

Chaudhry has urged the United States to play its due role and help resolve the lingering Kash mir dispute in line with the UN Security Council resolutions. He expressed these views in a meeting with Senator Chris Van Hollen in Washington today. Referring to the situation in the held territory, AJK President said that Modi government's 5th August 2019 unilateral move has pushed the region into a quagmire of chaos and uncertainty.

#### Sherry blames IK for inflation

#### **MAHNOOR ANSAR**



that he was not responsible

Terrorism a common threat STAFF REPORT ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has said it does not believe in finger pointing because terrorism is common threat for both Pakistan and Afghanistan. This was stated by Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, while replying to a question during her weekly

from Afghan interim govt as

news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday. She went on to say government has started investigation into suicide attack in Peshawar. Precious lives were lost in terror attack. Pakistan expects cooperation from Afghan interim government. Terrorism is common threat both for Pakistan and Afghanistan. We hope no country will allow its soil to be used for terrorism.

The Spokesperson expressed Pakistan's resolve to root out the evil of terrorism and safeguard the security of every citizen.

She said we do not believe in accusations or finger pointing. However, we would reiterate our expectations that no country should allow its territory to be used for perpetrating terrorism against Pakistan. It is time that the commitments made to the world are fulfilled with sincerity and in good faith actions. Responding to another question, the Spokesperson said Pakistan has a foreign policy that prioritizes developing good

She said we have constructive dialogue

relations with all countries.

with all countries, including Russian Federation, the United States, the European Union, and our neighbors. She said bilateral relations with Russia, including economic cooperation, will further deepen in future. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch informed that Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar will undertake a two-day visit to Sri Lanka from tomorrow. The Spokesperson said that the Minister of State will participate in the 75th Independence Day of Sri Lanka as a Guest of Honour. In addition to attending the Independence Day events, she will call on the Sri Lankan leadership and hold a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka.

The Spokesperson further said Pakistan and Sri Lanka have historic ties that have grown steadily in all aspects of bilateral cooperation. We also have worked closely in multilateral forums including SAARC. The visit of the Minister of State would contribute to enhanced understanding between the two countries and signal Pakistan's support for Sri Lanka in a difficult time.

She said earlier, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari undertook an official visit to Moscow at the invitation of Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergei Lavrov from 29-30 January 2023. This was Foreign Minister's first visit to Moscow which

**Continued on Page 06** 



STAFF REPORT

ident Maryam Nawaz said

Thursday that she would

meet Shahid Khaqan Abba-

si following his resignation

from the party's office upon

The former prime minister

resigned from the party's

position on January 3 - but

it came to light a day earlier

- and maintains that it is not

appropriate for him to share

the same party rank with

Maryam. Maryam, who is

also the party's chief organ-

iser, said that she would call

on Abbasi, and both of them

would share their thoughts on the party's matters.

IHC rejects

PTI plea

against ECP

verdict

SHUJAAT HAMZA

Tehreek-e-In-

Marvam's elevation.

BAHAWALPUR: As her promotion to the party's high rank is well in debate, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice-Pres-



#### NAZIR SIYAL

KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveiling the plaque

of unit 3 of Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (K-3). - DNA

KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurated K-3, the third unit of Karachi Nuclear Power Plant in Karachi today which will produce 1,100 megawatts of electricity. The project has been completed with assistance of China. Addressing the occasion, the Prime Minister stressed the need of fully tapping coal, wind and solar energy potential of the country to meet energy demand and reducing dependency on imported fuel for energy purpose. He said K-3 is a step forward in cooperation with Pakistan's trusted friend China. He also congratulated the scientists and workers of Pakistan and China which led to the completion of the project. The Prime Minister said in view of 27 billion dollars energv import bill, Pakistan requires alternative and cheaper sources of energy including solar, wind, hydel and nuclear. He said Pakistan is gifted with enormous resources with **Continued on Page 06** 



for the terrorism and inflation rise in the country. In a series of tweets, the Federal Minister presented a charge sheet against the former prime minister by raising ten clear queries for him to justify his conduct. Senator Rehman said, "He (Imran Khan) says, he is not accountable, the previous regimes prior to his government are responsible.

#### IMF deal to help Pakistan

#### NAZIR SIYAL

Fi



ister Miftah Ismail Thursday while speaking at the World Islamic Economic

Forum Conference said the issues of the government with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will be resolved and the default threat will be averted. Miftah Ismail said that the IMF team is in Pakistan currently and all the issues with the government will be resolved which will ultimately avert the threat of Pakistan being defaulted.



Turkiye keen to boost bilateral trade with Pakistan - Page 02

UN Women to support GEWE in Pakistan - Page 03

President orders enquiry against the NHA officials – Page 04

India's bulldozer regime is evicting Muslims, killing justice – Page 05

> Barcelona earn tense win at Real Betis – Page 06

ICCI appeals Indonesia for reconsidering curbs – Page 07

Zeroing in on terrorist network behind attack - Page 08

Fawad warns of Article 6 if polls delayed Says Sharif, Zardari families have no political future

Sheikh sent on 2-day physical remand STAFF REPORT ISLAMABAD: A local court in Islama-

#### KHAYAM ABBASI

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) for levelling allegations against former Senior Vice President Fawad Chaudhry made president Asif Ali Zardari. The former it clear that the elections was the sole panacea to the prevailing problems currently confronting the country and those who were creating obstacles in holding the polls within 90 minister, who is a close aide of Pakidays were violating constitution and would stan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman face Article 6. Addressing a press conference Imran Khan, was arrested from Murhere on Thursday, Fawad, who was flanked ree Motorway, police confirmed this by PTI senior leaders Hammad Azhar, morning, in a move that drew strong

Continued on Page 06

**Continued on Page 06** 

**Putin compares Ukraine war** with victory over Nazi Germany Citing Germany's decision to send Leopard tanks

to Ukraine, he claims history was repeating itself

#### NEWS DESK

MOSCOW: Vladimir Putin has compared Russia's invasion of Ukraine to the fight against Nazi Germany, in a speech to mark the 80th anniversary of the conclusion of the Battle of Stalingrad. Citing Germany's decision to send Leopard tanks to Ukraine, he claimed history was repeating itself. "It's unbelievable but true," he said. "We are again being threatened by German Leopard tanks.'

Germany is one of many countries helping Ukraine defend its territory. Russia launched its bloody, full-scale invasion almost one year ago, prompting Western countries to send weapons and aid to the government in Kyiv. Speaking in Volgograd - the modern name for Stalingrad - Mr Putin hinted that he could move beyond conventional weapons. "Those who hope to defeat Russia on the battlefield do not

understand, it seems, that a modern war with Russia will be very different for them," the 70-year-old leader said. "We are not sending our tanks to their borders, but we have the means to respond. It won't be limited to the use of armoured hardware. Everyone must understand this." Mr Putin was in Volgograd to mark the anniversary of the end of the Battle of Stalingrad, the decisive World War Two conflict which saw Russia capture nearly 91,000 German troops and turn the tide of the

war. Over a million people perished in the battle - the bloodiest of World War Two. Throughout the war in Ukraine, Mr Putin has falsely sought to present the conflict as a battle against nationalists and Nazis - who he claims are leading the Kyiv government.

And he returned to the theme throughout his speech. "Now, unfortunately, we see that the ideology of Nazism, already in its modern guise, in its modern manifestation, again creates direct threats to the security of our country," he said.

"We are once again forced to repulse the aggression of the collective West." But he vowed that while it was "unbelievable but true" that Russia was again being threatened by German tanks, Moscow had an answer for any country that threatened it. Volgograd was temporarily renamed Stalingrad for the day to mark the occasion, and earlier this week a new bust of the former Soviet leader Joseph Stalin was unveiled.

BUREAU REPORT

LAHORE: Fourty-three former lawmakers of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) have knocked on the doors of the Lahore High Court, requesting it to set aside the Election Commission of Pakistan's notifications removing them from their National Assembly seats. Petitioner Muhammad Riaz Khan Fatyana and 42 other lawmakers filed a petition through Barrister Ali Zafar on Thursday, requesting the court to set aside the two notifications through which their resignations were accepted by

**Continued on Page 06** 



#### A PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE BY MURREE SPARKLETTS LET THE CUSTOMER DECIDE!

Others call it "Marketing Support", "Trade Promotion", "Exclusivity Rights", "Shelf placement"- we call it UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES. Millions of rupees are exchanging hands above and below the table in the garb of product promotion. Trade institutions i.e Resturants, Marts & other outlets are being bribed & forced to keep/sell only specific products. We at Murree Sparkletts (a division of Murree Brewery Company) believe all such practices are unethical. We say LET THE CUSTOMER DECIDE which product to consume. By dishing out millions of rupees, beverage companies are depriving the public at large their right of choice.





PICTURE ON PAGE 02

bad on Thursday approved a two-day

physical remand of Awami Muslim League (AML) chief Sheikh Rashid

Ahmed in a case registered against him

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Thursday turned down a petition filed by the Pakistan saf against the Election Commission of Pakistan's (ECP) verdict in the pro-

hibited funding case. A Shahbaz Gill and Ali Awan, said that the criticism from the former premier. larger bench, headed by

**Continued on Page 06** 

## NATIONAL

### Islamabad **POST** Friday, February 03, 2023

## **Turkiye keen to** boost bilateral trade with Pakistan

#### DNA

02

SIALKOT: Ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye to Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci said on Thursday that his country was keen to boost mutual trade with Pakistan, and pledged to help remove all hurdles in this regard.

He was addressing a meeting of Sialkot exporters at the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) here. SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik, Senior Vice President (SVP) Wahub Jahangir, Vice President Amer Majeed Sheikh and Sialkot business community representatives were also present.

The ambassador stressed that Turkiye was making all efforts for enhancing and strengthening its economic ties with Pakistan. He said that the two brotherly countries had signed a trade agreement, allowing both countries in principle greater access to each other's markets to increase the volume of trade. The two sides are committed to increasing bilateral trade volume to

\$5 billion over the next few years, he added. The ambassador highlighted the two countries' support for each other during "critical times," as the relationship evolved from a strategic perspective. He said that Turkiye and Pakistan celebrated 75th year of establishment of our diplomatic ties last year. He said promotion of bilateral trade linkages depended on better coordination, interaction, and understanding among business communities of the two countries. He said that the entrepreneurs of both countries should know each other more and work hard to expand trade and economic relations while he assured that his embassy would fully cooperate in such efforts. He invited the Sialkot exporters to diversify their product line, mentioning that most innovative goods

were produced in Sialkot. Ambassador Mehmet Pacaci said Pakistan and Turkiye are two brotherly countries having centuries old relationship. Turkish people have great love for Pakistani brethren. "We will not leave alone Pakistan in this critical period of time," he promised. He said he would motivate the Turkiye business community to buy the Sialkot-made products directly from Sialkot instead of purchasing such products indirectly from the other countries on high prices.

The ambassador showed keen interest in SCCI's documentary "Sialkot, the City of Progressive People", which was screened during the meeting.

SCCI President Abdul Ghafoor Malik said that Turkiye and Pakistan are brotherly Islamic countries sharing religious, cultural and sociopolitical heritage. He said that Pakistan and Turkiye have to translate brotherly relations into economic terms as trade remains an untapped area between the two countries. He said the volume of trade between the two countries as per the State Bank of Pakistan was US\$1.13 in FY 2021, with a balance of trade in favour of Turkiye at US\$886 million.He said that there was a huge scope to increase this volume of trade as both sides had a huge unexplored trade potential.

ISLAMABAD: Police officials escort the Chief of Awami Muslim League (AML) and former Interior Minister Shiekh Rashid arrives to attend hearing at additional and sessions court in Federal Capital, As Court sends Sheikh Rashid on two-day physical remand.-Online

Imran politics leads to

destruction of country

being a victim of terrorism

and whose own activists had

been killed by the terrorists.

He said that Imran Khan's

false allegations could pro-

duce dire consequences in

the streets and neighbor-

hoods of the country as the

followers of his party could

He said that Imran Khan's

political agenda stood for

ruining Pakistani society, in-

stitutions, and economy. He

said the PTI Chairman had

been fulfilling the designs of

Ghani said that with the pas-

sage of time, the objectives

enemies of Pakistan.

show a violent reaction.

## CM Sindh lauds MALC

ister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that the Leprosy Control Program started in the 1960s as a joint venture between the Sindh Health department and Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre (MALC) and within 55 years they successfully controlled Leprosy in 1996 making Pakistan the first country in EMRO (Eastern Mediterranean Region Office) region where Leprosy was controlled well ahead of WHO target of the year 2000. He congratulated MALC and the Health Department for their incredible accomplishment in creating such an exemplary model of long association and collaborative efforts toward Leprosy Control in Pakistan.

This he said while speaking at the 70th World Leprosy Day organized by Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre (MALC) at a local hotel on Thursday. The program was attended by CEO MALac Mr. Mervyn Lobo, German Ambassador Mr. Alfred Grannas, German Consul General Dr. Rüdiger Lotz, Parliamentary Secretary Health Qasim Soomro, Special Assistant to CM Sadiq Memon, Secretary Health Zulfiqar Shah and various others. Syed Murad Ali Shah said

ISLAMABAD: Sindh Lato take steps and adopt bour and Human Resources policies to eliminate the ter-Minister, Saeed Ghani, has rorists. The Sindh Labour said the majority people of Minister said that Imran Pakistan recognize the situ-Khan had levelled an utterly ation that the way of Imran false and baseless allegation Khan's politics leads to the against former president Asif destruction of the country. Ali Zardari that the former president had plotted to kill Speaking at a press conference here on Thursday, the the PTI Chairman and also Sindh Labour Minister said had hired services of a terrorthat Imran Khan was an evil ist outfit for the purpose. He politician who wanted to recalled that PPP had never harm the country. talked about revenge despite

He said that Imran Khan's statements before and after the recent Peshawar bombing tragedy were highly alarming, showing how his party had taken steps to facilitate the terrorist outfits to regroup in the country. He said that such certain ill-advised decisions had been taken in the previous regime of PTI without taking the nation, parliament, or National Security Council into confidence.

He said that all the concerned political parties, the army, and other concerned quarters had to be united

> KP Governor for announcement of

behind funding to Imran Khan by Israeli and Indian lobbies had been becoming clear. He told media persons the PPP had adopted the due legal recourse against allegations leveled by the PTI Chairman by sending him a legal notice.

He said that the corrupt practices of the PTI Chairman had become obvious, as there had been a massive increase in his assets in just one year. He said that former Interior minister Sheikh Rasheed had been arrested through a lawful procedure, as another case should be lodged against him for his foul statements after his arrest.

To a question, Ghani said that being a political worker he believed that victimization of Opposition politicians shouldn't take place in the country as the past regimes of PPP had fully adhered to this principle. But at the same the action should be taken by the government if anyone takes the law into his hand, he added.

this. It would be appropriated to announce the date of the election after consultation with all stakeholders." He said that during a meeting with the tribal elders, he

#### Adviser and Coordinator for Chief Minister Balochistan calls on PRCS Chairman Prov-



ISLAMABAD : Adviser and Coordinator for Chief Minister Balochistan Musa Jan Crescent in dealing with Achakzai called on Paki-

Achakzai appreciated the role and services of Red climate change and natura

ing the lead in serving the suffering humanity and also hinted that in the coming days the Red Crescent wi

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Min-

**Court Notice** In the Court of Afshan

Younas Civil Judge Gujrat Title: Farhat Sultana.

Versus ince of Punjab etc. Notice to:

Sarwar Jan D/o. Muhammad Din through CH. Ghulam Abbas S/o. Fazal Hussain cast Jutt R/o. Thapla Tehsil Kharian District Gujrat.

Suit for Specific Relief & Degree with Permanent Injection 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 will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in court at 8 AM on 06-02-2023, otherwise case will be decided ex party.

### **Court Notice**

In the Court of Afshan Younas Civil Judge Gujrat Title: Muhammad Asif. Versus M u hammat

Notice to: Rasib Hussain S/o. Gull Muhammad Cast Gujjar R/o.

Jora Jalalpur Tehsil & District Gujrat. Suit for Permanent Injection 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 will not appear personally or through a duly authorized agent or pleader in

court at 8 AM on 08-02-2023. otherwise case will be decided ex party.

#### **Court Notice**

In the court of Miss Afshan Younis Civil Judge 1-Class Gujrat.Suit For Declaration With Consequential Relief,Title:Khawar Begum V/S Province of Punjab etc,NoticeTo:4)Zulfiqar Ali S/o Hakim Ali,8)Tariq Mehmood S/o Bashir Ahmed Caste Gujjar R/o Budho Kalaus Tehsil Kharian District Gujrat,Present Address Younan, Whereas Service of defendants is not going to be effected through ordinary means.So.service of defende ants be effected through proclamation in the newspaper. you defendtants are directed to appear in court in person or through counsel on 10/02/2023 at 9:00AM,failing which exparte proceedings shall be initiated against you. Civil Judge Gujrat.

stan Red Crescent Society Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari at PRCS National Headquarters here on Thursday and conveyed good wishes to him on behalf of CM Balochistan Abdul Qudus Bizenjo.

In a meeting, Musa Jan

calamities. He lauded PRCS services and humanitarian assistance in mitigating the sufferings of vulnerable and distressed families during flood response 2022. On behalf of the CM Balochistan, he congratulated the leadership of the Red Crescent for tak-

CCPO chairs meeting,

says security beefed up at

Lahore sensitive places

LAHORE: Capital City Police Officer Additional IG Bilal Siddique Kamyana said on Thurs-

day the Lahore police had beefed up security, particularly at sensitive installations includ-

ing police stations and offices, foreign consulates and other important places in the provin-

cial capital. He was presiding over a meeting at Capital City Police Headquarters to review

the overall situation of law and order, security and crime control. He informed the police

officers about his priorities. After completion of the posting process of senior police of-

ficers including superintendents of police (SPs) and sub-divisional police officers (SDPOs),

he gave his team targets regarding crime control and service delivery. Kamyana ordered

for speeding up crackdown on criminals and anti-state elements. The CCPO Lahore said

that in the present security situation, maintenance of peace and security was the biggest

challenge. He warned that negligence or lethargy in implementation of security standard

operating procedures (SOPs) would not be tolerated. The police officers should revisit

and evaluate the security arrangements at police stations, police offices, sensitive places,

installations and private institutions under the Security of Vulnerable Establishment Or-

dinance. He ordered an indiscriminate action for not deploying security guards at private

and commercial establishments. He ordered for installing stricter checking mechanism

at the entry and exit points of the city. The CCPO ordered to ensure 100 per cent attend-

ance of employees at the police stations and offices. He ordered for ensuring immediate

registration of FIRs [First information reports] in the incidents of crimes against property,

carrying out investigation on merit and timely conviction by courts to provide justice to the

aggrieved parties. "The SDPOs have to play a key role in maintenance of law and order,

security, crime control and investigation matters. Therefore, they should be proactive and play their role as the team leaders," the CCPO Lahore said. "The pendency in cases under

investigation was an important issue for which the SPs and SDPOs should sit with the inves-

tigating officers and complete the challans at the earliest," he stressed. The CCPO Lahore

declared it mandatory for SPs to immediately reach the scene of violent crimes including

dacoity, murder, double or triple murder, molestation of women and children. -APP

also help in the rehabilitation of the victims and the reconstruction of the infrastructure. He said PRCS under the leadership of Sardar Shahid Ahmad Laghari has been engaged in serving the vulnerable communities and this is the real worship.-APP

that World Leprosy Day gave us an opportunity to acknowledge people who have experienced leprosy, raise awareness of the disease, call for an end to the stigma attached to it, and at the same time express gratitude for the commitment of millions of workers, professionals.-APP

#### FIA arrests Imran Riaz Khan

LAHORE: Journalist and anchorperson Imran Riaz Khan has been arrested by the Federal investigation Agency (FIA) for his controversial statements. FIA officials said that Imran Riaz Khan was stopped and arrested by the FIA Cybercrime Wing at the Lahore Airport when he was trying to travel to UAE. Earlier, Imran Riaz Khan said he was informed by authorities that his name was "blacklisted" and he can't leave the country. The anchorperson said his luggage was seized and was asked to wait. Later, the FIA Cybercrime Wing took Imran Riaz Khan into custody and shifted him to unknown place from Lahore Airport. This is not the first time that Imran Riaz Khan has been arrested, last year, the journalist was also taken into custody by police from Islamabad Toll Plaza.-APP

## **CNS** visits forward naval posts

KARACHI: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi visited forward posts in coastal areas and inaugurated a 25-bed hospital at Turbat. The state of the art hospital is aimed to provide quality medical facilities to local populace along with troops. Upon arrival at Turbat, Naval Chief was received by Commander Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Ovais Ahmed Bilgrami.

Chief of the Naval Staff was given detailed briefing on operational preparedness of units and deployed troops. Naval Chief interacted with the troops and expressed full satisfaction on operational preparedness and combat readiness. He appreciated the high morale of troops in ensuring impregnable defence of the country in the prevailing

challenging environment. The Naval Chief also reiterated Pakistan Navv's

resolve to safeguard the maritime frontiers of the country besides ensuring

socio-economic uplift of coastal community as foremost initiatives.-DNA



### elections date in consultation with APC

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Ghulam Ali on Thursday reiterated that he wanted to hold elections in the province in 70 to 90-day but emphasised institutions." on conducive and peaceful environment for the polls. Addressing a joint press conference here at the Governor House along with caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan, he said, "we are ready to hold elections

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came to know the situation in the tribal districts was not up to the mark, but a single party was not underin 70 to 90 days, but an standing the gravity of the all-party conference should situation. The Governor be convened immediately to deplored that despite the decide election day in con-Peshawar Police Line blast, sultation with the relevant the PTI leadership was insisting on an election date, The governor said that he adding that nobody from had written a letter to the PTI attended the funerals Election Commission and of the martyrs. He said that its interpretation was total-Imran Khan was blaming ly different. "I want to hold him for delaying the eleca peaceful election when

tions and clarified that he the assembly was dissolved, asked the Election Commisthe situation was not like sion to hold elections.-APP The Smooth Moving Connection reeline MOVERS PACKING, SHIPPING & FREIGHT FORWARDING MAI 🎯 Fain FIDI





Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Kabul
Room No.14 &15, 3rd Floor, Kahkashan Mall,	F-4, Gulberg Centre,	Office No. C-9, 2nd Floor, Zaheer Plaza,	House # 4, Street # 4,
Main Tariq Road, 172-1, Block-2, P.E.C.H.S,	Main Boulevard, Lahore.	Latif Abad, Ring Road, Peshwar.	Charahi Ansari Road, Shahr-e-Naw,
Karachi. Tel: (+92-21) 34530626,34310478	Tel: (+92-42) 35758861, 35761085.	Tel: (+92-91) 2582778	Kabul - Afghanistan.
Fax: (+92-21) 34531747	Fax: (+92-42) 35711420	Fax: (+92-91) 2582898	Tel: +93 799021 773, 93 797595 808, 93 778468 268.
E-mail: karachi@freelinemovers.com	E-mail: lahore@freelinemovers.com	E-mail: peshawar@freelinemovers.com	E-mail: kabul@freelinemovers.com



#### National Days and Armed **Forces Days**

#### **FEBRUARY**

Feb 04 / Sri Lanka **National Day** 

Feb 06 / New Zealand **National Day** 

Feb 06 / Uganda **Defece Forces Day** 

Feb 11 / DPR Korea **National Day** 

Feb 16 / Lithuania **National Day** Feb 18 / Gambia

National Day

Feb 19 / Nepal National **Democracy Day** 

Feb 23 / Brunei National Day

Feb 23 / Guyana National Day

Feb 23 / Russian Federation National Army Day

Feb 23 / Tajikistan **Armed Forces Day** 

Feb 25 / Kuwait **National Day** 

Feb 27 / Dominican Republic **Independence** Day



#### Hotels & Restaurants

Serena Hotel....111 133 133 Marriott.....051-2826121 Monal.....0334-5421812



Airlines Turkish Airlines......8494949

## **UN Women to support GEWE in Pakistan**

Country Representative, UN Women Pakistan, Sharmeela Rassool emphasized "The UN Women Strategic Note consists of 5 output areas

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN) has announced the launch of its Strategic Note (SN) to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women & girls in Pakistan. The objective

of the launch event was to inform all stakeholders and partners of its strategic priorities for the period starting from 2023- 2027. While welcoming the partic-

ipants, Country Representative, UN Women Pakistan, Sharmeela Rassool emphasized "The UN Women Strategic Note consists of 5 output areas contributing to a single outcome that is advancing gender equality and women empowerment. UN Women Pakistan aims to position women as change agents in every sector and creating environment for them to become their own

launch of Strategic Note, solution architects. SN is formulated and de-Head of Resident Coordinator's Office, Mr. Shah Nasir veloped through an inclu-Khan said, "Gender equalsive process and is aligned



discrimination."

"Women and girls play an

important part in the de-

velopment of any country.

tory legislation."

The thematic focus of the SN Outcome aligns with the thematic priorities of the UN Women's Global Strategic Plan(SP and includes both traditional and emerging areas of work: normative frameworks, data architectures, innovative gender financing, access to goods, services and resources, voice agency and leadership and social norm change. Embedded into the SN structure are linkages complementarities and across the five outputs, including cross-cutting UN system coordination, which results in an SN outcome that is envisioned to be greater than the sum of its parts. The chairperson, NCSW Ms. Nilofar Bakhtiar, Secretary Ministry of Law and Justice Mr. Raja Naeem, Team leader European Union Mr. Sven Ruesh, Dr. Maha Noor Deputy Ambassador the Norwegian Em-Royal bassy, Ms. Saadia Khan .SECP .Commissioner along with UN Women team also spoke at the

#### UAE delegation calls on Saad Rafique

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) called on Minister for Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique and discussed matters related to increased cooperation in the aviation sector between the two countries. The aviation minister hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting delegation, a Press Information Department (PID) news release said here on Thursday It said Pakistan and UAE enjoyed brotherly and historical relations and the two countries always cooperat-

ed in difficult times. Bilateral cooperation for the development of the aviation sector would prove to be an important milestone in promoting existing relations, it said adding aviation sector played an important role in economic development. "Through joint efforts, Pakistan and UAE can ensure growth in the aviation sector." –APP

#### Aviation sector gets Rs 2474.87 mln for 15 projects

ISLAMABAD: The government has so far released funds amounting to Rs 2474.87 million, under the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP 2022-23) against a total allocation of Rs 2484.87 million to execute 15 different projects and schemes aimed at ensuring improved aviation sector services in the country. Out of the total authorization/ disbursement of Rs 2474.87 million, around Rs 450.50 million have been utilized on the aviation sector projects during six months (July-December) of the current fiscal year, according to official data available with APP. As per the PSDP document, an amount of Rs 2.303 billion had been allocated for 10 ongoing schemes, out of

which Rs 60 million were

meant for construction

of Airport Security Force

### NA body for resolving **Baluchistan issues** for Communications), Ehsan

with UNSDCF- 2023-2027.

In addition, the SN guides

the UN Women's work in

the country. While congrat-

ulating UN Women on the

ISLAMABAD: toward their resolution. National Assembly Special Committee on Baluchistan on Thursday highlighted the importance of working in a unified manner to address decided to frame Terms of Reference (TORs), and the long-standing prob-

various initiatives and plans The Committee comprising to improve the standard of living, provide basic necesprominent members from various political parties and sities, and create job opportunities for the residents of government stakeholders Baluchistan. The speaker expressed his

ity and women empower-

ment is a guiding principle

that applies to everything

the UN does. I applaud UN

Women on the launch of its

Strategic Note and wish its

implementation will shift

power structures and the

economic, social, and politi-

Ur Rehman Mazari (Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination). Nawabzada Shazain Bugti (Federal Minister for Narcotics Control), Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar (Federal Minister for Law & Justice), Noor Alam Khan (Chairman PAC); MNAs Khalid Hussain Magsi, Usama Qadri, Muhammad Junaid Anwar Chaudhry, Prof. Dr. Shahnaz Baloch. Zia Lango (Home Minister Balochistan), Nawabzada Mir Gohram Khan Bugti (Advisor Labour & Manpower, Govt. Of Balochistan), and government functionaries from the federal and provincial government were also present in the meeting.-APP

I commend UN Women and congratulate the entire team on launching this important plan which will ensure women and girls living secure and prosperous lives which, are free from any form of violence and benefiting from non-discrimina-

cal systems that perpetuate In his keynote speech honorable Chief Justice Federal Shariat Court, Dr. Syed Muhammad Answer said,

# launching event.

**IIUI** award

certificates to

301 students

ISLAMABAD: Around 301 students were given certificates

during a graduation ceremony of the National Freelance

Training Program (NFTP) held at the new campus of the

President IIU, Dr. Hathal Homoud Alotaibi as a chief guest

International Islamic University (IIU) on Thursday.



#### Emergency

Rescue (Police).....15 Bomb Disposal.....15

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



#### Enquiry

Edhi Ambulance.....115 PIAFlightInfo.....114 PIACargo......9280979 Railway Inquiry.....117 Railway Exchange9270831-5 WASA Rawalpindi..5555489 CAA ...9281092



#### Hospitals

СМН	5611111
MH	561116
Cantt Hospital.	9270907-11
DHQ	5556311-4
RGH	9290301-7
Holy Family	9290322-7
PIMS	9261170-79
Polyclinic	9218300-09
Shifa Internatio	nal.4603666



#### Departments

CDA9221334-43			
CDA9208301-04			
Met Office9250360-6			
RDA5555864			
TMA5770886			
Cantonment Board 9270151-3			
Late as also d			

#### Islamabad Metropolitan

Corporation......9209224 Potohar Town......9209224 RawalTown......5773343

Water Tank Islamabad.....0321-5744480

lems faced by the province and ensure the welfare of its people. The meeting chaired by National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf stressed the importance of involving all rel-

the Muslim world.

evant stakeholders in the decision-making process to ensure that their perspectives and concerns are taken into account.

oil and gas companies and The meeting was aimed at addressing the pressing fixation of job quotas. issues faced by the Baluch-Besides that, the Commitistan province and working tee members discussed

Speakers for collective

efforts to solve Muslim

prepare a list of the most satisfaction with the propressing issues for their ceedings of the meeting and fast tracking. Initially, the emphasized the need for concommittee agreed to take tinued cooperation and collaboration among the memup the issues of non-provision of gas to local resbers to achieve the desired idents in certain areas of outcomes Baluchistan, rehabilitation

He thanked the members for of flood-affected people, their participation and comrepatriation of Internally mitment to finding solutions Displace Persons (IDPs), to the challenges faced by the illegal occupation of land by province. Besides Speaker, Sardar

Ayaz Sadiq (Federal Minister for Economic Affairs), Asad Mehmood (Federal Minister

> lamic Studies Department of Riphah International University and Kirikkale University of Turkiye. The chief guest of the opening session was Ambassador of Turkiye Prof. Dr Mehmet Pacaci. Vice Chancellor, Riphah International University, Prof. Dr Anees Ahmed, Dr Shaheen, and Dr Adam Yildirim, Dr Ghulam Yogir from Kirikkale University were among the key speakers. Prof. Dr Mohyuddin Hashmi thanked the Vice

Chancellor Prof. Dr Nasir Mahmood for providing support and patronage in organizing the conference.-APP

distributed the certifica among the tion of their training at IIUI centre. The ceremony was also attended by Ali Aghar, Senior Joint Secretary Ministry of Information Technology and Telecom, Program manager, PITB, Muhammad Amjad, members of the PITB, Vice Presidents of IIUI, Deans DGs and senior faculty members. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Hathal said that digital transformation was an important aspect of the modern higher education landscape, and it had the potential to transform the way students learn, the way teachers teach, and the way researchers conduct research. He said that the self-employment programs for youth were vital for the growth and development of any nation. He added that universities must encourage entrepreneurship and prime focus must be on providing students with an enabling environment of Digi skills and opportunities to pursue freelancing career. It will equip them with the tools they need to succeed. "By encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation, we can help to create new businesses, new jobs, and new opportunities for all," IIU President opined. Senior Joint Secretary Ministry of Information Technology and Telecom Ali Aghar said that the ministry was focusing on reducing the unemployment and promoting the youth sustainability. He said the ministry was working to provide enabling environment to the youth to be involved in emerging technologies. He said the ministry was keen to provide training and expertise to youth in the fields of Artificial Intelligence, cyber security, E-knowledge, block chain and E-health. He assured of continued efforts for the digitally skilled youth. Program manager, PITB, Muhammad Amjad told that this project was covering 3 main domains including technical, creative design and content marketing to the citizens who own a Bachelor's degree and were under the age of 40. He told that 20 k household had benefited from these centers that were 20 in total and 20 more soon being added. Earlier, Dean Faculty of Computing and IT, Dr. Asmatullah Khan in his welcome address discussed the importance of freelancing and role of IIU in promoting contemporary training and technology. He thanked IIUI management, ministry of IT and telecom and PITB for cooperation . - APP

#### Cultural. Folk Night enthralls audience

ISLAMABAD: 'Mausikaar', a music organization for the preservation of traditional music and welfare of the artists of Pakistan, arranged a Cultural and Folk Night here late Wednesday to entertain the fun lovers of the twin cities. The event showcased cultural and Sufi dances by a dance group that presented folk dances of all four provinces and Gilgit-Baltistan and concluded on Dhamaal, instrumental performances, including Rubab and flute representing the musical diversity across the country. The show also included a performance by students from Quaid e Azam University who presented the folk culture of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "The event was an effort to engage the young generation in healthy activities and give a boost to their talent through a platform to bring positivity in them," said the organizers.-APP

Camp at Islamabad International Airport, Rs 29.871 million for building barrack accommodation for ASP personnel along with Mess and allied facilities, ladies rest room, MT, Store, Kote Magazine, Quarterguard and OC accommodation/ room at Skardu Airport, Rs4 million for construction of Barrack accommodation for ASF personnel along with Mess and allied facilities, MT, Store, Visitors Room, Ladies Rest Room, Kote Magazine, Quarter Guard, and OC accommodation/ Room at Chitral Airport, Rs 5 million for construction of double storey Barracks for ASF at Faisalabad Airport, Rs 5 million for construction of Rain Water Harvesting Kasana Dam at Islamabad International Airport, Rs 25 million for for installation of Weather Surveillance Radar at Karachi, Rs580 million for installation of Weather Surveillance Radar at Multan, Rs 10 million for installation of Weather Surveillance Radar at Sukkur, Rs 2 billion for new Gwadar International Airport (NGIA project), Rs 150 million for up-gradation of ASF Academy, Karachi and Rs 15 million for up-gradation of ASF Academy, Karachi (Feasibility & Supervision).-DNA

#### Can diet help improve depression symptoms?

ISLAMABAD: Depression is such a common mental health disorder that it affects around 5%Trusted Source of all adults around the world, according to World Health Organization (WHO) estimates. There are different types of depression - such as major depressive disorder and persistent depressive disorder lasting for at least 2 years. The causes of depression are often manifoldTrusted Source, with both genetic and situational risk factors involved - specific stressors or conditions, acting as triggers, leading to recurrent major depressive episodes. And while targeted therapy and medication help many overcome or manage their symptoms of depression, these interventions do not work equally for everyone.-APP

#### world's problems ISLAMABAD: Speakers day, and presided by Prof. Dr Mohyuddin Hashmi at an international con-Dr Mohyuddin Hashmi. and Vice Chancellor, Prof. ference on 'Islam and In-They said, "Islam insists Dr Nasir Mehmood for orterpretation' emphasized on ensuring peace and to ganizing the conference to the need for collective highlight the true message understand the message of academic efforts to solve of Islam at the global level, Islam. The conference was contemporary problems of there is a need to underorganized by the Departstand the meaning of Isment of Islamic Thought, The conference was held lam." They congratulated History and Culture, Alla-Dean, Faculty of Arabic ma Iqbal Open University and Islamic Studies, Prof. in cooperation with the Is-لأأله الأاللية محمدة شة ل الله

ISLAMABAD : Students of Model college F/11-3 pose for group photo with Chief guest Director Colleges Aftab Tariq and Principal Farah hamid in kashmir Day ceremony held on Thursday.-DNA

at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) on Thurs-SLAMABAD MODEL COLLEGE FOR GIRLS, F-11/3, ISLAMABAD,

## 04

## **TWIN CITIES**

### Islamabad **POST** Friday, February 3, 2023

**ECP** appoints

DROS, ROS and AROs for

conducting

bye elections ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Thursday ap-

pointed District Returning Officer (DROs), Returning

Officers (ROs) and Assis-

tant Returning Officers

(AROs) for conducting bye elections in 33 constituen-

cies of National Assembly

on March 16, said a notifica-

### **Briefs**

## **Seminar on** Gandhara civilization held at PAC

RAWALPINDI: A seminar was organized at the Punjab Arts Council (PAC) on Gandhara civilization on the eve of the Gandhara Festival 2023. Dr Ghani Ur Rehman presided over the seminar, while Dr Zubia Sultana performed the duties of the host. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Ghani said that the ancient kingdom mentioned in the Vedas and Buddhist scriptures was established from the 6th BC to 11th centuries AD and extended to the present-day KP, Punjab and Potohar. When Ashoka came here in 230 BC, people converted to Buddhism in great numbers, he said adding that it was a modern civilization with monasteries, places of worship, educational institutions and commercial centres.-APP

#### IHC forms larger bench to hear case against Imran

ISLAMABAD: Chief Justice Islamabad High Court (IHC) Aamer Farooq on Thursday formed a larger bench to hear a petition seeking the disqualification of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan for concealing information about his alleged daughter Tyrian White in his nomination papers submitted to the Election Commission of Pakistan. The IHC resumed hearing today, filed by a citizen Sajid Mehmood seeking the disqualification of Imran Khan under article 62(i)(f) of the Constitution.

The counsel for Imran Khan, Salman Akram Raja, couldn't appear before the court due to engagements in the top court.

The associate lawyer said that the reply had been submitted to the court on the behalf of Imran Khan. The chief justice noted that

Imran Khan had stated in his reply that he ceased to be a member of Parliament, therefore the court could not proceed against him.

He also added that the fur-



ISLAMABAD: People stands in a queue for boarding in Blue Line bus station in front of PIMS hospital in Federal Capital. - Online

## **President orders enquiry** against the NHA officials Inquiry was ordered over non-payment of land-acquisition

compensation to affectees in Surab, Balochistan

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has expressed displeasure over the non-payment of compensation for four years to 23 affectees of land acquisition in Surab, Balochistan, and upheld the orders of the Wafaqi Mohtasib (WM) directing the National Highway Authority (NHA) to conduct an enquiry against the officers/officials who were responsible for the delay and submit compliance re-

port within 30 days of the receipt of the order. He further directed that it was incumbent upon NHA to appear and explain its position in the implementation proceedings as to why the orders of the Mohtasib had not been complied with. The President gave this decision while deciding on a case where residents of Surab, Balochistan had approached WM and alleged that NHA had acquired their agricultural land through the Deputy Commissioner about four years ago for

the construction of a road. They had further complained that the road had been completed but they still had not been paid the compensation amount for their lands. They had requested NHA for compensation but to no avail. after which, they took up the matter with the Mohtasib, who gave the orders in their favour. NHA then filed a representation with the President against the orders of the Mohtasib. The President rejected NHA's representation and stated that the

negligence of NHA was quite clear as it had caused a delay in payment and was responsible for managing funds and making payments to the affectees at the earliest. He noted that NHA initiated the case for approval of ECNEC after a delay of four years and did not follow the Land Acquisition Act of 1894. The Act provides that the Agency is under a legal obligation to deposit the compensation funds before the Deputy Commissioner/Collector, who will be responsible to complete the land acquisition proceedings and pay the compensation amongst affectees. The President held that NHA had failed to make payment for all necessary damages done during the acquisition of the land, and had initiated the case after a delay of four years after the complaints were launched, which was tantamount

to maladministration on the part

of NHA. The President, there-

fore, declared the representation

as "thoroughly misconceived",

and rejected the representation.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Chinese welfare organizations headed by Bai Shanghai President Gansu Xingbang Social Work Service Center visited FPCCI Capital Office Islamabad (FPCCI) yesterday. Mirza Abdul Rahman, Chairman Coordination Capital Office, Mr. Sadar from Nagar Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Industry and Qurban Ali at FPCCI Capital Office met the delegation included Mabin President China Pakistan Youth Exchange Community, Mameng Advisor Public Welfare Policy, Li Kang Secretary General, Wang Lu Member, Sadaba Omiri, Mr. Sher Nabi President, Ghazar Chamber, Iqbal Khan Minister Gilgit Provincial and others were also present on this occasion. During the meeting, Mirza Abdul Rehman and Qurban Ali appreciated the visit of the delegation to The Federation of Pakistan Chamber and Commerce and industry (FPCCI) Capital Office Islamabad and said that China always stand firmly in every harsh time of Pakistan. Gansuzheng Bang Social Work Service Center, General Association of Gansu Social Organization, China-Pak Youth Exchange Community and CFRD said that they will keep the same level of cooperate in every fields including education, health, technical education and training, including rehabilitation of flood victims.

tion issued here. According to a notification, District Election Commissioner, Swat, Farid Ullah, Election Officer Strong Room, Malakand, Muhammad Arif and Assistant Commissioner, Matta, Swat, Abdul Qayum, SDEO (Male), Matta, Swat Nazar Ul Islam have been appointed as District Returning Officer (DRO), Returning Officer (RO) and Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) respectively for conducting NA 04, Swat-III bye elections. District Election Commissioner, Haripur, Shaukat Hussain; Election Officer, Haripur, Umer Salim, Assistant Commissioner, Haripur, Miss Labiqa Sub-Divisional Akram; Education Officer (Budget and Accounts), Haripur, Mumtaz Ahmed Khan would perform the duties of DRO, RO and ARO respectively in NA 17, Haripur-I. Similarly, NA 18, Swabi bye elections would be conducted by District Election Commissioner, Swabi, Raham Zada; Election Officer, Swabi, Tanzeel Yasin, Additional Assistant Commissioner, Swabi Allah Nawaz Khan, AEDO (sports) Education Olfficer, Swabi, Irshad Khan would conduct the bye elec-

tions as DRO, RO and ARO respectively.—APP Chinese delegation visits FPCCI capital office

nished affidavit [of Imrar Khan] against which the case was filed belonged to 2018. The chief justice noted that an objection was also raised against the IHC's bench hearing this case. He remarked that he had not recused as one of the judges hearing the same case in 2018 [filed by Abdul Wahab Baloch] on personal reasons, instead, the petitioner had then prayed to the court to fix the case before a certain bench. It is pertinent to mention that Imran Khan had contested in his written reply, submitted before the court on Wednesday, that the incumbent chief justice could not hear the same case owing to his withdrawal back in 2018 [filed by a different petitioner]. -APP

Senate body briefed on Kashmir Day preparations

ISLAMABAD: A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan was held here at the Parliament House on Thursday with Senator Prof. Sajid Mir in chair. The Senate body deliberated on budgetary utilization of AJK and GB during the first six months of the current fiscal year 2022-2023, said a press release. The officials informed the committee that the total budget of AJK and GB for 2022-23 is around Rs 1142.168 million which includes Rs 186.143 million for Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Rs 260 million for Refugees Management Cell, Rs 24.954 million for Directorate of Health Services (AK), Rs 4.432 million for J&K Refugees Rehabilitation Organization and Rs 666.639 million for Gilgin Baltistan Council Secretariat Islamabad. They said the federal government has released Rs 459.571 million till December 2022 and total expenditure stood around Rs 455.264 million and a shortfall of Rs 151.636 million is expected under the head of Gilgit Baltistan Council, Islamabad. Discussing the matter of Azad Kashmir properties located in the different parts of the country, the committee decided to form a Sub-Committee to probe the matter.-APP

ISLAMABAD: The Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Thursday launched a mobile application named Pass Track with regard to the currency declaration for international travelers.

DNA

ISLAMABAD: A delegation

of Chinese welfare organiza-

tions headed by Bai Shang-

hai President Gansu Xing-

bang Social Work Service

Center visited FPCCI Cap-

ital Office Islamabad (FPC-

CI) yesterday. Mirza Abdul

Rahman, Chairman Coordi-

nation Capital Office, Mr.

Sadar from Nagar Chamber

of Commerce and Indus-

try. Industry and Qurban

Ali at FPCCI Capital Office

met the delegation includ-

"The mobile App "Pass Track" has been modified facilitate passengers to declare currency while traveling to and from Pakistan even before coming to airport, Member Custom Mukarram Jah Ansari told media here after the launch of App. He said the

Chinese delegation

visits FPCCI

capital office

## FBR launches 'App' of currency declaration for int'l travelers

testing of the App has been completed and many new features have been incorporated so that passengers can easily fill in all the required information. It may be recalled that the State Bank of Pakistan issued notification last month to revise the cash carrying limits for outbound passengers. Accordingly, the FBR has notified the revised cash carrying limits. About the limits for passengers traveling abroad except Afghanistan, Mukarram Jah said

ed Mabin President China

Pakistan Youth Exchange

Community, Mameng Ad-

visor Public Welfare Policy,

Li Kang Secretary General,

Wang Lu Member, Sadaba

Omiri, Mr. Sher Nabi Pres-

ident, Ghazar Chamber,

Iqbal Khan Minister Gilgit

Provincial and others were

also present on this occa-

sion. During the meeting,

Mirza Abdul Rehman and

Qurban Ali appreciated the

visit of the delegation to

The Federation of Pakistan

Chamber and Commerce

and industry (FPCCI) Cap-

according to the revised notification, the maximum limit per person per visit has been reduced to \$5000 and the annual limit has also been set at \$30,000. Similarly for people below 18 years of age, the maximum cash limit for a person has been set at \$2500 per visit while the annual limit has also been revised down to \$15000. For those traveling to Afghanistan, the maximum limit for carrying cash in foreign currency is \$1000 per person per visit, while

ital Office Islamabad and

said that China always stand

firmly in every harsh time of

Pakistan. Gansuzheng Bang

Social Work Service Center,

General Association of

Gansu Social Organization,

China-Pak Youth Exchange

Community and CFRD said

that they will keep the same

level of cooperate in every

fields including education,

health, technical education

and training, including re-

habilitation of flood victims.

Mirza Abdul Rehman and

Qurban Ali, further said

that there are vast invest-

ment opportunities in Paki-

stan for Chinese investors

to invest in Pakistan. Bai

Shangai responded that the

goal of our organization is

to fulfill the needs of our

neiboure country and to

utilize the resources for the

development of Pakistan.

the maximum limit per year is \$6000. Ansari said any incoming passengers when in pos-

session of foreign currency exceeding US\$10,000 or equivalent is also required to file declaration. Moreover, Pakistani currency can be taken out with a maximum limit of Rs 10,000 Moreover, he said SBP has also made it mandatory for every person carrying foreign currency to file a declaration with Customs.-APP

### issuance of SIMs

Successful raid

against illegal

ISLAMABAD : Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), in collaboration with Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), has carried out a successful raid, against illegal activation of SIMs, at a franchisee of mobile company in Wah Cantt. During the raid, digital equipment including laptops, PCs, mobile phones and SIM cards (both active and inactive) were confiscated. A total of four suspects were arrested. Ear lier, PTA had filed a complaint with FIA after abnormal SIM sale pattern was observed at the sale channel. It is pertinent to mention that PTA has recently launched Multi Finger Biometric Verification System (MBVS) in December 2022 and the raid is part of its efforts to proactively control the attempts being made to bypass the new system. It is testament to PTA's commitment and persistent efforts in curbing illegal issuance of SIMs.-DNA

HEC launches faculty development programme He asserted that HEC will keep performing its role for the capacity building of HEIs

#### MAHNOOR ANSAR

ISLAMABAD : The National Academy of Higher Education (NAHE), an academic wing of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), has launched the Cohort-II of National Faculty Development Programme (NDFP) for the newly inducted faculty members of public sector higher education institutions (HEIs). Twenty-eight faculty members are taking part in the capacity building pro-

gramme. Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed graced the opening ceremony with his presence as chief guest. He congratulated the participants for being chosen for the noble profession of teaching. He stated that, "being an educator is one of the most rewarding professions, as you can make a difference in the life of people and it is one of the greatest acts of charity one can perform as a Muslim and as a human being." The Chairman urged the partici-

pants to actively contribute to resolution of the social issues by enabling their students to become skillful, valuable, and effective member of the society. He asserted that HEC will keep performing its role for the capacity building of HEIs. In his welcome address earlier, Advisor (Academics, Curriculum & NAHE) Engr. Muhammad Raza Chohan briefed the participants about the initiatives taken by NAHE for the capacity building of faculty.

#### 21-member students delegation visits Senate Secretariat

ISLAMABAD: A 21-member delegation of a private college visited the Senate Secretariat on Thursday. The delegation also visited the Senate Museum and evinced a keen interest in the artefacts, murals, dioramas, exhibits, historical documents and above all the statues and photographs of country's leading politicians. They were briefed about the electoral and legislative process at the Senate of Pakistan.

The delegation was shown a documentary along with a briefing on the working procedures of the Upper House, legislation and fictions. Students were apprised about the role of the Upper House for the promotion of national harmony among the federal units. The students and the college faculty thanked the Senate authorities for the awareness and their reception at the Parliament House.-APP

### **UNHCR launches scheme for refugees** Pakistan as it recovers from the aftermath of last year's devastating floods, with a special focus on areas hosting refugees. Some 800,000 refugees live in areas that were impacted by the devastating monsoon

#### DNA

ISLAMABAD: (UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, today launched a one-time cash assistance scheme for some 1.3 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan affected by the devastating 2022 floods as well as the prevailing economic situation. The assistance is being provided, in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan, to reach refugees who are not eligible to access social safety nets available

to Pakistani citizens. The initiative is modelled on the Government's emergency cash programme for vulnerable Pakistani families affected by floods. Registered Afghan refugees will

receive up to PKR 25,000, adjusted depending on the family size. The Minister for State and Frontier Regions (SAFRON), Muhammad Talha Mahmood, and Habib Bank Limited's Chief Representative, Mr. Mohammad Ali Syed launched the scheme on Thursday with UNHCR's Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Indrika Ratwatte. Representatives from different donor countries also attended the event.

"We are honoured to work together with our long-standing partner, the Government of Pakistan, through its SAFRON Ministry, as well as Habib Bank Limited - for the first time - to support Afghans affected by the devastating floods and who remain in difficult

economic circumstances. This support comes in addition to UN-HCR's emergency flood response for Afghan refugees and affected Pakistani host communities," said Mr. Ratwatte. He added "the partnership is UNHCR's first private sector engagement with the country's banking system and is a great example of the commitment of the Government and private sector in the country to find innovative approaches to support vulnerable Afghans. I hope this partnership is something we can build on further, including in the lead up to the Global Refugee Forum later this year." UNHCR continues working with Pakistan as it recovers from the aftermath of last year's devastating floods, with

a special focus on areas hosting refugees. Some 800,000 refugees live in areas that were impacted by the devastating monsoon. Muhammad Talha Mahmood, the Minister of SAFRON, welcomed ongoing international support for Afghan refugees and host communities in Pakistan. "We have generously supported Afghan refugees in our country for over four decades.

Even as we face our own challenges, we remain committed to our promise to help. But we cannot do it alone and call for additional international support at this time in line with the global commitment to share responsibility for refugees made under the UN Refugee Compact." Ha-

bib Bank Limited's Chief Representative, Mr. Mohammad Ali Syed welcomed the opportunity to team up with UNHCR and the Government of Pakistan to deliver cash assistance. "Our bank is committed to high standards of delivery and accountability. We are proud to do our part and to demonstrate how our advanced banking system can efficiently deliver this important humanitarian cash assistance to refugees in Pakistan. Sustained international support for Pakistan is required to find solutions for Afghan refugees, particularly within the framework of the Support Platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees.

### Tanks to Ukraine benefit US at cost to all

ollowing Germany's decision to supply Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine and authorize other countries transferring the tanks they have leased from it to the country, Poland, which has been at the fore-front of European calls to supply Ukraine with advanced weaponry, is already calling for the NATO countries to supply Ukraine with F-16 instance of NATO. I wave the set of NATO I wave the set of the whole of NATO. fighter jets. "If this was a decision of the whole of NATO, I would be for sending these fighter jets," Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki told the media. Although he claimed that "NATO is not participating" in the conflict, it is playing a disingenuously dangerous game under the direction of Washington. The Western countries have been reluctant to send weapons that could be used to attack deep inside Russia for fear of sparking a direct conflict with Russia. But supplying Ukraine with tanks, long-range missiles and potentially strike aircraft will require them to keep a tight leash on Kyiv. Russian Ambassador to the United States Ana-toly Antonov said that it is "impossible to justify" the sending of tanks with arguments about supplying Ukraine with "defensive weapons". And the Russian embassy in Berlin said Germany's decision was "extremely dangerous" and takes the conflict "to a new level of confrontation". Although the United States and the United Kingdom have ruled out any deliveries of advanced fighter planes to Ukraine for now, other NATO countries have shown themselves more open to the idea. Politicians in the Netherlands have been receptive to the idea of sending Ukraine the F-16 jets it wants, and France has said there is "no taboo" on supplying Ukraine with fighter jets. The decision to send Western-made battle tanks came after months of lobbying from Kyiv and weeks of intense discussions among Western partners. The key moment came last week when, under pressure from allies including Poland, and with the US agreeing to provide Ukraine with 31 M1 Abrams tanks, Berlin approved sending 14 of its tanks to Ukraine and said it will issue the appropriate transfer permits to partner countries that want to "quickly deliver Leopard 2 tanks from their stocks to Ukraine". That represents a major shift in Germany's policy. Germany has been extremely cautious about providing military assistance to Ukraine, a stance that has increased "mistrust" toward Germany, especially from "Central and Eastern European countries", Morawiecki said. But some in Germany even warned that it might trigger World War III. Although that voice is falling on deaf ears in Berlin. Legacy of World War II and the Cold War in Europe should not mislead the European countries into being the spearhead for the US' efforts to permanently weaken Russia and engineer regime change in the country, as pushing Russia into an existential struggle would indeed be ruinous for all. It is the US that is winning geopolitically and economically from the conflict in Ukraine.

## **Islamabad POST**

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## An enlarged AUKUS to fuel confrontation

esponding to a question about the United Kingdom House of D Commons Defence Select Committee raising the possibility LN of expanding AUKUS to include India and Japan at a routine briefing on Wednesday, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman called it an attempt to "provoke military confrontation through military cooperation". The trilateral security partnership established by the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia is typical Cold War thinking, which has increased the risks of nuclear proliferation while exacerbating an arms race in the Asia-Pacific, sabotaging the peace and stability of the region. Such a move will not only complicate the security situation in the region, but also bring additional strategic uncertainty to it. While the defense authorities in London are keen on increasing the UK's military presence in the "Indo-Pacific" and engaging more closely with security partners in the region, their allegedly peace-oriented moves are actually sowing the seeds of antagonism in the region and worsening every stakeholder's security environment. Aside from the inevitable consequence of deepening strategic distrust and escalating tensions, the vision of an enlarged AUKUS may not bear the fruit its masterminds anticipate. Considering Tokyo's conspicuous enthusiasm for international and regional security mechanisms aimed at containing China, there may be little doubt about the Japanese government embracing such a proposal. New Delhi, however, may find itself in a dilemma over joining such a security alliance. India has indeed strayed far from its longstanding previous policy of non-alignment. As a member of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue with the US, Australia and Japan, it has shown that it is keeping a wary eye on the so-called China threat. Both AUKUS and Quad are nothing but geopolitical tools of the US to contain China. London has advocated the formation of a NATO-like military alliance in the "Indo-Pacific". The idea of AUKUS enlargement has also been read as an at-tempt by the UK to engineer a Quad+AUKUS framework. Although there has been increasing momentum to tilt the Quad more toward security issues, its broad agenda, ranging from COVID-19 to climate change and to science and technology, enables it to maintain the impression that it is less about geopolitical confrontation and more about collaboration between and among "like-minded" countries. By joining the explicitly anti-China AUKUS, however, New Delhi would be voluntarily tying itself to the West's anti-China chariot. For all their border disputes and skirmishes, direct confrontation with China would not be in the best interest of India.

## India's bulldozer regime is evicting Muslims, killing justice

#### Nazimuddin Siddique

Most of the families are Muslim, and everything homes, schools and mosques – was to be demolished. The story rightly made international headlines, and eventually, the country's Supreme Court put a hold on the eviction for now, arguing that authorities needed to come up with a resettlement and rehabilitation plan first. Yet the incident in Haldwani. 296km (184 miles) from national capital New Delhi, captures a broader pattern of injustice masquerading as law and order that's plaving out across India under the majoritarian

n the northern Indian city of Haldwani, about 4,000 families faced homelessness in December after the High Court of the state, Uttarakhand, ordered their eviction from land claimed by the Indian Railways.

Most of the families are Muslim, and everything - homes, schools and mosques - was to be demolished. The story rightly made international headlines, and eventually, the country's Supreme Court put a hold on the eviction for now, arguing that authorities needed to come up with a resettlement and rehabilitation plan first. Yet the incident in Haldwani, 296km (184 miles) from national capital New Delhi, captures a broader pattern of injustice masquerading as law and order that's playing out across India under the majoritarian Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which rules federally and in most states. The bulldozer is central to this strategy. Muslims are the target. And unlike in Haldwani, affected people and communities only rarely get even a temporary reprieve. Nowhere is this more evident than in the northeastern state of Assam, some 2,000km (1,242 miles) away from New Delhi, where the BJP has ruled since 2016. Thousands of Muslim families have been forcibly evicted since 2021 from land they had been residing on for decades. Since 2016, police have shot at and killed protesters in at least two instances. The campaign to render families homeless has picked up steam in recent weeks. On December 19, about 250 families were evicted in the Nagaon district of Assam. A week later, 47 families' homes were destroyed in Barpeta district. In the Lakhimpur district, hundreds of families were evicted in early January. These numbers are just the tip of the iceberg. There's a method to the madness. The Miya Muslim community – whose ancestors, many generations ago, settled in Assam from East Bengal, then an integral part of British India (and now Bangladesh) – is facing the brunt of the evictions and demolitions. The community is often targeted, especially by the Hindu right, as "illegal immigrants" and the word "Miya" is frequently used as a pejorative. Last year, authorities arrested Miya Muslims who had set up a museum dedicated to the community's cultural artefacts. Assam's BJP Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma effectively accused museum organisers of cultural appropriation, arguing that the items on display weren't unique to the Miya Muslim community. The idea behind the inhuman and violent evictions is to keep Muslims landless and impoverished: Muslims have a higher poverty rate and lower literacy rate than the national average. Research has shown that Indian Muslims have lower upward mobility than people from even those Hindu castes and tribes that have traditionally been discriminated against. In Assam, landlessness is a chronic problem among marginalised groups, accentuated by annual floods and the perennial problem of riverbank erosions. Many vulnerable communities settle on government-owned land as they look to earn a living by working among local communities and on farmland. Instead of addressing this problem of landlessness, the Assam government is singling out Miya Muslims from among those occupying state-owned land, only because of their faith, and is evicting them. Elsewhere, this epidemic of evictions is being used to either collectively punish Muslims or attack activists from the community who have dared to raise their voices against government injustices. In New Delhi, homes of Muslims were demolished - including for a while after a Supreme Court order to halt the forced eviction – last April, days after inter-religious tension in the neighbourhood. In the state of Uttar Pradesh, authorities demolished the homes of Muslims who had protested against controversial remarks by a BIP spokesperson against Prophet Muhammad last July. The state of Madhya Pradesh – also ruled by the BJP – has used the

same tactic, too. These are attacks on the rights of citizens. The government machinery, with gigantic police forces in riot gear, excavators and in some cases even elephants, carry out the evictions. In most cases, the demolitions have been carried out without any warning or legal notices. At one of Assam's eviction sites, people who had their homes demolished set up tarpaulin tents by the roadside. Government officials came and removed even that temporary shelter. Where are they supposed to go now? I had no answer. When I asked those rendered homeless, they didn't, either. This is barbaric. This is cruel. It isn't just homes that these people are losing. Often, their standing crops are destroyed, their trees felled. Even toilets are turned into rubble. In many cases, the victims are poor, and are forced to sleep in the open in harsh weather - often hungry, and without access to food or clean water. Women don't have the privacy of a toilet. Their plight and losses are mostly invisible in mainstream news. The civil society representing minorities has no space in the media, and the civil society representing the majority is silent. Perhaps that's why Abdul Khaleque, among those evicted in Lalung Gaon of Nagaon district said to me: "Let the government shoot us; we do not have any place to go." Of course, Miya Muslims, and marginalised communities in India more broadly, aren't unfamiliar with the violence unleashed on them by the state and by non-state actors. In Assam, Miya Muslims have long had their citizenship questioned - they're frequently othered as encroachers who are somehow, not Assamese. Evictions are the latest weapon to target Muslims in Assam and across India. While the Supreme Court intervened in the Haldwani case, it's unclear whether others who have suffered will ever receive justice. And that, ultimately, is the biggest casualty of what the BJP and its governments are doing. Their bulldozers are demolishing the very concept of justice for Indian Muslims.

Courtesy: Al Jazeera

## Local bodies elections 2022 in AJK

**Chaudhry Muhammad Latif** 



Before going to causes of this change, it may be pointed out that the composition of the civil society and texture of civil services in AJK are both distinctly different from that prevalent in Pakistan. The social norms in AJK are healthy, humble, and human, thus are admirable. The political leaders here do differ in their manifestoes but they never desire to destroy fter a long time, on the repeated orders of Supreme Court of AJK, Local Bodies (LB) Elections 2022 were held in 3 phases, division wise. A strange and special feature of these elections is the emergence of a large number of independent candidates. In Muzaffarabad Division total seats 664, Independent 115, Ruling party 197, PML (N) 127, and Pakistan Peoples Party 194. While in Poonch Division total seats 779, Independent seats 255, Ruling party 229, PML (N) 116, PPP 113. Similarly in Mirpur Division total seats 1075, Independent 315, Ruling party 373, PML (N) 231 and PPP 140.

Before going to causes of this change, it may be pointed out that the composition of the civil society and texture of civil services in AJK are both distinctly different from that prevalent in Pakistan. The social norms in AJK are healthy, humble, and human, thus are admirable. The political leaders here do differ in their manifestoes but they never desire to destroy their adversaries. In civil services there is a powerful element of lent officers on deputation from Pakistan. They are suppose to safeguard the supreme interests of Pakistan in this small but sensitive area. They occupy the posts of Chief Secretary, Finance Secretary, Inspector General of Police and Accountant General as per Karachi Agreement . They are legally empowered under Rules of Business 1985. The learned Chief Secretary is the head of services in order to maintain the equilibrium in political field and to ensure justice and fairness to civil servants.

In the early decades of AJK all the political parties were local and they had cordial relations with all political parties in Pakistan . Any political party ruling in AJK was treated alike by any political party ruling in Pakistan.

In the year 1975, PPP made a thrilling entry in AJK politics and formed the government with the first Prime Minister in AJK under the provision

of Interim Constitution Act 1974. With this political change other political parties in Pakistan also established their counter parts and thereby ushered in an era of harsh contest and competition inheriting friends foes from Pakistan. Main drawback in this political change, however, was that they badly failed to guide, supervise and control their counterpart ruling party in AJK and their failure tarnished their image and prestige in AJK. During several tenures of their rules in AJK the PPP suffered a setback when they appointed a representative from Faisalabad who had been vested with so much powers that he undermined the status and authority of elected government in AJK. He held no constitutional nor legal position in Pakistan nor in AJK. As such his gross intervention in government affairs caused damage to the party. However, with bold struggle the current leadership has rectified and restored the position of PPP in AJK and they seem to turn the table any time. The second strong political force in AJK was PML (N) for which there was overwhelming political support due to their performance in AJK and Pakistan. In their recent ruleof 2013 to 2018 they assigned the task of monitoring AJK affairs to a prominent leader of Pakistan, Raja Muhammad Zafar-ul-Haq. He, violating merit, nominated Raja Muhammad Farooq Haider Khan from AJK.His unbridled rule has been diplomatically criticized and condemned by his own Speaker Legislative Assembly, and Senior Minister of his government while participating in Roze News TV programme. They declare the style of governance as one man rule. They levelled allegations of nepotism in services and his repeated violations of the jurisdiction of Public Service Commission as such the civil services and public at large got fed up with his style of government. Consequently, the disgrauntled the political per-

sonalities preferred to contest elections as independent candidates. Hence the victory of a large number of independent candidates in LB polls 2022. It appears the outcome of circumstances obtaining in the state. It also seems distrust in political system altogether due to bad governance by political parties in recent past.

On the other hand, the role of lent officer also has all along been deplorable. It is third time that thousands of adhoc appointees are being regularized in service without reference to PSC. The plea for this unconstitutional decision is that adhoc appointees have not been regularly selected by the PSC despite their services exceeding ten years. But this is the fault and failure of PSC which could be directed to expedite the selection process instead of committing violation of law and judgements of Supreme Court. The PSC should give test only for the posts of AC, ASP, ACF, for which the appointing authority, government has already proscribed the syllabus and for the rest of posts only the interview is enough for which system is available with the PSC. Another astonishing factor in AJK civil service has been that Adhoc appointees had been promoted to higher grades upto B-22. Although revenue department in AJK has no duty of recovery of revenue as AJK is exempt from this lavy. Despite DMG group has occupied seventeen posts of secretary to Government in violation of service rules. One example is that of Chaudhry Imtiaz Ahmed, Secretary Forest, whose date of birth is 04-04-1975, induction in service in 2005, grant of B-20 4-05-2018, appointment as Secretary 20-10-2020, and his retirement is 3-4-2035. The service rules require five year for B-18, 12 year for B-19 and 17 year for B-20. Other departments are waiting for justice and fairness from lent officers.

#### -The writer is Retired Additional Chief Secretary of AJK and Advocates Supreme Court of AJK.

## WORLD / SPORTS

### **Briefs**

06

#### **Pakistan** urges Afghanistan to uphold **VOWS**

FROM PAGE 01 the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia and Pakistan. Foreign Minister held delegation level talks with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on 30th January 2023. The talks covered the entire range of bilateral relations with a special focus on trade and economic relations, energy cooperation as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest.

The two Foreign Ministers agreed to further enhance cooperation in the areas of trade, energy, education, culture, security and counter-terrorism. They also agreed on the importance of regular high-level exchanges and to continue bilater al dialogue mechanisms to explore mutually beneficial cooperation. The two Foreign Ministers discussed global and regional issues, especially South Asia and Afghanistan. Bilateral cooperation at multilateral fora including SCO came under discussion. Last week, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar led Pakistan delegation to UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. Minister of State presented Pakistan's national progress report under the Universal Periodic Review, UPR-42. In her remarks, the Minister of State highlighted legal, policy, institutional and administrative steps taken by Pakistan to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms. She reaffirmed Pakistan's resolve to promote well-being and welfare of its people, build a democratic polity and foster an inclusive society. She noted the steady progress on implementation of recommendations made at Pakistan's 3rd Universal Periodic Review and expressed Pakistan's continued commitment to human rights. On the sidelines of the event, the Minister of State held meetings with United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Director General of the International Labor Organization, Director General of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and Development. Special Representative for Afghanistan of the United States Thomas West and the European Union's Special Representative for Afghanistan Tomas Niklasson visited Pakistan this week and held meetings with Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on Afghanistan, Ambassador Muhammad Sadiq and Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed Khan. During these meetings, the two sides discussed the regional situation including the recent developments in Afghanistan and humanitarian support to the Afghan people. The Pakistan side reaffirmed our commitment to a peaceful, stable and interconnected region. Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Ms. Inger Andersen is on an official visit to Pakistan from 30th January to 3rd February 2023. During this visit, she has engaged with different national stakeholders.





RAWALPINDI: President RCCI, Saqib Rafique presenting a bouquet to Commissioner Rawalpindi, Liaquat Ali Chatta. - DNA

## Manchester United cruise into League Cup final

giant Dutch striker's header came back off the post, but the game opened up once Ten Hag made changes on the hour mark. The former Ajax boss was

handed a limited budget in the January transfer window after spending over £200 million (\$247 million) in the summer with just the loan signings of Weghorst, Marcel Sabitzer and Jack Butland. But the return of Jadon Sancho comes at just the right time to bolster United's attacking options. The England international had been sidelined since October due to a combination of mental and physical issues, but made his return just after the hour mark. Rashford and Martial were introduced alongside Sancho and made an instant impact. "We have had to make lots of compromises in the season so far so hopefully now they are all available,' added Ten Hag. "If you want

### **France defender Varane retires from** international football

"I've been contemplating this for several months and deciding it's the right time for me to retire internationally"

RANCE and Manchester United centre-back Raphael Varane has announced his retirement from international football. The 29-year-old, who won the World Cup in 2018, scored five goals in 93 appearances for his country after making his debut in 2013. The last of his caps was won in the 2022 World Cup final, in which France were beaten by Argentina on penalties. "Representing our great country for a decade has been one of the greatest honours of my life," said Varane. "Every time I wore this very special blue jersey I felt immense pride. The duty to give it all, play my heart out and win every time we put on the field.

"I've been contemplating this for several months and deciding it's the right time for me to retire internationally." Varane, who signed for United from Real Madrid in August 2021, is the latest Les Bleus player to retire after the World Cup. In January, Tottenham goalkeeper and captain Hugo Lloris stepped down three weeks after the final. Varane had been expected to take over the French captaincy from Lloris. "As a child, I remember following France 98, this team, these players who made us experience indescribable emotions," said Varane. "I dreamed of being our heroes and 20 years later I lived one of the best experiences of my life, one that made me really proud. We brought home the Cup! "I will never forget it. I still feel every single one of the emotions felt on that day, July 15, 2018. That was one of the

#### PM inaugurates third unit ...

Islamabad **POST** 

Friday, February 03, 2023

FROM PAGE 01 the potential of producing 60,000 megawatts through hvdel power. Shehbaz Sharif said the electricity projects under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor are greatly contributing to the country's energy demands through the production of thousands of megawatts.

Director General International Atomic Energy Agency Rafael Mariano Grossi, in a video message, emphasized the importance of using safe use of nuclear energy as Pakistan faced challenges of climate change.

#### PTI MNAs move LHC against...

FROM PAGE 01

National Assembly Speaker and the seats were declared vacant by the ECP. The petitioners contended that their resignations were subject to the acceptance of all the 123 PTI MNAs, who had resigned en masse from the lower house of Parliament on April 11 last year-two days after party Chairman Imran Khan was ousted as the prime minister. The petitioners have sought directions to quarters concerned to declare that they had withdrawn their resignations by conduct, words, and in writing in accordance with the law prior to any acceptance.

#### Fawad warns of Article 6...

#### FROM PAGE 01

imported government compounded the miseries due to the backbreaking inflation and resurgence of terrorism. He said that at the time when the whole country was under trauma due to tragic Peshawar blast, the imported government was busy in taking revenge as Sheikh Rasheed and Imran Riaz were arrested and a case was registered against Shandana Gulzar, which were condemnable. He raised question that who

5-0 the League Cup final. Anthony Martial and Fred scored the goals for Ten Hag's men in the final 17 minutes of the semi-final, second leg as United set up

DNA

MANCHESTER: Manches-

ter United manager Erik ten

Hag said winning trophies is

the standard that should be

demanded at Old Trafford af-

ter beating Nottingham For-

est 2-0 on Wednesday and

on aggregate to reach

to demand and control the high standards," said the Dutchman. "You have to bring that every game. "We are Manchester United. When you are a United

a meeting with Newcastle at

Three managers have left

the club since United last

won a trophy under Jose

Mourinho in 2017. But Ten

Hag is now just one game

away from ending that

drought in his first season

in charge. "I think we have

Wembley on February 26.

### Misbah criticizes PCB for inconsistent handling of coaches

#### WEB DESK

LAHORE: Former Pakistan captain and coach Misbah-ul-Haq views the potential rehire of Mickey Arthur by the PCB as having a negative impact on Pakistan cricket. Misbah blames former Pakistan players for damaging the system's credibility and forcing the PCB to look outside the country for coaching roles. "It's a slap on our cricket system that we are not able to find a high-profile full-time coach," Misbah told ESPNcricinfo. "It's a shame that the best ones do not want to come, and we insist on having someone who is looking at Pakistan as a second option. "I blame our own system, which is vulnerable enough with so many weak lines for anyone to exploit it. We are to be blamed ourselves; we have disrespected and discredited our people to make a bad image. The present and former lot don't respect each other, with media and former players using their own YouTube channels for ratings, damaging the credibility and value of our cricket, which, as a result, gives an impression that we are incapable. "The Pakistan cricket fan is always disgruntled; he is picking up things from the media and is under the wrong impression.

a good squad so we have ing 3-1 in the FA Cup fourth round on Saturday with Marcus Rashford among those left on the bench.

player you have to match

the standards." The damage

was done for the Red Dev-

ils in last week's 3-0 win at

the City Ground in the first

leg as Ten Hag was able to

rotate his squad with United

still involved in four competi-

tions. He made six changes

from the side that beat Read-

Wout Weghorst came closest to breaking the deadlock before half-time when the

them all to be available. You saw tonight you can bring a new dynamic off the bench." Martial slotted home after Rashford's initial effort was

to win trophies, you need

most amazing and memorable moments of my life." "I respect his decision even if it may seem a bit unfortunate given everything he was able to do with the national team through to the World Cup, during which he behaved like the leader we know he is from start to finish," France coach Didier Deschamps said. - Agencies blocked to open the scoring.

Arthur experiment will 'massively backfire': Raja

LAHORE: Former chairman of the Pakistan Crick et Board Ramiz Raja believes that the decision to appoint Mickey Arthur as national men's team's director could backfire. It must be noted that Arthur won't be with the Pakistan team on every tour since he will continue working full-time with English county side Derbyshire as well. "I think this has been massively mishandled because this concept won't work. This is an ego-driven decision because they don't want to accept what the previous board has done. You are allowed to formulate your own strategy but that doesn't mean that you belittle local coaches and stars," Raja said on his official You-Tube channel. "I think this is a futile exercise and will massively backfire," he added. Raja also hoped that skipper Babar Azam was consulted

before such a decision was made. "I don't whether he has talked about this or not but Babar Azam, despite being easy going, has very strong views on certain things. I hope he was consulted before such a step was taken," he said. Arthur was in charge of the Pakistan team for three years in the past as well having taken up the mantle in 2016. However, the PCB had decided to not renew the contracts of Arthur and his support staff, following the team's fifth-place finish at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019. Raja was sacked just days after the national team suffered a humiliating first-ever 3-0 home series whitewash at the hands of England, according to a government notice. But a change had been on the cards since April, when Imran Khan – a former national captain - was ousted as prime minister and replaced by Shehbaz Sharif. Raja, a member of Khan's 1992 World Cup-winning side, was appointed chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) in September last year. – DNA

was wise enough to advise the imported government to file cases against their opponents.

Fawad warned that the country cannot afford confrontation and division at this time. Therefore, he said that it was high time to take confidence building measures to help bridge the fast widening fissure, because the policy of arrests, coercions, threats and political victimizations was no more workable. He warned that the use of power could further complicate the matter, as efforts were afoot to destabilize Pakistan.

Fawad went on to say that the PTI did not want confrontation with the institutions because the government cannot run without their support, but PTI just wanted that they should not support the puppet, incompetent, inapt and crooked government unnecessarily. 'We want that institutions should accept supremacy of constitution and law and should respect human rights and accept public right to elect their leader through their power of votes," he added.

#### **IHC** rejects PTI plea against...

FROM PAGE 01 Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and comprising Justice Miangul Hassan and Justice Babar Sattar, announced the verdict which had been reserved on Jan 11 after hearing arguments from both sides. In August last, the top electoral body served a show-cause notice on the Imran Khanled party after it ruled that the PTI received funds from prohibited sources. The ECP said in its ruling the PTI got funds from business tycoon Arif Naqvi and 34 foreign nationals. It further said the party had taken ownership of eight accounts and kept 16 hidden. In the verdict, the high court declared the electoral watchdog's show-cause notice legal and threw out the petition of the PTI. The PTI, in its petition, ar-

gued that the electoral body had labelled it a "foreign-aided" party and termed the declaration submitted by PTI Chairman Imran Khan in the case false. He also accused the ECP of targeting the PTI in the case

## **Barcelona earn tense win at Real Betis**

Raphinha put Barcelona ahead in the 65th minute and Lewandowski, back after a three-match league ban, netted the second with 10 minutes to go. Jules Kounde scored an unfortunate own goal to give Betis a fighting chance of a point in final stages but Barcelona held out for the win

#### DNA

SEVILLE: Raphinha and Robert Lewandowski's strikes helped Barcelona move eight points clear at the top of La Liga with a 2-1 win at Real Betis on Wednesday. The Catalans put pressure on second-placed Real Madrid, who host Valencia on Thursday, by scraping a narrow win from an intense clash at the Benito Villamarin. With French winger Ousmane Dembele out injured for the next few weeks, Raphinha grabbed his chance to prove himself. Dembele's superb form had limited the Brazilian's minutes since his move from Leeds United last summer. Raphinha put Barcelona ahead in the 65th minute and Lewandowski, back after a

three-match league ban, netted the second with 10 minutes to go. Jules Kounde scored an unfortunate own goal to give Betis a fighting chance of a point in the final stages but Barcelona held out for the win.

"I think we had a good game, our play was very good, excellent I would say," Barca coach Xavi Hernandez told Movistar. "We played a great game at a very difficult place to come. I'm very happy not just for the result but for how we played, we've improved a lot from the Girona game.' Barcelona had won their previous three league games 1-0, including against Catalan

rivals Girona last weekend in a flat performance, but were operating on a higher level in Seville. Betis started well in front of their boisterous support, with Alejandro Balde doing well to block Luiz Henrique's effort in the opening exchanges. At the other end Lewandowski headed wide, while Pedri could not find a finish when racing through on goal. Raphinha had a goal ruled out for a clear offside and Kounde flung himself in the way of Sergio Canales's strike. Betis goalkeeper Rui Silva denied Pedri either side

of half-time as the Spain international tried to continue his own goalscoring form after netting the winner in Girona.

Raphinha appealed unsuccessfully for a penalty after a tangle with Abner Vinicius in the area, but the Brazilian's complaints soon turned to celebrations. Frenkie de Jong cleverly fed Balde from a quick free-kick and the young left-back slid a ball across the face of goal for Raphinha to tap home. "It's about attitude, competitiveness, desire, faith, our hopes are huge," said Xavi when asked about



De Jong's quick thinking. "We are at a good moment with this, we have confidence and the morale to achieve success. That matters, too, it's about competing well." La Liga's top scorer Lewandowski's return was largely a frustrating one for the striker, having a shot blocked after Sergio Busquets set him up, while his touch was unusually clunky. However the Polish international finished clinically after Ronald Araujo headed down to him, to net his 14th league goal of the season and 23rd across all competitions.

Substitute Ansu Fati headed wide from another fine Balde cross, before Kounde accidentally chested a ball into his own net past the outstretched arm of Marc-Andre ter Stegen, setting up a nervy finale.

Barcelona survived to round off the first half of their league campaign with a victory, aiming to win the title for the first time since 2019. Betis, sixth, had William Carvalho sent off after the full-time whistle for protesting some of the refereeing decisions. The Andalusians sit three points behind Atletico Madrid in fourth. 'Against Barca the games are always like this, it's hard to take the ball off them, they are capable of pushing you back and keeping you in your own half," Betis forward Borja Iglesias told Movistar. "Until their goal we were doing well, from there it was a different game.

#### Sheikh sent on 2-day physical remand

FROM PAGE 01 Judicial Magistrate Umar Shabbir rejected the police's plea to send Rashid on an eight-day physical remand and asked the authorities to produce the former interior minister at the next hearing.

The police claimed to arrest Rashid from Murree Road in the wee hours of Thursday. However, the former interior minister and his nephew, Sheikh Rashid Shafiq, contradicted the police's version and said that the authorities took him into custody from his house in Rawalpindi and not

the motorway. Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Rawalpindi Division President Raja Inavat Ur Rehman had filed a case against Rashid in Islamabad's Aabpara Police Station for alleging that former president Asif Ali Zardari was hatching a plot to assassinate the PTI chief.

## 07

## **BUSINESS / WORLD**



### **Briefs** Serbia could become 'pariah' over Kosovo

#### **News Desk**

BELGRADE: Serbia's populist president warned during a chaotic parliamentary session on Thursday that the Balkan nation could be come a European "pariah" state if it rejects a Western plan for normalizing rela-

tions with Kosovo. President Aleksandar Vucic faced a hostile reception from the right-wing opposition, which urged parliament to reject the plan and accused him of betraying Serbia. The plan hasn't been made public formally, but Vucic said it stipulates that Serbia wouldn't object to Kosovo's inclusion in international organizations, including the United Nations, though it wouldn't have to formally recognize its statehood. "I haven't signed anything. I said we will continue with the talks," Vucic said. "People need to understand ... Would we become a European pariah? Yes, we would." The session included pushing and shoving, and shouting matches between Vucic's ruling party and opposition lawmakers. They chanted "Treason, treason" and "We won't give up Kosovo," and demanded Vucic's resignation. Vucic responded by shouting at the protesting lawmakers that they are "thieves and traitors."The sovereignty of Kosovo, a former province of Serbia that declared independence in 2008, isn't recognized by the Serbian government.-APP

## Palm oil export to Pakistan **ICCI appeals Indonesia** for reconsidering curbs

#### STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: Faad Waheed, Acting President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) said that Pakistan is a major importer of palm oil from Indonesia, but Indonesia has placed curbs on the export of this commodity, which has created lot of concerns in the cooking oil and ghee manufacturers in Pakistan as it would lead create shortage of this food item in our country and create more problems for the consumers. He appealed to the Indonesian authorities to reconsider their decision and restore the normal export of palm oil to Pakistan. He said this while talking to H.E. Adam M. Tugio, Ambassador of Indonesia during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Faad Waheed said that Paki-

potential to promote religious tourism. He said that the business community of Pakistan should identify areas of its comparative advantage and he would connect them with Indonesian C counterparts to improve bilateral trade. He said that a private airline of Indonesia would start direct flights with Pakistan that would help improve people-to-people and business-to-business relations. Engr. Azhar ul Islam Zafar, Vice President ICCI thanked the Indonesian Ambassador for visiting ICCI

stan and Indonesia are two important countries of the Muslim world and a lot of opportunities are waiting for their private sectors to enhance cooperation in multiple fields. He said that both countries should facilitate regular exchange of trade delegations and encourage their investors

portunities in each other country to achieve mutually advantageous economic benefits. He highlighted Pakistan's prospective industries for cooperation with Indonesia including information technology, tourism, pharmaceuticals, textiles, cooking oil and others. He reaffirmed ICCI's commit-

from conventional banking

to Islamic banking, how-

ever, he added, "With the

cooperation of all the stake-

with the Indonesian Embassy in order to improve business linkages between the private sectors of both countries. Speaking on the occasion,

H.E. Adam M. Tugio, Ambassador of Indonesia said that his country is now focusing on biofuels to meet the rising domestic demand, which has prompt-

ed the need to reduce the export of palm oil. He said that Pakistan can export many products to Indonesia including pharmaceuticals, surgical and medical equipment, footballs, leather products. He said that both countries have good scope to enhance cooperation in the hospitality sector. He said that Pakistan has great

#### **'overwhelming** nuclear force to counter US SEOUL: North Korea said Thursday it's prepared to counter U.S. military moves with the "most overwhelm-

N. Korea

warns of

ing nuclear force" as it warned that the expansion of the United States' military exercises with rival South Korea is pushing tensions to an "extreme red line." The statement by Pyongyang's Foreign Ministry came in response to comments by U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, who said Tuesday in Seoul that the United States would increase its deployment of advanced military assets to the Korean Peninsula, including fighter jets and aircraft carriers, as it strengthens joint training and operational planning with South Korea. South Korea's security jitters have risen since North Korea test-fired dozens of missiles in 2022, including potentially nuclear-capable ones designed to strike tar-

U.S. mainland. In a statement attributed to an unidentified spokesperson of its Foreign Ministry, North Korea said the expansion of the allies' drills is threatening to turn the Korean Peninsula into a "huge war arsenal and a more critical war zone. The statement said the North is prepared to counter any short- or long-term military challenge with the "most overwhelming nuclear force." "The military and political situation on the Korean Peninsula and in the region has reached an extreme red line due to the reckless military confrontational maneuvers and hostile acts of the U.S. and its vassal forces," the spokes-person said.—**APP** 

gets in South Korea and the

#### ECB raises interest rates by 0.5%

BRUSSELS: The European Central bank has raised interest rates in the Eurozone again by half a percentage point. Earlier The Bank of England also raised its interest rate from 3.5% to 4%. It was already at its highest level for 14 years.

The ECB also and

### ment to strengthen liaison to explore investment op-Ishaq Dar calls for eliminating interest based system from Pak

KARACHI: Federal Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar on Thursday called for elimination of interest-based system from the country, said, a bank which only had 100 branches in the past, after introduction of Islamic consumer banking, now successfully operating with

He was addressing through video link on the occasion of 'National Islamic Economic Forum - NIEF's conference on Roadmap for Islamization of the Economy' at a hotel here. The minister said that a committee had been constituted to ensure implementation of Islamic banking in the country. The minister said, "The subject of Islamic economic system is close to my heart. I desire and pray to eliminate the interest-based system from Pakistan at the earliest".

he had taken Ribah-free initiative with the consultation and cooperation of

all the stakeholders including State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Security Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP), industrialists and prominent Islamic scholar Maulana Taqi Usmani and other scholars were onboard. He added that necessary steps were also taken at that time to eliminate

He said that during his ten-

ure consisted on 2014-2017

holders, we could meet the criteria set for the conversion, before the stipulated time". He said that during the past PML-N government, the country was on right track in terms of economy and development was prevailing in the country adding that the Riba from banking system in the country. Dar said consumer price index was that in 2016, a relaxation also good besides the healthy of two percent rebate was reserves and indicators. also allowed to them who He said that he had directwere opting Sharia-based ed the SBP and NBP for business system at par with withdrawal of their petitions Islamic banking system. moved by them against the He said that after introduc-

Dar said that the Shariat committee had asked him for Court in its verdict had givhis input for what his doors en five year's time span enawere always open for the bling banks to convert them cause.

He said that the committee had been conducted their first meeting in that regard. Dar said that during the last few years, Pakistan which was economy-wise among top 24 countries with growing economy, now it was at 47. He said that the current inflation, mismanagement and bad-governess in the country were due to the failed policies of the past government. The minister expressed his gratitude to the Sailani Welfare Organization over their social activities and said that during the inflation, providing food to the poor was the real humanity among

bn after fraud claims

MUMBA: The crisis around Indian tycoon Gautam Adani deepened on Thursday with the total loss of value to his indebted empire topping \$100 billion after it abruptly cancelled a stock sale. The going up in smoke of more than a third in value of the billionaire's conglomerate follows allegations of accounting fraud on January 24 by US short-seller Hindenburg Research. Flagship firm Adani Enterprises dived more than 25 percent on Thursday on top of an almost 30-percent drop Wednesday. Other listed Adani units were subject to trading halts after falling as much as 10 percent, including Adani Total Gas in which France's TotalEnergies has a 37.4-percent stake.

Further panic has seen big banks including Credit Suisse and Citigroup stop accepting Adani bonds as collateral for loans to private clients, according to Bloomberg News. This raised worries about how Adani will raise fresh funds, with Adani dollar bonds trading at distressed levels and signs of contagion in Indian markets increasing, Bloomberg reported. The latest blow came after Adani late Wednesday cancelled a \$2.5-billion stock sale meant to help reduce debt levels - long a concern - restore confidence and broaden its shareholder base. The issue failed to attract "mom and dad" retail investors and only sold out thanks to large institutional buyers, fellow Indian moguls and \$400 million from the United Arab Emirates' IHC. The Adani Enterprises board said in a statement that going ahead with the issue "would not be morally correct" and that it would refund all payments.-APP

were also present on the occasion. India's Adani empire loses more than \$100

and said that close cooper-

ation between ICCI and his

mission would help improve

business relations between

Mian Shaukat Masud, Fa-

seeh ullah Khan, Maqsood

Tabish, Dr. Muhammad

Usman, Ashfaq Chatha, Ri-

zwan Chheena and others

the two countries.

# NAZIR SIYAL

over 1000 branches.

ANKARA: Türkiye on Thursday summoned Norwegian Ambassador in Ankara Erling Skjonsberg over plans to desecrate the holy Quran in the Scandinavian country on Friday, according to Turkish diplomatic "Upon learning that there

will be an attack against our holy book, the Quran, in Norway tomorrow, the Norwegian ambassador to Türkiye has just been summoned to our ministry.

sources.

Türkiye

summons

Norwegian

envoy

"It was emphasized to the ambassador that we strongly condemn Norway's approach not to prevent the planned provocative act, which is clearly a hate crime, this attitude is unacceptable and we expect this act not to be allowed," the sources said.-Agencies

#### Iran blames Israel for drone attack

#### FOREIGN DESK

DUBAI: Iran on Thursday blamed Israel for a drone attack that targeted a military workshop in its central city of Isfahan over the weekend, warning that it "reserves its legitimate and inherent right" to retaliate. Iran's mission to the United Nations, in a letter it published on its website, attributed the attack, which happened late Saturday, to Israel.

"Early investigations suggest that the Israeli regime was responsible for this attempted act of aggression," the letter signed by Iranian Ambassador Amir Saeid Iravani said. The letter did not elaborate on what evidence supported Iran's suspicion. Israeli officials declined to comment. However, Israel has carried out a series of attacks targeting Iran's nuclear program and other sites since the collapse of Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers as part of a yearslong shadow war between the Mideast rivals. Details on the Isfahan attack, which happened around 11:30 p.m. Saturday, still remain scarce, days after the assault. A Defense Ministry statement said three drones were launched at the facility, with two of them successfully shot down. A third apparently made it through to strike the building, causing "minor damage" to its roof and wounding no one, the ministry said. Iran's state-run IRNA news agency later described the drones as "quadcopters equipped with bomblets." Quadcopters, which get their name from having four rotors, typically operate from short ranges by remote control.

ing Islamic banking to the consumers, a bank which only had 100 branches in past, now operating with more than 10,000 branches successfully.

Morocco to mend

fences after crisis

criticism from within his left-wing government that it has

caved in to Moroccan pressure. Sanchez and a dozen min-

isters are set to meet Moroccan Prime Minister Aziz Ak-

khanouch for the first "high level meeting" of its kind since

2015. His visit comes less than a year after he drew a line

under a year-long diplomatic crisis by reversing decades of

neutrality on the Western Sahara conflict to back Morocco's

position, sparking anger among his far-left coalition part-

ners. Sanchez has defended his move as essential for Span-

ish interests. Addressing an economic forum on Wednesday

evening, he said that "the better relations are between

Morocco and Spain, the better it is for Spain, the bet-

ter it is for Morocco, the better it is for Europe and for the citizens of both countries". The crisis had begun

in 2021 when Madrid allowed Brahim Ghali, leader of

the Polisario Front which seeks independence in the

Western Sahara, to be treated for Covid-19 in a Span-

ish hospital. Weeks later, more than 10,000 migrants

surged into Spain's tiny Ceuta enclave as Moroccan

border forces looked the other way, an incident seen

In March last year, Madrid announced a "new stage'

in relations and said it backed the North African king-

dom's plan for the Western Sahara of limited autonomy

under Moroccan sovereignty. The following month,

Sanchez paid a high-profile visit to Morocco and was

as a Moroccan move to punish Madrid.

hosted by King Mohammed VI.-APP

Riba-tree banking from Pakistan. The minister said that a committee had also been constituted comprising all the stakeholders for the conversion of existing banking to Islamic banking, adding the

other welfare projects. He assured the organization that whenever they need, the government would fully cooperate in their welfare projects being executed for the people.

#### Spain's Sanchez in Pakistani vlogger Mahzaib making a splash in China RABAT: Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez was in Rabat on Thursday to reset a "strategic partnership" despite

#### DNA

SHANGRI-LA : Pakistani vlogger is making a splash in China, China Economic Net (CEN) reported it on Thursday. The Napahai Lake, located in Shangri-la, basks in the warm winter sun and hordes of sheep roam on the pasture that surrounds it.

Dressed in a brightly coloured Tibetan robe, Mahzaib Abbasi dances with two Chinese tourists she met a day ago on her trip, sending the sleeves flying as she gracefully lifts her arm. Residing in China since 2016, the Pakistani girl is currently pursuing a master's degree in the Chinese language at a top university in Beijing. "I have always been fascinated by the Chinese language and culture," Mahzaib told

CEN reporter, "it's a valuable skill that can open doors for my future career." An avid traveller, Abbasi



has travelled to more than she sets foot westward to 50 cities in China over the years, and with a 15-day vacation this Spring Festival,

China's southwestern province of Yunnan, more than 2,000 kilometres away from Beijing. As China relaxes its COVID-19 measures, "I am able to travel freely and explore different parts of the country," the globetrotter said as she films the dancing tourists and locals and grazing hordes. "The locals are polite and lovely, and I love their culture and life style," Mahzaib told CEN excitedly, "In Yunnan, I saw so many people in the streets they were enjoying their vacations. Alhamdulillah, now everything is normal". As she treks through different parts of the country, Abbasi feels the need to share what she sees with more people. To this end, she started vlogging in late 2020 and posted vlogs on Chinese and interna-

tional social media platforms.

it would raise rates again in March by a further 0.5%. The ECB began raising rates in July to control inflation which hit 8.5% in the 20 countries using the euro in January. The bank said it would: "Stay the course in raising interest rates significantly at a steady pace and in keeping them at levels that are sufficiently restrictive to ensure a timely return of inflation to its 2% medium-term target." "Keeping interest rates at restrictive levels will over time reduce inflation by dampening demand and will also guard against the risk of a persistent upward shift in inflation expectations." ECB interest rates are now in a range between 2.5% and 3.25%, the highest since November 2008.-APP

#### Iraq, Saudi seek to boost economic cooperation

BAGHDAD: Iraq's foreign minister on Thursday called for more economic cooperation with Saudi Arabia, namely in investment and electricity, during a visit to Baghdad by his Saudi counterpart. Fuad Hussein made no mention of resuming talks between Saudi Arabia and arch-rival Iran - previously mediated by Iraq - during a joint press conference. 'This important visit comes at a time marked by great challenges, so it is essential to talk and discuss these challenges which affect the region as a whole," Hussein said, alongside Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan. Hussein hailed "total cooperation" with Saudi Arabia on oil, particularly within the OPEC cartel.

Iraq's foreign minister said Riyadh was ready to back Saudi companies investing in Iraq, and welcomed it.

"We hope Iraq will be supplied with electricity, either via the Saudi network or that in the Gulf," he said.

Citing "positive economic development" in Iraq. Prince Faisal said this created opportunities for cooperation between the two countries' private sectors. Despite being oil-rich, Iraq suffers from crumbling infrastructure and public services, after decades of conflict and endemic corruption.-Agencies

### **US to widen military presence in Philippines** The bases were shut down in the early 1990s after the Philippine Senate rejected an extension, but American forces later returned for large-scale combat exercises with Filipino troops

#### MANILA: The United States and the Philippines announced an expansion of America's military presence in the Southeast Asian country on Thursday, with U.S. forces granted access to four more military camps, effectively giving Washington new ground to ramp up deterrence against China. The agreement between the longtime allies was made public during the visit of U.S. Secretary of Defense Llovd Austin, who has led efforts to strengthen America's security alliances in Asia in the face of China's increasing assertiveness toward Taiwan and territorial

disputes in the South China Sea. The allies also said that "substantial" progress has been made in projects at five Philippine military bases, where U.S. military personnel were earlier granted access by Filipino officials. Construction of American facilities at those locations has been underway for years but has been hampered by unspecified local issues.

Austin thanked President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., whom he briefly met in Manila, for allowing the U.S. military to broaden its presence in the Philippines, Washington's oldest treaty ally in Asia. "I have always said that it seems to me that the future of the Philippines and for that matter the Asia-Pacific will always have to involve the United States simply because those partnerships are so strong," Marcos told Austin. American leaders have long sought to reorient U.S. foreign policy to better reflect the rise of China as a significant military and economic competi-

tor. Thursday's announcement comes as tensions between China and Taiwan have risen. China claims the selfruled island as its own territory - to be taken by force if necessary - and Beijing has sent warships, bombers, fighter jets and support aircraft into airspace near Taiwan on a near-daily basis, sparking concerns of a potential

blockade or military action. China and the Philippines, along with Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan, have also been locked in increasingly tense territorial disputes over the busy and resource-rich South China Sea. Washington lays no claims in the strategic waters but has deployed its warships and fighter and surveillance aircraft for patrols that it says promote freedom of navigation and the rule of law but have infuriated Beijing. In a televised news conference with his Philippine counterpart, Carlito Galvez Jr., Austin gave assurances of U.S. military support and said the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty, which obligates the U.S. and the Philippines to help defend each other in major conflicts, "applies to armed attacks on either of our armed forces, public vessels or aircraft anywhere in the South China Sea." "We discussed concrete actions to address destabilizing activities in the waters," Austin said

without elaborating. "This is part of our effort to modernize our alliance and these efforts are especially important as the People's Republic of China continues to advance its illegitimate

claims in the West Philippine Sea." Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswomen Mao Ning accused the U.S. on Thursday of pursuing "its selfish agenda" with the new arrangement. Beijing has long been criticized U.S.-Philippine military cooperation as an effort to contain its growing influence. "The U.S. has adhered to a Cold War zero-sum mentality and strengthened military deployment in the region," Mao told reporters at a daily briefing. "This is an act that escalates tensions in the region and endangers regional peace and stability." In their news conference, Austin and Galvez declined to provide more details on the agreement. The U.S. defense chief said it did not mean the re-establishment of permanent American bases but noted that "it's a big deal." Galvez said there was a need for more consultations, including with local officials in provinces where visiting U.S. forces would establish a presence in Philippine military camps. A few dozen leftist activities held a noisy protest Thursday and set a mock U.S. flag ablaze outside the main military camp where Austin held talks with his Philippine counterpart. While the two countries are allies, leftist groups and nationalists have resented and often protested boisterously against the U.S. military presence in this former American colony.

The country used to host two of the largest U.S. Navy and Air Force bases outside the American mainland. The bases were shut down in the early 1990s after the Philippine Senate rejected an extension, but American forces later returned for largescale combat exercises with Filipino troops.-Agencies







#### **Briefs EU sets new** sanctions on Russia as war nears one year

BRUSSELS: The EU will impose new sanctions on Russia on the first anniversary of the war against Ukraine, the president of the European Commission said on Thursday.

"We will introduce with our G7 partners an additional price cap on Russian petroleum products. By Feb. 24, exactly one year since the invasion started, we aim to have the 10th package of sanctions in place," Ursula von der Leyen said at a joint news conference with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenksyy in Kyiv. She explained that Russia has already been paying a "heavy price" for its war on Ukraine since only the current price cap on oil export costs Moscow €160 million (\$176 million) according to the EU's estimates.

Von der Leyen and 15 members of the European Commission traveled on Thursday to Ukraine's capital Kyiv to hold talks with the government ahead of the EU-Ukraine Summit. The summit will take place on Friday with the participation of Von der Leyen, European Council President Charles Michel, and Zelenskyy. "Our presence in Ukraine today gives a very clear signal. The whole of the European Union is in this with Ukraine for the long haul," von der Leyen said. "We will stand up for Ukraine as we stand up for the fundamental rights and the respect of the international law," she asserted. - Agencies

#### Poland pushing for WWII compensation

AGENCIES ANKARA: Poland is pushing for World War II compensa

## Zeroing in on terrorist network behind attack

Speaking during a press conference in Peshawar about the blast, KP IG Police revealed that they have found the network of terrorists behind attack

#### SHAMIM SHAHID

PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Inspector General of Police (IGP) Moazzam Jah Ansari on Thursday while refuting all the conspiracies that emerged regarding the suicide attack in Peshawar pleaded to the people not to "provoke his force". Speaking during a press conference in Peshawar about the blast, Ansari revealed that they have found the network of terrorists behind the attack. "We will avenge every drop of blood of our martyrs," assured KP's top cop. He added that the police has acquired the closed-circuit television (CCTV) footage of the suicide bomber in which he can be seen in a police uniform, riding a motorcycle and wearing a face mask. "The explosion was so powerful that the shockwaves did not find ways to escape, hence, forcing the roof of the mosque to collapse," said the IG Ansari. He added that the mosque also lacked pillars and everyone in the mosque at the time of the attack came under roof debris. The KP police chief said that close to 10-12kgs of trinitrotoluene (TNT) was used in the attack.

"It took us 26-28 hours to clean up. We could have done cleaning in mere two hours. But our first target was to look for survivors then we went towards extracting the martyrs," said IG Ansari. While talking about the people spreading rumours, Ansari urged them not to create hurdles in the police work. "We want to deliver to our families and our children. Do not make the bodies of our loved ones a subject of politics. Kindly end the speculations and let us do our work," said IG Ansari. He added that he will share all details once the investigation is complete. The IG assured that he would avenge the deaths of the people martyred in the blast but appealed for time to complete the investigation.

While explaining the time taken in the investigation, the police chief said that it takes one person 24 hours to scan a day's footage and 100 people are required to look at all cameras. He also shared that he himself had seen the footage of the suicide bomber. "I have seen his face in the CCTV [footage] and we have crosschecked. He is dressed in a police uniform with a casual jacket. He was wearing a helmet on a motorcycle. We have also traced the bike and we are in the stage of tracing further details," he said. "We are close to [tracing] the network of terrorists behind the attack," said IG Ansari. While expressing his grief over the attack caused due to the security lapse, IG Ansari said: "I blame myself for the security lapse. My jawans are all

my children. They did not stop the bomber as they considered it him one of their own as the bomber was in a police uniform." He shared that the bomber entered the mosque at 12:37pm, adding that he asked one of the police constables about the mosque. He added taht his question indicates that he was unaware of the place and was sent by someone to carry out the attack.

He further noted that: "There's a complete network behind him. He is not a lone ranger. We will talk with the evidence in hand. We are burning the midnight oil in this investigation and we are exploring every possibility." Regarding the provocation, he said: "We were busy in funeral preparations and the conspiracies were attempted to provoke our people to launch a protest. If they take the law into their own hands then who would be the law enforcer in the streets?" "My people do not need the protection of anyone because they are the protectors. Some nefarious elements have made this issue controversial. I have conveyed to everyone that your way is not of protest but help in finding the bomber," he concluded. Monday's attack on a mosque in the Police Lines area of Peshawar was the deadliest in a decade to hit the restive city near the Afghan border and comes amid a surge in violence against law enforcement agencies. The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the colossal blast. The blast martyred more than a 100 and injured over 200. The bomber struck as hundreds of worshippers gathered for noon prayers in a mosque that was purpose-built for the police and their families living in a highly fortified zone.

Greece, Italy face persisting drug shortages

WEB DESK

ATHENS: Pharmacists in Greece and Italy have pinpointed two main reasons for the persisting drug shortage in the two countries. The first is the limitation by China and India on the export of raw materials needed for drug production, and the second is the ongoing war in Ukraine. Speaking to Anadolu, Konstantinos Lourandos, the president of the Pharmaceutical Association of Attica, said the main problem behind the medicine shortages in Europe is the shortage of raw materials used by the industry. However, the situation in Greece is different. Greece imports medicines but some big pharmaceutical depots re-export them to the countries where they are priced higher, Lourandos said. Therefore, according to him, Greek authorities should find a way to prevent the re-export of medicines.



### **President Alvi appoints Shahzad Atta Elahi as AG**

ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday approved the appointment of Advocate of Supreme Court Barrister Shahzad Atta Elahi as Attorney General of Pakistan. The president appointed Barrister Shahzad Elahi on the position after Mansoor Usman did not assume the office after his appointment. President Alvi made the said appointment under Article 100 of the Constitution and Rules of Business. IHC decides to constitute larger bench to hear petition seeking disqualification of Imran ISLAMABAD, FEB 02 (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has decided to constitute larger bench to hear the petition seeking disqualification of Imran ISLAMABAD, FEB 02 (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has decided to constitute larger bench to hear the petition seeking disqualification of Imran ISLAMABAD, FEB 02 (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has decided to constitute larger bench to hear the petition seeking disqualification of Imran ISLAMABAD, FEB 02 (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has decided to constitute larger bench to hear the petition seeking disqualification of Imran Khan for hiding the information about his alleged daughter in nomination papers. The petition came up for hearing before single bench of IHC led by Chief Justice (CJ) Amir Farooq. The CJ IHC said in his remarks it is objection from Imran Khan that he is not public office holder now. It has to be confirmed from Election Commission office what is present status. We call the notification from election commission regarding denotification of Imran Khan. The petitioner had challenged the affidavit of Imran Khan he had filed in 2018. The court has decided to constitute larger bench. – **APP** 

### JIT probing into Arshid Sharif murder to submit report

ISLAMABAD: the Joint Investigation Team (JIT) investigating into murder of senior journalist Arshid Sharif has arrived here from Dubai. The team will present its report in Supreme Court (SC). JIT has obtained important information about the case from Dubai. According to police sources the JIT probing into Senior journalist murder case has returned to Pakistan and it will file report in SC this week. JIT had left for Dubai on January 12 and it moved to Kenva after conducting a week long inquiry. The 5-member special JIT is being led by DIG Headquarters Owais Ahmad. The other members are Deputy DG IB Sajid Kayani, Muhammad Aslam grade 20 officer from ISI, Director cyber crime Waqad ud Din Sayyed from FIA and Muhammad Afzal from MI. The investigation officer of the case inspector Shahbaz also accompanied the JIT in Dubai and Kenya.

The 5-member special JIT is being led by DIG Headquarters Owais Ahmad. The other members are Deputy DG IB Sajid Kayani, Muhammad Aslam grade 20 officer from ISI, Director cyber crime Waqad ud Din Sayyed from FIA and Muhammad Afzal from MI. The investigation officer of the case inspector Shahbaz also accompanied the JIT in Dubai and Kenya The team collected information about the meetings and contacts of last days of Arshid Sharif . JIT will compile its report during the ongoing week and submit it in SC. - Online

tion from Germany. Speaking to reporters on Wednesday, Deputy Foreign Minister Arkadiusz Mularczy said: "We believe there is scope for discussion, for examining these historical and political issues that influence the life of our country today."

He added that the politicians in Washington showed a noteworthy interest in the matter and the report by Warsaw on the damage by German occupation in 1939-1945. Mularczyk said: "Many Congressmen were surprised that Germany had never paid war reparations to Poland ... Here in the United States. where property rights are so strong ... many Congressmen were shocked that Germany had robbed Poland and hadn't paid compensation to this day. "And so it was a cognitive shock and I see scope for cooperation here because Ger many's conduct is incompatible with the standards of the rule of law and the protection of human rights," he added.

#### Indian journalist released from jail after 2 years

#### **MONITORING DESK**

NEW DELHI: Indian journalist Siddique Kappan has been released from prison more than two years after his arrest while travelling to report on an alleged rape. He was arrested in October 2020 in Uttar Pradesh state, where a young Dalit woman had died after she was allegedly raped by four upper-caste men. The case had sparked protests in India. Police accused Mr Kappan of conspiring to create law and order trouble and incite violence, which he denied. Three men who were in the car with him that day were accused of similar offences. Mr Kappan's arrest was condemned by press freedom activists, who fear India is becoming increasingly unsafe for journalists. Last year, the country dropped eight places and was ranked 150 on the 180-country World Press Freedom Index, compiled by Reporters Without Borders. But it took more than a month after that for him to be released due to procedural delays.

### in Jerusalem: Israeli police

ewish extremist attacks church

#### The Israeli police, for its part, said in a statement that it "arrested an American tourist suspected of vandalizing a statue in a church in the Old City of Jerusalem"

JERUSALEM: A Jewish extremist on Thursday attacked a church in the Old City of East Jerusalem, said Israeli police. Eyewitnesses told Anadolu that an "extremist" toppled a statue of Jesus in the Church of the Flagellation on the Via Dolorosa in the Old City. The witnesses added that one of the guards at the church had managed to take control of the extremist before the

### Imran urges Alvi to take note of agencies' meddling in politics

LAHORE: Former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan has urged President Arif Alvi to take note of alleged interference by the intelligence agencies and the establishment in political affairs and seek an explanation from the "black sheep operating in state organisations". In a letter written to the president on January 29, Imran said, "Today, the PTI Core and Parliamentary Committees met and unanimously passed a resolution requesting you as the President and the Supreme Commander of the armed forces to take note of brazen interference by intelligence agencies and some other sections of the establishment in the political sphere. "The most recent reflection of this was the K-P governor's statement saying he could not give a date for the elections to the K-P legislature, as Israeli police arrived at the church and arrested him. Speaking to Anadolu, Majid al-Rishq, one of the church's guards, said he saw the perpetrator several times in the area, and this morning he saw him wearing a Jewish Kippah. He said he stopped him while attempting to destroy a statue of Jesus with a hammer before the Israeli police came to arrest him. Al-Rishq, who has been working in the church for 20 years, said the extremist entered the church with two tourist groups from Spain and Indonesia. After that, he heard a loud voice hitting, and when he rushed to the place, he found him trying to destroy the statue of Jesus. He added that the extremist tried to assault him with the hammer but was able to control him and handed him to the Israeli police. The Israeli police, for its part, said in a statement that it "arrested an American tourist suspected of vandalizing a statue in a church in the Old City of Jerusalem." – **Agencies** 

that would be given by the intelligence agencies and the establishment." The resolution further drew the president's attention to the "brazen acts of abductions, sham FIRs, custodial torture and threats being meted out to the PTI workers and leaders". "The resolution calls on you [President Alvi] to take notice and take action against all these actions that contravene the Constitution, laws of the land and fundamental human rights." On January 29, the PTI chief chaired a meeting of the PTI Core and Parliamentary Committees, which was attended by PTI Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi, General Secretary Asad Umar and other party leaders. On this occasion, the meeting unanimously passed a resolution, which stated that the PTI leadership drew the attention of the President of Pakistan and the Supreme Commander of armed forces to the statement of Governor K-P that an election date for the K-P Assembly would be given by the agencies and establishment. "The PTI leadership calls on the President to take notice of this growing interference by the intelligence agencies and other sections of the establishment in the political sphere. In addition, he must take note of FIRs, abductions, custodial torture and threatening phone calls against the PTI workers and leaders, being carried out at the behest of these black sheep in state organisations. - DNA

## 8 PAF officers promoted to the rank of AVM

#### STAFF REPORT

ISLAMABAD: The Government of Pakistan has promoted 08 PAF Officers to the rank of Air Vice Marshal. The promoted Air Officers include Air Vice Marshal Imran Qadir, Air Vice Marshal Ghazanfar Latif, Air Vice Marshal Shahryar Khan, Air Vice Marshal Nauman Waheed, Air Vice Marshal Mehr Yar Saqib Niazi, Air Vice Marshal Abuzar Khan, Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Asif Aslam and Air Vice Marshal Ghulam Shabbir. Air Vice Marshal Imran Qadir was commissioned in GD(P) Branch of Pakistan Air Force in



June, 1992 and received the coveted Sword of Honour. He has served as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Training-Officers) and is currently holding the prestigious office of Advisor to Chief of the Air Staff for Operations, Audit and Evaluation Cell at Air Headquarters, Islamabad.

Air Vice Marshal Ghazanfar Latif was commissioned in GD(P) Branch of Pakistan Air Force in May, 1993. During his illustrious career, he has commanded a Fighter Squadron, a Flying Wing and an Operational Air Base. Air Vice Marshal Shahryar Khan was commissioned in GD(P) Branch of Pakistan Air Force in May, 1993. During his career, he has commanded a Fighter Squadron, a Flying Wing, Military Training Wing and an Operational Air Base. Air Vice Marshal Nauman Waheed was commissioned in GD(P) Branch of Pakistan Air Force in May, 1993. During his career, he has commanded a Support Wing, a Fighter Squadron and an Operational Air Base.

Air Vice Marshal Mehr Yar Saqib Niazi was commissioned in Engineering Branch of Pakistan Air Force in June, 1992. During his illustrious career, he commanded Engineering Wing of an Operational Base, served as Director Weapon System Management (JF-17), Managing Director (Mirage Rebuild Factory) and Commandant (Tech) at PAF Airmen Academy Korangi Creek. Air Vice Marshal Abuzar Khan was commissioned in Engineering Branch of Pakistan Air Force in June, 1992. During his career, he has commanded an Engineering Wing, has served as Director Weapon System Management (Trainer) and Project Director as well as Managing Director at Aircraft Rebuild Factory.



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