

Friday, February 17, 2023

Pakistan's Credible Daily Newspaper

Price Rs. 25

Lukashenko warns Belarus will join Russia if attacked

Detailed News On Page-06

FM to attend **Munich Security** Conference

Detailed News On Page-08



Keeping EU unity has not been easy task

Detailed News On Page-07



Briefs

Pak stresses on trade projects

STAFF REPORT



is on investment, trade and connectivity projects to achieve economic revitalization. She was addressing, through video link, a one-day International Conference on Pakistan's Strategic Frontiers organized by Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad on Thursday. She said Afghanistan offers immense opportunities in terms of realization of Pakistan's vision to becoming a trade and energy connectivity hub and integration of South, Central and Western Asia.

IHC grants bail to Sh. Rashid

DNA



Rashid against the surety bonds in the sum of Rs 50000 besides ordering to release him forthwith. The case came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Justice Mohsin Akhtar Kayani here Thursday. Suleman Akram counsel for Sheikh Rashid and Advocate General (AG) Islamabad appeared before the court. The court inquired during the hearing of the case what allegation has been leveled against Sheikh Rashid.

Pak condemns raids on **BBC** offices

DNA

ISLAMABAD:Pakistan says



space for freedom of media there and are a stain on India's democratic credentials. Responding to questions at her weekly news briefing in Islamabad today, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said these raids are reprisals of BBC's documentary on Gujrat massacre of 2002 and India's illegal and unilateral steps in Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019.

Inside..

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Tarar asks for constituting board to examine IK's health - Page 03

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Virtual violence: Cyber security and the impact of Ransomware attacks - Page 05

Iran, China presidents urge JCPOA

- Page 06 Pak reiterates its

view of Belarus as a friend in region Page 07

Ukraine pounded by missiles as Russia eyes capturing Bakhmut Page 08

CEC SIKANDAR SULTAN SAYS

Efforts being made to limit **ECP** powers

The apex court asks CEC to submit written reply today about problems he is facing; SC says Punjab, KP polls in 90 days

Incumbent govt not

her govt, says Maryam

PML-N will be responsible for inflation

only when Nawaz Sharif is in Pakistan

Maryam Nawaz has come to open. To the ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information

question from the youths on the ill perfor. and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurang-

mance of government Maryam Nawaz said zeb said on Thursday that the person,

the responsibility of situation of the price who had rendered the law of the land

hike cannot be placed on PML-N. The poor as the law of the jungle, had been defy-

government. There will be our government tution and the law for the last two days.

can take ahead Pakistan. The engagements the person, who had no regard for the

of Maryam Nawaz are continuing. She met judicial system, the minister said in

ShahidKhaqanAbbasi in central secretariat posts on her Twitter handle, criticising

on political situation and party matters. Imran Khan. It seemed that the entire

SHUJAAT HAMZA / DNA

ISLAMABAD: Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja on Thursday informed the Supreme Court that efforts were being made to curtail the powers of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The ECP chief made the statement when

he appeared before the Supreme Court in a case related to the transfer of former Lahore capital city police officer (CCPO) Ghulam Mehmood Dogar. He was summoned by the apex court to explain the reasons behind the Dogar's removal. During Thursday hearing, Justice IjazUl Ahsan asked why the CCPO was removed despite orders of the Supreme Court and what was the hurry in issuing the transfer orders. The lawyer for the Punjab government informed the bench that Dogar was transferred on the orders of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). At this, Justice Ahsan asked what role the ECP has in the transfer of officers. While Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi remarked that the ECP's role comes into effect after the elections have been announced. Additional advocate general told the court that they had taken approval from the ECP over

Continued on Page 06

LAHORE: PML-N senior

vice president Maryam

Nawaz has said the poor

man is affected by infla-

tion and the incumbent

government is not her

government. She further said PML-N will be re-

sponsible for inflation

only when Nawaz Sharif is in Pakistan.

The inside story of delegation of youths with

man is affected by inflation but this is not my

in Pakistan only when Nawaz Sharif is in Pa-

kistan. She went on to say only Nawaz Sharif

of PML-N in Lahore. They exchanged views

Continued on Page 06

Punjab Elections: SC judges ask CJP to take suo moto

STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: A Supreme Court (SC) bench has asked Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial to take suo motu of the delay in announcement of date for elections in Punjab, media reported on Thursday. According to details, a two-member bench consisting of Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Mazahar Ali Akbar Naqvi heard a petition against the transfer of Ghulam Mahmood Dogar as the Lahore capital city police officer (CCPO). During the hearing, the Supreme Court sought a detailed report from Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sikander Sultan Raja regarding the obstacles in the way of the Punjab elections. The bench referred the matter to CJP Umar Ata

Continued on Page 06

Egoistic Imran

disregarding

law: Marriyum

SHUJAAT HAMAZA

ing and sheer disregard for the Consti-

The entire nation and the world had

been witnessing the drama staged by

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman

Continued on Page 06

PTI flays govt for

Threat to arrest divert public attention from inflation: Asad

ISLAMABAD:Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leadership lambasted the imported government for the ongoing politics of revenge, delaying tactics to find escape routes from the elections in Punjab and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (KP) in sheer violation of the constitution and brining the economic wheel of the

country to a grinding halt. The PTI leadership said that the government of crooks could not face the people; hence they were using all lame excuses to delay the polls; however, all such tactics would not work anymore and polls would be held in the both provinces in the stipulated timeframe given in the constitutions. PTI Secretary General Asad Umar made it clear that all those who were too proud of their power should remove their delusions that 'we only bow down to Allah alone'. He said that the imported government threatened to arrest PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the dark of the night to distract the public attention from the back-breaking inflation. Asad said that they could do anything to divert attention of the inflation-stricken

Continued on Page 06

political vendetta

MAHNOOR ANSAR

News Desk

firm commitment to stand by the Turkish

solidarity and support for Turkish brothers and sisters from the people and government of Pakistan. He said true to the spirit of one nation living in two states, we consider their loss as ours. The Prime Minister said natural disaster as earthquake in Turkiye and Syria are beyond the capacity of any single government to handle. He said it is time the world should come forward and extend support to the suffering humanity. In the wake of the devastating earthquake in southern Turkive, the prime minister had spoken with President Erdogan on February 6 and assured him of all possible assistance for the rescue and relief effort. All available resources have been fully mobilized to help the Turkish people and the prime minister is personally overseeing the relief effort. Pakistan and Turkiye enjoy deep fraternal ties. The two countries have resolutely stood by each other during every trial and tribulation.



ANKARA: President of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan receives Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif upon his arrival in Turkish Presidency. – DNA

PM tells Erdogan

Pakistan stands

with brotherly

people of Turkiye

PM meets Turkish President; conveys heartfelt

condolences on behalf of Pakistani nation

Khan meant to

ANKARA: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif reached Ankara on a twoday visit to Turkiye. Turkish high officials received the Prime Minister at the airport. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif met with President of Turkiye Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara. The Prime Minister conveyed heartfelt condolences on behalf of the entire Pakistani nation over the loss of precious lives and the widespread damage caused by the earthquake. The prime minister reiterated Pakistan's

people during difficult times and to continue extending all possible support to the ongoing relief effort. Meanwhile in a Tweet, the Prime Minister said that he is leaving for Turkiye with a message of unwavering

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Violation of Oath: Imran wants inquiry against Gen Bajwa

The PTI chairman referred to a column published in a newspaper earlier this month in which startling revelations about Imran Khan's gov't were made attributing General (retd) Bajwa



News Desk

LAHORE: Former prime minister Imran Khan has asked for his alleged violation of oath and the Constitution of Painto the public domain whereby it is clear that Gen retdpublicly on the party's official social media channels today. cerns after doctors barred him from traveling.

LHC denies protective bail to Imran Khan

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Thursday disposed of a petition filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman and former prime minister Imran Khan, seeking protective bail after he failed to appear before the court. The court had given Imran Khan time to appear before the court until 6:30pm. Despite being given time, the PTI chairman failed to appear before the court after which the two-member bench of the LHC dismissed his plea. Amid rumours about his arrest, the for-President ArifAlvi to order an inquiry against former chief mer prime minister decided to appear before the of army staff (COAS) General (retd) Qamar Javed Bajwa Lahore High Court (LHC). The route outside the former premier's residence had been cleared for kistan. "Some very disturbing information has now come presenting him before the court. On this occasion, the PTI supporters chanted slogans to support Mr Bajwa as COAS violated his oath of office repeatedly," the Khan and his party. Imran Khan had previously PTI chief stated in a letter written to the president, shared decided not to appear in court, citing health con-

> Continued on Page 06 Continued on Page 06

Secretary Info assures to resolve

newspapers, periodicals problems

Says summary to increase rates already sent to PM;

determines to ensure ads to genuine publications only

QAZI SHOAIB KHAN

ATTOCK: The Deputy Commissioner Attock Rac Atif Raza on Thursday while chairing the monthly meet ing of the revenue depart ment Attock has directed the revenue authorities to expedite pending cases besides accelerating the relevant heads in pursuance of the policy guidelines of the provincial government The meeting was also attended by the Additional Cheema, Assistant Commissioners of all six tehsils. Tehsildars. ADLRs and other concerned officials of the with their compliance reports. The Deputy Commis sioner Attock also reviewed the undates of revenue generating services, harvest centers, pending court cases, outstanding liabilities of the provincial government as well as facilities extended to the common man in officers concerned to resolve the constraints of the people came across the far flung areas of the district at Commissioner Attock Rao Atif Raza also urged upon the participants of the District Development Commit tee to apprise about the latest updates of all the on going and near to completion development projects as well as viable proposals to remove any bottleneck it arisen at this stage

> Business community

demand early implementation

of assurances PESHAWAR, : Director and coordinate Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of (PAJCCI), Zia-ul-Haq Sarnadi has demanded early implementation of pledges diting of Pak-Afghan trade. In a press statement issued here on Tuesday, Zia Sarha di and SVP PAJCCI, Khalid Shezad said during recently held meetings of stakeholders arranged by Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAIC-CI) in Peshawar, Islamabad and Chaman (Baluchistan) a number of assurances were given to businessmen regarding their demands raised in connection with hindrances causing delay in smooth sailing of trade. In the meetings different issues were raised including high labour charges, mishandling of cargo while loading and unloading is sues on Afghan Side including tax on transit goods slow clearance rate of empty containers, restricted hours at border crossing for clearance and movement, delay & high rejecgoods which previously

cases

DNA SLAMABAD: The Federal Information Secetary Ms. Shahera Shahid has assured that and periodicals shall be addressed on prialive to the hardship faced by the newspa-

> the concerned authorities, upon which the had already been held on the subject and overall distribution. Minister for approval.

It was informed by the Committee that the

ISLAMABAD: The members of the APNS Federal Committee posing for a picture with Ms. Shahera Shahid, Secretary, Information and Broadcasting. Director General Internal Publicity Manzor Memon, Mr. Mobashir Hasan, Principal Information Officer, Director Advertisement Muhammad Saleh and others are also seen in the picture.—DNA

tisement agencies by PID during the ongoabout the efforts being made by the Minis- advertisements. Revision of current rates was the main carious economic situation in the country. agenda item. All members requested the She affirmed to review the policy regard-Secretary to take up the rates matter with ing distribution of advertisements to and is working out a plan to clear the dues

ent order and subsequent additions by PID, terialize. The PIO informed that the PID newspapers. The Chair further reiterated papers. is in process to clear all the outstanding that PID is responsible for maintaining a The Secretary Information pointed out

detailed scrutiny of newspapers to elimihe genuine problems of the newspapers ing financial year. The members raised the (based on barcode) to streamline absentee/ issue of dummy newspapers and allocation dummy newspapers. All the participants ority basis adding the government was fully of advertisement to non-APNS newspapers. appreciated the idea and requested to im-The Secretary supported the stance of the plement the aforesaid system at the earli-APNS members regarding revision of rates est possible in order to have a genuine list in view of staggering inflation and apprised of newspapers for accurate distribution of try is fully aware of all the outstanding ad-

weekly and monthly magazines/period- by federal ministries/departments through Secretary told that a threadbare discussion icals by giving appropriate share in the a transparent process in a due course of the summary for increase in rates @ 35 per Upon request by the members of APNS not She highlighted that Federal Government

vertisement dues accumulated in the past

cent had already been sent to the Prime to change the media suggested in the cli- Advertisement Policy provides 25% quota for the regional newspapers in order to enthe Secretary highlighted the mandate of courage the regional language newspapers ecovery process of the payment is in good the Ministry of Information & Broadcast- and local newspapers industry. PID will position under the present PIO however ing to ensure fair distribution of advertise- evolve a mechanism & ensure that the quothe outstanding payments also need to mament among mainstream, regional and local tais distributed fairly among those news-

balance in distribution of advertisements some Regional newspapers have complaints APNS expressed satisfaction over distri- holders as per Federal Advertisement Pol- Secretary was informed that there is no re- Daily Nawa-e-Pak Member

striction on membership of Regional news papers, if they fulfill the criteria. It was and appreciated the expeditious processing. The participants evolved consensus on agreed by the Secretary Information and PIO to meet the Committee at least once it

tify any dummy publications within its lowing members: Mrs. Shahera Shahid

Secretary, MOIB In-Chair, Manzoor Ali Memon, Director General, IP Wing Mobashir Hassan, PIO, PID, Ms. Zoobia Masood, Deputy Secretary, MOIB Muhammad Saleh, Director (Advt), PID Gauhar Zahid Malik Executive Editor, Paki stan Observer Chairman, Ms. Rukhsana Sulat, Monthly Nikhar Member, . Khushnood Ali Khan, Daily Sahafat Member Waseem Ahmed, Daily Awam Member Mohsin Bilal, Daily Ausaf Member

Agha Bilal, Daily Dawn Member Ansar Mahmood Bhatti, Islamabad Post/Centre line Member, . Danish Iftikhar, Daily Asas Member, Inayat Ullah Niazi, Daily n the opening remarks, the members of by accommodating all newspapers/stake- that they are not given membership. The Pakistan/Patriot Member, Hadique Tahir,

Pillars of state should work in unison for development of nation

KARACHI: President Dr Arif uary institutions must abide technology and skills which Quran not only directs to Alvi on Thursday said that by the constitution and law to are in demand across the seek knowledge but also tion of visa processing for the constitution of the counfurther augment the demo-world, he suggested. Afghan businessmen, pen- try spells out the roles and cratic system in the country. responsibilities of all pillars Dr Arif Alvi said that edutimes and indicators in ed- and maintaining the best reby Afghan side since a year of the state and they all have cation and health were two ucation, health, corruption, to perform their constitutionand communication. They | al functions in a coordinated manner for the development and solidarity of the nation. processing at Karachi for | The president, while addressing the 20th convocation of took a day or 2 but now 5-6 | Iqra University here, said that the political franchise to increased time and cost serves as the foundation of focus on education and cogniphasis on respect of elders mense treasure of knowledge of doing business as deddemocracy and the election tive and intellectual developand were transferred from a but youth have to augment

layed returns are affected process reinforces the demoment of youth besides provid-

fundamental sectors which play a pivotal role in the progress and prosperity of satisfactory, he pointed out any country. Focus on these and added, but cultural co- who strove hard for equiptwo sectors was the major hesiveness was the strength proponent behind the exem- of the Pakistani nation and plary progress of China and we are proud of our cultural technology has significantly Pakistan should also further values which put great em-

The nation is facing tough gender empowerment and

of ethical and moral values lations with fellow humans". their analytical capabilities cratic system so all the stating them training in modern 'Almighty Allah in the holy to consume.—APP

Open House for Diplomatic Missions Murree Brewery Company Limited located in Rawalpindi is

US ambassador inaugurates cultural preservation project in Punjab

NAZIR SIYAL

days on minimum, leading

LAHORE: Ambassador a US government-funded cultural preservation proiect at the Lahore Fort during his visit to Lahore With a grant of \$982,500 from the US Ambassadors the Fort would be restored. including the famous picture wall, Loh Temple, Sikh at the grand Sheesh Mahal. to partner with the Walled City of Lahore Authority and relics of the Mughal and the Aga Khan Cultural

symbolises the rich cultural, historical and religious kistan," said Ambassador Blome. Founded in 2001. the AFCP preserves historunder threat from environ-Fund for Cultural Preservamental pressure or lack tion (AFCP), seven sites at of resources. The AFCP has so far funded more than 1,000 projects in 133 countries, including 32 culemple, Zanana Masjid, tural preservation projects Sehdara pavilion, Athdara across Pakistan at a total pavilion, and technical work cost of \$7.6 million. The restored sites include Bud-"The US Mission is proud dhist monasteries, Hindu

monuments, Sufi shrines, empire. Ambassador Blome Service-Pakistan for pres- also expressed gratitude to

Lahore Fort.? The Fort vice-Pakistan for its restora- ing that these projects were brated 75 years of bilateral tion efforts. While touring a testament of the US and ties and share a partnership the seven sites at the La- Pakistan's joint commit- based on common goals, heritage and diversity of hore Fort, the Ambassador ment to cultural preser- people-to-people exchang-Lahore, Punjab, and Pa- paid respects to Pakistan's vation. The United States es, and mutual interests.

generation to the other.



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For further information please contact the following.

Maj (r) Sabih Ur Rehman Mobile: 0300 8553342

We look forward to welcoming you all soon.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal presenting book titled 100 CEOs to Ambassador

of Germany Alfred Grannas during a function organized by the Air Link Communications. Chairman REIT Zahid Latif

Khan and CEO Air Link Communications Muzzaffar Piracha are seen in the picture. - DNA

Tarar asks for constituting

board to examine IK's health

Attaullah Tarar said Imran Khan had been using different tactics and resorted to

technicalities for the delay, instead of giving arguments and facing the courts

to skip the proceedings. Tarar said Imran would be disqualified because he had con-

He said on one side Imran Khan had an- bankruptcy, expressing confidence the de-

sary to be submitted to the ECP before con-

testing elections. Tarar said Imran Khan

had destroyed the economy of the country

that an amount of Rs 1.6 billion was embez-

zled and transacted into the accounts of Fa-

rah Gogi, a close aide of Imran's wife Bushra

Bibi. For political gains, Tarar said now the

PTI chairman had started taking U-turns

ists no more", he added. - APP

'Dialogue at local bodies'

level must to achieve

sustainable SDGs'

bodies level and commended the efforts of Convener, Na-

taking the appreciable initiative of hosting the dialogue

among the Speakers of the National and Provincial As-

stakeholders used to eliminate 80% of the issues, adding,

message of our religion Islam." He added that no commu-

nication and dialogue on pertinent issues never give any

solution but rather worsens the crises. The speaker also

said major problems could be resolved by collective thinking

and wisdom and problem resolution was only possible with

complete coordination from top to bottom. Raia Pervez Ashraf

said the aim of democracy was that these benefits should

Council and Union Council. Addressing the participants, he

said, Today, you must have consulted with each other and

reach from the Parliament to Provincial Assemblies, District

from all his previous parratives he had been

during his three-and-a-half-year tenure.

Khan had been using different tactics and

stead of giving arguments and facing the

courts. He said Imran Khan managed to de-

lay his foreign funding case with the Elec-

tion Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for six

in the Toshakhana and Tyrian White cases.

The SAPM said the PTI leadership consid-

ered itself as `untouchable' but it would

have to face accountability for all the

wrongdoings. Attaullah Tarar said an affi-

davit was submitted in the court declaring

an aunt of Tyrian White as her guardian but

Imran Khan had now challenged the juris-

ISLAMABAD: Editor Daily Islamabad POST/CENTRELINE/DNA News Agency Ansar Mahmood

Bhatti presenting his books to Executive Director General Information Service Academy

Muhabshar Tauqeer and Director General Saeed Shaikh for the ISA Library. - DNA

diction of the court instead of facing it.

proaching the court for protective bail.

Prime Minister (SAPM) on Interior Attaul- Khan is fit for all other activities except

Court should take notice of delaying tactics of a case against Imran Khan had been de-

ran Khan's health condition allowed him taking relief by sitting at home, and now

to appear before the courts in pending the PTI chairman had started begging

cases or not. "A factual report based on the courts not to summon him.

ing case hearings against Imran Khan on

day to day basis besides live broadcasts of

their proceedings so that the nation could

know about his real face. He said hearing

Khan wants that the courts should walk to

He said Imran Khan was in the habit of

He recalled that Imran Khan was used to

making a joke about Shehbaz Sharif who

was suffering from severe pain in his back,

Imran Khan was managing fake medical but now he (IK) felt fear to appear before In both aspects of this particular case,

his home and give him a clean chit".

lah Tarar on Thursday said a medical board

nairman Imran Khan, who was constantly

Supreme Court of Pakistan and Lahore

facts should be presented in the court

The SAPM said there were reports that

AIOU extends BS

admission deadline

till February 22

The AIOU has already announced the

entry test schedule for admission in

MS/MPhil and Ph.D programmes

ISLAMABAD: Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU)

Thursday extended the admission deadline for all the BS

programmes offered in the first phase of the spring 2023

PhD. programmes have been closed. According to an offi-

cial source, the AIOU has already announced the entry test

schedule for admission in MS/MPhil and Ph.D programmes.

The schedule is available on the university website. These

entry tests will be conducted in the university's academic

complex from February 17-22. Admissions in matriculation,

FA, and I.Com programmes will continue till February 21

as per schedule. Moreover, admissions in second phase of

semester spring 2023 will commence from March 1. The

programmes offered in this phase include Post Graduate

Diploma programmes in 10 disciplines, FA/FSc and BA/

BSc based four-year BS programmes, Associate Degree

in Arts (BA General), Associate Degree in Commerce

(BCom), Associate Degree in Business Administration

(Islamic Banking, Human Resource Management, and

Marketing), BBA programmes, 1.5, 2.5 and 4-Year B Ed

programmes and certificate courses. - DNA

emester till February 22. Admissions in MPhil/MS and

about Imran's health condition."

s with lame excuses of bad health.

pping appearances in different court cas-

National Days and Armed Forces Days

FEBRUARY

Feb 04 / Sri Lanka **National Day** Feb 06 / New Zealand **National Day**

Feb 06 / Uganda **Defece Forces Day** Feb 11 / DPR Korea

National Day Feb 16 / Lithuania **National Day**

Feb 18 / Gambia **National Day**

Feb 19 / Nepal National **Democracy Day** Feb 23 / Brunei **National Day**

Feb 23 / Guyana

National Day Feb 23 / Russian Federation National Army Day Feb 23 / Tajikistan

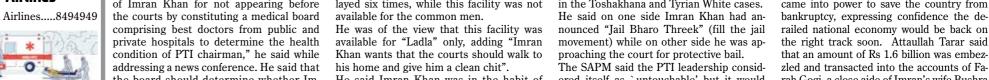
Feb 25 / Kuwait **National Day** Feb 27 / Dominican

Armed Forces Day



Hotels & Restaurants





Emergency Rescue (Police)...

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

Enquiry



Hospitals

Cantt Hospital...9270907-11 Polyclinic......9218300-09 Shifa International 4603666



Departments

Cantonment Board 9270151-3

Islamabad Metropolitan

wari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry leading a del-Speaker National Assembly and discussed with him the plan of establishing an industrial zone in Chakwal. Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, ICCI former presidents Khalid Iqbal Malik and Zafar Bakhtawari as well as said that the economy can be brought Saif ur Rehman Khan and others were Addressing the delegation, Speaker

ISLAMABAD: Ahsan Zafar Bakhta-

included in the delegation National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf appreciated the proposal of industrial the industrial zones under CPEC and estate in Chakwal and assured his co-cooperate with Islamabad and Chakoperation and support for this impor- wal Chambers of Commerce for settant project. He said that the business ting up an industrial zone in Chakwal, community should arrange the land necessary infrastructure. He lauded

to promote economic activities and assured his cooperation to resolve their Waqar Zafar Bakhtawari, President key issues. He said that the business community is playing a key role in the economic development of the country egation met with Raja Pervez Ashraf, and the government is determined to promote ease of doing business for them. He also discussed other matters of mutual interest with the delegation. Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad

Pervez Ashraf assures support

for Industrial Zone in Chakwal

Chamber of Commerce and Industry out of the current challenges only by dustrialization. He said that the government should speed up the work on which will help promote industrial

Chakwal Chamber of Commerce and ity to the twin cities and the airport, Chakwal is the most suitable place for the industrial zone, so the government should fully support the implementation of this project. He said that the industrial zone in Chakwal will start a new era of de-

velopment in the area and create lot of jobs for the youth. Former President ICCI Khalid Igba Malik, said that the best solution to promoting businesses, exports and investment, so the government should cooperate with the business community in this regard. He said that the holder in the economy and the governfor the industrial zone and the govern- activities and increase exports. He in- ment should formulate economic poliment will cooperate in providing the vited Raja Parvaiz Ashraf to attend an cies in consultation with them, which important event of the Chamber as a will yield positive results

well-being

join hands

for public

health,

PPAF Chief Operatin and NI Country Director

the PPAF and NI would e gage different level of stal ties to contribute to achiev the goals of Sustainab down by the government he pregnancy, and a high ratio of stunting in children should be taken as a seriou

n ensuring the well-being vulnerable commun ties, especially pertain ing to their dietary needs and address the issue of among women and children across Pakistan," he maintained. – **APP**

Pakistan-USARCENT

on Disaster Management

ISLAMABAD: The four-day

oilateral discussion between making on the regime change, which had Pakistan's Disaster Man badly affected foreign policy of Pakistan. agement Stakeholders and "Absolutely Not narrative of Imran Khan ex-United States Army Central (USARCENT) team conclud ed here on Thursday. Eleven-member USARCENT delegation led by Major General Wendul Glenn Hagler whereas high officials of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Pakistan Army, PMD, FFC, SUPARCO, Rescue 1122 WAPDA and Representative of Ministry of Planning & Ministry of Foreign Affairs participated during interac tive sessions held at NDMA from February 13-16, 2023 a news release said.

The dialogue encompass an overview of Pakistan's hazards and vulnerabilities the disaster managemen outlook and structure of NDMA and its role in inter-The interactive sessions also covered the Floods 2022, post-flood survey and damage assessment, and hydro-mete orological analysis of critical nfrastructure in the light of experiences learnt in after nath of floods 2022. - APP

NUST launches Climate Action Plan

University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) or ganised the first-ever Part-ISLAMABAD: Speaker, National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf on Thursday said dialogue at the local bodies lev-(PCA-2023) conference in el was a must to achieve the targets set under the global Pakistan from February sustainable development goals (SDGs). Addressing at the 14 to February 16 to build conclusion of the one-day dialogue titled "Leading the Localisation of SDGS with the Parliamentary Task Force on towards addressing climate SDGs" by the National SDGs Secretariat here, the National change challenges. Assembly Speaker welcomed the negotiations at the local Themed around the topi "Science for Sustainabi tional SDGs Secretariat MNA Romina Khurshid Alam for | ity," the conference was

semblies. Raja Pervez said dialogue and sitting together of | Internationale Zusamme "When you consult, it provides outcomes which is also the | Cross, Pakistan Red Crescent. International Federa The prime objective was to bring together and connect vouth, academia and other addressing climate change know what are the problems of the common man. - APP | challenges. - APP

Briefs

PBCC awards central contracts to 17 players

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) on Thursday awarded central contracts to 17 players for a term of six months from January to July 2023.

The monthly Honorarium were awarded to players after their notably well in recent domestic competitions, said a press release. The monthly Honorarium has been awarded to two A, four B and 11 C categories, players, respectively. Category A players would get Rs 20,000, Category B Rs 17,000 Category C Rs 15,000 per month, respectively. Badar Munir, Mati Ullah (Category A); Nisar Ali, Moeen Aslam, Faisal Mehmood, Mohsin Khan (Category B); Muhammad Safdar, Riasat Khan, Shahzeb Haider, Muhammad Salman, Anees Javed, Ayub Khan, Zafar Iqbal, Akmal Hayyat, Kamran Akhter, Haroon Khan and

Eight vehicles smuggling wheat, flour impounded with 2114 bags

Sana Ullah Khan (Catego-

RAWALPINDI: The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on vehicles with 2,114 wheat and flour bags while eight accused were sent behind

According to a district man, the food Department Rawalpindi and Potohar raids in Naseerahad, Tax-Khan, Haider, Arif, and

Potohar Division Police conducted raids in their respective jurisdiction and rounded up the wheat flour smugglers. He said that the accused were trying to illegally ship wheat flour and wheat out of the Rawalpindi division. The Food Department Rawalpindi and district police on the directives of the authorities concerned

and flour smuggling bids, he added. COURT NOTICE In the Court of Afshan Younas Civil Judge Gujrat Title: Muhammad Iqbal Versus Province of Pur

were strictly monitoring

all the exit points of Rawal-

pindi district to foil wheat

Notice to: Shahid Ali S/o. Sardar Ali, Azhar Iqbal S/o. Hayat Ali R/o. Ram Garrh, Suleman Ameen NambardarR/o. Ram Garrh S/o. Muham mad Ameen Cast Qraish R/o. Guliana Tehsil Kharian District Gujrat. Suit for Declaration wi

Consequential Relief Whereas in the above-mentioned case it has been proved to the satisfaction of the court that the above mentioned defendants are not served in ordinary way. It is therefore proclaimed under order 5 rule 20 CPC that if the said defendants or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 23-02-2023, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

In the Court of Wagas Ahmed Warriach, Civil Judge Jhelum Suit for posse through pettion Arshad etc. Against

Case title zia baig etc VS Ch (3)Zahida parveen D/O Bashir begum(Late) (10)Zarina begum Daugh-

R/O Chak mughalan Tehsil



ISLAMABAD: People are stands in a queue for driving test to applying for drivers job in Saudi Arbia, at sector I-10 in Federal Capital.— Online

F-9 Park rape case 'suspects killed': Police

The Islamabad police said that when the suspects, Nawab Ali and Iqbal, saw the check post, they opened fire on the cops

related to this case under inves-

making any arrests so far. "It is they have obtained solid evidence.

requested to avoid speculations What happened?

ISLAMABAD: Two suspects allegedly involved in the F9 park rape case were killed in an exchange of fire with cops at a snap checking point set up in the federal capital, the Islamabad police spokesperson said on Thursday. Last night, the police had set up a snap checking point in Sector The Islamabad police said that

when the suspects, Nawab Ali and lice track down 'suspects'

iatory fire adding "the suspects were caught injured but later died when they were shifted to the hospital." The police said suspects Nawab and Iqbal were wanted in multiple cases of street crimes form the authorities if they have case surfaced in the news two ened by the attackers who said against them. One of them was suspects also wanted for a murder during the cops involved in the exchange Khan said that the unfortunate insafety measures. Islamabad Po-

ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Switzerland Georg Steiner met with SAPM, Mr. Jawad Sohrab

Malik to discuss matters pertaining to bilateral cooperation including climate resilience

03. According to an official ucation places universities extending to other higher

of COMSTECH, the work- in a pivotal role within a education institutions and

tional University of Science society. Sustaining leader- excellence in research and

collaboration with Islam- and beyond requires futuris- and indigenous solutions

ic University in Uganda tic thinking, adequate plan- could be developed to

versity in Uganda, Kampala Research excellence of are an ideal conduit for in-

Pakistan will attend the interdisciplinary working towards commercialization

and Switzerland's timely assistance during the recent floods in Pakistan. - DNA

shop will be organized in knowledge-based economy.

collaboration with the Na- connecting all aspects of

and Technology (NUST) in ship for the next decades

ation in collaboration with (IUIU). The workshop will ning, and staying relevant address the great global

other partner institutions be arranged at Islamic Uni- in a fast-changing world. challenges. Universities

while the participants from ten requires collaborative,

Strategy for Excellence", workshop virtually. The across the University, with and impacting the commu-

tigation," the Islamabad Police On Tuesday, Inspector-General

of Islamabad Police Akbar Nasir of fire remained safe due to the cident took place in the unlit part the Senate Standing Committee

a woman in Islamabad's F-9 park tweeted and asked people to in- at gunpoint on February 2. The panied by her colleague - at the park, according to the first information report (FIR).

and over 60 cases were registered any information regarding the days leaving the nation shocked at they would call their "friends" to the audacity of the criminals who join them. Her attempts to run away were also foiled by the attackers, the FIR stated. As they were leaving into a nearby thicket, the alleged culprits reof the park. Khan, while briefing The FIR further stated that the turned "all our things and gave us gun-toting aggressors took the Rs1,000 to stay quiet" while also

her safety, the FIR read.

Iqbal, saw the check post, they A day earlier, the Islamabad Po- on Human Rights, also added that two to a nearby thicket at gunted that the should lice had said that they had tracked the police had not yet made any point and separated them. The not be in the park at "this" time down the suspects of the F-9 arrests in connection with the attackers then beat the young of the night, according to the FIR. HEC invites applications for accreditation of journals DNA

> ISLAMABAD: The Higher Education Commission reditation of Pakistan-based research journals for the year 2023-24 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024). The cations can be submitted at research.hec.gov. ok before March 13, 2023. HEC facilitates national research journals published by registered entities through financial support and capacity building to enhance their academic and publication standards These entities include universities/degree award ing institutions (DAIs), public sector R&D organisations and non-profit academic societies with the mandate for research and having registration with Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) and/or Registrar of Societies only. National esearch journals complying with HEC requirement for accreditation are recognised annually through an open call. Applications are invited for the abovesaid year from all Pakistan-based research journals, which meet the minimum eligibility criteria. The entities applying for accreditation must have valid advisory board with composition of PhD degree hold ers in relevant field or FCPS/FRCSMCPS degrees for medical journals and strong research and publication background. The journal must be owned by a univer sity/DAI, R&D organisation, private society, or NGO must have published minimum five original research articles per issue and at least two review reports of each article. The editor of journal will provide recon mendation letter of head of institution in case of ap proved educational institution or R&D public sector rganisation. The journals owned by non-profit aca-

> be considered only after registration with SECP

and/or Registrar of Societies

from February 27 to March new paradigm of higher ed- in the region, and beyond; nities. - DNA LSMI output falls by 3.68% in 1st half

ISLAMABAD: COMS-

TECH, the OIC Standing

and Technological Cooper-

will hold an International

workshop on "Defining

Research and Innovation

nmittee on Scientific

ISLAMABAD: The output of the Large Scale Manufacturing Industry Sector witnessed a decline of 3.68% during Ju-(7)Ameer begum (8)Saki- ly-December (2022-23) compared to the same period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. According to the provisional quantum indices of Large Scale ters off Shair Ali (11)Saiqa | Manufacturing Industries (LSMI) for December 2022 rebegum grand daughter off leased by PBS, on a Year-on-Year (YoY) basis, the big industry production decreased by 3.51% in December 2022 when compared with December 2021. However, on & District Jhelum. As there | Month-on-Month (MoM) basis, the industrial output is not possible to call the increased by 12.38% in December when compared to defendants through Sum the production of November 2022. The main contribmons in the instant suit so utors towards overall negative growth of 3.68% were through proclamation in food (0.36%), tobacco (0.60%), textile (2.75%) gar-Newspaper, you are direct- ments (4.06%), petroleum products (0.80%), cement (1.04%), pharmaceuticals (1.21%), and automobiles on 20-02-2023 at 9:00AM, (1.36%). The production in July-December 2022-23 otherwise ex-parte proceed- as compared to July-December 2021-22 has increased in wearing apparel (4.06%), leather products (0.04%),

furniture (1.43%), and other manufacturing (0.15%).—APP

ICT admin conducts 1,581 raids against offenders, profiteers

During the crackdown, he said, the teams also sealed two sheesha centers and cafés, arrested managers of two sheesha bars, seized hukkas, their substances, flavoured tobacco and coals, warned violators and directed them not to serve sheesha/hukkahs till the finalization of rules

SLAMABAD :The District from February 01 to 15. Administration Islamabad ducted 1.581 raids across uring the last two weeks. According to ICT spokes-

He said during the adherand warned the shopkeepperson Abdullah Tabbas- ers of strict action against um, the Assistant Com- the use of prohibited bags. nissioners sealed 55 shops He said that 119 professionand arrested 41 violators, al beggars were also arrestwhile five FIRs were also ed during the raids. lodged against profiteers During the crackdown, he

businesses, nationally and

internationally. To attain

innovation, new knowledge

novation, taking research

said, the teams also sealed es. During encroachment two sheesha centers and operations in different Capital Territory (ICT) con- ence to the government no- cafés, arrested managareas, the administration tified rate list of essential ers of two sheesha bars, arrested 20 violators and the city against profiteers, items Assistant Commis- seized hukkas, their sub- lodged FIRs against three. | the earthquake victims in violators and imposed fines sioners also seized 119.7 stances, flavoured tobacco. While taking action against mounting to Rs 1,65,500 kilograms of polythene and coals, warned viola- illegal petrol stations the bags from various shops tors and directed them administration sealed 21 net meeting, the Turkish not to serve sheesha/hukkahs till the finalization of rules. Moreover, 15 illegal

filling stations and arrested 8 violators, furthermore 32 illegal LPG filling stations | has been extending to the were also sealed and 10 earthquake victims. clinics were sealed and handlers were shifted to Eight vehicles smuggling four offenders were also the police station, said the wheat, flour impounded booked for corrupt practic- spokesperson.—APP

H-8 college

05

US provocations on

China threaten conflict

he resolution the House of Representatives unanimously passed last week condemning "the Chinese Communist Par-

States territory" was characteristic of how it has dramatized

the incident. Despite China's timely explanation of the balloon

and its purpose, the US has chosen to showboat instead of han-

As the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress

said in a statement issued on Thursday, the House's resolution is

nothing but malicious hype and clearly indicates that politicians in

Congress are taking advantage of the incident to fan the flames of

confrontation between the two countries. Congress, as the resolution

shows, has become a stage for China-bashing, but t e Joe Biden admin-

istration is also no stranger to such antics. On Wednesday, US Deputy

Secretary of State Wendy Sherman told an event at the Brookings Insti-

tution think tank that the US was committed to supporting Taiwan and

its ability to defend itself, saying that the administration "hopes that

the PRC (People's Republic of China) does not use a visit by a member

of Congress to Taiwan as a pretext for military action." That Sherman,

who gained first-hand knowledge of Beijing's unwavering stance on

the Taiwan question during her visit to China in July 2021, can still

make such an irresponsible remark on the most sensitive matter in

Sino-US relations, demonstrates how casually, if not carelessly, the US

side treats the core concerns that Beijing has repeatedly stressed the

importance of. Although the Chinese side takes seriously the commit-

ments the US has made – that it does not seek a new Cold War with

China; it does not aim to change China's system; the revitalization of

its alliances is not targeted at China; it does not support "Taiwan in-

dependence"; and it has no intention of seeking conflict with China

- politicians in Washington seem to only take it as an impromptu

speech of the US president that has no binding power over them. It

is the lack of cohesion and consistency in the US political system

that renders the tremendous efforts of the Chinese side to stabilize

Sino-US relations a vain endeavor. There is apparently no such

thing as the "guardrails" the Biden administration constantly calls

for to properly manage risks in bilateral relations on the US side.

The Biden administration should realize that each of the provoca-

tions by the US side concerning China's core interests, be it by

Congress, the government or the military, unavoidably erodes the

US side's credibility as a whole, and accumulates risks for a head-

dling it in a calm, professional and restrained manner.

ty's use of a high-altitude surveillance balloon over United

DNA

organizes

parent-

teacher meet

ISLAMABAD: Over 200

parents participated in the parent-teacher meeting (PTM) held at Islamabad Model Postgraduate Colwas to update parents and guardians about the progress of their wards. College was decked up to guardians. The results of students were handed over to parents. It was a big interaction between the teachers and the parents both the strengths and areas of improvements The president of College highlighted the importance of character building of students besides academic activities. Addressing to the parents and guardians, Principal of the college Dr. Muhammad Khalid said "The students want to be come doctors, engineers teachers, bureaucrats and technocrats. College is imparting quality education enabling them to excel in

Parents were extremely delighted to be a part of the PTM

RAWALPINDI: Rawalpinongoing operations against raids in different areas and rounded up 10 drug peddlers and illegal weapon them to let her go and even ofholders besides seizing fered them money in exchange for over 1805 grams of charras. six 30-bore pistols, ammuni-When the victim tried to raise her tion and other items from According to a police spokesman here on Thursday, Phagwari police arrest ed Zakar for having 1420 grams of charras. R.A.Bazhar police held Abdul Wahid with 55 grams of Ice drug while Morgah

peddler identified as Shabana and seized 560 grams of charras. Saddar Baroni police held Fawad for possessing 550 grams charras. The spokesman said that Naseerabad R.A.Bazar. Race Course. Wah Cantt, Gujar Khan and Dhamial police rounded up six accused namely Tahir, Rohan, Kashar, Sanaullah, Asad and Wali, and recovered six 30-bore pistols and ammunition from their possession. Meanwhile, Rawalpindi district police in their ongoing campaign against profes sional beggars rounded up 46 from different roads and intersections. He informed been registered against the accused while further investigations were under process. SSP Operations had directed the police to accelerate their ongoing operations against anti-social elements, he added.-APP

> sympathies with Turkish finance

minister on earthquake losses

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, in a telephone call with his Turkish counterpart, Dr. his heartfelt condolences and sympathies on human and material losses in the recent deadly earthquake in Turkiye. The minister port in this difficult time, tweeted the finance min istry here Thursday. Finance Minister of Turkive Dr. Nebati expressed gratitude to Finance Minister Dar for his call and earlier letter and admired the government of Pakistan for sending immediate relief this hour of need. He further stated that in a cabi

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

Vol: 03 Issue: 169 Email: dailyisbpost@gmail.com Phone: **051-2266165** / **051-2261960** Off: Awan Plaza, Block 18-A, G-8 Markaz Islamabad

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Britain and Europe: Brexit is never 'done'

ishi Sunak's position as prime minister depends on a Conservative parliamentary majority won by Boris Johnson on the basis of three words: "Get Brexit done". Mr Johnson honoured the pledge in the narrow technical sense of completing Britain's legal withdrawal from the EU. But in no other meaning of the words was Brexit done. Northern Ireland's main unionist party rejected the deal before it was signed, and hardline Tory Eurosceptics quickly joined them in denouncing a treaty that they had recently hailed as a triumph. Mr Johnson's model affronted union ists with customs checks in the Irish Sea - a condition of Northern Ireland's special status within the EU single market. The same economic privilege (bestowed in order to avoid a hard border with the Republic of Ireland) gives the European court of justice a remit in the region. For militant Brexiters, that is a portion of UK sovereignty held hostage in Brussels. Mr Sunak's approach to these issues, in contrast to his predecessors, has been de-dramatisation. Diplomacy works, and the outline of a deal is coming into view. The EU will ease technical enforcement of customs rules for a smoother flow of goods across the Irish Sea. The UK will concede that, ultimately, a European court adjudicates on European rules wherever they apply, including Northern Ireland. Even if the problems in Northern Ireland can be mitigated Brexit is not done. Fixing the protocol is a necessary precondition to putting relations on a more functional footing, but not sufficient to restore trust There is the parallel problem of the retained EU law bill, currently making its way through parliament. As drafted, the bill would see swathes of former European rules automatically expunged from the statute book, threatening mayhem in the regulatory framework on which post-Brexit trade is based But that is the point - a scorched-earth flight from European markets to make even modest movement back to integration impossible. That is not Mr Sunak's stated plan, but he dare not repudiate it for fear of riling the hardliners in his party. That is a handicap in a range of future negotiations. The post-Brexit horizon is littered with deadlines and expiring transitional arrangements in various sectors - customs, fisheries, financial services chemicals, safety standards, energy sharing, "rules of origin" for electric vehicles and more - culminating in a formal review of the entire trade and cooperation agreement in 2025. By that point, Britain will have had a general election and Brexit will still not be done. Brexit will never be done, be cause the relationship with Europe is a process of constant negotiation, the terms of which are determined by strategic interests, history, economics and geography. Treaties can describe degrees of political closeness or distance, but they cannot alter the duty of a British prime minister to build trusting alliances with the nation's nearest neighbours. There will, by necessity, one day be a prime minister who is capable of that task. It wasn't Mr Johnson or

Virtual violence: Cyber security and the impact of Ransomware attacks

Masuood Ahmad

Over the years, different countries have managed to get a cyber security mechanism to thwart this dangerous threat that has the potential to compromise the essential security systems of a country. With an increase in the demand for a robust security system, the cybersecurity market has exploded with myriad solutions to counter the threat on display. Most Asian countries, however, rely upon the security mechanism borrowed from other countries which, to a great extent, jeopardizes

creasing cyber-attacks on important security systems of numerous nation-states has among others, has served as the place of origin long history suggests that cyber-attacks originatbecome a challenge to deal with. Attempts to for the highest number of cyber-attacks in the ing from the United States are not uncommon. A access, destroy or delete sensitive data to weak-year 2021. Aron F. Brantly in his research arti-2017 ransomware attack by the U.S. considered en countries are picking up the pace in surprising ways. The global cyber threat continues to remain a major menace with increasing successful attempts of data breaching every year. Among many significant cyberattacks in the your opponent. He goes on to say that, "these known as WannaCry, an attempt was made to derecent past, hackers disrupted access to more acts in combination facilitate state goals, specifistroy the defense and security systems of these than 1500 Nepalese government websites and cally the potential to win wars and achieve relat-countries. In a similar fashion, an attack that latlaunched an attack on the Malaysian defense ed policy objectives." Experts in the field believe er came to be known as Stuxnet malicious attack system in January this year. Interestingly, that anything with such potential other than any was jointly launched by the United States and the countries falling in South and East Asia kinetic action is also violence and can achieve nu- Israel to destroy Iran's nuclear facilities and disare witnessing an overwhelming increase in merous objectives equally. If we look from a mili-rupt their operations. The cyberattacks directed attacks since past many years. Research by tary and security perspective, we find that cyber- upon Shanghai Corporation Organization (SCO) Risk Based Security states that a horrifying 7.9 billion records have been unveiled by but it is a space where offensive and defensive at weakening the nation-states that fall under systematic data breaches in 2019. Over the years, different countries have managed

to get a cyber security mechanism to thwart this dangerous threat that has the potential to compromise the essential security systems of a country. With an increase in the demand for a robust security system, the cybersecurity market has exploded with myriad solutions to counter the threat on display. Most Asian countries, however, rely upon the security mechanism borrowed from other countries which, to a great extent, jeopardizes the already vulnerable data. World's leading cybersecurity technology providers come from the west and have, at times, manipulated less tech-savvy countries for vested

cle The Violence of Hacking: State Violence and to be a global epidemic that affected thousands Cyberspace observes that like physical violence, of computers in 150 countries across the globe the violence that emanates from cyberspace is was aimed to compromise the sensitive data of instrumental in gaining significant control over these countries. In this attack that came to be space is not to be taken only as a virtual space, countries point towards a dangerous trend aime operations take place. During a 2016 Warsaw this organization. summit, the NATO forces aligned cyberspace The SCO in such terrible times needs to develwith other domains such as air, land, and sea. The op its own cybersecurity mechanism that guarsignificance of this space since past few decades antees the safety of sensitive data from these has increased rapidly with different countries countries. These countries should, in a systemdeveloping strong cyber defense mechanisms. atic manner, implement robust cybersecurity Moreover, as part of information warfare, mis-measures that will help them to overcome the information and disinformation are being spread threat of malicious attacks like cyber espionage, with an intent to destabilize countries. To cre-phishing, ransomware, and Distributed Denial ate political or social unrest, false information is of Service (DDOS) attacks. It is important for being spread over social media and other online all nations to respect the sovereignty of other channels. Big IT companies and corporate media nations and refrain from engaging in any illegal is used to attack different countries besides con- or harmful activities that could destabilize interstructing narratives that are amenable to the nanational relations. International cybersecurity tional interests of those who start this cyber war. norms and laws exist to establish responsible interests. Far from maintaining an ethical and A decade ago, The Guardian published a report behavior in cyberspace, and all countries should moral compass, these giant technology provid- on the United States spy operation that controls work together to strengthen the resilience of ers do not adhere to ethical standards and fail to social media to aggressively spread proAmerica their cyber defenses and prevent cyber-attacks. act with integrity and transparency in all their interactions with clients and governments. Cyber between a California corporation with United Threat Intelligence (CTI) in its analysis of iden- States Central Command to "develop an online

ith rapid modern technological advancement across the globe, the threat of increasing cyberattacks on important second of the total axis o 17 percent of the total origins. The country, separate identities based all over the world." A

-The writer is a Ph.D. Scholar at International Islamic University, Islamabad

Is America to be blamed for the escalation of war in Ukraine?

Sheikh Farkhanda

the already

The war has further added to the uncertainties of a crippling post-covid economy that has already led to record rises in inflation and other essential sectors throughout the world. With no end to the war in sight, the fear of escalation and the resultant damage to the world economy loom large in the minds of people. The real impact of the war, many experts say, is yet to be seen as America, in a fresh announcement, has decided to deliver 31 powerful battle tanks

s the Russian-Ukraine war enters its 352th day, the protracted war has already made a dent in world prosperity. The ongoing war is eshaping the global economy in frightening ways and leaders across the globe are watching in complete uncertainty. The war has further added to the uncertainties of a crippling post-covid economy that has already led to record rises in inflation and other essential sectors throughout the world. With no end to the war in sight, the fear of escalation and the resultant damage to the world economy loom large in the minds of people. The real impact of the war, many experts say, is yet to be seen as America, in a fresh announcement, has decided to deliver 31 powerful battle tanks to Ukraine. The decision to send M1 Abrams tanks was taken following Germany's announcement of delivering 14 Leopard 2 tanks to the battlefield. As the conflict gets hotter, questions rise about the role of America in dangerously prolonging the war and thus destroying any chances of peacefully resolving the conflict. Since the beginning of conflict last year, America among other western countries has been inducting modern war equipment's with deadly accuracy into the conflict zone with the sole purpose to see its arch-rival Russia at a strategic low point. Washington's decision to deliver modern artillery to the battlefield has, to many political analysts, come as a blow to the efforts of dragging the two parties -Russia and Ukraine – on a negotiating table. Many observers following the conflict closely believe that the western intervention in providing weapons to deplete Russia will continue to fan the flames and dimmish any possibility of ending the conflict without any dangerous escalation. Since the war broke out in February last year, Ukraine has received weapons and military equipment worth billions of dollars from the U.S. and its allies. The weapons include artillery, anti-aircraft weapons, anti-tank weapons, armoured vehicles, reconnaissance and attack drones, helicopters, small

er security analysts, political leaders, and conflict ob- ently judge Ukraine as less than a full-fledged democ servers from different countries, the Biden adminis-racy – listed as an 'anocracy' by Polity, for instance, tration has been criticized by its own national security and a 'hybrid regime' with 39 percent 'democracy officers for swimming in the troubled waters. "The American legal definitions of what constitutes entering the war are not Mr. Putin's definitions", a senior U.S. national security officer warned while giving an themselves in a manner that may violently escalate interview to a New York Times reporter in March last the conflict in myriad ways. Russia on the other hand year. The country has received flak for fomenting war has strongly reacted to the western response of delivin Ukraine through its supply of weaponry and irk- ering lethal weaponry to the region saying the increasing a nuclear power state. Policymakers and pundits throughout the world have poorly defined the U.S. strategic interests in the ongoing war the effect of a statement given in December last year said that the which is being felt globally. If we look at the apprehensions of defense and political analysts, we find that the conflict and, in fact, does not bode well for Ukraine". the U.S. has run the dangerous risk of direct military confrontation with the Russian state for the sake of aiding Ukrainian soldiers with modern war machinery. Defense analysts also debate about tens of billions of dollars remaining at the stake at a time when perts may snowball into a full-blown war as the situation domestic resource demands are rising at a lightning speed. Besides, how threatening and aggressive the J.S. intervention is likely to be viewed by the Putin administration can altogether change the dynamics of an Union has committed more than 3.6 billion euros in the conflict. All these apprehensions suggest that the armed assistance in financing Ukraine. Instead of accelrisks being run are not negligible and may, in the near erating its efforts for a peacekeeping process, the UN future, cost America and its allies heavily. The of- has indulged in a vague rhetoric that seems far from any ten-propagated narrative that western interference is just to safeguard the liberal order and save democracy is a farce. Joshua Shifrinson, associate professor of International Relations at University of Maryland in his recent research article American Interests in the role, she says that, "it is no longer fulfilling its role as an Ukraine War observes that America has overthrown democratic governments throughout Cold War and all conflict from serving as a spark for a new planetary has frequently allied with autocrats. He notices that Ukraine has a poor democratic record and American already questioned the UN's role in not acting as an imclaims to stand with the democratic order are vague partial negotiator for the betterment of the whole world. and suspicious. He further states that, "independent assessment by Freedom House, the Polity project, or arms, ammunition, and body armour. Apart from oth-

percentage' by Freedom House". All these facts point towards the fact that there is a good chance that the U.S. and its allies are creating strategic dilemmas for ing supply of U.S. arms to the region will aggravate the deadly conflict. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov in western arms supply has resulted in "an aggravation of President Putin has also pledged to strengthen the ca pability of troops and indicated the entry of the Russian military's new Samrat intercontinental ballistic missile The threat perceived by Moscow according to many exworsens. What is more worrying is the EU and UN toe ing the American line in the Russian-Ukraine conflict. Through its European Peace Facility (EPF), the Europe fruitful implications other than furthering the American agenda in the conflict. Author Monique Chemillier-Gendreau is of the opinion that the role of UN has been disappointing in this conflict. While writing about UN's impartial third party between states, preventing bilater explosion." Legal experts from different countries have

The writer is studying Media and Communications at International Islamic University Islamabad

Efforts being made to limit **ECP** powers

From Page 01 Dogar's removal as a caretal er setup had been placed. "As per the Constitution, elections have to be held within 90 days after a caretake setup takes over," said the lawyer. At this, Justice Ahsan asked where the ECP was, while Iustice Nagyi remarked that half of the officers postnot been a transfer," asked Justice Naqvi. Meanwhile. Iustice Ahsan wondered whether the ECP was aware

doing everything apart from its job " remarked Justice Ahsan. The bench after issuthe hearing for an hour. Once the hearing resumed, CEC Raia appeared before told the ECP chief that the added that holding polls is the Constitution on elections being held within 90 days," said Justice Ahsan He also added that in the that the interim government is not empowered to remove officers. The judge also remarked, if a

appropriate order. "Election Commission does not have to follow the orders of the province," said Justice Ahsan. At this, the ECP chief told the bench that if the court wants they can restore Dogar as the CCPO. The CEC said that the ECP did not allow appointments and transfers in the entire province under a single policy. He added that some commissioners, depupolice officers and others to "ensure free and fair elections". "If the court gives an the transfers," said Raja.

transfer is required then

the caretaker government

needs to provide concrete

reasons. He added that the

ECP must examine those

reasons and then issue an

LHC denies bail to Imran

From Page 01 Mr Khan filed the protection tive bail petition after an anti-terrorism court (ATC) cancelled his bail in a case filed against him for prooffice on Wednesday. The high court, however, conditioned Mr Khan's bail on his personal appearance in the case and ordered him 9am on Thursday. Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh had should be presented before pm, if necessary.

govt, says Maryam

It may be mentioned Shaon next day after Maryam Nawaz given the senior slot aqan Abbasi had said he had not given any statement to media on the matter of his resignation. - Online

Egoistic Imran...

From Page 01 system of justice was help less in the face of the stubbornness, arrogance, and egoistic nature of the PTI leader, she added. of Imran Khan, apparently a mentally unstable person. was higher than the Consti tution, law, and courts that the person, who used to make a mockery of the diseases of his political opponents and their platelets counts, besides ridiculing distant past, today became an 'elderly, frail and sick'.

Iran, China presidents urge JCPOA implementation

The negotiations to salvage the JCPOA have been at a standstill since August 2022 due to Washington's insistence on its hard-nosed position of not removing all the sanctions that were imposed on the Islamic Republic by the previous US administration

BEIJING: Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping have called for the full and effective implementation of the Iran nuclear deal by all sides and the removal of all US sanctions against Tehran in a verifiable manner. In a joint statement issued at the end of Raeisi's three-day state visit to Beijing, the Iranian and Chinese presidents reaffirmed that the United States' unilateral withdrawal from the nuclear agreement, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is the root tions to revive the landmark accord. The statement stressed the importance of

removing sanctions and ensuring Iran's economic interests as the fundamental part of the JCPOA, saying, "All relevant sanctions should be removed in a verifiable manner to the bench. Justice Ahsan facilitate the full and effective implementation of the ICPOA." Raeisi and Xi also voiced their strong objection to efforts by some countries to politicize the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in the implementation of the Safeguard Agreement. The negotiations to salvage the JCPOA have been at a standstill since August 2022

Air Chief awards HI (M)

to DG BOMETEC

ISLAMABAD: On behalf of Government of Pakistan, Air

Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, Chief of the Air

Staff, Pakistan Air Force conferred Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military)

upon General Fan Jianjun, Director General Bureau o

Military Equipment Technical Cooperation (BOMETEC)

People's Republic of China, during his visit to Air Head-

quarters, Islamabad today. The award was conferred in rec-

ognition of his wholehearted efforts in enhancing bilateral

military relations and the pivotal role played by General

Fan in PAF's capability enhancement thus ensuring region-

al balance of power. The visiting dignitary called on the Air

Chief in his office. During the meeting several key areas

of mutual interest along with regional developments were

discussed. Chief of the Air Staff shared broad contours

of his vision and PAF's modernization drive to further

augment current operational capability necessitated in

contemporary warfare especially in Artificial Intelligence,

Cyber and Space domains. He also briefed the visiting dig-

nitary about various ongoing projects for PAF's Opera-

The Air Chief also highlighted that both the countries

enjoy historic and unprecedented strategic partnership

and reiterated his resolve to further enhance the exist-

ing bilateral ties in military to military cooperation and

training domains between PAF and PLAAF. CAS further

tional Construct in line with the emerging trends.



tions that were imposed on the Islamic Republic by the previous US administration. Iran, whose strict adherence to the deal had been certified several times by the IAEA, maintains that it is necessary for the US to offer guarantees that it will not withdraw or violate the agreement again. The US has refused, complicating the prospects of the talks. According to the statement, the Iranian and Chinese presidents thoroughly

ISLAMABAD: Group photo with Aman Usman Principal of Regional Director World Yoga

Federation and Muneer Ahmed policy advocacy communication & Outreach consultant

PSL 8:

Islamabad

beats

Karachi

and Azam Khan powered

Islamabad United to vic-

tory over Karachi Kings

ngoing eighth edition of

Pakistan Super League

(PSL) at the National

Bank Cricket Arena ir

Iunro put Islamabad

United in much control

after hitting 58 runs off

iust 28 balls, while Azam

mashed a blistering 44

runs off 28 balls. Mo

hammad Amir and Musa

Khan gave Karachi Kings

The left-arm pacer, Amir

sent Hassan Nawaz (7)

very after the young

patter hit him for a four.

Meanwhile, Musa Khan,

sented Islamabad, got

who previously repre

the better of the dan

gerous batter Paul Stir-

ling after he scored four

runs. - DNA

packing with a short de

early breakthroughs.

Karachi on Thursday.



in a friendly and intimate atmosphere and reached broad agreements, including accelerating the implementation of a strategic 25-year partnership agreement between the two countries.

Iran and China signed the landmark comprehensive strategic partnership agreement against the two countries imposed by the United States. The deal officially documents due to Washington's insistence on its hard-discussed cooperation in all areas as well the Sino-Iranian Comprehensive Strategic rity and supports Tehran's increasing role nosed position of not removing all the sanc- as regional and international developments Partnership that had been announced dur- in regional and international issues.

ing a visit by the Chinese president to Tehran in 2016. It sets the outlines of cooperation in political, cultural, security, defense, regional, and international domains for the next 25 years. Elsewhere in their statement. Raeisi and Xi reiterated their firm support for the establishment of a Middle East free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. They highlighted the role of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in forcing Israel to join the treaty and placing all its nuclear facilities under IAEA supervision. The two sides emphasized the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation of nu-

clear weapons for improving international peace and reiterated their respect for the nalienable rights of all NPT member states to develop nuclear science and technology and obtain nuclear materials, technology and equipment for peaceful purposes. The Iranian and Chinese presidents also expressed their strong support for issues related to the two countries' basic interests, protection of national sovereignty, territorial integrity and national dignity. According to the statement, the Chinese side strongly opposes interference of foreign forces in undermine the country's stability and secu-

England take control of

MOUNT MAUNGANUI: High-octane batting and a precocious day-one declaration put England in control of the first Test against New Zealand in Mount Maunganui on Thursday. The Black Caps limped to 37-3 at stumps in the day-night Test at the Bay Oval, having been thrust on to the back foot by England's swashbuckling 325-9 declared. The tourists raced to their total in just 58.2 overs - boosted by blistering nalf-centuries to Ben Duckett and Harry Brook - as England opened the two-Test series with the sort of attacking approach, dubbed "Bazball", that has carried them to nine wins from their past 10 Tests under coach Brendon McCullum. England captain Ben Stokes instructed his lower-order patsmen to throw the bat before calling them in, leaving 18 overs to bowl at the Black Caps under lights with a new pink oall. The ploy worked as Tom Latham, Kane Williamson and Henry Nicholls departed before reaching double figures. Evergreen seamer James Anderson took 2-11, including the key wicket of Williamson following an lbw review. Opener Devon Conway will resume on 18 and nightwatchmen Neil Wagner on four, with a deficit of 288 runs staring at them on Friday. It was a grim response to an England innings that featured 48 fours and one towering six from Brook off the bowling of New Zealand captain Tim Southee, who was lashed for 2-71 from 13 overs. New Zealand's depleted attack fought back nidway through the second session when Ollie Pope, Joe Root and Stokes fell in quick succession, allowing debut pace bowlers Blair Tickner (1-72) and Scott Kuggeleijn

Swiatek routs Collins in 53 minutes at Doha Open

DOHA: World number one Iga Swiatek needed just 53 minutes to rout Danielle Collins and reach the Doha Open quarter-finals on Wednesday. The reigning French and US Open champion, playing her first match since a shock last-16

exit at the Australian Open, defeated 42nd-ranked Collins of the United States 6-0, 6-1. The Polish star will tackle last weekend's Abu Dhabi champion and world number nine Belinda Bencic for a semi-final spot. "I felt pretty confident," said Swiatek who last season kicked off her 37-match win streak in Doha. "I'm happy that I was kind of composed and from the beginning till the end pretty focused and disciplined with tactics. I didn't really let Danielle get into the rhythm. I wanted to be aggressive." Bencic rallied 6-1, 4-1 down at one stage.



campaign with a 6-3, 7-6 of former Australian Open (8/6) win over two-time champion Petra Kvitova. was undone by 31 unforced

champion Sofia Kenin. American second seed Kvitova, the champion in Jessica Pegula saved two Doha in 2018 and 2021, match points to defeat forracked up 21 winners but mer French Open winner Ielena Ostapenko 6-2, 2-6, errors to Gauff's 14. "I felt 7-5. World number four like I have watched her for a Pegula was down 5-2 in long time, and it was weird the third set and faced the playing her in that respect, match points at 5-4 down, because it's like almost but she recovered to take meeting a celebrity in a victory in eight minutes way," Gauff said of two-time short of two hours. Wimbledon champion Kvi- Pegula will next face Be to defeat Victoria Azarenka tova. The 18-year-old Gauff atriz Haddad Maia after 1-6, 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 after being will next face Veronika Ku- the Brazilian defeated dermetova, who reached sixth-seeded Daria Kasat-World number six Coco her fourth quarter-final of kina 6-3, 7-6 (9/7)

'Flying' Adeyemi sinks Chelsea Win means Dortmund only need a draw in London to progress

to quarter-finals for the second time in the past four years

DORTMUND: A superb length-of-thefield goal from Borussia Dortmund forward Karim Adeyemi helped his side to a 1-0 win over Chelsea on Wednesday, putting them in the box seat to qualify for the Champions League quarter-finals. Adeyemi's goal came during a period of sustained dominance from the visitors early in the second half, with the Germany forward pouncing on a clearance from a Chelsea corner. Adevemi sensed the opportunity and ran the length of the field, rounding both Enzo Fernandez and goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga to give Dortmund the lead in the first leg tie. Dortmund captain Jude Bellingham told German TV when Adeyemi finds himself in space "not many players can really stop him." "He had a tough time coming here at the start - finding his feet - but now he's flying. After the match, Adeyemi praised his side's

er Graham Potter hailed his team's perfor-

backheeled clearance after 15 minutes. Chelsea were soon on the attack again through Mudryk, who won a free kick to the left of the penalty area. Chelsea had the ball in the back that the Punjab Governor of the net through Thiago Silva from the free | filed an interesting appeal, kick but the home side swarmed referee Iesus Gil Manzano in protest A VAR review showed was the responsibility of the the Chelsea captain had intentionally handled the cross and Silva was promptly booked. Dortmund's Julian Brandt and Bellingham continued to orchestrate attacks as the home side dominated possession, which for advice." He stated that the left them vulnerable to Chelsea's counter-attacking raids. The best chance of the same to the Election Commis-

opening half fell to Chelsea's Joao Felix, who muscled past Dortmund fullback Marius Wolf | all would apply article 6 on inside the box to give himself space to shoot, Sultan Sikandar and would be



Islamabad **POST**

Punjab **Elections: SC judges** ask CJP...

From Page 01 saying that the delay in provincial assembly elecions was a violation of the Constitution, "Upholding the Constitution is our moral duty," the SC said, warning of violation of fun-

Violation of Oath: Imran wants...

From Page 01 nran Khan mentione that the former army chief requested Arif Alvi "as suarmed forces to institute an immediate inquiry against him. The PTI chair startling revelations about Imran Khan's government were made attributing General (retd) Bajwa. "He has admitted to a jour be critical to ascertain from him who was the 'we' in ref erence to) considered Imran Khan dangerous to the counpower," Khan said, adding the question that arises is

who gave him the power to decide that an elected prime minister was supposedly a the PII chairman no ed that only the people through elections can decide who they want to elect such a right on himself is in clear violation of his oath as given in Third Schedule Article 244 of the Constitu-

> ı," he alleged. PTI flays govt for political vendetta

From Page 01 sses from the economic atrocities they were inflict Speaker of the Punjab Assembly had written a letter to the President of Pakistan requesting him to bind the Election Commission to hold the election within the stipulated 90 days so as to get the country out of the constitutional crisis. About the KP polls, Asad stat ed that despite lapse of 29

sioner. Fawad said that they

the assembly, Governor KP did not announce the date of the election, which was his constitutional responsibility He said that the attitude de picted that they had a miscon ception that someone would help them save from the punishment for breaking the constitution. He said that if they have time, someone should help them read Arti PTI Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry welcomed the release of Sheikh Rashid and remarked that another political prisoner got freed from jail. He said that the fascist government wanted to send to jails all those who exposed them in the media and Sheikh Rash tive and powerful voices. "Thank you Sheikh Sahil for your bravery," he added About Governor Punial Baligh-ul-Rehman, Fawad said wherein he pleaded that it Election Commission to conduct elections. Fawad said "Baligh pleaded I have no role, so why am I being asked Supreme Court also said the

Business / World

Pak reiterates its view of

Ambassador Sajjad Haider Khan met with Chairwoman of the

Council of the Republic, H.E. Mrs. Natalya Kochanova, to discuss strengthening bilateral ties between Pakistan and Belarus

Celebrations and informed Chairwoman discussed the during the recent Joint Eco- for expanding relations

phasized the importance 2023. Additionally, the two

larus was working on final- trade relations. They em- Minsk from 12-13 January in diverse fields such as only 38 Pakistani students

that the Government of Be- need to expand bilateral nomic Commission held in

Briefs

Kazakhstan to send 55 tonnes of aid to Türkiye

ASTANA: In accordance

with the President's in-

DNA

Minsk: Pakistan's Ambas

Haider Khan, held a pro-

ductive meeting with the

of the Republic, H.E. Mrs

tendance were the Deputy

Committee of the Counci

of the Republic on Interna

News Desk

BRUSSELS: Forging and

maintaining political unity

against Russia's illegal and

Josep Borrell, the bloc's

foreign policy chief, has

were a reflection on the

unprecedented and radical

"Some (member

disaster victims. According order to stand up together

death toll from the earth- brutal invasion of Ukraine

quake exceeded 35,400 in ahas not always been easy,"

struction, Kazakhstan will send 55 tonnes of additional humanitarian aid to Türkiye. This issue was discussed at a meeting of a governmental commission chaired by First Deputy Prime Minister Roman Sklvar. Kazinform reports. The humanitarian aid includes clothes (warm jackets and trousers), tents, metal Chairwoman of the Council beds, bedding, and other essential items. The aid will Natalya Kochanova, at her be delivered by aircraft to office in Minsk. Also in atthe Turkish city of Gaziantep. Earlier, Head of State Chairman of the Standing Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to allocate \$ 1 million as emergency aid for Türkiye to send humanitarian aid to

tional Affairs and National Security, Mr. Valery Gay and tasked the Government dukevich, and Deputy Head of Mission, Momin Aziz Syria through the Organiza- Qureshi. During the meeting, the tion of Islamic Cooperation. Chairwoman emphasized 50 tonnes of humanitarian aid were delivered to Alenpo under the support of between Belarus and Pathe Islamic Organization of Food Security. Kazakhkistan. The Chairwoman also acknowledged the instanis are actively engaged Pakistan in connection with

in collecting humanitarian aid for earthquake-stricken Turkish citizens. First Kazakh vurts have already been installed in Kahramanmaraş. Two earthquakes with an epicenter in Kahramanmaras hit southeast of Türkiye (7.7-magnitude at 04:17 am, and 7.6-magnitude at 01:24 pm local time) last Monday. The tremors, followed by hundreds of aftershocks, were felt in 10 provinces of the country. as well as in neighboring states, including Syria. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared seven days of national mourning among the 27 members in Türkiye for the natural of the European Union in

World's ocean heat grows to

to the latest data, the total

over the past year, many of which entailed prolonged, ued to see ocean heat reach- wire negotiations. "It hasn't ing new records, as the year always been easy, but so far we have managed" to keep unity, Borrell told media according to a recent study. after addressing the Euro-Conducted by a team of 24 pean Parliament in Strasscientists from 16 institutes bourg. mainly in China, the United states) complained, others disagreed, but in the end, we maintained the unity national journal Advances we needed." Until now, the EU has slapped the Kremworth of banned exports, was thought to be possi-

Academy of Sciences. Ocean warming is a key indicator for quantifying climate change since more than 90 percent of global heat ends up in the oceans.

The scientist believes that the increase in heat within of global warming.

ades, Cheng noted.

alliance territory since the foundation of NATO," the alliance's Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said on Thursday. In a joint press conference, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Stoltenberg's visit is meant to show NATO's solidarity dation to be provided by NATO to with longtime member Türkiye after the Feb. 6 twin earthquakes, which claimed the lives of over 36,000 people. Thanking the NATO chief for his "active role" since the very beginning of the disaster, Cavusoglu said: "The NATO Euro-Atlantic Dis- ya, Adana, Diyarbakir, Kilis, Osmaniaster Response Coordination Center has been coordinating this (NATO 13 million people have been affected concerns on the two Nordic countries'

Foreign Desk

ANKARA: Last week's deadly earth-

quakes in southern Türkiye were

'has not always been easy

Keeping EU unity over war

СБРАНИЯ

izing level of participation.

Ambassador Khan and the

the expulsion of key Rus- ble," Borrell said. "Then, sian banks from the SWIFT we also have the diplomatic system, and an extensive battle with the rest of the dists. A 10th package of we have done it badly, but penalties is already under surely we haven't done it work. In his interview with well enough." Euronews, Borrell defended the effectiveness of the Ukraine) has to increase sanctions, describing them and speed up," he went as a "slow-acting but cer- on, without mentioning tain poison" that is inflating the fighter jets that Kyiv is Russia's budget deficit and lin with nine packages of crippling critical industri- ern allies. sanctions, which include a al sectors like car-making far-reaching ban on oil im- and aviation. "We have ports, more than 35 billion done more than what it to help Ukraine is now and

"And the military aid (to pleading to get from West-"That's what I would ask member states. The way

talks with Kosovo deployed around 300,000 soldiers - double the number of soldiers it had before in the capital Belgrade on Wednesday and demanded that the government reject a Western plan on normalizing ties it launched its war last February - and is waiting to with Kosovo and withdraw from negotiations. Protestlaunch an attack "weather ers gathered in front of the presidency building carrying banners that read "Kosovo is the heart of Serbia," "No permitting." "Unfortunately, I'm afraid we're going surrender," and "Betrayal of Kosovo is betrayal of Rusto see this war going on for sia!" They blocked traffic and at one point tore down the another year," he said. "The metal fence next to the presidency and approached the situation is not easy and ouilding, shouting: "Where is (Serbian President Aleksanthat's why we, Europeans, dar) Vucic?" The group then threw eggs at the windows have to keep doing more o and threatened Vucic's life before police detained some of the same thing.' them. Their main demand was that Vucic withdraw from the In parallel, the diplomat negotiations on Kosovo with Western countries and that the added, the EU needs to Association of Serbian Municipalities not be formed. Vucic told a local TV channel that the protesters called for violence

that is based on respect for Ukraine's territorial integriry things," he said. However, Borrell stressed Vladimir Putin.

the fate of the war rests on the shoulders of one single man: Russian President "Putin has said he has military objectives to fulfill and until he has done so, he won't be willing to stop the war," the high represent ative said. "It was he who

who has to stop it."

Sajid Turi calls on UAE counterpart

Belarus as a friend in region ISLAMABAD: Federa UAE counterpart Dr Abdu Al Alwar, on the sidelines of the 'World Governmen Summit' in Dubai. The Pakistani delegation, led by relations and employment opportunities for Pakistanis in the United Arab Emir Pakistan's view of Belarus ates, according to a pres as a friend and partner in release. Issues of mutua the region. He also highinterest also came under lighted the elaborate mechighted the issues faced Pakistani workers in form of over 80 bilateral the UAE, including their Agreements/MoUs, Joint working conditions and Economic Commission. and various Joint Working Pakistani community. Both sides explored ways to fur ther enhance the existing Lastly, Ambassador Khan and the Chairwoman distwo countries in the field of

cussed the importance of expanding cooperation in the fields of health and edthe UAE share a strong oond based on brotherhood eligion, culture and trade suring a transparent pro-Both the dignitaries agree cess for selection of genwho are keen to avail med-

orkers in the UAE. -DNA Türkiye's fundraising campaign for quake survivors

tops \$6B

ANKARA: Türkiye's new One Heart" ("Türkiye Tek Yürek'') raised over TI 115.1 billion (\$6.1 billion) as many Turkish televisio and radio stations joined forces late Wednesday to hold an aid drive to help the survivors of last week's dev astating earthquakes. A joint broadcast hosted by eight national TV chan nels, including ATV - a TV station owned by Turkuvaz Media Group - was live streamed on more than 200 Turkish and internationa channels and over 500 radio

and abroad.

cluding children, adults corporations, religious mi labor unions in Türkiye and several other countries ioined a massive fundraising campaign to heal the wounds of dozens of thousands of earthquake sur vivors. Moderated by TV personalities Nihat Hatipo Pelin Cift, former model Ca la Sikel, media mogul Acun Il cal and others, the fundraiser was held live for seven hours. At the same time, more than 9 million SMS were sent through the country's telecom opera tors for the campaign. The of large corporations and more, who pledged to make donations to Türkive's Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD)

and the Turkish Red Cres-

Millions of people, in

govt not her

said, "Pakistan values its strong diplomatic, economic, de fence relationship and time-tested friendship with China which are based on convergence on all important issues relating to regional peace, security and stability". The Air Chief also lauded the cooperation offered by China as Pakistan's strategic partner in the realization of an independent technology-driven PAF and its innovative plans. General Fan Jianiun thanked the Air Chief and the Government of Pakistan on being awarded with Hilal-i-Imtiaz (Military) and hoped that cooperation between the Air Forces of the two countries will continue to expand in future. – **DNA** From Page 01

hid Khaqan Abbasi had resigned from party office in the party. Shahid Kh-

desire to fight for giving them an advantage

about the goal," he said. "Everyone fought do better. "We have a team in progress, we to work as a team, the visitors' individufor everyone else - (the win) was really im- know there are a lot of positive things there." portant for the return leg." Chelsea managin London to progress to the quarter-finals mance but lamented their failure to score. for the second time in the past four years. "We were close to scoring ourselves. They While Potter may still be working on how to

had a little bit of luck, but I'm really happy broke on us. It's disappointing, we need to get his squad of expensive newcomers al quality and speed on the counter was Mykhailo Mudryk's pace troubled the home side frequently early and forced Dortmund central defender Niklas Suele into a looping

in Atmospheric Sciences. Compared with 2021, the previous hottest year ever recorded, the upper 2,000 oceans have absorbed a larger amount of heat that's "enough to boil 700 million kettles, each containing 1. liters of water," said Cheng Lijing, an author of the study and researcher at the Institute of Atmospheric Physics under the Chinese

the oceans is further proof Records for ocean warming have been broken almost yearly since 2017. Due to sponse to global warming, the trend of ocean temper atures will persist for dec-Besides temperatures, the salinity of ocean water, and it found that areas of

high salinity had an increase in salinity, whereas the opposite was true for areas of lower salinity. "The salty gets saltier, while the fresh gets fresher" pattern also reached its highest level on record in 2022, said the study. Warmer oceans lead to sea level rises and more extreme weather, in the form of strong storms and hurricanes. They also become less efficient at absorbing carbon, causcarbon dioxide to remain in the atmosphere, exacerbating global warming. Better awareness and unes in ocean heat and salinity are a basis for the actions to combat climate change, Cheng added, explaining the significance

Scientists also ocean data recorded last vear by the Chinese institute and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the aid) assistance since the beginning. study.-APP

Pakistan HC in Dhaka Inaugurates Sir Syed Corner

DHAKA: Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka on Thursday inaugurated Sir Syed Corner at the Chancery, space dedicated to the works and life of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. The High | Karabakh is unacceptable, Commissioner for Pakistan to Bangladesh Mr. Imran Ahmed Siddiqui opened the corner during a ceremony attended by academia, intellectuals, Pakistani diaspora, and local journalists. The event started with the screening of a video documentary about the life and services of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan followed by speeches of renowned historians, writers and professors of Pakistan Studies and History on life of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. Dr. Abid Hussain Abbasi, Professor of Pakistan Studies & History at National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad, Dr. Amjad Abbas Khan Magsi, Associate Professor at Pakistan Study Centre, University of Punjab, Lahore, Prof. Dr. Fakhrul-Islam, Director of Pakistan Study Centre at University of Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Dr. Abdul Rauf Rafiqui, Director, Abdul Samad Khan Achakzai Shaheed Chair at University of Balochistan, Quetta and a famous scholar on Sir Sved Ahmad Khan in their respective video messages highlighted the contribution and services rendered by Sir Sved Ahmed Khan for Muslim naissance in South Asia. The speakers emphasized on the social, literary and particularly the educational services of Sir Syed which later paved way for launching an organized freedom movement against the British Rule by leaders emerged from those educational institutions.—APP

Armenia's interference in Karabakh reintegration process unacceptable BAKU: Armenia's inter- for the protection of the that Armenia has not yet called that Karabakh is an

Foreign Ministry Spokesoerson Ayxan Hajizada. Responding to remarks by Armenian Security Council Secretary Armen Grigo- such statements indicate ryan that the draft peace greement included the creation of an internation the rights and security of Armenians living in Karabakh", Hajizada stated that such manipulations impede lack of interest in establishing peace in the region. "In the course of the peace agreement negotiations, Ar-

tents that are suitable for winter contremors that struck Türkiye in the

ye, Sanliurfa, and Elazig. More than Cavusoglu urged addressing Türkiye's

ditions from their inventory to our

country." Cavusoglu said the NATO

chief will also be received by Turkish

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on

Thursday and then proceed to the

quake-hit Hatay region, where he will

meet with National Defense Minister

Hulusi Akar. Akar and Stoltenberg

will discuss supplies for accommo-

quake victims and visit the site for the

preparation of these facilities. The

magnitude 7.7 and 7.6 tremors on

Feb. 6 were centered in Kahraman-

- Hatay, Gaziantep, Adiyaman, Malat-

maras and struck 10 other provinces

Quakes in Türkiye deadliest disaster NATO territory

Separately, Cavusoglu noted that they

addressed certain regional matters,

including Sweden and Finland's NATO

accession bids. Underlining the impor-

tance of the trilateral deal signed last

June between Türkiye and the Nordic

countries, Cavusoglu said: "There are

certain steps, especially steps to be tak-

en by the Swedish side and the provoca-

tions that took place they have not been

tively." He stressed that Türkiye favors

strengthening NATO and pledged his

country's continued support to neces-

by the devastating quakes. Several bids not just on paper but in actions Türkiye has legitimate security con-

space of less than 10 hours.

pletely groundless, and such anything," the official said. According to the minister,

The NATO Council has also decided countries in the region, including Syr- as well. "Just as Sweden doesn't allow cerns, no country has suffered more

in Sweden have not contributed posistruction and supporting the displaced.

sary activities in the alliance. However, and Finland's bids, the NATO chief said:

allow terrorist group PKK propaganda

either," he added. In its more than 35-

the PKK - listed as a terrorist organiza-

the European Union – has been respon-

sible for the deaths of at least 40,000

people, including women, children, and

the support of NATO allies to Türkiye

infants. For his part, Stoltenberg noted

during such difficult times and said:

"This is true and deep solidarity." "The

That is why NATO is now setting up

temporary housing for thousands of

displaced people," he said. On Sweden

"The time is now to ratify both Finland

and Sweden." "I fully recognize that

tion by Türkiye, the United States, and

ference in the process of rights and security" of the given up its territorial integral part of Azerbaijan, reintegration of Armeni- Armenian residents living in claims against Azerbaijan, hence the rights and securians living in Azerbaijan's Azerbaijan's Karabakh, and contrary to the norms and ty of Armenians living in the efforts to include this in the principles of internation-region will be ensured in ac-Azernews reports, citing draft agreement, are com- all law and the Prague and cordance with the Azerbaija Sochi agreements which ni constitution. Azerbaijan other's territorial integrity stated that it is determined and sovereignty The minister once again remenian origin with the same

between the two countries and noted that presently

Serbian nationalists

march against

normalization

and asked what Damian Knezevic of the ultranationalist Peo-

ple's Patrol meant when he addressed the government, say-

ing: "You are fearing riots. I swear to you, we are ready for

more than that." "Do you really think it's possible, you think

efficiently, very quickly, very seriously and very responsibly.

said Vucic, accusing the protesters of being anti-Serbian and

receiving funding and support from "a foreign country." He

added that all those who threatened to kill him and pledged

riots if Belgrade attempts to improve ties with Kosovo will

be held accountable in accordance with the law, "Those

who think they can bring down Serbia with their untruths,

their brutal lies, those who think they can bring down a

serious state with threats, with a few guns, their connec-

tions they have in some foreign country, the support

they receive in money, mostly in cash from some for-

eigners, and justifying it with great patriotism, and as

they do a lot of good things for their country, they can

never beat Serbia," said Vucic.-Agencies

rights and freedoms as all the citizens of the country. sion of the OSCE Ministerial Council, Foreign Minister Ievhun Bayramov stitution provides a solid ties and local ethnic Armenian residents need to be

said, adding that the two Nordic states'

Quran in Stockholm "a disgraceful act."

long-standing policies of military nona-

lignment and applied for membership

cent (Kızılay).–APP New strike underway in France against to provide its citizens of Ar pension reform PARIS: French unions have called a new strike by

workers for the fifth day of action against Presiden said that Azerbaijan's con- | Emmanuel Macron's plans to reform pensions. legal framework in this re- | French | lawmakers | are gard, adding that increased | debating a pension bill to dialogue and contacts over | raise the minimum retire the past months between | ment age from 62 to 64. central Azerbaijani authori- | President Macron says the sion system. The strike on Thursday was held as fewer workers participated during school holidays across mos normally during the day to send (residential) containers and ia and Lebanon, also felt the strong Daesh/ISIS propaganda, they shouldn't terrorist attacks than Türkiye," he memberships "will actually strengthen our capabilities to fight international than 3,000 megawatts, or the equivalent of three burning of the Muslim holy book the nuclear power plants without affecting supply to The Nordic countries abandoned their end users. On Wednesday

> in the military alliance after Russia | from the grid. launched its war on Ukraine last Feb-And on Thursday, 30 pe ruary. But NATO member Türkiye has cent of flights from Paris beneficial – especially the provocations focus going forward will be on reconnot vet endorsed their accession, which requires unanimous approval from all | Police said they were exexisting alliance members. Turkish offipecting demonstrations cials say the countries, particularly Swe- by up to 650,000 people den, have yet to take necessary steps | nationwide, after counting against terrorism. Talks on their membership bids stalled after pro- | day. The unions, however, vocative demonstrations and Quran been 2.5 million.—APP



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Briefs

4th Pak-KSA joint drill 'Al **Kassah-IV** concludes

ISLAMABAD: The closing ceremony of the fourth Pakistan-Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Joint Military Exercise "Al Kassah-IV" was held at the Military College of Engineering, Risalpur on Thursday. It was the 4th joint exercise of the Al-Kassah series as part of bilateral military cooperation between both friendly countries. The troops from Royal Saudi Land Forces and Pakistan Army participated in the exercise. Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

The two-week-long exercise was aimed at sharing mutual experiences in the field of route search, area search, vehicle/ personal search, and area clearance operations. The drills and techniques regarding improvised explosives devices (IED), vehicle improvised explosive devices (VIED) anti-suicidal, victim-operated improvised explosive devices and handling of explosives were the special focus areas of the joint exercise. The Engineer-in-Chief Pakistan Army witnessed the closing ceremony as chief guest, whereas a high-level military delegation from KSA, headed by Director General Engineers Major General Saad Misfer Alqahtani, also attended the ceremony. - APP

Explosion in Jaffar **Express** claims 2 lives

CHICHAWATNI: An explosion in Jaffar Express near Chichawatni has left two persons dead and several injured. The explosion occurred in washroom of fourth bogie of the train. 14 persons from Tableeghi Iamat were travelling in fourth bogie. The train was on its way from Quetta to Peshawar

On information police, rescue 1122 and other institutions rushed to the scene. As per preliminary information the explosion took place due to gas leakage. The passengers said the

explosion occurred as soon as the train left Mian Chunnon. The passengers kept on pulling emergency chain but the train staff did not pay any heed to it. The bodies and injured persons were shifted to hospital. Police have started investigation and they are trying to ascertain the nature of explosion. On the other side the care taker chief minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has taken the notice of the incident. - Online

Bilawal to attend Munich Security Conference

ISLAMABAD: Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will undertake a visit to Germany to attend Munich Security Conference-2023 from February 16-20. During his visit, he will participate in several events and engage with international media, a Foreign Office press release said. The foreign minister will also hold bilateral meetings with foreign ministers from around the world. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar will also attend the Munich Security Conference. Besides, on the invitation of the Lithuanian counterpart, Foreign Minister Bilawal will undertake a bilateral visit to Vilnius on February 20-21. During the visit, MoU on establishment of Bilateral Political Consultations between the governments of Pakistan and Lithuania will be signed.

Foreign Minister Bilawal will hold talks with his Lithuanian counterpart and call on the Speaker of the Lithuanian Parliament. In the last leg of his tour, the foreign minister will visit Hungary from February 21-22. He will hold official talks with his Hungarian counterpart where the two sides would deliberate upon the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.- APP



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal along with the CEO Air Link Communications Muzzaffar Piracha, Ambassadors of Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and CEO Serena Hotels South and East Asia Aziz Boolani inaugurating the CEO Book during a function held at the Islamabad Serena Hotel. - DNA

Ukraine pounded by missiles as Russia eyes capturing Bakhmut

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's army has received vast amounts of aid, particularly from the United States which has committed more than \$27.4 billion since the conflict began. Senior US officials have advised Ukraine to hold off with an intended counteroffensive until latest supply of US weaponry is in place and training has been provided

KYIV: Russia rained missiles across Ukraine on Thursday and struck its largest oil refinery, Kyiv said, while the head of the Wagner mercenary group predicted the long-besieged city of Bakhmut would fall within a couple of months. Following a pattern of heavy bombardments after Ukrainian battlefield or diplomatic gains, Russia launched 36 missiles in the early hours, Ukraine's Air Force said, after NATO alliance officials met the previous day to plot more support for Kyiv. About 16 were shot down, it added, a lower rate than normal.

The missiles triggered air-raid sirens and landed all over Ukraine, including at its largest oil refinery, Kremenchuk. The extent of damage was unclear at the unit, hit several times during the war with operations halted at least once. "Another massive missile attack by the terrorist state on civilian infrastructure in Ukraine," the Defence Ministry tweeted. Ukraine said the barrage included three KH-31 missiles and one Oniks which its air defences cannot shoot down. Police in Moldova said they again found missile debris near the border with Ukraine.

Bolstered by tens of thousands of reservists, Russia has intensified ground attacks across southern and eastern Ukraine in recent weeks, and a major new offensive appears to be shaping as the first anniversary of its Feb. 24 invasion nears. The conflict has killed tens of thousands of people, pulverised Ukrainian cities, destabilised the global economy and uprooted millions of people from their homes. Showing the scale of disruption, Germany said 1.1 million people arrived from Ukraine in 2022, exceeding its unprecedented migrant influx in 2015-16.

Russia's current focus is on the small city of Bakhmut in Donetsk, one of two regions making up the Donbas, Ukraine's industrial heartland now partially occupied by Russia. In battles led by the Wagner group swelled by prison recruits, Russia has for months been pounding and encircling Bakhmut. Most of its pre-war population of about 70,000 people have left, leaving Ukrainian soldiers dug in. Bakhmut's capture would give Russia a stepping stone to advance on two bigger cities, Kramatorsk and Sloviansk, further west in Donetsk. But Ukraine and allies say seizing Bakhmut would be a pyrrhic victory given the months it has taken and what they claim is enormous loss of life in waves of Russian assaults.

In an interview with a pro-war military blogger, Wagner head Yevgeny Prigozhin forecast Bakhmut would fall next month or in April, depending on how many men Ukraine throw into the fight and how well his men are supplied. "Because there are a huge number of problems that need to be solved. Naturally it will also depend on whether we continue to be bled," he added, referring to the end of prisoner recruits. As Ukraine burns through munitions fast and clamours for heavier firepower, including tanks and fighter jets, NATO members are ramping up production and promised more during meetings in Brussels this week. President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's army has received vast

amounts of aid, particularly from the United States which has committed more than \$27.4 billion since the conflict began. Senior U.S. officials have advised Ukraine to hold off with an intended counter-offensive until the latest supply of U.S. weaponry is in place and training has been provided. Zelenskiv thanked Norway for pledging \$7 billion over five years, its largest aid ever for a single recipient nation. Russia calls the invasion a "special military operation" against security threats and has cast deliveries of heavy weapons to Ukraine as proof that the West is escalating the war.

Kyiv and its allies call Russia's actions a land grab. Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen and Canadian counterpart Melanie Joly were the latest in a stream of foreign dignitaries to travel to Ukraine. Cohen was to meet Zelenskiy in the first such visit during the war from Israel, which coordinates with Russia over strikes on suspected Iranian targets in Syria and has stopped short of pledging any direct weapons supplies to Kviv.

Joly met first lady Olena Zelenska and announced C\$21.2 million (\$15.8 million) in aid to address conflict-related sexual violence and demining of Ukraine, among other work. "Canada will continue to support them on the path toward peace and pursue accountability for the horrific crimes being committed across Ukraine for as long as it takes," she said. Zelenskiy, who has become something of a global celebrity during his leadership of Ukraine's war effort, was to open the Berlin Film Festival via video. Belarus, which allowed Russia to use its territory to send troops into Ukraine at the start of the war, said it would only fight alongside its ally if it was attacked.

Hike in price of petroleum challenged

LAHORE: Hike in petroleum products price has been challenged in Lahore High Court (LHC). The petition has been filed by a citizen Munir Ahmad through Azhar Siddique advocate making ministry of petroleum, OGRA and others respondents. It has been said in the petition that hike in the prices of petroleum products is illegal. The court should nullify this enhancement in the prices of petroleum products.

It is pertinent to mention here government has scaled up the prices of petroleum products and with this increase the new price of petrol per liter has been fixed Rs 272, high speed diesel Rs 280 and light speed diesel Rs 196.68. – **Online**

'Pakistan to welcome investment from UAE'

ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said on Monday that Pakistan would welcome investment from United Arab Emirates (UAE). During a call on meeting with Chief Executive Officer, Executive Director and Managing Director of International Holding Company (IHC), Syed Basar Shueb, Dar explained to him various investment opportunities in Pakistan. He informed the CEO of IHC regarding the recent visit of the prime minister and his various meetings held with Emirati businessmen and investors. - APP

Lukashenko **warns Belarus will** ioin Russia

MINSK: Few people know Vladimir Putin quite as well as Alexander Lukashenko does. The authoritarian leader of Belarus is a firm Kremlin ally and backer of what Mr Putin refers to as the "special military operation" - what most of the world calls Russia's war in Ukraine. Since his full-scale invasion of Ukraine a year ago, Mr Putin hasn't sat down with Western journalists. But in Minsk, Mr Lukashenko took questions from a small group of foreign media, including BBC. "Last year you allowed your country to be used as a staging ground for Russia's invasion," journalist reminded Mr Lukashenko. – **DNA**

SC orders all parties topay four percent super tax

ISLAMABAD, Feb 16 (APP): The Supreme Court on Thursday accepted appeals of the federal government and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) and ordered the largescale manufacturing industries to pay 4 percent supertax. A three-member SC bench comprising Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Justice Ayesha A Malik and Justice Athar Minallah heard the case regarding collection of super tax from large scale industries. It should be noted that various industries had challenged the super tax levied in the last year's budget, after which the Sindh High Court had invalidated the collection of 10 percent super tax from last year. The federal government and FBR had filed an appeal in the Supreme Court for recovery of super tax.

Last year, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif announced a 10 percent tax on major industries including cement, steel, sugar, oil and gas, fertilizers, LNG terminals, textiles, banking, automobiles, chemicals, beverages and cigarettes. Through the Finance Act 2022, the government introduced a new section C-4 in the Income Tax Ordinance to impose a super tax on high income earners. Through this section, FBR had imposed 10% super tax on 13 sectors earning more than Rs 150 million in FY 2022. The decision had since been challenged on various grounds

in almost all the high courts of the country. Similarly, more than 100 petitions were filed in the Sindh High Court challenging the constitutionality of the provisions of the Finance Act, 2022. The petitions stated that the federal government has also imposed tax on past transactions in the Finance Act 2022.

On December 22, 2022, the Sindh High Court had declared the tax implementation invalid from the previous fiscal year and stated that the tax would be applicable from the next tax year. However, the federal government and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) filed appeals in the Supreme Court. While ruling on the above appeals, the Supreme Court ordered the payment of 4 percent super tax to all the parties. Earlier on February 6, the Supreme Court modified the interim order of the Lahore High Court and directed taxpayers with higher income to remit 50 percent of their super tax directly to the FBR within a week. - APP

Rana Sana Ullah demands for Pervaiz Elahi's leaked audio forensic



KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD, Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah on Thursday demanded the forensic test of former Punjab chief minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi's alleged leaked audio tape in which he was allegedly talking about managing the courts. The minister while addressing a press conference, here, urged the chief justice of Pakistan to take notice of the matter to bring the culprits to justice. "If the former Punjab CM

is found guilty after the forensic, then the matter should be presented before the judicial committee," he remarked. He said FIA was tasked to arrest Pervaiz Elahi after the forensic audit of the audio conversation. "Prima facie, Pervaiz Elahi should be arrested after the registration of a case,' said the interior minister adding the FIA has been directed to consult the law ministry. Sana Ullah said it was not the first audio leak, such conversations were leaked on multiple occasions but no action was taken so that was why former Punjab CM fearlessly managing the top court of the country. Late issuance of NOCs from other departments like the irrigation department, railways, etc., or due to obstruction in the right of way or removal of built-up properties. Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah also played the censored leaked audio clip in which the PML-Q leader [Pervaiz Elahi] can be purportedly heard discussing about the cases being heard in the top court. Referring to the audio leaks, Sanaullah said he censored the leaked audio clips as he did not want to reveal the identity of the superior court judge before forensic analysis. "How courageously he [Pervaiz Elahi] was managing the country's top court. I will request the chief justice to take notice of this," he remarked. The minister also criticised PTI chief Imran Khan for not appearing in the hearing despite court orders. "It is obligatory for everyone to show respect and dignity for the courts, but Imran despite repeated summons was not appearing before the court and violating the law," he said.

