independent in quiry, commissioned by the Church, began working on its report last year after an investigation in France revealed that about 3,000 priests and religious officials sexually abused more than 200,000

> > children..–**Agencies**

US uses Ukraine to achieve goals against Russia MOSCOW: The Ukrainian ople in the conflict with Russia are 'doing dirty work' that the US would not want to do, former US Secretary of Defense Mark E per told the Russian prank sters Vladimir Kuznetso

(Vovan) and Alexey Stol-

The pranksters called Es

varov (Lexus).

per on behalf of former Ukrainian President Pet Poroshenko and asked the former Pentagon chief for his opinion on US involve ment in the conflict in Ukraine, "The Ukrainian people are doing the dirty work of what we never wanted to do here in the United States, which is why we should continue to support you [Ukraine] with everything we can, whether telligence," Esper said. According to him, the expansion of Russian influence in other countries, including Africa, "is a problem" for the United States.-DNA

president warns warned of "collapse" and "implosion" as angry protests cabinet's controversial "judicial reform plan" gather we have no longer been in a political debate, but are on the brink of constitutional and social collapse," Herzog, ing in a televised speech on Sunday. "I feel, we all feel, that we are in the moment before a clash, even a violent

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addressing the ceremony to commemorate 50 years of unsung heroes of democracy. DNA

rozone will meanwhile expand and widely expected to fall into a lieves the bloc has turned the cor-weight from high energy bills has

EU economy to 'narrowly' avoid a recession

European Union's economy is set to grow by 0.8%, according to latest economic forecast from Brussels

BRUSSELS: The European Union's economy is set to "narrowly" avoid a much-dreaded recession this year, as inflation eases and results shared by broad- gas prices continue their steep economy, while presenting the drop, paving the way for betcenter-right Christian Dem- | ter-than-expected economic perocratic Union (CDU) re- formance, the European Commis-The report, released on Monday morning, offers a glimmer of The SPD, which counts Ger- good news amid a still extremely uncertain and challenging landscape that remains intrinsically still happen in some EU countries dependent on what step Russia even if the final number for 2023 votes ahead of the Greens, at takes next in its brutal invasion of ends up being positive. Among who also received 18.4%. Ukraine, which is nearing its one- the 27 member states, Sweden vear anniversary. earned 12.2%, while the an Still, the European Commission ative number for this year (-0.8%)

the outlook is of course policy-dependent," said Paolo Gentiloni, European Commissioner for the forecast. "Europeans still face a difficult period ahead, with growth still expected to (be) slow and inpurchasing power only gradually." A technical recession is defined as two-quarters of economic contraction, something that might is the only one that shows a negis able to project the EU as a while the rest present limited but

by 0.9% - up from the 0.3% esti- painful recession, have projected ner on record-breaking inflation not been entirely passed onto mated in autumn. "Better than rates of 0.2% and 0.8%, respective- and prices will maintain the down-consumers. Inflation will remain expected doesn't mean good and ly. For Germany, this represents Moreover, France will grow by 0.6% while the Spanish economy will increase by 1.4% across 2023. ceived 28.2% of the vote on sion has said in its latest forecast. flation set to relinquish its grip on Ireland stays the best-performing economy, with a stunning 4.9% rate, largely driven by the investment of foreign multinationals. The European Commission be-

0.8% in 2023 - up from 0.3% in ly, two countries that were highly the previous forecast. The eu-dependent on Russian fossil fuels

heavyweight had been projected a it territory. The development was -0.6% drop in the previous report. linked to a steady decline in Eucoordinated power savings, mild weather and diversification from

cility (TTF), Europe's main hub ter forecast builds on a series of for gas trading, closed on Friday at nearly 54 per megawatt-hour, levels not seen since December 2021. Inflation in the eurozone is now projected to fall to 5.6% J.P. Morgan and Goldman Sachs, in 2023 and to 2.5% in 2024, bringing the figure closer to the of recession. All the reports have 2% annual target set by the European Central Bank (ECB). Nev- adaptability in the face of Russia's ertheless, the executive warns, war in Ukraine and the expensive core inflation, which excludes energy crisis, while underlining the volatile prices of energy and the persistent uncertainty across foods, has not yet peaked and the the continent.

ward trend that began late last "stubbornly high" in eastern Eua "significant turnaround," Genyear when the closely-watched in ropean countries, Gentiloni said. tiloni said, given the industrial dicator returned to the single-digwaiting to feel the full impact of rope's gas prices resulting from rates introduced by the ECB, mand in order to cool inflation. suppliers. The Title Transfer Fa- The European Commission's winprojections that in recent weeks have improved the outlook for the bloc, including those from the International Monetary Fund, and have pushed away the threat praised the EU's resilience and



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Briefs

PAF aircraft evacuates families, students from Turkiye

DNA

ISLAMABAD: An IL-78 aircraft of Pakistan Air Force landed back on Monday at PAF Base, Nur Khan after a successful mission of providing humanitarian assistance to the earthquake-stricken people of Turkiye. According to the Pakistan Air Force (PAF). owing to the efforts of PAF, a number of Pakistani students and families stuck in the area were evacuated through the Ilyushin-78 and were brought back to the homeland safely.

The Pakistani students and families expressed their gratitude for the overall efforts of Pakistan Air Force in bringing them back to Pakistan and rescuing their fellow countrymen stranded in the natural calamity abroad. Other such missions by PAF, in coordination with NDMA and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, are also in queue to help the earthquake affectees.

Thousands left without power in New Zealand

WEB DESK

AUCKLAND: Residents across the north of New Zealand are bracing for a rough night as Cyclone Gabrielle lashes the country with torrential rains and winds. At least 46,000 homes have lost power in the storm, while hundreds of flights have been cancelled. A state of emergency has been declared in nine regions - affecting nearly a third of the 5.1 million population.

The storm was expected to peak on Monday night with the deluge to continue until Tuesday. In New Zealand's largest city, Auckland, authorities earlier evacuated people from 50 homes around a 30m-high tower that was in danger of collanse, local media reported. Dozens of evacuation centres have also been set up in the city. Emergency services have also reported people trapped by the rising waters - including a family stranded on a flooded highway. Authorities say they've received more than 100 calls for help since Sunday.

Cyclone Gabrielle is hitting New Zealand's north just weeks after Auckland and surrounding areas endured record rainfall and flooding which killed four people.

Cabinet approves power tariff hike

DNA

ISLAMABAD: The federal cabinet on Sunday approved a plan to increase the power tariff and end subsidies ahead of virtual talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) starting today on the Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP). The cabinet also okayed a revised circular debt management plan through circulation in this regard, media reported Monday. A team of the Washington-based lender concluded policy-level talks last week but the two sides could not strike a deal due to differences over fiscal measures that needed to be taken before the staff-level agreement. According to the plan okayed by the cabinet yesterday, to be presented to the IMF, the government will jack up power prices by Rs7.91 per unit in four quarterly adjustments - February-March 2023, March-May 2023, June-August and September-November. Under the plan, the government will charge Rs3.21 per unit from now onwards, Rs0.69 from March-May

and increase it again by

Rs1.64 per unit from June

onwards to August of 2023.

From September-Novem-

ber, the government will

hike the power tariff by

Rs1.98 per unit.

Turkiye finds more survivors but hopes dwindle with time

Broadcaster Haberturk reported another woman and two children were rescued in Antakya, while CNN Turk reported a woman taken from the rubble in southern Gaziantep province

News Desk

ANTAKYA: Rescuers in Turkey pulled out several people alive from collapsed buildings on Monday and were digging to reach a grandmother, mother and daughter from a single family, a week after the country's worst earthquake in modern history. With hopes of finding many more survivors in the rubble fast fading, the combined death toll in Turkey and neighbouring Syria from last Monday's 7.8 magnitude quake rose above 37,000 and looked set to keep increasing. The rescue phase is "coming to a close", with the focus now switching to providing shelter, food and schooling, United Nations aid chief Martin Griffiths said during a visit to Aleppo in northern Syria on Monday. But as he was speaking, teams in southeastern Turkey plucked more people from the rubble. Officials said a young girl named Miray was rescued in Adiyaman 178 hours after the earthquake and a 35-year-old woman was also rescued in the same city. A woman named Naide Umay was carried alive from a mess of crumbled masonry and twisted steel rods in Antakya, a video shared online by the mayor of Istanbul showed. Workers clapped as she was put in an ambulance.

Broadcaster Haberturk reported another woman and two children were rescued in Antakya, while CNN Turk report-

Earthquake could cost Turkey up to \$84 billion

ANKARA: Turkey's worst earthquake in almost a century has left a trail of destruction that could cost Ankara up to \$84.1 billion, a business group said, while a government official put the figure at more than \$50 billion. The combined death toll in Turkey and Syria from last Monday's 7.8 magnitude quake approached 36,000 and looked set to rise, as the focus of the response switched from rescuing survivors trapped under the rubble to providing shelter, food and psychosocial care. A report published at the weekend by the Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation put the cost of the damage at \$84.1 billion - \$70.8 billion from the repair of thousands of homes, \$10.4 billion from loss of national income and \$2.9 billion from loss of working days. It said the main costs would be rebuilding housing, transmission lines and infrastructure, and meeting the short, medium and long-term shelter needs of the hundreds of thousands left homeless. - Agencies

ed a woman taken from the rubble in southern Gaziantep province. Rescue workers in the Turkish city of Kahramanmaras said they had contact with a grandmother, mother and baby trapped in one room in a three-storey building, with a fourth person possibly in another room.

Rescuers, who included a Spanish team and the Turkish police and army, said they were trying to break a wall to reach the survivors but a column was delaying them. One rescue

worker said the women were 3 metres below ground. "They are still alive and they're in very good condition. We are doing our best to get them and I have a very strong feeling we are going to get them," said Burcu Baldauf, head of the Turkish voluntary healthcare team. "It's already a miracle. After seven days, they are there with no water, no food and in good condition," she said. The deadliest quake in Turkey since 1939 has killed 31,643 people there and forced the evacuation of 160,000 from the quake zone, Turkey's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority said. More than 4,300 people were reported dead and 7,600 injured in northwest Syria as of Sunday, said a U.N. agency. Combined with the toll reported from government-held parts of the country, it takes the number of people reported killed in Syria to more than 5,714. The quake is now the sixth most deadly natural disaster this century, behind the 2005 tremor that killed at least 73,000 in Pakistan.

ECC approves 124% hike in gas tariff

ISLAMABAD: The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet Monday approved up to 124% hike in the tariff of gas across the board for six months to implement a major prior condition set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for striking a staff-level agreement with Pakistan. The finance ministry, in a statement, said the Ministry of Energy (Petroleum Division) tabled a summary on natural gas sale pricing for FY2023 and presented tariff proposals for all consumer categories in accordance with RERR for the fiscal year 2022-23. "The ECC after detailed discussion approved gas price revision proposal for domestic, commercial and power sectors for six months [January to June, 2023]," the statement mentioned. Reforms in energy sector and controlling the circular debt remained on top of the agenda during the talks held with the IMF mission that concluded 10-day parleys in Islamabad last Thursday. IMF team left Islamabad without signing an agreement and asked Pakistan to take corrective measures. For households consuming up to 100 cubic metres of gas, the rate has been hiked by 16.6% to Rs350 per MMBTU, an increase of Rs50 per MMBTU. For domestic consumers who utilise 200 cubic metres, rate has been increased by 32% to Rs730 per MMBTU. - DNA

IHC issues notices in Rasheed's bail case

Court issued notices to respondents and sought their answers till Feb 16 ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday served notices to respondents in a post-arrest bail petition of Awami Muslim League's (AML) head Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed in a case of levelling allegations against former president Asif Ali Zardari, Justice Mohsin Akhter Kayani of the IHC heard the bail plea of Sheikh Rasheed. Earlier, a

lower court had dismissed his bail petition. Petitioner's lawyer Salman Akram Raja prayed to the court to approve the bail of his client as he was an old man. He also requested the court to fix the next hearing at an early date. The court issued notices to the respondents and sought their answers till February 16. The Aabpara Police of Islamabad had arrested Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed after registering a first information report against him for accusing former president Asif Ali Zardari of hatching a conspiracy to murder PTI Chairman Imran Khan. - APP

Pakistani embassies barred from issuing visas to Afghans

DNA

ISLAMABAD: Acting over the acquisition of Pakistani visas by Afghan nationals through fake documents, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has barred all the Pakistani embassies in Europe from issuing visas to Afghan nationals. It has been stated in the order of the foreign ministry that no Afghan national should be issued a Pakistani visa until further orders, the official sources have said.

The instructions were issued to Pakistani embassies in the United Kingdom (UK), Spain, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Greece, Austria, Switzerland, France, Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Ireland and the Netherlands.

Syria's health workers hit by double tragedy after quake

HARIM: While his wife and two daughters lay under the rubble after Syria's earthquake, Abdelbaset Khalil tended to hundreds of patients who flooded into his hospital. Khalil, a nurse anaesthetist, was already at work when the 7.8-magnitude earthquake rocked Türkiye and Syria last week, flattening entire neighbourhoods and leaving a combined death toll of more than 35,000, including at least 3,581 in Syria.

As the quake shook the ground beneath him, he rushed out of the hospital to find his apartment building had collapsed with his family inside. Speechless and overwhelmed, the 50-year-old walked back to the hospital ward to an endless flow of patients and victims' bodies. including those of the hospital's administrative director and head nurse.

"I was tending to people in the hospital while my wife and daughter were under the rubble," Khalil told AFP in the city of Harim in the rebel-held Idlib province on the border with Türkiye.

"I could not do anything" to save his wife or daughters, he continued. He carried on working through his grief, scrambling to help the countless wounded with few supplies and meagre means. The first day was "extremely trying and very hard", said Khalil. "It passed like 50 years." – APP



ISLAMABAD: Country Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Dr. Luay Shabaneh, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. - DNA

Zaheerud Din Babar ranks among great minds of Asia: Speakers

that Zaheer-ud-Din Muhammad Babar is one of the great minds of Asia and his legacy is well known all over the world. Addressing a seminar on 'Babur: A Symbol of Shared Legacy between Pakistan & Uzbekistan' at Punjab University here on Monday, he said Zaheer-ud-Din Babar deserves to be in one place with great scholars like Abu Raihan Beruni, Abu Ali Ibn Sina, Al-Faraby, Al-Khwarazmy, Mirza Ghalib, Allama Muhammad Iqbal who are considered as a common heritage of Islamic cultural renaissance, science and knowledge. The seminar being held to celebrate 540th birth celebrations of Zaheer-ur-Din Babar was organized by Punjab University (PU) Department of History and Pakistan Studies Babar Legacy Center in collaboration with the Embassy of Uzbekistan. Dean Faculty of Arts and Humanities Prof Dr. Amra Raza,

chairman Department of History Prof. Dr. Mehboob Hussain, Director Babar Legacy Center Prof Dr. Rukhsana Iftikhar, diplomats, faculty members and a large number of students were present. In his address, Arif Usmanov said that the President and the people of Uzbekistan are political and cultural ties and enforcing our scientific and people to people contacts. He said in 2021, more than 70 art pieces and paintings were displayed in the Art Exhibition and the Art's contest at PU, not just attracted the attention of the common public but also strengthening our re-connectivity. He thanked the PU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Niaz Ahmad Akhter, Chairman Department of History & Pakistan Studies Dr. Mehboob, Dr. Rukhsana Iftikhar and others who made noble efforts for conducting a successful event to pay tribute to Zaheer-ur-Din Babar.

Dr. Mehboob said that South Asia and Central Asia are two geographical regions which share a history of mutual relations dating back to ancient times. He said that hundreds of poets, writers, Sufis, ulema, artists and common people migrated from Central Asia to South Asia. He said that both the regions have been considered the part of earliest civilizations of the World. He said that amongst all the countries of Central Asia, Uzbekistan occupies a pride of place as it is the region where most of the centers of Muslim culture and learning are located. - DNA

How China's balloon sent the US on a hunt for flying objects

WASHINGTON: After the U.S. government announced last week that a fleet of Chinese spy balloons had visited the United States undetected in recent years, the military had to admit the obvious: it had an "awareness gap." So the U.S. military has been adjusting its radar to find flying objects - including balloons - that are smaller, slower and differently shaped than the enemy aircraft and missiles that have long preoccupied the Pentagon.

The result has been a spate of unprecedented shootdowns of mysterious objects - including on Sunday an octagonal structure downed by an F-16 over Lake Huron - raising still-unanswered questions about whether these phenomena are new or if they've been around all along. U.S. officials acknowledge they are hard to find, even for

the world's most sophisticated military. "What makes them really hard to detect and track is their size and potentially the shape," said Gen. Glen VanHerck, head of U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), describing them as "very, very small objects that produce a very, very low radar cross-section." The suspected Chinese spy balloon that flew over the United States earlier this month led politicians to criticize the .S. military and U.S. President Joe Biden for not shooting it down when it first entered U.S. airspace.

The Pentagon said there had been four previous Chinese spy balloon flights over the United States in recent years. U.S. officials said that NORAD has been adjusting the filters and algorithms it uses to examine radar data, making them sensitive enough to detect these kinds of objects ones whose ability to stay aloft, moving with the wind, is confounding U.S. officials.

Officials say a key change was to NORAD's filters to allow them to detect objects moving slowly and at different altitudes, without specifying which ones.

"We have been more closely scrutinizing our airspace at these altitudes, including enhancing our radar," said Melissa Dalton, an assistant secretary of defense.

Following identification, the question is how to determine which hits on the radar are merely noise and which are possible threats worth scrambling U.S. military pilots to chase after. So far the result has been a series of visual confirmations and shootdowns - three over the past three days - and accompanying closures of American and Canadian airspace to avoid collisions between military and civilian aircraft. - Agencies

US ambassador Donald Blome meets Naval Chief



KARACHI: Ambassador of America to Pakistan Mr Donald Blome called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at Karachi during the ongoing Multinational Exercise AMAN 23. During the meeting matters of mutual interest, regional maritime security and bilateral collaboration were discussed. The dignitaries renewed the resolve to enhance maritime cooperation and defence collaboration between the two countries.

